



# ACReSAL NEWSLETTER

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...greening the environment, saving lives

## NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT RENEWS COMMITMENT TO RESTORING DEGRADED LAND



**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, MALAM LAWAL, SEEKS FOR INCREASED COLLABORATION TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE, DESERTIFICATION**



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## THE ACReSAL PROJECT

ACReSAL is a six-year multi-sectoral and multi-institutional scheme, covering Environment, Agriculture and Water sectors. It was designed by the Federal Government of Nigeria with finance from the World Bank to combat desertification, restore degraded lands and special ecosystems for agriculture and biodiversity conservation.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase the implementation of sustainable landscapes management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management.

### MISSION

To address environmental challenges arising from Climate Change and poor land-use practices in Northern Nigeria.

### VISION

To have strong practices and policies on ecological restoration and a climate change resilient community.

### PROJECT GOALS

- To increase vegetative cover.
- To improve agricultural productivity (Climate Smart Agriculture).
- To increase availability and access to water.
- To improve farm and non-farm livelihoods of people living in the targeted area.
- To increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices.
- To build community climates resilience.

### IMPACT

The ACReSAL Project will help restore 1 million hectares of degraded land in the northern part of the country with an estimated target of 3.4 million direct beneficiaries.

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## NPC'S DESK

**Mr. Abdulhamid Umar,  
NPC, ACReSAL**



Dear Readers,

The challenges of land degradation brought about by climate change and human activities is on the increase and a reality.

To support other efforts, the ACReSAL Project, an integrated landscapes management initiative was approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria in the year 2022 with the Finance from the World Bank to reverse the adverse effects of land degradation and other climate change problems in Northern Nigeria.

In this first edition of our Newsletter, we are excited to bring to you the project's endeavours and activities towards a sustainable environment and future.

ACReSAL Project seeks to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management.

This community driven 6-year multi-sectoral and multi-institutional project operates in the nineteen (19) states and Federal Capital Territory.

ACReSAL target is to restore 1 million hectares of degraded land as part of the Federal government of Nigeria pledged to restore 4 million hectares of degraded land and forest by 2030 under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (Afr100).

Given the complex nature of the project and the links between water, environment and agriculture for integrated landscapes management, ACReSAL project is led by the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food Security and Water Resources and Sanitation for effective project management.

The fundamental goals of the ACReSAL Project are to increase vegetative cover (turning brown to green), increase food production, improve availability and access to water, enhance livelihoods and importantly to strengthen instructional capacity and build community resilience to the reality of climate change.

In less than two years of effectiveness, the ACReSAL project has touched lives of thousands of beneficiaries and has restored over five thousand hectares of degraded land among other milestones achieved, even though this one and half year has been a phase for planning and alignment of strategies with the project development objective.

I urge you to ponder on this novel Project and its impact on our environmental sustainability as you read through the pages. We wish you a happy reading and solicit for your endless support to the project success and impact.

Thank you.

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## NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT RENEWS COMMITMENT TO RESTORING DEGRADED LAND

**Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal**  
Hon. Minister of Environment.



The Minister of Environment, Malam Balarabe Lawal has assured the Nigeria Government total commitment to restoring Degraded Landscapes in the country.

The Hon. Minister gave this promise at the Stakeholders' Engagement forum of the Federal and States Steering/Technical Committees of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) in Abuja.

The programme was organised by ACReSAL, Federal Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food Security and Water Resources and Sanitation in conjunction with the World Bank.

The Minister, who is also the chairman of the Steering Committee, expressed satisfaction that the collaboration would restore degraded lands in the 19 northern states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Lawal said that there are millions of degraded land in Nigeria, hence the need for collaboration between relevant stakeholders to enable ACReSAL make progress in the restoration of degraded lands.

"We need to emphasise on the collaboration between the federal and state government and I hope this collaboration will be extended to the local government," he said.

He expressed worries over the dryness of Lake Chad and charged ACReSAL on its recovery as Lake Chad is just a micro level of what used to be there.

Speaking at the event, Mr Taimur Samad, World Bank Operations Manager, said that the ACReSAL

project is an ambitious and transformational engagement to restore degraded lands.

"Globally the World Bank has continued to deepen its commitment to climate change, resilience, adaptation and mitigation," he said. Samad urged the 19 states and the FCT to ensure renewed commitments to the implementation of the projects.

Also speaking at the occasion, Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Professor Joseph Utsey, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dame Didi Walson-Jack, called for deeper collaboration among stakeholders. Dame Walson-Jack reinforced the importance of synergy among the participating Ministries and the World Bank team to ensure the the ACReSAL project's objectives are met.

In his remarks, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, reiterated the need to restore and preserve hectares of degraded land in the face of a rapidly increasing population.

Senator Kyari who spoke through Mr. Oshadiya O.O., Director, Agricultural Land and Climate Change

Management Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, advocated for the adoption of proper farming practices, based on the use of modern technology and innovative ideas, to boost agricultural outputs.

More so, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator for ACReSAL said that the ACReSAL project is led by three ministries namely the ministries of Environment, Water Resources and Sanitation and Agriculture and Food Security.

According to him, ACReSAL project is being implemented in 19 northern states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Highlights of the event were awards presentation to some of the states for performance in the area of implementation progress, best disbursement, land reclamation and support to beneficiaries amongst others.



From left, Kwanta Yakubu, Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources, Manivel Sene, Co-TTL ACReSAL, Dame Walson-Jack, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Mr Taimur Samad, World Bank Operations Manager, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment and Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, NPC of the ACReSAL Project.



## ENSURE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF ACReSAL PROJECT ON PEOPLE

**Dr. Izaq Adekunle Salako**  
Hon. Minister of State for Environment

The Honourable Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Izaq Adekunle Salako has urged the ACReSAL team to ensure the sustainability of project investments and long-term impact on people across the project implementing states.

Dr. Salako said this at the Ministry's headquarters when he received the ACReSAL Project National team led by the National Project Coordinator (NPC), Mr. Abdulhamid Umar who was in the Ministry to brief him on the ACReSAL Project Implementation Progress.

Dr. Salako noted that ACReSAL is a very important project and recommended that the project should have a database of all beneficiaries through National Identification Number (NIN) to help the project analyze and manage beneficiaries personal records, track inventory, and make informed decisions.

He said "Focus on job creation and one way to do that is to train more people on how to raise seedlings, provide support to them and also help mobilize buyers for them. "Strengthen relationship with National Park Services and Ministry of Tourism because the Ministry of Environment intends to promote tourism but one of the challenges is insecurity.

The Minister advised the project to ensure that there is a periodic mechanism for independent evaluation of the project to assess and ascertain what works well and what could be improved in the project.

Presenting the ACReSAL Project implementation progress, the NPC,

Mr. Abdulhamid Umar informed the Minister that the project is state focus because the design implementation is at state level down to the community/catchment level and it is being implemented in the 19 (Nineteen) Northern States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Speaking on the project characteristics, Mr. Umar disclosed that ACReSAL is multi-sectoral covering Environment, Agriculture and Water, as well as multi-level(National...State...Local/Community) which is fundamental to Federal Government of Nigeria's objective of restoring 1 million hectares of degraded land -out of the 4 million hectares target set for broader landscape restoration by 2030.

He told the Minister that the project which became effective in June 2022 has four key inter-related components which make up the Intermediate Results (IRs) of the Results Framework.

The components are; Dryland Management, Community Climate Resilience, Institutional Strengthening & Project Management and

Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).

According to the NPC, "The goals of the Project includes; to increase vegetative cover, improve agricultural productivity ( Climate Smart Agriculture), increase availability and access to water, improve farm and non-farm livelihoods of people living in the targeted area, increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices, build community climates resilience among others."

He revealed that presently land restoration activities have commenced and the project has restored over 4,684 hectares of degraded land. He also noted that the project has recorded 96,529 beneficiaries, 44,992 are women (representing 47%). Benefits ranging from sensitization, solar boreholes installed (providing access to water for agricultural and domestic purposes), distribution of clean cook stoves among other achievements. In attendance at the meeting are the former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Ibrahim Yusufu Idris, Directors and other officials of the Ministry.



Dr. Izaq Adekunle Salako, Minister of State, Environment and in a group picture with ACReSAL team and Ministry of Environment officials.



