



Agro-Climatic Resilience
in Semi-Arid Landscapes

Facts Sheet



Project Short Title ACRReSAL

Project ID P175237

Total Amount (IDA) USD 700 Million

Board Approval December 2021

Effectiveness Date 9th June 2022

First Disbursement 27th October 2022

Closing Date March 2028

Lead Implementing Ministries

Federal Ministry of Environment
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation

Task Team Leader: Joy Iganya Agene

Co-Task Team Leaders: Manievel Sene and Emmanuel Chinedu Umolu

92,367.27

Hectares currently restored

1,003,000 Beneficiaries

(467,032 are women= 49.9%).

1,975,000 USD

disbursed under CRF to 79 communities



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From left to Right: 1. Nursery for afforestation in Gombe State 2. 100 women in Agriculture in Niger State, 3. Cattle trough in Gombe State



The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project is a multi-sectoral and multi-institutional intervention which focuses on reducing desertification and other forms of land degradation using integrated catchment management concept.

The two main causes of desertification and drought are **Direct Human Activities** and natural factors such as **Climate Change**. Over time, the Federal and State Governments have made several attempts to put in place control and financed measures aimed at reducing desertification. In light of the foregoing, the Federal Government of Nigeria has, with the support of the World Bank, commenced the implementation of a large-scale investment operation, the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL).

This multi-sector project aims to help develop a more integrated and spatial approach to build community resilience as well as improve the sustainable productivity of its natural resources. ACRReSAL Project has the mandate of restoring one million hectares of degraded land - out of the 4 million hectares target set for broader landscape restoration by Federal Government of Nigeria by 2030.

Components

Dryland Management

Dryland management will implement integrated landscape management planning for dry season farming and address challenges of large-scale land degradation in northern Nigeria. It consists of following sub-components:

- i. Strategic watershed planning
- ii. Landscape investments; and
- Special ecosystems development.

Community Climate Resilience

This component will build community climate resilience, which is the ability of the community to prepare for, respond and recover from the harsh impacts of climate change and ensure that the hazardous impacts of climate change will have minimal damage to the social wellbeing, the economy and environment of the community. It consists of following sub-components:

- i. Community strengthening; and
- ii. Community investments.

Institutional Strengthening and Project Management

Institutional Strengthening and Project Management will strengthen the enabling institutional and policy foundation for landscape use and management in communities where the projects are located. It will equip the smallholder farmers and other stakeholders with best practices, tools, and processes for multisectoral and multiple stakeholders integrated landscape management and climate resilience, as well as support to project management.

It consists of the following sub-components:

- i. Institutional and policy strengthening; and
- ii. Project management.

Contingent Emergency Response (CERC)

This is a financing mechanism available to borrowers in investment project financing (IPF) operations to enable quick deployment of uncommitted funds to respond to an eligible crisis or emergency.

Project Development Objective

To increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in Northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term framework for integrated climate-resilient landscape management

Goals of the Project include:

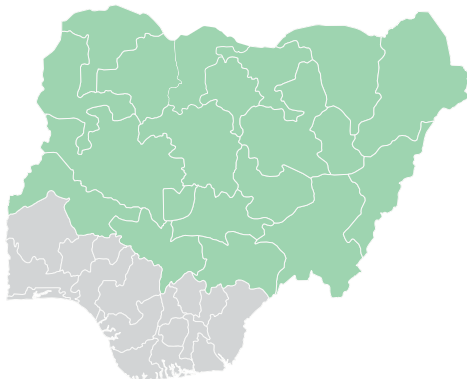
- To increase vegetative cover.
- To improve agricultural productivity (Climate Smart Agriculture).
- To increase availability and access to water.
- To improve farm and non-farm livelihoods of people living in the targeted area.
- To increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices.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



Top Left to Bottom Right:

1. Green House Cucumber Farm in Plateau State
2. Intervention at Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State
3. CRF Cheque presentation to a community in Nasarawa State
4. Before and After Pictures of afforestation activities in Bauchi State
5. Fishermen at the recently cleared Nguru wetland in Yobe State.

Project Coverage Scope



■ Project States
■ Non Participating States

The ACREsAL project is being implemented in the

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Northern States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

Project Participating States

Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara and the Federal Capital Territory

Project Duration

The project has a

6 year lifespan

after which States would have imbibed the new practices for sustainability.

