



Agro-Climatic Resilience
in Semi-Arid Landscapes

Facts Sheet



Project Short Title ACReSAL

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

843,889

Hectares currently restored

USD 9,275,000

disbursed under Community Revolving Fund (CRF)
to 371 communities across 17 states

8.7M beneficiaries

(47% women) benefited from diverse impactful
interventions across states.



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THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT
OF NIGERIA



Greenhouse grown cucumbers, freshly harvested! Supported by Kogi ACREsAL Project at Federal University Lokoja, promoting innovation and food security.



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 controlled 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. ACREsAL 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.

Project Components

Dryland Management

Focuses on restoring degraded lands and promoting sustainable land-use practices

Community Climate Resilience

Adaptive capacity and livelihood resilience of vulnerable communities

Institutional Strengthening & Project Management

Build the capacity of institutions and ensures effective project coordination

Contingency Emergency Response

Provides rapid response mechanisms for unforeseen environmental and climate-related emergencies.



Before and after construction images of FCE (T) gully site in Gombe

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.



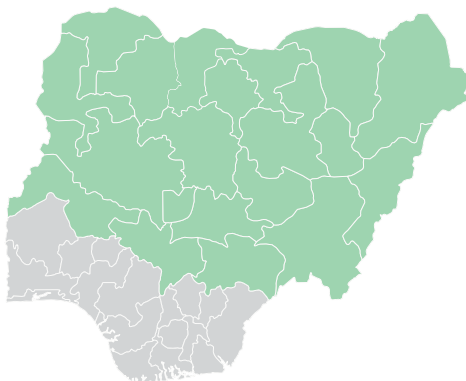
Top Left to Bottom Right:

1. Green House Cucumber Farm in Plateau State 2. Intervention at Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State

3. CRF Cheque presentation to a community in Benue State. 4&5 are Before and After Pictures of afforestation activities in Bauchi State

6. 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

19

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 ACReSAL 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

Jibia Town Flood Control, Katsina State



Before



After

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



Boosting conservation efforts: Bauchi State's ACREsAL project equips park rangers with uniforms and modern communication gear



Bauchi State's ACREsAL project brings new life to Wikki Warm Spring, enhancing its facilities and boosting tourism in Yankari Game Reserve

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

ACReSAL in Niger State of Nigeria

CONTEXT

Women of 25 communities in 8 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



Meet some of the 100 women in agriculture in Nigeria, proudly working on their rice farm.



Women's farming initiatives pay off! Many have invested their earnings in starting small businesses.

WATERING THE SEEDS OF GROWTH

ACReSAL support for dry season farming in Kogi

CONTEXT

Severe unemployment and hunger in four communities in Kabba Bunu LGA – eating even twice a day was difficult

Rainfed farming was insufficient to support livelihoods – no grain to store

Adolescent children out of school; trying to earn money

Only few farmers living near the rivers flowing through the area could cultivate year-round, but it was hard work

INTERVENTION

Dec 2023

- 150 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture
- Irrigation channels built
- Farm inputs

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



ACReSAL has procured and distributed over 275 tractors and 1,450 hand power tillers to 58,616 farmers across the participating states, boosting agricultural productivity, reducing manual labour, increasing efficiency, and enhancing soil fertility.

Greenhouse farm in Guratop LGA of Plateau State



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

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

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



Impact of Community Revolving Fund in Benue State



Kentors Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited in Makurdi, Benue State, has successfully expanded its rice farming operations despite financial constraints. As a beneficiary of the CRF, the cooperative grew its farmland from 3 to 10 hectares and adopted Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques, increasing rice production to 200 bags of 100kg. Additionally, they initiated dry-season farming near a dam, utilizing solar-powered irrigation for sustainable water management.

- ✓ Increase in farm sizes e.g from 3 to 10 hectares
- ✓ Increase in rice yield /production from 60 to 200 bags of 100kg each
- ✓ Engaging in dry season farming (adoption of CSA). This has also led to climate resilience
- ✓ Expansion of members of the co-operatives
- ✓ Increase in inter-loaning within the co-operatives

Video link;

