

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE PAN-AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING DESERTIFICATION**

The Pan- African Agency of the Great Green Wall and The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”;

Within the framework of this “Memorandum of Understanding”;

Adopting the decisions of the 12th Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that was held between 12-23 October 2015 in Ankara, Turkey, particularly considering Ankara Initiative that was initiated under the leadership of Turkey,

Expressing the desire to strengthen friendly relations between the relevant institutions of the Member States of the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall and The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey improve cooperation in the field of combating desertification,

Recognizing that desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and land degradation neutrality (LDN) require close cooperation scientifically, technically and technologically and necessity to implement resilience and adaptation activities to combat food security and poverty,

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

For the protection of natural resources, combating desertification, land degradation and drought, LDN, erosion control, conservation and rehabilitation of existing forests, the relevant institutions of the PAGGW’s Member States and The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey based on their national legislation will cooperate through the sharing of information, experience and technology on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 2

The Parties will cooperate in the following fields:

- a) Neutrality of land degradation
- b) Combating desertification,
- c) Study and research against water, wind and sand erosion,
- d) Combating drought,
- e) Implementation and use of information systems including Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) in desertification and land degradation monitoring,
- f) Integrated watershed management,
- g) Conservation and rehabilitation of soil,
- h) Forestry activities,
- i) Combating forest fires,
- j) Afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems,
- k) Afforestation and rehabilitation works in arid and semi-arid areas,
- l) Production of forest tree species, nursery techniques, modernization of nurseries and seed production techniques,
- m) Dissemination of income generation species,
- n) Income revenues activities (AGR) and local economic development and governance

Article 3

The Parties will cooperate in the following forms on the areas listed in Article 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding:

- a) Preparation and implementation of joint projects ,
- b) Preparation of action plan,
- c) Organization of joint workshops, meetings, seminars, training programs, and study tours,
- d) Exchange of scientific and technical information and documents on research and development activities
- e) Exchange of experts, researchers, consultants, and personnel,
- f) Mobilizing finances.

Article 4

To ensure the efficient implementation of cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding, a Joint Committee established by the Parties will operate as follows:

- a) Each Party will designate a Coordinator to be responsible for the implementation of cooperation activities under this Memorandum of Understanding within three (3) months following its entry into force. Coordinator will be at least at a department head level.
- b) Each Party will notify each other regarding the name of the designated Coordinator. Each Party may designate a substitute for the Coordinator at any time with a written notice sent to the other Party.
- c) Coordinators will cooperate to prepare a Joint Working Program covering the cooperation activities listed in Article 2.
- d) Coordinators will co-chair the Joint Committee Meetings that would convene at any time in order to discuss the activities listed in Article 2 and will follow the implementation of the recommendations taken by the Joint Committee.

Article 5

The Parties, in accordance with the respective national legislation and international treaties to which they are Parties, will ensure effective protection of the rights for intellectual property transferred or created under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 6

Expenses arising from the cooperation activities carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding will be borne as mutually decided on a case-by-case basis by the Parties.

Article 7

The Parties may invite governmental and academic institutions, private enterprises and non-governmental organizations to participate in the activities of cooperation within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 8

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties at any time. These amendments will enter into force according to the procedure established in Article 13 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 9

Any dispute that may arise from the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved by the Parties through negotiation.

Article 10

Upon mutual written agreement, the Parties may agree to share the results of this cooperation with third parties in conformity with their legislation.

Article 11

This Memorandum of Understanding will not be construed to affect in any way the existing rights and obligations of the Parties under international agreements to which they are parties.

Article 12

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an international agreement binding under international law. No provision of this Memorandum of Understanding will be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for Parties.

Article 13

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the date of signature.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in force for a period of one (1) year. Its validity will be extended automatically for successive periods of one (1) year unless either Party provides written notice through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate it at least six (6) months before its expiration date.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity and duration of the projects and activities agreed upon pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding and initiated prior to such termination.


Done at Konya on 30/05/2016 each in two (2) original copies of French, Turkish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the French text shall prevail.

**FOR THE
PAN AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE
GREAT GREEN WALE**



**Prof Abdoulaye DIA
Executive Secretary of the
Pan-African Agency of The Great Green
Wall**

**FOR THE
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND
WATER AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TURKEY**



**Akif ÖZKALDI
Undersecretary of the
Ministry Of Forestry And Water Affairs
Of The Republic Of Turkey**