IMPACT STORIES

TAMING THE FLOODS

Making Katsina and Jibia safe with ACRoSAL support

CONTEXT

Urban flooding causing deaths, destroying houses & damaging farmlands in Katsina State

Jibia Town

52 lives lost
443 houses destroyed
6.6 million USD agricultural loss

Katsina Town

33 lives lost
220 houses destroyed
1.2 million USD agricultural loss

INTERVENTION

Nov 2023 – May 2025

- Storm water drainage system strengthening in Katsina town
- Riverbank protection in Jibia town

IMPACT

- Production increased from 1 to 5 tons of maize per hectare
- They eat better
- Jobs were created, reducing urban migration for work
- Children are back in school
- Plans for borewells and pumps – to produce a marketable surplus in future

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

ACReSAL in Niger State of Nigeria

CONTEXT

Women of 25 communities in 9 LGAs in Niger State were economically vulnerable

Without any support, they survived for 15+ years by cultivating small plots of land, without proper tools and inputs or hired labour, and selling their produce in local markets

INTERVENTION

July – Dec 2023

Identified 100 economically vulnerable women and gave them agricultural inputs

IMPACT

- Increased yield from 260 to 1300 kgs hectare on their half hectare plots
- Fed 600 family members better
- Paid hospital and other bills – *even for a critically-ill non-member*
- Expanded agri-businesses:
 - 50 ha more land
 - Farm animals for fattening
 - Rice & cassava mills
 - New provision store
- Plan to cover all women in 25 LGAs

REVITALIZING THE YANKARI GAME RESERVE

The Bauchi ACReSAL Project Intervention

CONTEXT

2,244 km² wildlife sanctuary with natural warm water springs and a savanna landscape, set up in 1956

By 2023, years of neglect:

- Lack of uniforms, first-aid kits & tools for Rangers
- Lack of reliable safari vehicles & trained guides
- Poor condition of toilets and other facilities

Tourist numbers declined

INTERVENTION

April 2023

- New game-viewing trucks
- Rehabilitated facilities
- First-aid kits, uniforms, night-vision goggles, walkie talkies & torches to 150 Rangers
- Rangers trained in interpretation, social engagement, dialogue, and patrolling techniques - *improving their communication with tourists and their ability to protect the reserve.*

IMPACT

- Reduced poaching incidents
- Rangers' morale boosted
- Tourists increased from ~500 to 2,000/month by Sep 2023
- ~10,000 food vendors, photographers, fuel station operators, souvenir sellers etc. benefited indirectly
- >48 million Naira (~ 65,000 USD) collected from Oct 23 – Jun 24 from fees for tickets, safari rides, warm spring visits & toilet use
- Warm spring cleaned, restrooms upgraded, picnic areas added, 40 locals recruited as staff
- Costs allocated in State budget

HAPPY HIPPOS

Resolving a 25-year-old hippo-human conflict in Gombe

CONTEXT

180 rare endangered hippos in Dadinkowa reservoir, Gombe State – in 14 water-side farming communities remain submerged during the day and attack crops at night

>150 ha of farmlands destroyed in the last two rainy seasons.

17 humans and 5 hippos killed in last 25 years.

