African Union

Regional Policy Coherence for the Great Green Wall Initiative: *Soil Health as the Foundation to Realising the Ambitions of the Great Green Wall Initiative*

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06 POLICY BRIEF

BACKGROUND

Healthy soil is the foundation of resilient, productive landscapes and a unifier across Africa's climate, food and nutrition security, biodiversity, and land restoration ambitions. It is central to the delivery of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), which has evolved to become a continent-wide strategy for large-scale land restoration, climate resilience, and ecological regeneration, improving the resilience of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and Indigenous communities.

Land degradation is a major threat to productivity across the African continent **affecting more than 485 million people**. Food produced in nutrient-depleted soil lacks available nutrients for the people who eat it, and for most of the 33 million smallholder farms in Africa, growing food in degraded soil is the norm, not the exception. These trends are further exacerbated by the climate crisis.

Across the continent, **nearly 65% of productive land is degraded, and 45% of land is affected by desertification**. In many dryland areas, soils have lost their **organic matter, structure, and fertility**. Soil erosion remains one of the major drivers of land degradation, contributing to declining productivity and biodiversity loss. It affects crop yields and undermines crop responsiveness to inputs, such as mineral fertilizers and improved seed varieties, further increasing the vulnerability of smallholder farmers and rural communities to climate-related and economic shocks.

To reserve these trends, African Union (AU) Member States will need to markedly increase the health of their soils. This is not only essential to meeting the GGWI's vision of restored, resilient landscapes, but also to achieving broader goals on food and nutrition security, climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth.

This policy brief aims to:

- Elevate soil health as a foundational enabler for realising the ambitions of the GGWI.
- Bridge continental policy frameworks by introducing the new GGWI Strategy and the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (AFSH-AP), identifying areas of alignment and divergence, and strengthening policy coherence to reduce fragmentation, enhance synergies, and strengthen coordinated action for soil health across the continent.
- Accelerate action by Member States and partners by identifying opportunities to scale soil health interventions through investment, capacity development, and knowledge systems.

UK International Development — Partnership | Progress | Prosperity
CGIAR
AICCRA — Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
CIFOR
World Agroforestry
CA4SH — Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health

Defining Soil Health

Africa needs an integrated approach to address the **24 billion tons of soil that are degraded each year through agriculture** and other practices. Healthy soil provides socio-cultural services just as much as environmental services. Soil is the foundation of food systems and is the most biodiverse ecosystem on Earth; it houses about **60% of the Earth's species**, and can contain **1,000 – 10,000 kg of microbial biomass per hectare** in just the first few centimeters. Soil is more than a conglomerate of organic and inorganic materials; it is a living entity. Moving toward a shared understanding, and perhaps a definition, of soil health as a biologically active substrate, allows for holistic approaches to increasing the health of soil, and can help align monitoring efforts.

