



Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography
Chinese Academy of Sciences



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between:

Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall, Nouakchott, Mauritania

And

**Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of
Sciences, Urumqi, China**

Year 2017

Preamble

The Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW), hereinafter referred to as PAGGW, an intergovernmental organization with international legal status under the aegis of the African Union and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, with its headquarters in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, PO Box 5059 Ilot C, represented by its Executive Secretary, **Prof. Abdoulaye DIA**.

And

The Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), hereinafter referred to as XIEG, a national research institution belonged to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and focused on the academic researches on resource, ecology and environment in arid regions, with its headquarter in Urumqi, People's Republic of China, 818 South Beijing Road, represented by the Director General, **Prof. Jiaqiang LEI**.

HAVING REGARD to the Convention establishing the PAGGW signed in N'Djamena, Chad, on 17 June 2010 by the Heads of State and Government of the eleven (11) countries crossed by the transcontinental project of the Great Green Wall,

GIVEN THAT PAGGW'S missions are to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Great Green Wall and to mobilize the necessary resources,

GIVEN THE EXPERTISE AND IMPORTANCE of an involvement of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of China through the Institute of Ecology and Geography in the implementation process of the Great Green Wall,

CONSIDERING that the Great Green Wall project is an African response to desertification, climate change, land degradation, drought and their corollaries and that the overall objective is to contribute to the fight against climate change, the development of the Sahelo-Sahelian zones through sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against poverty and food insecurity,

CONSIDERING that the specific objectives of the Great Green Wall are: (i) conservation / enhancement of biodiversity; (ii) soil restoration / conservation; (iii) diversification of operating systems; (iv) meeting domestic needs (in wood and / or non-wood products), (v) increasing income through the promotion of income-generating activities and the establishment of basic social infrastructure; and (vi) improving carbon sequestration capacities in vegetation cover and soils,

CONSIDERING that XIEG possessed leading position within the CAS and long term accumulation on knowledge, experience and technologies related to eco-environmental improvement and desertification control which can play significant support for the implementation of GGW,

Therefore, PAGGW invite the XIEG as a Technical Supporting Partner and reach this memorandum of cooperation.

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Through this Memorandum of Cooperation, PAGGW and XIEG establish close relations of cooperation and partnership between them in the implementation of the Great Green Wall and related actions. This Memorandum of Cooperation represents the intention of the Parties to cooperate in areas of common interest. In general, it deals with the restoration of land to achieve sustainable development in the Sahelian terroirs of the Great Green Wall. Specifically, the main objectives of the Memorandum of Cooperation are to support training and research, innovation and technological development for qualification of technical staff studies and joint efforts to consolidate the development of activities to combat and prevent desertification and the encouragement of any other activities that the Parties agree to be mutually beneficial.

ARTICLE 2: ASPECTS OF COOPERATION

The cooperation between the two Parties concerned the implementation of the operational strategy for the GGW. The Memorandum focuses on the restoration and upgrading of land and the development and strengthening of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems adapted to the arid and semi-arid zones of the Great Green Wall.

The Memorandum of Cooperation deals specifically with the following areas :

- (I) technical and scientific support to PAGGW and Member States in the implementation of the programs and projects of the Great Green Wall ;
- (Ii) training, research, innovation and technology transfer in terms of sustainable land management, monitoring, evaluation, development, valorisation and protection of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems adapted to drylands ;
- (Iii) development of a monitoring and evaluation system through the Geographic Information System and the Early Warning System ;
- (iV) exchange and mobility of researchers and students ;
- (V) and any other activity likely to enhance cooperation between the two parties.

This Agreement shall remain open to any other aspect or other partner identified by agreement between the Parties in relation to the competencies of one and the expectations of the other.

ARTICLE 3: MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

1. Implementation of the Memorandum on Major Aspects of Cooperation shall be based on the Triennial Program of Activities, developed and adopted by the Parties to the Agreement and implemented annually ;
2. Both Parties shall agree to involve third parties in the implementation of joint actions under this Memorandum of Cooperation ;
3. The parties shall seek, within the framework of this Memorandum, the financing necessary to carry out the actions identified with the development partners.

ARTICLE 4 : AREAS OF COOPERATION

The cooperation between the two Parties shall be broadly focused on the implementation of the operational Strategy of the Great Green Wall Action Plan in the context of the

monitoring and evaluation of priority programs / projects and their impact on the environment and human development by strengthening decision-making products.