INTERVENTION

June 2023

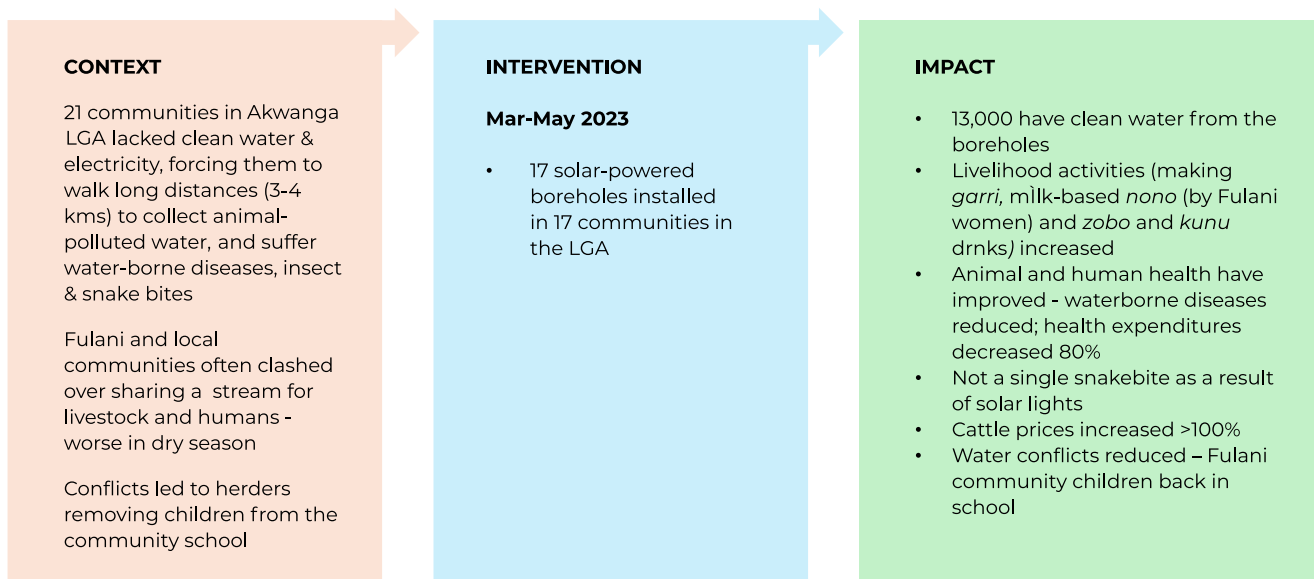
- Wildlife management tools
 - Speed boats & motorcycles
 - Cameras & binoculars
 - Personal Protective Equipment
- Community sensitization
- Data room to monitor hippo movement.

IMPACT

- More community awareness of the need to not provoke hippos
- Real-time tracking of hippo movement by data room
- If attack is imminent, wildlife staff notify communities, and villagers and forest rangers mobilized
- Number of hippo attacks significantly decreased from Jul 23 to Sep 24 (14 months)

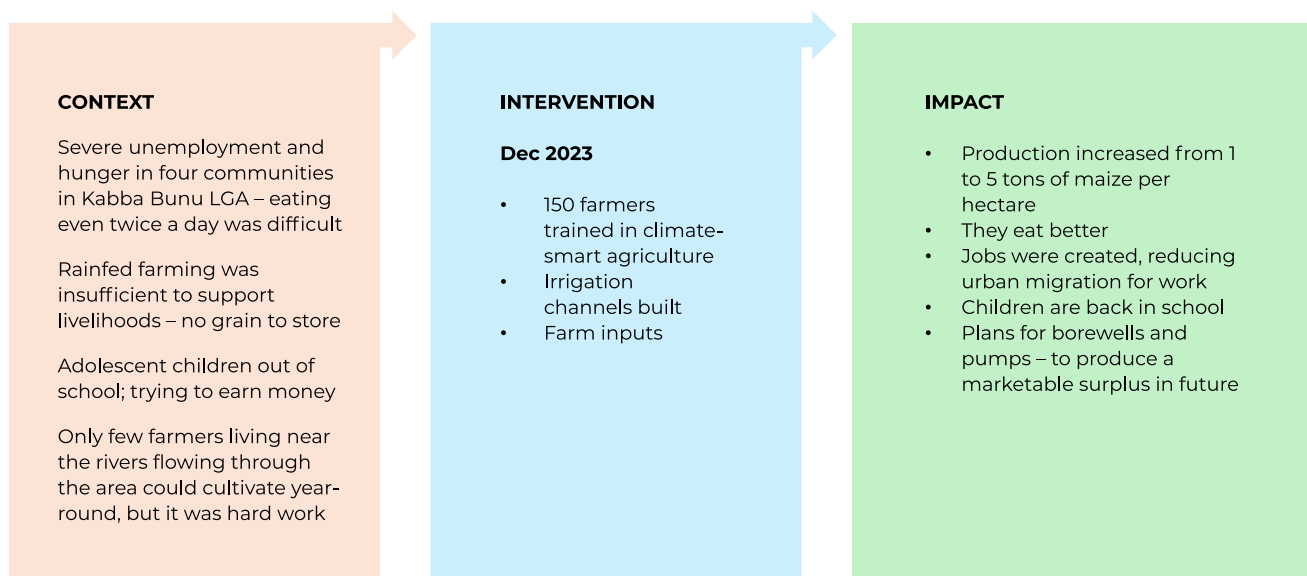
REDUCING FARMER-HERDER CONFLICTS BY SOLAR POWER

ACReSAL in Akwanga in Nasarawa



WATERING THE SEEDS OF GROWTH

ACReSAL support for dry season farming in Kogi





- 4 hectares of government land
- 2 modern greenhouses
- 80 farmers (30 women)
- 1000 improved cucumber seedlings