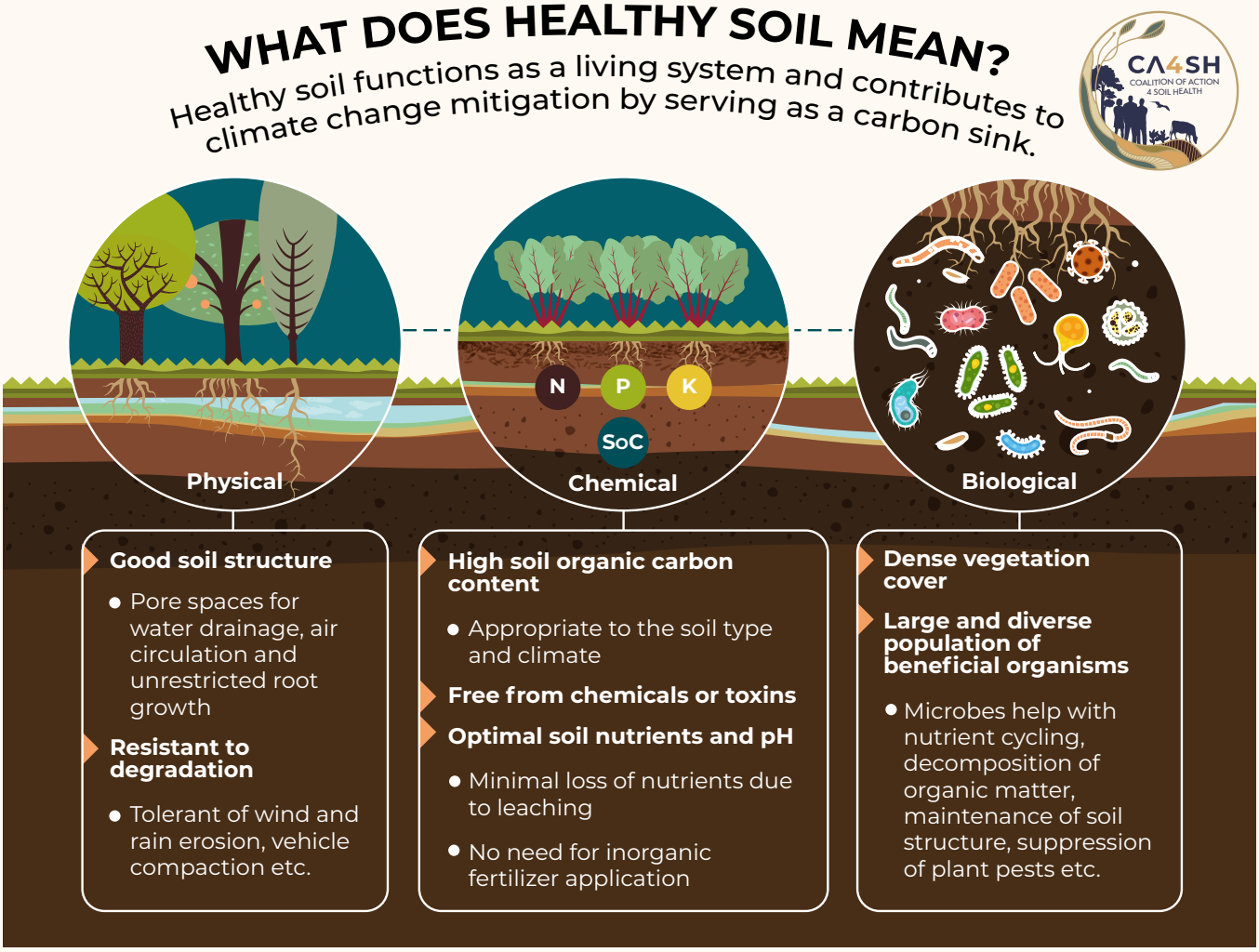

Figure 1. *Physical, chemical and biological properties of healthy soil (CA4SH, 2022)*

Definitions of soil health

"[Soil health] is the ability of the soil to sustain the productivity, diversity, and environmental services of terrestrial ecosystems." **- Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) (2020)**

"Soil health is the capacity of soils to facilitate the production of provisioning, supporting, regulating, and cultural ecosystem services such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and habitat provision as well as nutrient cycling, plant productivity, carbon storage, water regulation and purification." **- Monitoring, Research and Implementation Working Group, Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (2024)**

Healthy soil is fundamental to achieving meaningful ecosystem restoration, sustainable food production, livelihoods and building resilience to climate change and other shocks"

H.E Moses Vilakati

AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment.

CONTINENTAL POLICY CONTEXT FOR SOIL HEALTH

African Union Great Green Wall Initiative Strategy and Ten-Year Implementation Framework (2024-2034)

The GGWI, launched by the AU in 2007, is a transformative continental programme designed to combat the escalating challenges of land degradation, desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss across the Sahara and Sahel regions. Initially envisioned as a continuous belt of trees to halt the expansion of the desert, the initiative has evolved into a comprehensive landscape restoration programme that integrates sustainable land management, ecosystem rehabilitation, and climate resilience strategies. Over time, the GGWI has also become more comprehensive in its geographical reach, extending beyond the original eleven member countries of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAAGGW) to embrace a more continent-wide approach. The initiative has grown significantly, with new members from 42 countries to date, joining from North, East, Southern, and West Africa. Spearheaded by the African Union Commission's Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), the GGWI sets ambitious goals, including restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land, creating 10 million jobs, and sequestering 250 million tonnes of carbon by 2030. By improving soil fertility, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the GGWI works to improve the resilience of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and Indigenous communities.

Recognising the importance of a comprehensive continental approach to tackling land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and climate change, and acknowledging the need for its urgent revision, the AU used an inclusive process to develop a revised framework to guide the initiative. The resulting **African Union Great Green Wall Initiative Strategy and Ten-year Implementation Framework (2024-2034)** (GGWI Strategy) promotes a more integrated and holistic approach to land rehabilitation and climate-resilient development amongst AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Agencies and partners. The new GGWI Strategy is founded on agreed guiding principles with a vision, objectives and four strategic intervention axes.

Strategic framework of the GGWI Strategy

VISION

By 2034, Africa's dry regions are transformed into socially, economically, and environmentally resilient and stable regions.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Enhance the resilience of communities, ecosystems, and economies in the African drylands by improving the living conditions of populations, improving the state and health of ecosystems, advocating and mobilising resources, strengthening institutional collaboration and promoting policy coherence.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote locally led land planning, land restoration and resilience building initiatives and nature-based entrepreneurial and livelihood activities that improve the well-being and incomes of communities, as well as empower them, particularly women and youth.
- Catalyse inclusion, alignment, cooperation and ownership of land restoration and resilience-building in related strategies, policies, programmes and plans.
- Promote policy coherence, alignment and a common narrative in strategies, policies, programmes and plans.
- Develop, invest in, and support, economic and environmental infrastructure facilitating the move to a green and circular economy.
- Invest in, and scale up, nature-based practices and inclusive landscape approaches to sustainable land, water and biodiversity restoration and management to support resilient value chains.
- Enhance Africa's capacity to mobilise resources at multiple scales.
- Enhance the linkage and effective collaboration among community, practice, science, policy and private sector stakeholders fostering knowledge sharing and learning from experience and building upon a harmonised knowledge management system.
- Encourage systems-oriented, cross-sectoral and coordinated decision-making and adaptive management environments that facilitate the integration of activities across all stakeholders, sectors and scales.