# GOV. MUTFWANG LAUNCHES ACReSAL PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE

...SAYS PLATEAU 'LL MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES IN WORLD BANK



**Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**  
Plateau State Governor

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang had launched the World Bank-financed Agro-Climatic Resilience Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project in Plateau State with a renewed pledge to ensure value for money on all projects and programs being executed in the state.

Governor Mutfwang stated this during the official flag-off of the project at Crispan Hotel, Jos.

The Governor promised to complete all World Bank projects in the state irrespective of where they are sited in line with his administration's resolve to positively make a difference in the living conditions of the people.

He said "I wish to appeal to the coordinator of these project to ensure that we get value for money wherever these project interventions are sited. The (ACReSAL) project is about restoring the land to make it serve mankind.

"Without water, we cannot survive, therefore, we will ensure that water is appropriately channelled to places where there is no water so that we can have water to drink and for irrigation.

There will be synergy between government ministries to ensure the proper delivery of these projects."

Governor Mutfwang expressed optimism that when the projects are completed, they will also generate employment opportunities for the teeming youths of the state.

He appreciated the World Bank for financing the projects even though it is a loan that would be paid back and advised the Project Coordinator to

make good use of the resources at his disposal to execute projects that will stand the test of time.

The Governor also applauded the World Bank for financing projects that have improved the nutrition of children and assisting the girl child in the state to realize their dreams in life.

He explained that the social register of the poorest of the poor in the state would be revisited to capture people from rural communities who truly and genuinely deserve the government's assistance.

The World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Shubham Chadhuri expressed the Bank's readiness to support Plateau State Government in financing projects that will have positive impact on the people.

He said the World Bank is willing to make life better for Nigerian citizens and to make the country more resilient in addressing issues of climate change, insecurity, land degradation, and water scarcity among others.

Speaking further, Prof. Chadhuri stated that World Bank is in Nigeria to support in eliminating extreme poverty for improved welfare for the people. He added that part of the support includes ensuring that communities all over the country become more resilient in dealing with the challenges posed by climate change.

The Gbong Gwom Jos, Da. Jacob Gyang Buba in his address called for more collaboration between the government, Traditional rulers and citizens in addressing environmental issues that affect the state.

He said there is need for synergy between the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Land and Survey and the Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB) in tackling the issues of environmental degradation in the state.

Providing a contextual information on the project, Dr. Joy I. Agene, the Task Team Leader of the ACReSAL Project and Senior Environmental Specialist-World Bank disclosed that Nigeria has a unique situation in terms of climate change, "while we have excess water in the south, we have issues of water scarcity in the north. The ACReSAL project was conceived to help build resilience of communities to the challenges of climate change.

She noted that the main objective of the ACReSAL Project is to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management.

She explained that the objective of the project could be achieved through the four-way components of the project; the first component (Component A) is dry land management and in this component the project will work at strategic levels, develop catchment management plans and also reclaim degraded lands, control erosion, look into oasis restoration, restoration of parts and improving their services.

On the second component (Component B) of the project; Community Climate Resilience, the activities will focus on working at the

community level, bringing people together in a participatory manner to work with their plans, train them, improve their livelihoods, build their capacity and resilience to ensure that they can respond to ACRoSAL objectives and be able to manage their natural resources/environment.

The third component (Component C) very key is around institutional strengthening, improving infrastructure and bringing in innovative technology that can help the project function efficiently. According to Dr. Joy, in this component the project requires the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) Environment, Water Resources, Agriculture and others MDAs to come up with policies that can help in addressing the root causes of the climate changes issues in the

communities. She highlighted that there is something critical with the component A of the project which is around ecosystem restoration, here the project support parks, wetlands such as Nguru wetland, forest management and also protected area and these are some of the activities of the project when it comes to dryland management.

In his Remarks, the National Project Coordinator (NPC) of the ACRoSAL Project, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, commended the Governor for hosting ACRoSAL team of about 250 officers in Plateau for over 10 days.

He informed that ACRoSAL is a multi-sectoral and mixed breed project that the World Bank is so excited about because it is usually difficult to bring three independent ministries to work

together and the collaboration so far has been exceptional.

He recounted that ACRoSAL seeks to address issues around climate change which are natural and man made. He mentioned that what is paramount about the project across the 19 participating states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is that ACRoSAL addresses and touches the last man in the rural communities.

The NPC thanked the governor for supporting ACRoSAL and other developmental strides that address issues surrounding environment, food insecurity, land degradation and livelihoods of the people of Plateau. He appealed to him to give ACRoSAL priority place in his developmental agenda noting that the project is available to help him actualize most of



Middle. Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh, 6th right-World Bank's Country Director for Nigeria, Shubham Chaudhuri, 5th Right-Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, TTL, ACRoSAL, 4th right -Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, NPC, ACRoSAL and Others



A cross section of participants at the Plateau State Project Launch



## MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, MALAM LAWAL, SEEKS FOR INCREASED COLLABORATION TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE, DESERTIFICATION

**Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal**  
Hon. Minister of Environment.



The Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal has called for collaboration among stakeholders to address climate change and reclaim land lost to desert in the northern parts of the country.

He emphasised on the urgency to tame rapid desertification encroachment while addressing a team of environment experts from the World Bank, including Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) officials and other stakeholders at the ACReSAL Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU), Abuja.

Lawal noted that increased collaboration among the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources and Sanitation, as well as the World Bank, will result in the success of the ACReSAL Project.

According to him, the partnership between the Federal Government and World Bank has led to multi-institutional machinery to stem the fast-paced degradation of landscapes of the country's northern region. He

added that ACReSAL will be pivotal in facilitating the much needed inter agency cooperation among the ministries, as well as within the 19 northern states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

This, he said, will address pervasive issues like high degradation of natural resources, poor agricultural productivity, climate risks, desertification, increased poverty rates, conflicts, violence, and weak institutional capacity.

The minister said ACReSAL, which involves several federal and state Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), local councils, communities and civil societies, will provide solutions to desertification, flooding, climatic variability, deforestation, extensive cultivation, overgrazing, bush burning, fuel wood extraction, charcoal production, faulty irrigation systems, improper road drainage design and construction.

The various MDAs include those responsible for planning, economy, finance, works, agriculture, water resources, forests, transport, power,

emergency response, as well as those focused on climate and hydrological information or watershed/basin regulation.

While expressing optimism that ACReSAL would deliver on the mandate, having a better understanding of collaboration, the minister gave assurances to the officials of ACReSAL that the ministry will make provisions for the needed support.

Responding, ACReSAL National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, said the team was elated by the minister's presence, which demonstrates his love for the environment sector and ACReSAL, one of the key deliverables of his ministry.

ACReSAL Task Team leader and Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, Dr. Joy Agene, noted that the successes achieved by the ACReSAL project so far is an indication of the benefits and support it has enjoyed from the ministry of Environment.



Hon. Minister with the World Bank and ACReSAL Team.



Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, TTT ACReSAL Project, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment and Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project.

## REA-NEP PARTNERS WITH ACReSAL ON FARMER-LED IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

In a strategic move to address critical climate challenges and promote sustainable development in Northern Nigeria, the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project is in partnership with Rural Electrification Agency (REA) through the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) on Result Based Financial (RBF) in the implementation of the Project's Farmer Led Irrigation Development (FLID) intervention.

This partnership marks a major step towards enhancing knowledge sharing and collaboration between Project Management Units of Federal Government Agencies regarding the adoption of innovative financing mechanisms such as the Result-Based Financing (RBF) for the implementation of projects that impact positively on Nigeria's Sustainable Development Goals.

The ACReSAL Project and Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) is to assist over 3 million beneficiaries in communities with Farmer Led Irrigation Development and Rural Electrification Strategy/solar power implementation plan.

Mr Abdulhamid Umar National Project Coordinator for ACReSAL said this recently in Abuja during the signing of knowledge sharing strategy arrangement meeting.

"The ACReSAL project, has as far as the result framework is concerned seeks to deliver over 3.4 million direct beneficiaries but ultimately by extension the entire project should be able to touch the lives of 10 million beneficiaries.

"The project aims at activities that would encourage household farmers and promote sustainable development in Northern Nigeria.

Malam Abba Aliyu, Head Project Management Unit NEP with Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project.



"The \$700m loan provided by the World Bank for the ACReSAL Project implementation is meant to address challenges associated with climate change. "The project is also aimed at addressing challenges of farm lands in the arid regions with the support of NEP by sharing knowledge of Result Based Financing in the implementation of Farmer Led Irrigation Development (FLID)," Umar said.