The humble beginnings of an agricultural revolution in Plateau State of Nigeria

Two cucumber harvests every week for three months, for 30 male and 50 female farmers - 220 kgs harvested in a week for an unprecedented profit of USD 73



Solar-powered greenhouses with drip-based fertigation

- Built in December 2023 by a service provider to ACRoSAL Plateau on 4 hectares of land leased from the Plateau State Government,
- The two 25 m x 25 m solar-powered greenhouses with 8 solar panels (200 watts) and drip irrigation
- Hybrid seedless cucumbers grown in these greenhouses - that control water, sunlight, weeds, pests and diseases & allow quicker harvests – yielded 8 weeks from planting, and produce 2 harvests per week, with negligible post-harvest losses.



220 kgs of cucumbers produced in the first 2 harvests, yielding a profit of N110,000 (~USD 73) for the 80 farmers

Milestones Achieved so far

- Landscape investment activities have commenced in states = **92,367.27 hectares** currently restored;
- Civil works have commenced in Katsina and Gombe State; 82% and 71% progress achieved in Jibia and Katsina Town sites in Katsina state respectively, while 80% achieved in FCE (T) site, Gombe State
- Supported Yankari Game Reserve, Jos Wild-life Park, Department of Forestry, Gombe; enhanced park management and forest conservation .
- The Project is currently rehabilitating the Nguru wetland through the removal of invasive species (typha grass), which has affected fishing and other agricultural activities. As a result of ongoing works, 385 hectares has been cleared, allowing for socio-economic activities to thrive. On the overall, a Strategic Action Plan is set to be developed, this will lead to the implementation of activities across the six Nguru/riparian states of Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Plateau and Yobe.
- Eleven safari viewing trucks were procured by the project to enhance the safety and operations of 11 National Parks across the country.- The project has constructed ranger posts across 7 National Parks, providing adequate accommodation for rangers, boosting their morale in safeguarding forest assets.
- States conducted several Community engagement sessions- Improving community Ownership, enhancing social cohesion and peace building.
- 1,003,000 beneficiaries (467,032 are women= 49.9%). Benefits ranging from sensitization, afforestation activities, solar boreholes installed (providing access to water for agricultural and domestic purpose), distribution of clean cook stoves, etc.
- A total of 2,583 CIGs have been formed, 2,583 have been registered, out of which 2,325 CIGs have received technical advisory support, thereby improving their capacity
- MoU signed between ACRoSAL and Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) on implementation of Farmer-Led Irrigation Development (contributing to dry season farming initiative of the Federal Government)
- The Federal Government of Nigeria has partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to restore 350,000 hectares of land through large-scale community landscape restoration, with several training sessions already conducted and achieving 570 hectares of restored land across Kano and Borno states.
- Discussions are underway to engage the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in restoring 410,000 hectares of land, utilizing Climate Smart Agriculture and advanced irrigation technology to promote sustainable land management
- The distribution of climate smart farm input to 21,488 farmers (13,363 male and 8,125 female) has improved crop yield, thereby leading to increased farmers' income.
- Procurement of tractors by the participating state including the FCT to boost agricultural production among member communities
- Identification of several policy areas for strengthening at Federal and State Levels, assuring sustainability of the Project
- 433 solar powered boreholes have been provided to communities serving as source of water for afforestation activities and for domestic use.
- 6 Strategic Watershed Management Plans have been developed. These plans will serve as foundation for longer-term dryland management framework for solving environmental problems in Nigeria.
- Twelve Federal MDAs have been equipped 20KVA solar electricity, cutting utility costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and fossil fuel use while boosting operational efficiency.
- Support to 50X2030 initiative, a groundbreaking partnership, aims to fill the agricultural data gap and promote data-driven decision-making.

For more information contact ACRoSAL Project Office

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Greening the
environment.
Saving lives.