Four strategic intervention axes have been identified in the new strategy to support the achievement of the GGWI vision and objectives:

AXIS 1

Enhancing leadership, governance and political commitment

AXIS 2

Co-design and deliver pathways toward transformative restoration, resilience and development

AXIS 3

Enhancing the means of implementation for resilient landscape restoration

AXIS 4

Leveraging existing initiatives

Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Action Plan (2024-2034)

The 10-year **Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan** (2024-2034) is a continental strategic framework developed under the leadership of the AU and endorsed at the 2024 Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in Nairobi. It aims to address widespread soil degradation and improve effective and efficient fertilizer use across the continent to boost agricultural productivity and alleviate hunger and poverty. Endorsed alongside the **Nairobi Declaration**, the framework builds on the priorities of the 2003 **Maputo Declaration**, the **2004 Sirte Declaration**, the **2006 Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for the African Green Revolution**, and the **2014 Malabo Declaration**.

The Action Plans sets out two main strategic objectives:

1. Increase access, affordability, and use of sustainable soil management practices - including efficient use of organic and mineral fertilizers.

2. Enhance national and local capacities for soil health and sustainable land management - particularly through strengthened agricultural extension, research, and advisory services.

The main strategy for success in implementing the Action Plan is harnessing multi-stakeholder partnerships and investments to drive enabling policy environment and sustainable finance, research and development (R&D), markets, and capacity for efficient fertilizer and sustainable soil management. To achieve its goals, the AFSH-AP outlines a detailed results chain linking four core outcomes to specific outputs and actions.