Malam Abba Aliyu, Head Project Management Unit NEP noted that the project through the knowledge sharing strategy arrangement would empower targeted communities with sustainable energy access.

"The design of our project is based on result based framework project we have been implementing it for five years through that implementation we have achieved the deployment of over 125 mini grid deployment of over 1.5 solar home system. He said that the implementation of the project with

ACReSAL is with immediate effect and that currently the project has a time frame of one year and might be extended based on the successes recorded.

"Nigeria Electrification Project is a government project that is being funded by World Bank and African Development Bank, it is being implemented by Rural Electrification Agency," Aliyu said.

This partnership demonstrates the NEP commitment to working in synergy with other Agencies in the public sector to promote clean, reliable and environmentally friendly power, consequently creating an avenue for growth and sustainable development throughout Nigeria.

These struggles and coalition are partways to successful ACReSAL project delivery and sustainable environment.



ACReSAL and NEP team in a group photo.



## FCE GULLY EROSION RESTORATION: GOVERNOR INUWA PRESENTS COMPENSATION CHEQUES TO PROJECT AFFECTED PERSONS

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, presented Cheques to 343 Project Affected Persons along the FCE(T) Gully control project traversing through Landon Maidoruwa, Jauro Kuna, Jauro Abare, WuroLadde and Arawa communities.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said: "Our administration recognizes the impact this project has on the lives and livelihood of our people, and we must ensure that those affected are adequately compensated to enable them to relocate with ease. In this regard, a total of N389,740,014m is earmarked for the payment of compensation to Project Affected Persons and the general Implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan".

He said his administration has taken note of the change in market values for land and other assets and, hence adopted a compensation that is decent enough to ensure easy relocation of the affected persons, expressing the hope that the beneficiaries will make good use of this opportunity.

"Our administration has so far paid the sum of N892,740,114 as a government counterpart contribution to enable the implementation of the FCE(T) Gully Erosion Project. Previously, we had ensured the successful execution of the GSU-Mallam Inna gully erosion project under NEWMAP, and we are committed to addressing other gully erosion sites through partnerships with ACReSAL and other stakeholders".

Governor Inuwa Yahaya explained that the compensation is intended to mitigate the inconveniences associated with relocation and to assist those

affected by the project to rebuild their lives in their new environments.

The Governor thanked the affected households and families for their resilience, understanding, and cooperation, expressing his administration's deep appreciation to the ACReSAL team, the World Bank, and other stakeholders who are contributing immensely to the success of this project.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner for Water, Environment and Forest Resources, Alh. Muhammadu Sa'idu Fawu said the exercise consists of 226 beneficiaries whose residences were completely affected, 317 persons whose residences were partly affected, and 165 economic trees.

In their separate goodwill messages, Hon. Barnabas Malle, Commissioner of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Hon Ali Baba Manu, member representing Gombe North at the State Assembly, and the district head of Nasarawo and Shettiman Gombe appreciated the magnanimity of the

governor in making sure the payment is good enough to compensate for the affected properties, calling on people to continue supporting Inuwa-led administration for more dividends of democracy.

In his remarks, the Gombe State ACReSAL Coordinator, Sani Adamu Jauro appreciated the governor's zeal in putting his people first in all his policies and projects, applauding the various reforms embarked upon which he said have greatly simplified the running of ACReSAL activities in the state.

Jauro called on benefitting communities to take ownership of the project and keenly support its proper implementation.

He also presented the governor with the 13 prizes won by Gombe ACReSAL at the Federal level for their unmatched achievement in project management and implementation, including Social Safeguard, Catchment Plan, and Geographic Information System (GIS) Application among others. Culled from DG (Press Affairs).



2nd right, Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, presenting a cheque to a project affected person.

## ACReSAL FOSTERING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

To reduce conflicts between communities, farmers and pastoralists, caused by the competition over natural resources, the ACReSAL project has undertaken a strategic initiative to foster peaceful co-existence through increased vegetative cover and sustainable natural resource management practices.

These conflicts are longstanding challenges peculiar to Northern Nigeria. The recent wrap-up session of the project implementation support mission in Abuja, marked a significant milestone for the project, where emphasis was placed on the crucial inclusion of pastoralists in the peace building committees at the grassroots level.

In line with the project's sub component B1, known as Community Strengthening, which aims to bolster capacities for local communities to enhance sustainable natural resource use and management.

Central to this approach is the promotion of peace and understanding through inclusive engagement with pastoralists, fostering a sense of ownership and belonging within the project's integrated catchment management area.

In consonance with these efforts, local project implementation committees are set to receive support aimed at enhancing social cohesion and conflict resolution capacities at the grassroots level.

Notably, a key emphasis lies on gender-inclusive initiatives to empower women within participating communities, providing them with a platform for active participation in the

project's activities and developmental initiative.

The mission also underscored the importance of culturally sensitive community engagement, recognizing, respecting and upholding value of local customs, languages, and traditional practices in addressing community challenges, getting community buy-in and trust.

By leveraging local institutions and solutions, the project aims to build inclusive committees and institutions

that are essential for sustainable peace building and ensuring the project's long-term success, impact and sustainability.

Through a multifaceted approach that integrates natural resource management, community engagement and empowerment, gender-inclusive strategies, the ACReSAL project is poised to make a meaningful contribution to peaceful co-existence in Northern Nigeria, marking a significant step towards addressing the root causes of conflict in the region.



ACReSAL team in Abuja for implementation support mission



Engagement with community members in Gombe State





## ADAMAWA STATE LAUNCHES 21 DEMO-FARM INSTITUTES FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

In a recent move to equip farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge in regenerative agriculture, Adamawa State Government has established 21 regenerative agriculture demonstration farm institution in various local government areas across the state. These farms aim to promote climate-smart regenerative agriculture, boost agricultural productivity, and enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, particularly in arid and semi-arid lands.

Regenerative Agriculture (RA) is a sustainable food production system that focuses on nurturing and restoring soil health, protecting the climate, water resources, and biodiversity, and increasing farm productivity and profitability.

By incorporating a range of techniques and innovative technologies, regenerative agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

The primary goals of regenerative agriculture include generating nutritious food for citizens, mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil, restoring threatened biodiversity, preventing deforestation, and enhancing farmer livelihoods.

Furthermore, the establishment of these demonstration farms and nurseries marks the initial phase of implementing integrated crops and livestock systems, offering economic opportunities for farmers and contributing to sustainable entrepreneurial activities.

In addition, the regenerative agriculture institute will play a pivotal role in creating agroforestry nurseries to improve tree growth, mitigate land degradation, and enhance resilience.

Layout of Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration farm in Yola LGA, Adamawa state.

Following approval from the Adamawa State Government, the exercise has commenced in some of the local government areas, with a focus on implementing regenerative agriculture practices.

To ensure sustainability and inclusiveness, farm managers have been actively engaged in the setup of the demonstration farms.

Additionally, the capacity of the farm managers has been strengthened in regenerative agriculture with a focus on providing training to household farmers and implementing effective monitoring systems.

During an inspection of the Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm in Yola North, the Task Team Leader of the ACReSAL Project and Senior Environmental Specialist of the World Bank Nigeria office, leading a joint World Bank and FGN mission team, commended the state government for the innovative initiative.

She highlighted that Adamawa State ACReSAL project is set to implement regenerative agriculture practices on 250 hectares spread across the state. The state has already made available 20,000 seedlings in each of the local government areas as a starting point. In addition, the Task Team Leader emphasized the need for adequate infrastructure to ensure the smooth running of the institutes across the state.

She also called for the database of all farmers enrolled and trained in the institutes across the states and advised the ACReSAL Team in Yola to come up with a proposal for eco-system services using a community driven development approach on the Demo Farm.

The farmers expressed their gratitude to the State Government, World Bank and the Federal Government of Nigeria for the laudable initiative of the ACReSAL Project, while noting that no project has recorded community buy-in and stakeholders' participation like the ACReSAL Project.



On going seedlings sourcing and processing



## POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR INTEGRATED LANDSCAPES MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The vision of the ACReSAL project is to have strong practices and policies on ecological restoration and a climate resilient community.

The envisaged integrated landscapes management practices and policies are captured under the project's Component C "institutional strengthening" which seeks to build capacity at the Federal, State, Local Government and community levels for a sustainable environment.

In pursuance of this aspiration and dreams, the project leadership recently engaged with key stakeholders including the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture & Food Security, Water Resources & Sanitation, the World Bank team, other key sectors.

