

LARGE-SCALE ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN THE GAMBIA RIVER BASIN: DEVELOPING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT, NATURAL-RESOURCE ECONOMY

Objective:

- To help Gambia manage the impacts of climate change
- To improve the country's climate resilience by restoring and rehabilitating around 13,000 hectares of forests, protected areas, wildlife areas and farmland, all of which are affected by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and deforestation
- benefit up to 11,550 Gambian households directly and 46,200 households indirectly in four regions along The Gambia River

Contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)

- SDG 13 (Target 13.1)

Building climate adaptation by increasing the generation and use of climate information, identifying adaptation priorities in villages, and establishing numerous enterprises based on climate-resilient natural resources. These activities contribute towards the strengthening "resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries."

- SDG 15 (Targets 15.1 and 15.2)

The project is enhancing conservation and management of biodiversity across at least 7,000 hectares of forest, savanna and woodland and at least 3,000 hectares of agricultural land. These activities contribute to SDG Targets 15.1 and 15.2 by halting deforestation and restoring degraded habitats.

- SDG 1 (Targets 1.5 and 1.2)

The project aims to create 11,550 jobs in climate-resilient livelihoods. The aim is to increase the cash income of 11,550 households by at least USD330 per year, thereby contributing to Targets 1.5 and 1.2.

- SDG 2 (Target 2.3)

Goods generated by the ecological restoration – such as fruits, nuts, firewood and building materials – will be directly consumed by households, thereby improving their nutrition and food security. This contributes to Target 2.3 by increasing agricultural productivity.

- SDG 5 (Target 5.5)

The project aims to ensure that at least 50% of beneficiaries are women (~5,775 direct beneficiaries and 23,100 indirect beneficiaries are women). This contributes towards ensuring "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities in political, economic and public life."

Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- Target 5

The project is ecologically restoring around 13,000 hectares of land. Communities will be trained in climate-resilient agricultural techniques, like 'conservation farming' thus easing the pressure on surrounding wildlife.

- Target 7

To establish sustainable agriculture, the project will carry out complex economic assessments on the commercial viability of various 'green' markets in Gambia. These businesses will stimulate economic growth for poor communities while easing the transition of the country towards a green economy.

- Target 14

The large-scale ecological restoration will reduce the rate of soil erosion and increase the volume of groundwater supplies, while simultaneously providing timber, fruits, honey, medicine and fibre. At least 50% of the project beneficiaries are women.

- Target 15

The project is contributing to carbon stocks by restoring 13,000 hectares of natural land. Adaptation to climate change will be strengthened by the generation and circulation of sophisticated climate information. Reforestation is also occurring adjacent to agricultural land to protect crops from destructive weather extremes.

Project results

The project has only been under implementation for 6 months so it is too early to communicate results:

- "A project of this type and size has no precedent in The Gambia and is an emerging field in climate change adaptation."
- Ermira Fida, UN Environment's Green Climate Fund Coordinator



Training on cultivation technology of target fruit crops seedlings in Surkhandarya province



Apricot fruits



Links to websites for further information

Climate Action in The Gambia: <https://youtu.be/UREBodCAdm8>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/gambia-building-resilience-changing-climate>

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/-/large-scale-ecosystem-based-adaptation-in-the-gambia-river-basin-developing-a-climate-resilient-natural-resource-based-economy>

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/ecosystems-project-help-50000-people-gambia>

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