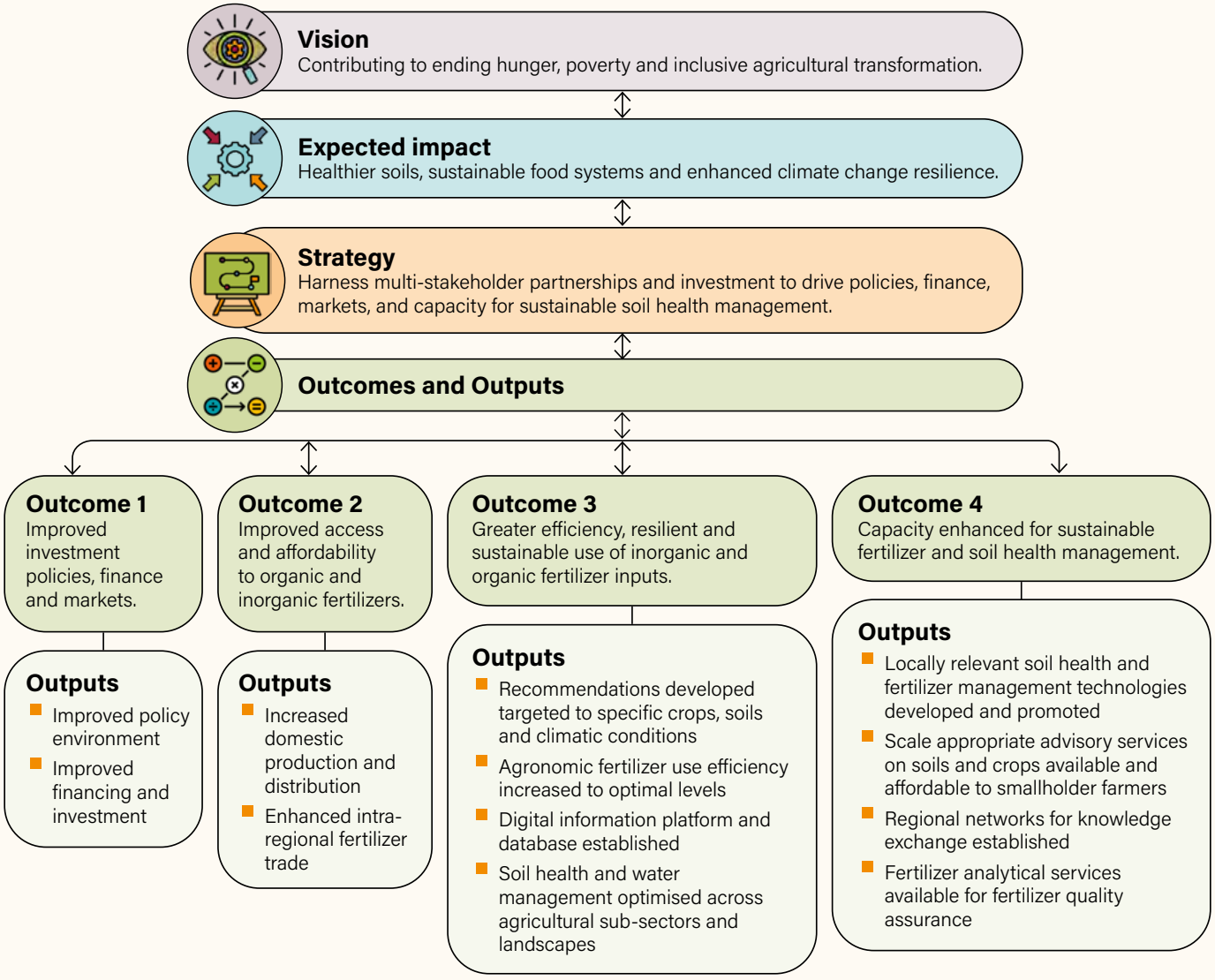

Figure 2. *AFSH-AP results chain*

IMPROVING AFRICA'S SOIL HEALTH THROUGH THE GGWI STRATEGY

Why Soil Health Matters for the GGWI

As the new GGWI Strategy (2024-2034) moves towards a more holistic and systems-oriented restoration agenda, soil health is crucial to achieving impact across all eight strategic objectives. Healthy soil is the foundation for effective restoration efforts, food systems transformation, and climate resilience. It provides essential ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, drought resilience, erosion control, biodiversity, water regulation, and enhanced food and nutrition security, while directly contributing to improved well-being and thriving livelihoods.

Soil health is critical for effective and scalable nature-based solutions. It boosts land productivity, restores ecosystems, and helps regenerate degraded landscapes while supporting resilient, inclusive value chains. It is central to locally led land restoration and livelihood efforts. When soil thrives, farmers and land users gain the ability to adopt practices that restore fertility, increase yields, and increase incomes and cultivate rural resilience. When soil health is improved, land becomes more productive and resilient, directly supporting community-led initiatives, promoting resilient land-based economic enterprises, and empowering women and youth.

Soil health drives strengthened coordination across policies, strategies, programmes, and plans. It is a unifying thread across sectors, from agriculture and climate action to health, nutrition and the environment, creating opportunities for alignment, coherence, and shared ownership. Stakeholders can work toward a common vision while responding to local needs by embedding soil health indicators across sectors and scales.

Policy coherence is strengthened when soil health is prioritised, as it provides a consistent framework for tracking progress. It also guides adaptive, science-based interventions that reflect both traditional knowledge and local data. Monitoring soil health ensures transparency in reporting and supports better decision-making at all levels. Soil Information Systems (SISs) offer platforms for shared knowledge, co-developed tools, and participatory monitoring, facilitating collaboration across community, practice, science, policy and private sector stakeholders. A harmonised monitoring framework enhances this by standardising methods to prioritise, track and adapt locally relevant interventions based on local needs. The resulting data can inform policy and financial investments.

How Can Soil Information Systems (SISs) Drive Landscape Restoration?

SISs are integrated, centralised information systems that provide data and evidence to support decision making. SISs can facilitate information-sharing by aggregating soil data across multiple sources, and can be for internal use, meaning by a specific organisation and their chosen audience, or they can be open-source, allowing diverse contributors to share and access original data. Collaborative SISs can help reduce data fragmentation by increasing the number of samples in a given area, preventing repetition of sampling, and identifying gaps and opportunities for new interventions. SISs should make data, evidence and information available to a range of key stakeholders by supporting data visualisation and interpretation to guide informed decision making. An example of this is **decision dashboards** target different levels and have specific purposes. SISs are a key tool for targeting interventions toward alleviating Africa's critical, interrelated challenges.

Coordinated decision-making and cross-sectoral collaboration are critical for a systems-oriented approach to restoration. Soil health enables this by providing a measurable and actionable entry point to integrate efforts across sectors and scales. Improving soil health also supports nested reporting obligations across frameworks such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides a strong, evidence-based case for investment in land restoration, climate resilience, and food systems. AU Member States can demonstrate measurable impact, strengthen cross-sectoral coordination, and scale context-specific interventions that build resilience from the ground up by placing soil health at the centre of the GGWI Strategy.

Key Intervention Areas of the GGWI Strategy Which Contribute to Soil Health

The GGWI Strategy recognises soil health as foundational for restoring Africa's drylands, improving livelihoods, and building resilient ecosystems. It explicitly highlights how soil health offers multiple benefits that can help the continent address the multiple challenges today. Recognising that investing in a coordinated approach to landscape restoration is a means to enhance land and soil health, the GGWI outlines strategic interventions and actions that directly support soil health. These actions promote integrated governance, regenerative approaches, strengthened knowledge systems, and strategic partnerships.