The engagement was in recognition for an urgent need for policies that would form the basis for the adoption of sustainable landscapes management practices; investment that will improve the capacity of participating Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) in data management, planning; especially to be able to establish how much land is degraded and eroded.

The current challenge is land and water degradation across states due to poor land use management practices and increasing climate vulnerability.

The focus is on policies that will turn challenges into opportunities, policies that improve the use of existing capacities for the betterment of the environment (infrastructure and institutional mechanisms), policies that promote synergy and integration of various stakeholders with concrete action plans.

In view of the above, the project would

Right Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of ACReSAL , middle Dr. Abbas O. Suleiman, Director, Environmental Assessment Department, Federal Ministry of Environment and Mr. Babarinde Segun, Director of Hydrology and Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation

focus on facilitating the appropriate policy intervention for sustainable management of the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands; sustainable management of the surface and ground water resources of the Nigeria sector of Lake Chad

Basin, supporting the department of Environmental Assessment in the Ministry of Environment to develop appropriate guidelines for sustainable mining of minerals in the ACReSAL Project area, among others.



Right Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of ACReSAL , middle Dr. Abbas O. Suleiman, Director, Environment Assessment Department, Federal Ministry of Environment and Engr. Etigbue, Director, Department of Coastal Zone Management, Federal Ministry of Environment.



Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Task Team Leader on black during a high-level discussion with critical stakeholders.



## GOVERNOR ZULUM APPLAUDS ACReSAL PROJECT FOR POST- INSURGENCY RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Babagana Umara Zulum**  
Borno State Governor



The World Bank financed Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project in Nigeria has assured the Ngamdu community that their parched areas will soon be converted into fertile farming grounds.

The declaration was issued during the inspection of the Ngamdu erosion and flood control project site in the community.

Borno State Governor Gana Umara Zulum praised the Agro Climatic Resilience in Semi Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) initiative in his speech, underlining its critical role in the region's post-insurgency rehabilitation and economic progress. The initiative intends to combat dry areas and reduce flood and erosion in a number of communities, including Ngamdu in Kaga local government.

Governor Zulum commended the project as a milestone that holds significant potential for enhancing livelihoods and fostering economic growth in the area. He expressed gratitude to the World Bank for its support and emphasized the project's importance for the post-insurgency recovery and stabilization efforts of his administration.

The Governor underscored the project's potential to provide long-term benefits, particularly in the realm of irrigation farming, which aligns with the state government's commitment to supporting year-round agricultural activities. He urged the residents of Ngamdu to fully utilize the project, highlighting the government's readiness to provide additional support for the implementation of irrigation

farming practices.

In acknowledging the ACReSAL project's impact, Governor Zulum affirmed its relevance to the overarching goal of rebuilding the region following years of insurgency. He emphasized the need for the community and state government to work in tandem to maximize the potential of the project, underscoring its positive implications for the region's economic and agricultural development.

The Governor's remarks underscore the significant role that the ACReSAL project is set to play in Borno State's socio-economic resurgence and post-conflict recovery, offering hope for a sustainable future in the face of previous adversities.

Task Team Leader (TTL) of Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Nigeria, Dr. Joy Iganye Agene, passionately assured the people of Ngamdu Community in Kaga local government, Borno, of transforming their arid lands into fertile ground suitable for farming throughout the year. She made the commitment while inspecting the Ngamdu erosion and flood control project site, which is part of the ongoing World Bank-finance interventions in Borno State.

Dr. Agene explained that maximum priority would be given to the interventions, ensuring that the people of Borno State, especially the Ngamdu community, would reap the full benefits of ACReSAL. Her assurance extended to supporting the women of the community in acquiring sustainable livelihoods through ACReSAL and other related interventions, as well as encouraging families to enroll their children in school.

Project Engineer for ACReSAL in Borno State, Engineer Baba Gana Ladan, detailed the Ngamdu flood and erosion control site, highlighting its 1175-meter concrete drain lane spanning three sections. He emphasized that the project aims to prevent future flooding in Ngamdu and save lives and property by effectively channeling floodwater to the designated drained site.

Additionally, Engineer Ladan mentioned similar projects across Borno State, including the flood and erosion control sites at Uba town in Askira Uba local government and the Biriye flood and erosion site under Bayo local government area. These endeavors are all part of efforts to manage and control flooding across Borno State.



Gov. Zulum, ACReSAL TTL and Borno State ACReSAL team at Ngamdu community

## ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY, FAO TO RESTORE 350,000 HECTARES OF DEGRADED LANDSCAPES UNDER ACReSAL PROJECT

In furtherance to the ACReSAL Project efforts to recover 1 million hectares of degraded lands, increase the adoption of sustainable landscapes management practices, enhance community livelihood, improve access to market and value chain development, create jobs, increase food production and security, build capacity, strengthen community resilience to the challenges of climate change and others, the Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Environment has signed a contract of partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to recover 350,000 hectares of degraded landscapes for environmental sustainability under the ACReSAL Project.

Speaking during the signing and exchange of documents, at the United Nations building in Abuja, the Hon. Minister of Environment, Mal. Balarabe Abbas Lawal, said that the 350,000 hectares of land would be restored in 19 Agro-Climatic Resilience in semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) states and the FCT.

“we gather to sign the contract for the engagement of the Technical Assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to restore 350,000 hectares under the component B of the Project Development Objective of the ACReSAL Project towards building community climate resilience which reflects a shared commitment to a sustainable practice and a determination to make a positive impact on our environment.

“The importance of landscape restoration efforts cannot be over emphasized especially in the context of our environmental health and its visible impact on the livelihoods of the

communities in the entire northern part of Nigeria.” Northern Nigeria, with its rich biodiversity and cultural heritage is plagued with serious challenges that requires innovative and collaborative solutions, it is indeed a great achievement to witness the commitment of the FAO and our partners, the World Bank to address these challenges by building capacity of the community to adapt and mitigate the challenges through this groundbreaking initiative.

“We are all aware that this contract signing represents a legal agreement and it symbolizes a shared vision for a sustainable, a more resilient future, I am persuaded that this engagement for the technical assistance to restore large scale landscapes will yield evidenced outcomes towards healthy environment, ensuring food security, and well-being of the communities, as we embark on this journey of landscapes restoration, we are taking a collective decision towards a future where the ecosystem will thrive and communities will flourish, he said.

“As we celebrate this milestone today, let us be mindful of the responsibility that comes with it; the success of this engagement will depend on our collective efforts, perseverance and ability to adapt to evolving

circumstances.

“Therefore, let us foster a spirit of collaboration, innovation and inclusivity as we work towards a common goal of restored and resilient landscapes in the 19 ACReSAL States and the FCT,” the Minister said.

The Minister commended the National Project Coordinator, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar and his team at the Federal Project Management Unit for their commitment to seeing this contract come through, to the lender, the World Bank for their continued support and guidance.

He congratulated both the Steering and Technical Committee members of the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture & Food Security and Water Resources & Sanitation and prayed that the contract signing would be the beginning of a transformative journey towards achieving the target set for broader landscapes restoration in Nigeria.

Earlier, Dominique Koffy Kouacou, FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria and ECOWAS, said that FAO is committed to sustaining the support to the government and the ministry in particular to protect the environment and sustainably conserve Nigeria's vast natural resources.



Dominique Koffy Kouacou, FAO, Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal and Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of ACReSAL Project



“The objective of ACRoSAL is to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate resilient landscape management.

“The agreement we are signing today is important to FAO because the objective is to provide the required technical expertise for the up-scaling of the landscape restoration subcomponent of the ACRoSAL Project in synergy with the Great Green Wall Sahel-wide initiative of the African Union.

“This technical assistance will certainly improve the development and delivery of resilience for land restoration and Climate Smart Agriculture knowledge and services to both the federal, state and community levels by designing training materials and curricula tailor-made for restoration and value chain development,” he said.

The FAO representative added that the technical assistance would equally complement the activities supported by the Great Green Wall Sahel-wide initiative of the African Union.

He noted the ACRoSAL Project Development objective (PDO) aligns with one of the FAO global aspirations which is a better environment.

In her remarks, Dr. Joy I. Agene, the Task Team Leader of the ACRoSAL Project and Senior Environmental Specialist-World Bank Nigeria Office said today is a very big day for ACRoSAL, this has been a very intense process, however, it is a demonstration of resilience and commitment towards supporting the country to address the impact of climate change. She congratulated and thanked everyone for having contributed to the success of the partnership.

