



## APPROACH

The 3S initiative aims at contributing to the creation of conditions for stability and security prioritizing young people, migrants, displaced populations and individuals targeted by extremist groups. It promotes inclusive and sustainable growth through investments in land rehabilitation and sustainable land management as a strategic area to create new green jobs.

The rationale for prioritizing investments on land rehabilitation, while securing access to tenure, is that unlike any other employment opportunities, land-based jobs increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place. This will significantly contribute to stabilizing communities and boosting local development.

In order to achieve its objectives, the 3S Initiative seeks to promote synergies with other on-going initiatives on the continent and build partnerships between the African constituency and the international community.

## ENDNOTES AND PHOTOS

1. The Heads of State and Government committed to accelerate its implementation, not only by building on their own resources, but also by mobilizing multilateral and bilateral donors as well as non-state actors.
2. International Labour Organization (ILO, 2017), Structural transformation to boost youth labour demand in sub-Saharan Africa: The role of agriculture, rural areas and territorial development.
3. United Nations Environment Program (UNEP (2011), A Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication: What are the Implications for Africa?

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# 3S Initiative



Sustainability  
Stability  
Security  
Initiative



## 3S Initiative Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa

The Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) in Africa aims at stabilizing “at risk” areas by creating new jobs for the most vulnerable populations through investments in large scale on land rehabilitation and sustainable land management. Based on a request of the ECOWAS Ministers of Interior to address migration and instability caused by land degradation at the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) in Abidjan in August 2016, the Initiative was launched by Morocco and Senega and endorsed by the African Heads of States and Government at the African Action Summit held in Marrakesh on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.<sup>1</sup> The engagement of the African countries was reiterated by the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger by the “Ouagadougou Call for Action on land-based jobs in Africa” on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### BACKGROUND

Within the next 15 years, it is estimated that approximately 375 million young Africans will enter the job market. Of these young people 200 million will live in rural areas.<sup>2</sup> These projections are alarming given that, since 1950, 65 per cent of Africa's cropland is affected by land degradation. Moreover, the natural resource-based sectors such as agriculture, the mineral sector and forestry are the largest job providers. Together, these sectors account for 80 per cent of employment.<sup>3</sup> Without the creation of new jobs for the professional integration of vulnerable groups, social cohesion and stability are threatened in many African countries and, in particular, in fragile and post-conflict countries.

The high dependency of the African continent on its natural base, if not well managed, risks amplifying the vulnerability of millions of people. Major threats and risks linked to instability and insecurity include:

- competition and conflict over access to productive natural resources as result of degradation, “unsustainable” use of land and water;
- “Instability” caused by the lack of employment and income generating opportunities for rural youth that forces them to seek alternatives far from their home communities;
- “Insecurity” and the risk of radicalization triggered by social and economic disenfranchisement and increased exposure to extremist groups.

### OBJECTIVES

To respond to these challenges, the 3S initiative pursues the following objectives:

1. create 2 million green jobs for the vulnerable groups, in particular young people, migrants, displaced populations and individuals targeted by extremist groups, through the investment in the restoration and sustainable land management of 10 million hectares of degraded lands by 2025;
2. strengthen land access and tenure rights to ensure the increased ownership of the land and sense of belonging to a specific community and place, particularly in fragile areas;
3. prevent forced displacement by enhancing early warning systems to predict the effects of drought and other natural disasters and extreme weather events, thus reinforcing ; the adaptive capacities of the targeted populations;