Axis 1: Enhanced leadership, governance, and collaboration

Under Strategic Intervention Axis 1, the GGWI promotes robust governance and inclusive leadership to mainstream soil health in restoration agendas across Africa's drylands.

The strategy supports the harmonisation of policies and coordination mechanisms to recognise soil health as a unifying element across agriculture, environment, and land-use sectors. This approach seeks to bridge fragmented efforts by fostering collaborative efforts across institutions and stakeholders at all levels, from local to continental.

Improved communication and coordination among farmers, non-governmental organisations, policymakers, and researchers are recognised as essential to co-design and implement effective soil health interventions and to align investments, policies, and programmes. The GGWI also emphasises the value of mulit-stakeholder platforms and institutional arrangements that enable effective governance and inclusive decision-making in soil and land management.

Axis 2: Agroecology, nature-based solutions, and community-led land restoration

Under Strategic Intervention 2, the GGWI promotes regenerative practices that directly improve soil structure, fertility, and biodiversity. Agroecology approaches, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), and composting, restore soil organic matter, enhance moisture retention, and reduce erosion, ultimately resulting in improved soil health.

By placing communities at the center of restoration efforts, the GGWI empowers local actors, in particular women and youth, to lead nature-based solutions that improve soil health. Healthy soil is further supported through investment in sustainable land management practices and inputs that enhance soil microbiota and nutrient cycling.

Axis 3: Knowledge generation and evidence-based planning

Under Strategic Intervention 3, the GGWI calls for strengthened knowledge systems that underpin effective soil health improvements. SISs are grounded in robust, science-based approaches that generate actionable knowledge that informs strategic planning and investment decisions. This includes harmonised, geo-referenced soil data collection, analysis, and interpretation to understand spatial and temporal trends in soil health across the continent. By integrating both indigenous knowledge and scientific evidence, SISs can enable regular assessment of soil fertility status, nutrient flows, organic matter content, and degradation risks.

The data generated can be disaggregated and contextualised for national, regional, and continental scales, supporting countries and stakeholders in designing target soil health interventions. SISs promote open data access and interoperability, enabling cross-country comparisons and regional assessments. This also helps ensure alignment with existing frameworks like the AFSH-AP. Strengthening SISs and embedding them in national monitoring and decision-making processes is a key factor for success.

Axis 4: Leveraging existing initiatives and partnerships

Under Strategic Intervention 4, the GGWI aligns with existing initiatives such as the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA), the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH), WOCAT, and Global Soil Partnership (GSP), to amplify impact and scale effective soil health interventions.

By leveraging and aligning with existing continental and global efforts, progress and coordinated action can be accelerated. This includes maximising synergies between related initiatives, fostering collaborative action to harmonise approaches, and ensuring alignment with shared goals for soil health improvement.

Bridging Continental Policy Frameworks through Soil Health

Soil health is a critical entry point to align the GGWI Initiative and AFSH-AP. Both frameworks recognise that reversing Africa's interrelated challenges of land degradation, climate change, and food and nutrition insecurity will require sustained efforts to improve the health of the continent's soils.

A strengthened alignment offers an opportunity to embed soil health more deeply into continental, regional, and national policy processes. By incorporating soil health indicators and monitoring frameworks, AU Member States can meet commitments made under both the GGWI Initiative and the AFSH-AP, while advancing broader goals outlined in continental frameworks like the **Ten-Year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035)**. These indicators should be adaptive to different contexts, accessible by a diverse range of stakeholders, and lead to actionable recommendations that combine scientific evidence with traditional knowledge.

Harmonising implementation plans and reporting mechanisms is essential to avoid fragmentation, enhance policy coherence and effectively track progress. Soil health provides a common ground for monitoring development outcomes and supporting integrated approaches that reflect local realities.

The GGWI Strategy offers a strategic opportunity to establish and operationalise soil health monitoring and information systems (SISs), in line with Output 3.3.1 of the AFSH-AP. Harmonised SISs ensure transparency, accountability, and consistency in tracking progress on soil health improvement. Such a system would support farmers, in particular smallholders with timely, affordable, and locally relevant soil health insights.

What Are Soil Health Indicators?