She highlighted that one of the mandates of the ACRoSAL is to reclaim 1 million hectares of degraded land in Nigeria and this partnership is expected to support ACRoSAL to reclaim over 350 thousand hectares out

of the 1 million hectares.

She said that the ACRoSAL would collaborate with stakeholders to come up with an efficient outcome on the implementation of the project.

Mr Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator, ACRoSAL, said that the collaboration would ease the burden of farmers in the Sahel Regions because FAO as part of its Action against Desertification programme has developed a technology to restore degraded lands; deployment of the delphino plough and tractor to achieve large scale landscapes restoration.

He said that the project would equally

address carbon emissions, greenhouse gas, unemployment challenges and poverty.

Umar said that the ACRoSAL project was anchored on four pillars namely—the dry land management, community climate resilience, institutional policy strengthening and project management, and contingent emergency response.

He noted that the Federal Ministry of Environment is the lead implementing Ministry in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation.



Dignitaries at the FAO and ACRoSAL collaboration signing meeting



Malam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, NPC, ACRoSAL and Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Task Team Leader, ACRoSAL

## NIMC TO SUPPORT ACReSAL ON BENEFICIARIES IDENTIFICATION

### Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote

The Acting Director General/CEO,  
National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)



The Acting Director General/CEO, National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote has assured of the commission's support to the success of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project.

The DG stated this in her office when the National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar and his team paid her a congratulatory visit and to seek for areas of collaboration with the Commission.

Engr. Abisoye echoed her excitement about the collaboration with ACReSAL to verify and manage beneficiaries database and noted that NIMC officials will work with ACReSAL team at the Local Government level to ensure that data of project beneficiaries are validated.

She noted that Nigeria can prevent disasters with early warning system as there are some countries that already know when flood will occur and they plan ahead to move communities living within the catchment.

In view of the above, she set up a committee between NIMC and ACReSAL to ensure outlined objectives are fulfilled.

In his remarks, the National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project congratulated the DG on her appointment and informed her that ACReSAL is a 6-year \$700m World Bank financed project that seeks to address challenges of desertification and drought in the 19 Northern states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He informed the DG that the project is directly under the coordination of Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food Security, and Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation of which the ministers have given ACReSAL a task to collaborate with NIMC to ensure adequate identification and management of project beneficiaries records.

The NPC stated that the NIMC-ACReSAL collaboration will strengthen both institutions for effective and sustainable screening of the project beneficiaries; by improving the identity management for the nation and updating the database for the provision of social welfare and related issues.

He highlighted that ACReSAL intends to partner with NIMC's enrolment centres in over 400 Local Government Areas in the 19 participating states and

the FCT to achieve the target.

He also called for NIMC's support in the areas of Management Information System (MIS) deployment and training of personnel which will result to transfer of skills and capacity enhancement.



Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote, Acting DG NIMC and Mr. Abdulhamid Umar National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL



ACReSAL and NIMC officials in a group photograph



**Congratulatory visit to Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev, Hon. Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation.**



**Courtesy visit to Hon. Ministers of Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Sen. Abubakar Kyari, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security and Sen. Abdullahi Sabi Aliyu, Minister of State, ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.**





**PHOTOS SPEAK**

**Energizing Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs); Solar Power Installation**

Ongoing solar power installation at National Park Service, Abuja



Installation at Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Abuja



Energizing Federal Ministry of Environment Headquarters, Mabushi, Abuja

Forestry Department, Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja



Bauchi State ACREsAL, launched by His Excellency, Governor Bala Muhammed





PHOTOS SPEAK

Presentation of Operational Vehicles to Federal Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) for effective project supervision and monitoring



Sights of Sokoto State ACReSAL Steering and Technical Committees meeting





Gombe State ACRoSAL, launched by his Excellency Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya



Engagement session with International Institute for Tropical Agriculture ( IITA) for collaboration on Landscapes Restoration





**PHOTOS SPEAK**

**Taraba ACREsAL Drills Solar Powered Borehole for Communities**

Community Solar Powered Boreholes in Anguwan Tudun Haske, Serti A Ward, Gashaka LGA - Taraba State.



Community Solar Powered Boreholes in Yobe Community, Bali LGA - Taraba State.



Solar Powered Boreholes in Maihula Community Bali LGA - Taraba State.



Community Solar Powered Boreholes in Pantissawa Community Yorro LGA - Taraba State.



**Institutional Support: Renovation of Federal Ministry of Environment Conference Room**





**PHOTOS SPEAK**

Courtesy visit to Statistician-General of the Federation / Chief Executive Officer of the National Bureau of Statistics, Prince Adeyemi Adeniran and his team.



Kogi ACReSAL moves to GeoReference all intervention sites for documentation and planning purposes





PHOTOS SPEAK

Catch them young; Katsina ACReSAL played host to Students of Government College, Katsina to promote environmental awareness





## ACReSAL HOLDS HYBRID IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION TO REVIEW PROJECT PERFORMANCE

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project recently carried out a Hybrid Implementation Support for the project.

The joint World Bank/ FGN mission brought together the 19 Northern States and the FCT that are in partnership with the project for progress review session in Abuja after visiting some project states.

The primary objective of the mission was to assess overall progress of the project implementation from each of the State Project Management Offices and resolve bottlenecks that might slow down project implementation.

In his presentation, the National Project Coordinator (NPC) of ACReSAL, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar underscored the significance of the mission in stabilizing operations, providing guidance, and addressing challenges faced by the State Project Management Units (SPMUs).

The Task Team Leader (TTL) of the

project Dr. Joy I. Agene, announced that the mission is scheduled to be held twice yearly to discuss crucial issues such as Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Procurement, Fiduciary matters amongst others.

In terms of critical developments, the restoration of 4,684 hectares of degraded land was highlighted, against the target of 1 million hectares. However, the mission also brought attention to some challenges facing the project. In a different dimension, the National Coordinator of the project

Mr. Umar clarified that the World Bank is content with the project's progress and expects the State Project Management Units (SPMU's) to accelerate project implementation.

Overall, the mission served as a crucial platform for the exchange of ideas and the identification of key areas for improvement in the ongoing projects. It ensured that stakeholders are better equipped to navigate current and future challenges in the pursuit of the Project Development Objective (PDO).



Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project highlighting the objective of the mission.



Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Task team Leader of the ACReSAL project speaking on the relevance of the mission.



## PLATEAU ACReSAL MOVES TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY



In tackling the challenges of land degradation and desertification faced by farmers and as part of efforts to enhance food security in Nigeria, the Plateau state Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) has ushered in a new technology driven approach for local agriculture with its innovative Greenhouse.

The Greenhouse farm is a type of farming in which crops are cultivated under-protected and enclosed environment, it enables farmers to cultivate irrespective of climate conditions.

The greenhouse technology farming has become a major player in the global agriculture market as it plays a safe role in food security and sufficiency in food production. It boosts sufficiency in crop farming, even as it allows the crop to grow under a conducive space that regulates temperature and cooling systems.

It enables the farmer experience prolonged and multiple harvest within a planting cycle, it also helps to reduce post-harvest losses.

Built by the Plateau State ACReSAL Project in Vom, Plateau state, this ground-breaking harvest experiment includes a first-of-its-kind hybrid cucumber cultivated in Greenhouse.

This not only proved successful but also marked a pivotal game-changer in agricultural practices, yielding exceptional harvest.

Garba Gowon Gonkol, Project Coordinator Plateau State ACReSAL explains that utilizing a combination of advanced breeding techniques and Drip technology which is a cheaper and smart method of farming capable of giving high yield that will improve the living conditions of the farmers.

According to the State ACReSAL Project coordinator, the plants were grown inside controlled environment “Green House” structure designed specifically to optimize growth conditions like temperature, humidity and light exposure.

The inaugural harvest of these cucumbers demonstrated extraordinary performance, both in

terms of yield and quality. Each vine produced a considerable number of uniformly-sized cucumbers which were visible appealing, vibrant green and smooth textured.

Mr Gonkol pointed out the many advantages of Greenhouse cultivation. One of them is the significantly shortened growth cycle. Traditional cucumber cultivation methods generally take weeks longer to produce a mature crop.

Upon hearing the news, some up takers and local markets around Jos South have expressed excitement about the prospects of having a constant supply of farm produce.

He pointed out the profitability in Green House technology.