It deals specifically with the following areas :

1. **Sustainable Land Management and Green Economy:** Development of operational activities in the field mainly aimed at Neutrality in terms of Land Degradation and attainment of the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
2. **Climate change, Socio-economic development and local governance in the Sahelian regions of the GGW:** Development of income-generating activities for the benefit of the rural populations of the Sahelian lands;
3. **Identification and development of scientific research themes and training activities :** Support in the implementation of the PAGGW Support Program for Research and Training (PAREF) through the allocation of scholarships to young students and researchers from member States;
4. **Communication, Marketing and Advocacy :** Development of communication media (Documentary films and other products) ; Joint organization of international, regional, national and local events ;
5. **Geographic Information System, Observatory and Early Warning Response ;**
6. **Development of coherent interconnection links** between international environmental conventions and the strengthening of technological supports with the needs of GGW member countries;
7. Such collaboration shall remain open to any other aspect or other partner identified by agreement between the Parties in relation to the competencies of the other and the expectations of the other.

ARTICLE 5: MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

1. Specific amendments to the joint programs to be carried out by the two parties shall define the objectives, the duration, the means to be implemented, the expected results and the modalities for their implementation.
2. The two Parties will agree to involve third parties in the implementation of joint actions under this Memorandum of Cooperation.
3. The Parties shall seek, within the framework of this Memorandum, the financing necessary to carry out the actions identified with the development partners.

ARTICLE 6 : RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES

The Parties agree to promote and develop cooperation on the basis of the principles of equality and reciprocity. Each Party is independent and has complete control over its operations and commitments and is fully responsible for and on behalf of its activities and duties.

In order to ensure the implementation of the terms of this Memorandum of Cooperation, a governance method will be established as follows:

- A Management Committee to provide guidance and ensure the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. It is made up of the Executive Secretary of PAGGW or its representative and the Director of XIEG ;

- A Steering Committee whose mission will be to animate and implement the decisions taken by the Management Committee and to coordinate the activities carried out on the ground by the regional actors involved. It develops and implements the orientations of the management Committee by seeking the necessary synergies for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. It includes two (2) PAGGW members and two (2) XIEG members. The Steering Committee shall be coordinated in turn by one of the Parties.

The Steering Committee shall be supported in the preparation and evaluation of projects and programs by a Scientific Committee of Experts appointed by the two Parties. The Scientific Committee is an advisory body whose task is to identify the priority scientific and technical axes and to select and define the conditions for the feasibility of the actions to be carried out.

The various committees will meet on an ad hoc basis. The dates and places of the meetings shall be fixed by mutual agreement. Ad hoc working groups may be set up, where necessary, for the implementation and monitoring of certain activities.

ARTICLE 7 : CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The Parties undertake to treat as confidential all documents, information and data marked as such, whatever the medium;
2. The Parties shall take all appropriate measures not to disclose or disclose such documents, information and data stamped confidential to third parties for any reason without the prior written consent of the Party concerned.
3. However, this obligation of confidentiality shall not apply to information which has come into the public domain or to information previously known to the Parties on the date of signature of this Memorandum of Cooperation, or to information communicated or obtained by a legal means.

ARTICLE 8 : AMENDMENTS - DENUNCIATION

1. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be amended by written agreement of the Parties.
2. This Memorandum may also be denounced by either party, subject to three (3) months' notice, notified in writing to the other party, without prejudice to the continuation of the actions in progress.

ARTICLE 9: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled amicably through negotiations.
2. Amendments to this Memorandum which may be concluded in the future for the implementation of specific activities, in particular, with financial implications, could, where appropriate, specify the method of dispute settlement, place and applicable law.

ARTICLE 10 : LANGUAGE OF WORK

The Parties agree that the working languages shall be those of the Parties.

ARTICLE 11 : DURATION

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall be concluded for a period of five (5) years. It shall be automatically renewed for the same period, on the same terms and conditions, to be charged to the party wishing to modify or terminate, to notify the other Party of its intention, by letter from the qualified authority, three (3) months at least before the expiry date of the current period.

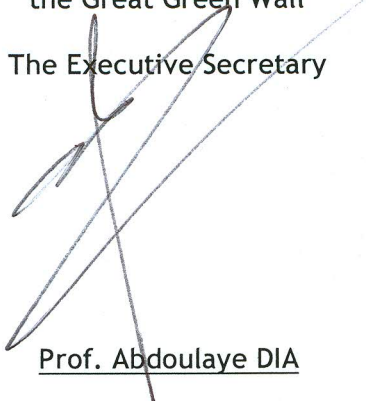
Article 12: ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall be drawn up in four (4) original copies and shall enter into force on the date of adoption by the competent authorities;

In witness whereof the Parties have initialed and signed the present Memorandum of Cooperation.

For the Pan African Agency of
the Great Green Wall

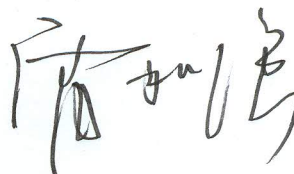
The Executive Secretary



Prof. Abdoulaye DIA

For the Institute of Ecology and
Geography of Xinjiang, CAS

The General Director



Prof. Jiaqiang LEI

Signed at Ordos, China on September 15, 2017