Soil health indicators are the measurable properties of soil that indicate the degree to which soil can deliver vital ecosystem services, aligning with the chosen definition of soil health. Some indicators are direct (e.g., porosity, nutrient availability, pH) and some are indirect (e.g., most livelihood or social indicators), and many monitoring systems focus on the former. A holistic approach to soil health considers land use and social indicators in line with current working definitions such as the ITPS definition. (A comprehensive list of soil health indicators can be found in the **Guidance note: "Advancing Africa's Soil Health Monitoring to Support the Nairobi Declaration and CAADP Kampala Agenda."**)

PHYSICAL

- Soil erosion
- Compaction
- Aggregate stability
- Water infiltration
- Pollution

CHEMICAL

- Soil Organic Matter/ Carbon
- Nutrient content
- Salinity
- pH

LAND USE

- Land management
- Agro-biodiversity
- Above ground biodiversity (trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs)

BIOLOGICAL

- Microbial activity
- Biodiversity
- Macrofauna (earthworms)
- Bacteria, fungi, nematodes

Integrating soil health must be a central priority at continental, regional, and national levels to meet the scale of ambition outlined in both the GGWI Strategy and the AFSH-AP. Prioritising national engagement and accelerating local implementation means fully leveraging existing soil health initiatives and knowledge platforms. This can help close data gaps, strengthen coordination, and improve outcomes for smallholder farmers across the continent. Public-private partnerships are also key to these efforts, mobilising resources, fostering innovation, and scaling effective solutions across the continent.

Raising awareness of the central role of soil health in combatting land degradation, biodiversity loss, declining productivity, and vulnerability to climate shocks is key to creating an enabling environment. Both frameworks place strong emphasis on farmer-centered approaches and recognise soil health as a shared foundation for sustainable productivity, resilience, and environmental restoration. They underscore the importance of science-based, adaptive interventions that are tailored to local contexts to drive sustainable and transformative change.

Table 1. *The GGWI Strategy's strategic intervention axes and areas related to soil health aligning with the AFSH-AP*