According to him, a greenhouse farmer would make more money than an open field farmer on same portion of land, even though their cost of farming will differ. Farmers and experts alike see Green Houses as a game-changer in the agricultural sector.



Cucumber Greenhouse built by Plateau State ACReSAL

## LAND RESTORATION: GOVERNOR UMAR NAMADI JOINS JIGAWA ACReSAL IN TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN.

The Executive Governor of Jigawa State Malam Umar Namadi joined the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes project (ACReSAL) recently at Government Unity Secondary School, Ringim Local Government in tree planting and campaign activities with one (1) additional hectare to the 265 hectares covered through sand dune stabilization, shelter belt, institutional and road planting in line with the ACReSAL Project development objectives.

Governor Umar Namadi, after planting a tree said "Tree planting is culture built in the people of Jigawa State for decades. Our people have inherited a tree-planting attitude to curb the risk of desert encroachment and stabilize sand dunes, in a bit to mitigate the effect of soil erosion to strengthen the soil systems.

The Governor added that continuing

institutional planting has come to stay in Jigawa across institutions in the state, each student is expected to plant a tree, nurture it, and ensure it grows. This will help us restore our degraded lands for a greener and safer environment he said. The government is committed to reviving climate policies to enhance resilience to climate-related challenges and promote sustainable development, especially in agriculture, the Governor reiterated.

The Honorable Commissioner of Environment Dr. Nura Muhammad Ibrahim, in the course of his speech said that the ACReSAL project has recently awarded a contract for 5 solar-powered boreholes all in an attempt to ensure adequate maintenance of these trees, especially during the dry season. This planting activity is in its first phase, thus it's a gradual process. By the end of this year, we will make sure that the activities are carried out across the state.

Dr Nura mentioned that the state

government is committed to the successful implementation of the ACReSAL project.

The Project Coordinator thanked the Executive Governor Malam Umar Namadi, Honorable Commissioner for Environment, Local government chairmen, and key stakeholders that have graced the occasion, and has ensured continuous implementation of ACReSAL project activities across the state.

Malam Yahaya said, all necessary support has been provided by the World Bank, state and federal governments to implement ACReSAL project activities, therefore awareness-raising programs will continue to support the course of climate change control for sustainable agricultural practices, and promoting afforestation.



Executive Governor of Jigawa State, Governor Umar Namadi performing symbolic tree planting exercise



## COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR PROJECT SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

In a bid to the actualization of Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) Project Development Objective and address environmental challenges due to climate change and poor land use practices in Northern Nigeria.

The Honorable Commissioner for Environment, Kaduna State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Hon. Abubakar Buba ably represented by the Director of Environment Mu'azu Yusuf alongside with the Kaduna State ACReSAL Project Coordinator, Mallam Jibril Dahiru Rufa'i recently led the state project management unit as well as the representatives of the Co-implementing Ministries of Agriculture and that of Public Works and Infrastructure to community sensitization at Unguwan Idi and Marwa communities of Soba Local Government Area, Dama Kasuwa & Kauru Lebere communities of Kauru Local Government Area.

The State Project Coordinator Jibril Dahiru Rufa'i informed the communities about ACReSAL Project components which cover Dryland Management, Community Climate Resilience, Institutional and Policy Strengthening and lastly Contingency Emergency Response component.

He noted that the present administration under the Executive Governor of Kaduna State Senator Uba Sani has keyed into the ACReSAL project as part of the sustain agenda of supporting rural communities and livelihood development.

The entourage had a good deliberation with Kurmin B & Zankwa community members of Zangon Kataf, Local Government Area and Gidan Waya & Fori community members of Jama'a

Local Government Area respectively. The Kaduna State ACReSAL Project Coordinator Mallam Jibril Dahiru Rufa'i also told the community members that the ACReSAL Project is a community driven project that aims at mitigating the effect of climate change through investment on Climate Smart Agriculture, Afforestation, Farmers Led Irrigation Development (FLID).

He emphasized that the project will provide Agricultural inputs to farmers and soft loans as a Community Revolving Funds (CRF). He therefore called on the communities to support the ACReSAL project and embrace the project's for their benefits and sustainability of our environment.



Jibril Dahiru Rufa'i, Project Coordinator, Kaduna State ACReSAL



Cross section of community members

## KANO STATE KEYS INTO ACReSAL TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Kano State Government has described keying into Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project as part of its effort to mitigate climate change challenges.

This was made known through the Chief of Staff Alhaji Shehu Wada Sagagi who represented the Kano State Government at the flag-off of tree planting campaign at the Central Eid Ground, in the State capital.

Acknowledging the enormous responsibilities saddled with the Government, Alhaji Shehu Wada Sagagi maintained that Kano State Government will sustain efforts in harnessing areas of collaboration with development partners that will come and invest in the environmental sector.

“Efforts are ongoing for the provision of erosion control measures at Rarin in Dawakin-Tofa, Bulbula-Gayawa in Nassarawa LGAs as well as the provision of water conservation structures and provision of minor irrigation facilities at Dambazau/Fajewa in Takai, Yartiti in Shanono and Dawan-kaya in Makoda LGAs respectively under (ACReSAL) project.

In his good will message, the State Project Coordinator Kano-ACReSAL Dr. Dahir M. Hashim on behalf of the Kano-ACReSaAL declared solidarity with the government under the able leadership of the executive governor of Kano State, His Excellency Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf to bring a meaningful difference in his pursuit of the attainment of a secure environment for the people of Kano and humanity as a whole.

The PC also commended the Kano State Government and the Commissioner for Environment, Rt. Hon. Nasiru Sule Garo for reinstating

the Tree Planting Campaign in the State despite several years of neglect.

Dr. Dahir lamented the fact that Kano State is witnessing direct consequences of climate change, rising temperature, erratic rainfall patterns, and extreme whether events, like heavy downpours, are becoming more evident.

The PC, therefore, emphasized the need for awareness creation and sensitization on the need for respect and concern for the earth and all it provides us with. He then applauded the government for recognizing the importance of taking proactive steps to safeguard the planet.



Middle the Chief of Staff to Kano State government, Alhaji Shehu Wada Sagagi performing symbolic tree planting exercise.



From the right, Commissioner for Water Resources Dr. Ali Haruna Abubakar Makoda and other dignitaries at the annual tree planting campaign event.



## ACReSAL TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, BOOST AGRICULTURE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL), has taken steps to tackle environmental degradation, to boost agricultural production in Nigeria's 19 Northern states, and the FCT. Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, ACReSAL National Coordinator made the disclosure in Jos, during a 2-day Technical Support Mission on the Project Component B: Community Climate Resilience. Umar said that 250 participants were in Jos to deep dive on Component B of the project, which deals with issues of landscape restoration for the improvement of people's livelihood.

He said the move was imperative, since agriculture is the mainstay of the people, but climate change and other human factors are adversely affecting it. "So, we are here to have a deep dive and have proper understanding of what Component B, seeks to deliver to our communities and our households." "Statistics abound that the northern part of Nigeria is severely bashed by climate change challenges. "It has reached the extent that the landscape in northern part of Nigeria is so degraded and disintegrated, such that it has led to massive migration of our people.

"If you count the 11 frontline states of northern Nigeria, where Sahara Desert incursion is so severe, like Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Sokoto and Kebbi, among others, you will agree with me that the landscape there is rapidly degrading," Umar said.

According to him, ACReSAL is in Jos, because mining activities over the years have degraded the landscapes of Plateau, to the point that ponds have become death traps.

Mr Garba Gonkol, the Plateau Project Coordinator of ACReSAL, lauded the

state government for releasing its counterpart funds for the smooth take off of the project, which started late last year. According to Gonkol, the topography of the state has many environmental challenges, including excessive erosion and flooding. He also noted that the rampant and uncontrolled mining activities ongoing in many parts of the state, were degrading the landscape.

On her part, Dr Joy Agene, the project's Task Team Leader, urged the states to develop proposals that are implementable in line with the project focus.

She noted that seven states had submitted their proposals, and so they could now assess and see how they could better deliver on their mandate. She urged the project team to focus in internalising the framework, and how it would be implemented.

Mr. Manievel Sene, Co-TTL ACReSAL and Lead Project Component B, in his presentation, said that the ACReSAL component B1 and B2, are community strengthening and community investments respectively.



Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL



Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Task Team Leader, ACReSAL



Mr. Manievel Sene, Co-Task Team Leader, ACReSAL

## NASARAWA STATE ACReSAL CONSTRUCTS SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES, STREET LIGHTS IN PROJECT COMMUNITIES

The Nasarawa State Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) has constructed and installed solar-powered boreholes and solar street lights in eleven wards of Akwanga, Uke in Karu and Loko Ward in Nasarawa Local Government Area (LGA) in Nasarawa State.

The installation project commenced with community sensitization and advocacy to raise awareness about the ACReSAL project development objective (PDO) and the installation of solar-powered boreholes and solar street lights in the aforementioned wards as part of their urgent needs.

The goal is to provide clean and accessible water to rural communities that currently endure long journeys to obtain these vital resources. In addition, the provision of solar street lights will offer alternative energy sources to communities, particularly during nighttime, discouraging the use of trees for lighting purposes. Upon completion, approximately 25,000 individuals will directly benefit from improved access to clean water and solar street lights in the affected areas.

In their remarks during separate sensitization and advocacy visits, the Chairman of Akwanga LGA, Hon. Safiyanu Isa, the Chun Mada- His Royal Highness (HRM), Pst. Samson Gamu Yaren, HRH. Amb. Habila Adamu- the Chemnku, the Emir of Uke-HRM. Ahamed Abdullahi, expressed appreciation and admiration for selecting their LGA as the site for this impactful community driven project.

They pledged their unwavering support during and after the implementation and urged their respective communities to take ownership, ensure its enduring impact

and long-term sustainability.

They applauded the project and described it as a significant relief for the benefitting communities, saying that it will not only alleviate the burden of walking long distances in search of water but also contribute to reducing crimes such as theft, nocturnal attacks and harassment.

They noted that the project will also

mitigate waterborne diseases across the communities and vowed to provide everything necessary for the project's success in their communities. Overall, this initiative by Nasarawa State ACReSAL holds immense promise in improving the living conditions of the people in Akwanga LGA, bringing sustainable access to clean water and enhanced energy sources to the communities while fostering safety and security.



Completed Solar Powered Borehole



Solar Powered Street Light





Dr. Joy Iganya Agene Take Team Leader.

## ACReSAL PROJECT TO LEVERAGE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Senior Environmental Specialist-World Bank Nigeria Office and Task Team Leader of the ACReSAL Project, Dr. Joy I. Agene has admonished the ACReSAL Project team to ensure the application of science and technology in project implementation processes for sustainable catchment management.

She gave the advice during the valedictory session of a 5-day training on the application of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing Technology carried out by National Centre for Remote Sensing (NCRS) for ACReSAL officers in Jos, Plateau State.

Dr. Joy highlighted that to have a saturated and sustainable catchment, we need to apply technology to establish soil suitability and the nature of intervention to carry out. Hence, she cautioned that all ACReSAL technical officers by the virtue of the capacity received in Jos ought to know how to take site coordinates, stating that all data must be georeferenced and accurately captured. "If you do not have the science, the technical know-how, when it comes to implementation of catchment management plans, you will not have results," she said. She called on states to tap into the presentations delivered by the resource persons and experts in the training, have dialogues with the three key sectors (Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources) of their respective states and identify policy options that will be integrated into the catchment management plans.

"This stage of the project is the time to go back to our states based on all the capacity staff have acquired including the soft skills, to sit down, form the snowflakes from the leadership training, delegate responsibilities, go to the field and deliver on the project

result framework".

Dr. Joy appealed to state project management units to ensure that ESS 6 (Environmental and Social Safeguards-6) is triggered before going into biodiversity conservation and protection of the ecosystem.

She applauded ACReSAL Team for commitment, dexterity, determination and hunger for knowledge which was demonstrated in the course of the training. "I am a product of NCRS, the capacity in this centre is immense, the resources, not just the human resources but the data; software and know how is available here and that is why we spoke about the MOU between NARSDA, so that ACReSAL will continue to leverage on the resources available" she added.

In his remarks, the National Project Coordinator of the ACReSAL Project, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar revealed that the lectures notes received during the training have been motivating, educative and impactful considering its significance around water, environment and agriculture which are the focus of ACReSAL Project.

He acknowledged and commended the Director-General, National Space Research and Development Agency (NARSDA), Dr. Halilu Ahmad Shaba, the Director, National Centre for Remote Sensing, Jos, Dr. D.N. Jeb, and all the resource persons and facilitators for excellent coordination and transfer of knowledge through their capacities and competence while noting that the centre desires to be promoted to a

degree awarding institution.

"For organizing an excellent training for ACReSAL field staff on GIS and Remote Sensing Technology, The National Centre for Remote Sensing, Jos has shown it is a wonderful institute with skills sets comparable to what is obtainable in the best university in the country" the NPC stated.

The Director, National Centre for Remote Sensing, Jos, Dr. D.N. Jeb, in his vote of thanks, on behalf of the DG, NARSDA, appreciated the World Bank for making the ACReSAL project a reality.

He commended the participants for being wonderful students, noting that they were so committed and attentive throughout the training period. He noted that the training will have a positive impact in the project implementation especially on catchment management plans.



First Row- 5th left, Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, Task Team Leader, ACReSAL, 6th left, Mr. Abdulhamid Umar, National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL, 7th left, Director General, National Space Research and Development Agency (NARSDA), Dr. Halilu Ahmad Shaba, ACReSAL States Coordinators and Facilitators from National Remote Sensing, Jos.



Cross session of participants at the training.

## BAUCHI ACReSAL INSPECTS PROGRESS OF INSTITUTIONAL TREE PLANTATIONS.

Bauchi State Project Coordinator of the Agro-climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) Dr. Ibrahim Kabir, led officers of Bauchi State ACReSAL team on inspection visit to Tree Plantation project sites carried out by the project at the four higher institutions of learning in the state.

The Project Coordinator said the essence of the inspection was to ascertain the level of progress of the plantation and provide guidance where necessary to the management of the institutions for the success of the project and to also ensure sustainability.

Dr Kabir added that, the exercise will also provide an opportunity for the SPMU to interact with the leadership of the institutions with the view to have first hand information on the impacts of the plantation sited at their domains for the success of the Green campus projects.

He also commended the commitments of the leadership of the three institutions visited by providing all the necessary support to the plantations and express optimism that the project will serve the purpose it was meant for. It could be recalled that Bauchi ACReSAL has established a biological garden at federal polytechnic Bauchi,

shelterbelts at Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic Bauchi and Bauchi state university, Yuli campus as well as roadside plantation at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi, Gubi campus respectively. The PC was accompanied to the sites by all the officers of the SPMU.



Botanical garden, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi before afforestation



Afforestation Project at Botanical Garden, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi



## FAO TRAINS ACReSAL TECHNICAL TEAM ON LAND RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

The Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO) has carried out a six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on large scale Land restoration techniques for the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project technical officers.

The main objective of the workshop was to ensure that the project's technical officers and also those responsible for the project implementation at the community level, have a clear view of what landscape restoration in general and in northern Nigeria entails.

The workshop amongst others, aims to define the roles and responsibilities of officials in implementing the activities, including availability of community land for restoration and how to ensure that lands have legal tenure status at the local authority offices.

It was also meant to equip participants on the use of mercenaries like Delfino ploughs and tractors.

In his key note address during the workshop that was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in collaboration with the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscaped (ACReSAL) project, Mr Mahmud Kambari Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Environment disclosed that the ACReSAL project is a pivotal initiative towards environmental conservation and sustainability.

He further stated that land restoration is the responsibility of every stakeholder to sustain the ecosystem, foster biodiversity and mitigate climate change for the well-being of communities. Land degradation is a problem that globally affects many

### **Alhaji Ibrahim Yusufu Idris**

Permanent Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Environment

through food insecurity, high food prices, climate change, environmental hazards, and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The northern states of Nigeria face rapid desert encroachment at levels ranging from moderate to severe.

Most of the landmasses in states like Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara States are affected by desertification, while the cushion states (Federal Capital Territory, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Plateau, Adamawa, Taraba, Niger, Kwara and Kaduna States) are under severe ecological pressure, from migrating human and livestock populations from the frontline states.

FAO is currently supporting the Nigerian government, through the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources, through the implementation of FAO's Technical Assistance to Nigeria Agro-Climatic Resilience in the Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL Project), which will be implemented in the Northern States of Nigeria, including the 11 Great Green Wall (GGW) frontline States.