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/FE7cU1cciEQpGuLV8>

Milestones Achieved so far

- Landscapes investment activities have commenced in states, **843,889 hectares** currently restored.
- Civil works progressing: 6 sites near completion (over 90% work done) in Gombe, Katsina, Borno, and Kogi, enhancing flood resilience and environmental stability.
- Enhanced park management and forest conservation at Yankari Game Reserve Bauchi State, Jos Wildlife Park, Plateau State and Department of Forestry, Gombe State.
- The Project is rehabilitating the Nguru wetland by removing invasive species (typha grass) that have affected fishing and other agricultural activities. To date, **407 hectares** have been cleared, enabling socioeconomic activities to thrive.
- Eleven safari viewing trucks procured for 11 National Parks to boost safety and operational efficiency nationwide.
- The project has built ranger posts in 7 National Parks, providing rangers with adequate accommodation and boosting their capacity to protect forest assets. States conducted community engagement sessions, fostering community ownership, social cohesion, and peace building.
- **8,708,191 beneficiaries (4,120,649 women, 47%)** positively impacted by a wide range of activities implemented across states.
- 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 landscape restoration ongoing.
- The distribution of climate-smart farm inputs to farmers has improved crop yield, thereby leading to increased farmers' income.
- Procurement of **275 tractors** by participating states, including FCT, to boost agricultural production among local communities.
- Development of Integrated Landscapes Management policy commenced at federal and state levels, ensuring project sustainability.
- **724 solar-powered** boreholes provided to communities, supporting afforestation and domestic water needs.
- 9 Strategic Watershed Management Plans (SCMPs) developed, stakeholder engagement workshops for 11 SCMPs conducted. These plans will lay the foundation for a long-term dryland management framework to address Nigeria's environmental challenges.
- Twelve Federal MDAs have been equipped with 20KVA solar electricity, reducing utility costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and fossil fuel use while boosting operational efficiency.
- Supported the 50X2030 initiative, a groundbreaking partnership, aims to fill the agricultural data gap and promote data-driven decision-making.
- Community Revolving Fund (CRF) activities launched, with **\$9,275,000** disbursed to **371** communities across **17** states, benefiting **18,371** individuals (**10,052 men, 8,319 women**).
- 18 micro watershed plans developed at state level to enhance natural resource management, focusing on water conservation, land restoration, climate resilience, agricultural productivity, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.
- Greenhouses established in Plateau and Kogi, rehabilitated in Gombe and Kebbi. Poultry and fish farms launched in Gombe to boost community livelihoods. In Adamawa, agroforestry demonstration plots were set up in 21 LGAs using Regenerative Agriculture and Carbon Farming, training over 20 farmers.

For more information contact ACRéSal Project Office

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Federal Project Management Unit

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Greening the
environment.
Saving lives.

Desilting of Blocked Channels



River Hajeija, Jigawa State



Kabala, Kaduna State



Gombe State

3 ongoing New Water Scheme in Hadejia, Gumel and Birnin Kudu, Jigawa State



Projected Output:

Birnin Kudu

1.36 million litres/day

20,000 beneficiaries

Hadejia

4.5 million litres/day

45,000 Beneficiaries

Gumel

4.5 million litres/day

45,000 Beneficiaries

Key Gender Achievements and Outcomes

The ACRoSAL project is working to address systemic barriers and unique challenges faced by women in agriculture due to climate change impacts. Here are the progress and statistics, and the significant outcomes according to program areas.

Program Area	Progress and Statistics	Significant Outcome
Regenerative Agriculture	9,659 women were given free access to land for 10 years, removing a major barrier to agricultural participation. 40% of beneficiaries in training sessions were women. 9,659 women received tailored support packages (drought-resistant seeds, hand tools, transportation).	Offered food security for women and their households, and generated income from the sale of proceeds. Female farmers were prioritized in demonstration plots.
Community Revolving Funds (CRF)	7,697 women benefited from the fund, constituting 44.7% of revolving loan recipients. Women were trained in financial literacy, budgeting, and record-keeping.	Women reported increased autonomy in household financial decisions and enhanced community recognition of their economic contributions. Access to loans improved agricultural yield and processing capabilities.
Distribution of Farm Input	26,443 women received climate-smart farm input and participated actively in farming.	High impact recorded and increased women participation in agriculture.
Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Risk Mitigation	543 women were sensitized during community capacity building on harmful gender norms. Culturally sensitive GBV IEC materials (posters, staff SEAH Code of Conduct) were printed.	Promoted behavior change and informed survivors/stakeholders about GBV forms, reporting, and available support referral services.
Conflict Resolution	492 women leaders were trained in peace-building and conflict resolution in 12 ACRoSAL states.	Improved peace-building and social cohesion within project communities.

Key Takeaways

- Over 43,000 women empowered through training, financial support, and resources.
- Gender mainstreaming fosters equitable access, economic empowerment, and community resilience.
- Ongoing challenges include cultural barriers, financial constraints, and GBV stigma, requiring sustained efforts for inclusive impact.

Boosting Dry Season Farming in Kwali: Existing tube wells rehabilitated and new ones constructed to support local farmers”



Infrastructural Support to Federal and State MDAs



Permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Environment



Director, Federal Ministry of
Water Resources and Sanitation



Director, Federal Ministry of
Agriculture and Food Security Resources



Director General, NiMET



Climate Change Department, FMEnv



Green Bond Secretariat, FMEnv

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