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Intervention Axis 1: Enhancing leadership, governance and political commitment	Intervention Area 1.3 Position, align and integrate Great Green Wall efforts within inter-related policies, mandates and commitments across nested scales.	Soil health serves as a shared entry point to align and integrate policies across sectors and scales. Embedding soil health within GGWI-aligned actions enhances policy coherence, reduces fragmentation, and enables coordinated action that reflects local realities while supporting Africa's broader development goals.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.1 Improved policy environment • Action 1.1.2 Harmonise national policies and regulatory frameworks on fertilizer efficiency and soil health solutions to ensure cross-sectoral coherence and promote regional and continental trade. • Action 1.1.5 Identify areas of high agricultural or ecological importance for protection, restoration, and sustainable management to improve soil health.
	Intervention Area 1.4 Deepen and broaden collaboration among diverse partnerships for resilience within and across different scales.	Soil health strengthens collaboration across sectors by offering a common lever for action. By fostering partnerships that bridge traditional knowledge, science, and practice, stakeholders can co-develop solutions that regenerate degraded lands and enhance resilience at community, landscape, and continental scales.	**Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.3 Regional networks for knowledge exchange established • Action 4.3.1 Establish regional research and development networks for the exchange of knowledge and technologies within the continent and with the North-South-South (global) regions. • Action 4.3.2 Establish and convene a biennial Continental Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Intervention Axis 2: Co-design and deliver pathways toward transformative restoration, resilience and development	Intervention Area 2.1 Bundle administrative, scientific, implementation and engagement capacities to tailor and scale landscape restoration and the management of ecosystems.	Healthy soil is the foundation to scalable landscape restoration. Strengthening SISs and participatory monitoring allows for tailored interventions, enabling context-specific, science-based approaches that integrate soil health data into decision-making.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.3 A digital information platform and database established • Action 3.3.1 Establish and operationalise continental, regional, and national soil health monitoring and soil information systems. • Action 3.3.2 Establish and operationalise a soil health, fertilizer, crop, and climate dashboard for decision support on sustainable soil management. **Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.1 Locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies developed and promoted • Action 4.1.1 Strengthen regional and national research and education institutions and capacity in soil health and sustainable soil management. • Action 4.1.2 Strengthen national extension systems and public-private partnerships for soil health and efficient fertilizer advisory integrated with other farmer services (input and output markets, finance) to improve the quality of support to smallholder farmers.
	Intervention Area 2.2 Promote inclusive leadership and resilient land-based economic enterprises and entrepreneurial activities for men, women and youth.	Improved soil health directly supports resilient land-based economic enterprises by enhancing productivity and ecosystem services. It enables women and youth to lead and benefit from restoration efforts through increased yields, income generation, and access to regenerative opportunities.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.2 Improved financing and investment • Action 1.2.9 Promote Gender-sensitive finance, technical support and information to enable women to implement sustainable soil health practices. **Outcome 2: Improved Access and Affordability of Organic and Mineral Fertilizers** Output 2.1: Increased domestic production and distribution • Action 2.1.2 Enable SME ventures, especially by youth and women, oriented to the production, distribution, and efficient use of mineral fertilizers. • Action 2.1.4 Strengthen access, including to women and youth, through market linkages and promote agro dealerships.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Intervention Axis 2: Co-design and deliver pathways toward transformative restoration, resilience and development CONT.	Intervention Area 2.3 Invest in integrated value chains and employment that promote land health, effective water cycles and biological diversity.	Soil health underpins land health, biodiversity, and water regulation. Improving soil health enhances the productivity and resilience of value chains, making them more inclusive and sustainable while creating green jobs and livelihoods tied to healthy ecosystems.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.2 Improved financing and investment • Action 1.2.2 Incentivise enhanced private sector investments in low-carbon fertilizer production, R&D, trade and farmer advisory services, towards "smart farming" that better matches various fertilizer types/ formulas with local soil types. **Outcome 2: Improved Access and Affordability of Organic and Mineral Fertilizers** Output 2.1: Increased domestic production and distribution • Action 2.1.1 Boost local production and blending of mineral fertilizers and lime using locally available raw materials. • Action 2.1.5 Repurpose subsidies for manufacture and developing effective transportation networks so that rural small-scale farmers.
	Intervention Area 2.5 Promote community-led land restoration and resilience by expanding socioecological and political approaches, tools, and contextualised options.	Community-led restoration is more effective when soil health is prioritised as an actionable entry point. Improving soil fertility empowers communities with tools and knowledge that restore productivity, enhance local governance, and support inclusive decision-making.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.1 Promote integrated soil and water conservation, planning, and management across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes/ watersheds. • Action 3.4.3 Promote context-specific sustainable agricultural practices to support increased biomass, crop, and animal production in croplands, rangelands, forest lands and inland fisheries.
	Intervention Area 2.6 Promote community-led land restoration and resilience building by expanding the nature-based, agroecological and regreening approaches, tools, practices and options.	Soil health enables effective, scalable nature-based solutions. It is central to agroecological and regreening approaches that regenerate degraded lands, support food systems transformation, and enhance resilience against climate-related shocks.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3. 2 Agronomic fertilizer use efficiency increased to optimal levels • Action 3.2.1 Promote integrated soil fertility management practices to enhance crop response. Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.3 Promote context-specific sustainable agricultural practices to support increased biomass, crop, and animal production in croplands, rangelands, forest lands and inland fisheries.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Intervention Axis 2: Co-design and deliver pathways toward transformative restoration, resilience and development CONT.	Intervention Area 2.7 Invest in coordinated scientific and experience-based support and the creation of a common monitoring framework.	A harmonised soil health monitoring framework supports transparency and accountability across scales. It facilitates the co-production of knowledge between community, practice, science, policy and private sector stakeholders, improving the impact of restoration actions.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.3 A digital information platform and database established • Action 3.3.1 Establish and operationalise continental, regional, and national soil health monitoring and soil information systems. **Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.1 Locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies developed and promoted • Action 4.1.3 Building the capacity of national Research and Development and Extension systems that will need to support and enable the implementation of the activities specified in the Action Plan.
Strategic Intervention Axis 3: Enhancing the implementation of resilient landscape restoration through resource mobilisation, partnerships, inclusion, knowledge exchange and capacity development	Intervention Area 3.1 Enhance finance flows and resource mobilisation through new and innovative finance mechanisms.	Improved soil health provides a strong, evidence-based case for investment.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.2 Improved financing and investment • Action 1.2.1 Widen the scope of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) to improve the production, procurement, distribution, and efficient use of organic and mineral fertilizers, and soil health interventions. • Action 1.2.7 Deploy innovative incentive support mechanisms for Member States' greater use of technology to improve the efficiency of existing subsidy programs, with the end goal of encouraging soil health investments by smallholder farmers.
	Intervention Area 3.2 Develop creative and dynamic partnerships and effective coordination.	Soil health promotes dynamic partnerships across sectors. Coordination action around shared soil health indicators supports synergies in outcomes and resources.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.2 Improved financing and investment • Action 1.2.2 Incentivise enhanced private sector investments in low-carbon fertilizer production, R&D, trade and farmer advisory services, towards "smart farming" that better matches various fertilizer types/ formulas with local soil types. **Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.3 Regional networks for knowledge exchange established • Action 4.3.1 Establish regional research and development networks for the exchange of knowledge and technologies within the continent and with the North-South-South (global) regions.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Intervention Axis 3: Enhancing the implementation of resilient landscape restoration through resource mobilisation, partnerships, inclusion, knowledge exchange and capacity development CONT.	Intervention Area 3.3 Ensure inclusive leadership and participation, especially of women and youth.	Healthy soil creates inclusive opportunities for leadership and participation in land restoration.	**Outcome 1: Improved Policies, Investment, Finance and Markets for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 1.2 Improved financing and investment • Action 1.2.9 Promote Gender-sensitive finance, technical support and information to enable women to implement sustainable soil health practices. **Outcome 2: Improved Access and Affordability of Organic and Mineral Fertilizers** Output 2.1: Increased domestic production and distribution • Action 2.1.2 Enable SME ventures, especially by youth and women, oriented to the production, distribution, and efficient use of mineral fertilizers.
	Intervention Area 3.4 Develop capacity and knowledge exchange based on skills building and behavioural change.	Training and capacity development around soil health catalyse long-term impacts across restoration efforts.	**Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.1 Locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies developed and promoted • Action 4.1.1 Strengthen regional and national research and education institutions and capacity in soil health and sustainable soil management. • Action 4.1.6 Strengthen informal and in-service training modalities to strengthen research, extension, and implementation expertise on sustainable soil management. Output 4.2 Scale appropriate advisory services on soils and crops available and affordable to smallholder farmers • Action 4.2.2 Establish public-private partnerships to foster innovation towards scalable, affordable, and localised soil and crop-specific advisory.
	Intervention Area 3.5 Utilise effective engagement and planning tools.	Soil health data and indicators strengthen planning tools, enabling adaptive, evidence-based decisions. Integrating SISs into planning processes enhances stakeholder engagement and effectiveness of restoration efforts.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.3 A digital information platform and database established • Action 3.3.2 Establish and operationalise a soil health, fertilizer, crop, and climate dashboard for decision support on sustainable soil management. • Action 3.3.3. Establish and operationalise analytical and decision support tools to guide investments at farm, national, regional, and continental level.
	Intervention Area 3.6 Develop effective communications, advocacy approaches and visibility.	Raising awareness about the central role of soil health in land restoration and improving livelihoods amplifies the visibility and relevance of the GGWI.	**Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management** Output 4.3 Regional networks for knowledge exchange established • Action 4.3.2 Establish and convene a biennial Continental Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Axis 4: Leveraging existing efforts	Intervention Area 4.1 Landscape restoration, watershed management and resilience building.	Restore Africa; Reversing Land Degradation by Scaling-up Evergreen Agriculture (Regreening Africa); Knowledge for Great Green Wall Action; Sahel Mosaic; African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100); African Resilient Landscape Initiative; the African Development Bank; Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Programme (FOLUR); the Global Environment Facility programmes; the Green Climate Fund's Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall; Economics of Land Degradation Initiative; Tree Aid; 1000 landscapes for 1 billion people.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.1 Promote integrated soil and water conservation, planning, and management across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes/ watersheds. • Action 3.4.2 Promote investments in smart irrigation as part of integrated water resource management for enhancing nutrient use efficiency and soil health conditions for climate change resilience.
	Intervention Area 4.2 Healthy soil and water.	Soil Initiative for Africa; Coalition for Action on Soil Health (CA4SH); WOCAT; and Global Soil Partnership.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.1 Promote integrated soil and water conservation, planning, and management across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes/ watersheds.
	Intervention Area 4.5 Climate change and climate resilient agriculture.	African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032); Green Climate Fund Africa Integrated Climate Risk Program; and CGIAR Agricultural Adaptation Atlas.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions** Output 3. 2 Agronomic fertilizer use efficiency increased to optimal levels • Action 3.2.4 Promote context specific CSA innovations to ensure the cost-effectiveness of investments in fertilizer use, while mitigating the effect of climate change and variability. Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.2 Promote investments in smart irrigation as part of integrated water resource management for enhancing nutrient use efficiency and soil health conditions for climate change resilience.