The partnership with the FAO for technical assistance is for the restoration of 350, 000 hectares of degraded land under the ACReSAL Project. This is in furtherance to the ACReSAL Project efforts and mandate to recover 1 million hectares of degraded land.

The technical assistance will improve the development and delivery of resilience for land restoration and Climate Smart Agriculture knowledge



and services to both the federal, state and community levels by designing training materials and curricula tailor-made for restoration and value chain development.

The support will make optimum use of the large accumulation of relevant experience and know-how on technical aspects of landscape restoration, innovative methodologies for planning, monitoring, impact evaluation and communications. These will ensure an efficient implementation of restoration interventions, supporting ACReSAL and the GGW.

Capacity building of the state officials is a critical aspect of the project and to kick-start the implementation of the project in-line with the project work plan. The FAO has commenced series of trainings for restoration Professionals/Master Trainers who will also be in charge of field operations in their states, under the supervision of the State Project Management Units (SPMU's) and support from the FAO TA.

On his part, Dr Moctar Sacande, Land Technical Officer of the Project from FAO noted that the training is to ensure successful implementation of the project. He commended ACReSAL for the implementation of the project and the World Bank for financially facilitating the ACReSAL project, adding that the training was organised for the 19 northern states and FCT.

Mr Abdulhamid Umar National Project Coordinator for ACReSAL said that the act of landscape restoration requires serious drive and capacity building. "Internationally FAO is known to be an agency of the

United Nations that has actually delivered severally as far as issues surrounding land degradation brought about by Climate Change. “So this Training of Trainers capacity building and techniques that are been impacted is to give capacity and skill set for selected colleagues of ours from states

and community level so that they would transfer this skill set from Abuja to the community level.

Mr Andrews Seglah, social expert from the World Bank Nigeria office said that ACReSAL project is a huge step to acquiring a sustainable landscape

restoration and a clean environment. He assured continued support by the World Bank and urged participant’s States to step down knowledge acquired in the course of the training regionally to people of their states and at grass root level.



Group photo of participants at the workshop



From left: Dr. Ibrahim Kabir, Project Coordinator, Bauchi State ACReSAL, Dr. Yusuf Maina-Bukar Director General, National Agency for the Great Green, Dr Moctar Sacande, Land Technical Officer, FAO, Mr Abdulhamid Umar National Project Coordinator, ACReSAL, Mr Mahmud Kambari, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Environment, Mrs. Hajara Umar, Director, Forestry Department Federal Ministry of Environment, Dr. Ibrahim Musa Goni, Conservator-General (CG), National Park Service and Mr Andrews Seglah, Social Expert, World Bank.



## BENUE ACReSAL INAUGURATES LGPMCS FOR FOR INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Benue State ACReSAL Project Coordinator, Builder Victor Ama has inaugurated Local Government Project Management Committee (LGPMC) for the implementation of ACReSAL project in Katsina Ala, Ukum and Logo Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Benue state.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Katsina Ala Local Government Secretariat.

Speaking during the inauguration, Builder Ama said the committees which will be chaired by the Directors, General Services and Administration (DGSA) of the various LGAs also comprise other Staff of LGAs, representatives of Non-governmental organization, People Living with Disabilities, Traditional Rulers as well as women and youth leaders from the LGAs as stipulated in the ACReSAL Project Implementation Manual.

He stated that the newly inaugurated committees will serve as liaison officers between the State Project Management Unit and LGAs.

The committees are tasked with the

responsibility of managing and coordinating ACReSAL activities at the local government and community level for successful project implementation.

He added that the project will specifically target the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youth, the elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Internally Displaced persons.

He emphasized that farmers and host

communities in the 3 LGAs will benefit immensely from the project.

The Project Coordinator also said that ACReSAL will work in collaboration with already registered cooperative societies at the local governments and requested for the list of Community Interest Groups and cooperatives from the LGAs.



Tarka LGA during the inauguration ceremony



Kwande LGA during the inauguration ceremony



## GOVERNOR KEFAS EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH ACReSAL PROJECT IN TARABA STATE

Governor of Taraba state Dr. Agbu Kefas has expressed his satisfaction with the performance of Taraba State ACReSAL and assured his administration unwavering support to the project implementation.

The Governor made this promise at the officially commissioning of the Taraba State Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project, Office Complex.

The Governor stressed on the importance of ecosystem restoration and called on all to join hands in his greening projects for the benefit of everyone and sustainable future.

Speaking earlier, the commissioner for Environment and Climate Change, who doubles as the Chairperson Taraba ACReSAL Steering Committee, Hajiya Aishat Barde commended Taraba ACReSAL for completing the construction of eleven (11) Sola-powered Boreholes located in Jalingo, Gashaka, Yorro, Lau, Ardo Kola, Bali, Donga, Kurmi and Wukari LGAs.

She also commended the Government for commitment and support towards greening projects. She noted that ACReSAL has raised seedlings for planting in some targeted watersheds.

Aishat revealed that Taraba ACReSAL has already conducted sensitization and enlightenment programs across the local governments to promote ACReSAL Project goals, increase project understanding and benefits to the people.

She commended the ACReSAL steering and technical committees and the project management unit for their contributions and efforts towards achieving the set goals of the project.

Speaking, earlier the State Project Coordinator, Taraba ACReSAL, Samaila Joshua Dumuti explained that the project is an initiative of the Federal Government with finance from the World Bank.

Dumut further stated that the aim was to restore degraded lands brought about by Climate Change.



Second left: Governor of Taraba state Dr. Agbu Kefas with other dignitaries at the commissioning of Taraba State ACReSAL Office Complex



Hajiya Aishat Barde, Commissioner for Environment and Climate Change, Taraba State



# LIST OF PARTICIPATING STATES

ADAMAWA  
BAUCHI  
BENUE  
BORNO  
FCT  
GOMBE  
JIGAWA  
KADUNA  
KANO  
KATSINA

KEBBI  
KOGI  
KWARA  
NASARAWA  
NIGER  
PLATEAU  
SOKOTO  
TARABA  
YOBE  
ZAMFARA

## COMPONENT A

**Dryland Management** - This component aims to address the drivers of watershed degradation in the targeted areas of northern Nigeria. It will support the following sub-components. This component will target the highest priority large-scale public investments. Component A investments complement those of Component B which is community-based.



### A1: Strategic Watershed Planning

- Integrated approaches (Policy & Institutional Environment) – including knowledge base/analytics & project-related policy innovations
- Strategic Watershed Planning (analytical & stakeholder inputs)

### A2: Landscape Investments

- Large area watershed investments (including afforestation, windbreaks, sand dunes, etc.)
- Rehabilitation of deep gullies, dams, other infrastructure
- State-level program enhancement



### A3: Special Ecosystems

- Forests and Protected Area management
- Oases
- Wetlands
- Woodlands



## COMPONENT B

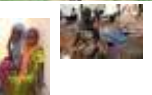
**Community Climate Resilience** - This Component seeks to improve agro-climatic resilience at the community level in targeted micro-watersheds. It will support the following sub-components:

### B1: Community Strengthening

- Community Engagement/ Social Cohesion/ Peacebuilding
- Capacity building
- Micro-watershed planning

### B2: Community Investments

- Activities in local catchments (soil and water management, agricultural systems)
- Community-level infrastructure (incl. solar irrigation) and services
- Climate and Weather Information Services
- Community-level Innovations (e.g. rural energy, village kiosks, innovation pilots) with scale-up potential



## COMPONENT C

**Institutional Strengthening and Project Management** - This Component aims to improve the enabling institutional and policy foundation for multi-sectoral integrated landscape management as well as support project management. This will include the following sub-components:

### C1: Institutional and Policy Strengthening

- Institutional Infrastructure (IT, office, connectivity)
- Longer-term policy and institutional frameworks to promote integrated watershed management across sectors, levels and institutions
- Capacity building and outreach (in-person and virtual training, internships)

### C2: Project Management

- Coordination at federal and state levels
- Supporting technical assistance (e.g. M&E, data/analytics, implementation support)





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## VALUE CHAIN

# THE ACReSAL COMPONENTS

**Component A. Dryland Management:-**Subcomponents A1. Strategic Watershed Planning,  
A2. Landscape Investments A3. Special Ecosystems Restoration.

**Component B. Community Climate Resilience:-** Subcomponents B1. Community Strengthening  
B2. Community Investments.

**Component C. Institutional Strengthening and Project Management**

**Component D. Contingent Emergency Response Component**