GGWI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AXIS	GGWI INTERVENTION AREA	LINKAGES TO SOIL HEALTH	ALIGNMENT WITH AFSH-AP
Strategic Axis 4: Leveraging existing efforts CONT.	Intervention Area 4.6 Biological diversity.	Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions**
			Output 3.4 Soil health and water management optimised across agricultural sub-sectors and landscapes • Action 3.4.3 Promote context-specific sustainable agricultural practices to support increased biomass, crop, and animal production in croplands, rangelands, forest lands and inland fisheries.
	Intervention Area 4.8 Scientific support.	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa.	**Outcome 3: Greater Efficiency, Resilience And Sustainable Use of mineral and Organic Fertilizer Inputs and Enhancement of Soil Health Interventions**
			Output 3.3 A digital information platform and database established • Action 3.3.2 Establish and operationalise a soil health, fertilizer, crop, and climate dashboard for decision support on sustainable soil management.
			Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management
			Output 4.1 Locally relevant soil health and fertilizer management technologies developed and promoted • Action 4.1.5 Develop a database coupled with a decision support system to promote locally, nationally and regionally relevant fertilizer and soil health management technologies.
	Intervention Area 4.10 Scaling approaches and projects.	Scaling Scan; Green Climate Fund Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall.	**Outcome 4: Institutional and Human Capacity Enhanced for Sustainable Soil Health and Fertilizer Management**
			Output 4.2 Scale appropriate advisory services on soils and crops available and affordable to smallholder farmers • Action 4.2.2 Establish public-private partnerships to foster innovation towards scalable, affordable, and localised soil and crop-specific advisory.

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Access the new GGWI Strategy here:

For additional information about the meeting and how you could get involved, please contact:

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