

Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa

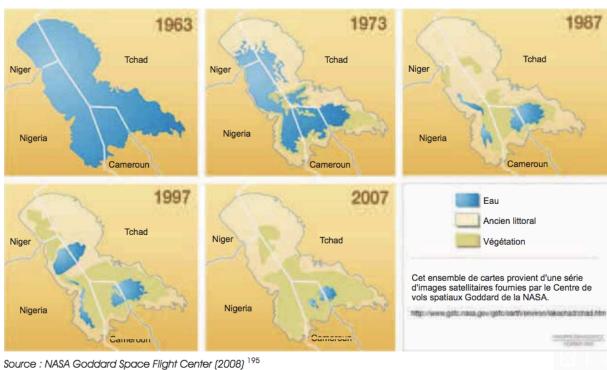
Rabat, 24 May 2017 GFMD- Climate change and human mobility Barbara Bendandi



## A rising Africa in a fragile environment

The high dependency of the continent on its natural base risks amplifying the vulnerability of millions of people

- 2/3 of Africa's agricultural land is affected by land degradation
- By 2020, yields are expected to fall up to 50% in some of the poorest regions





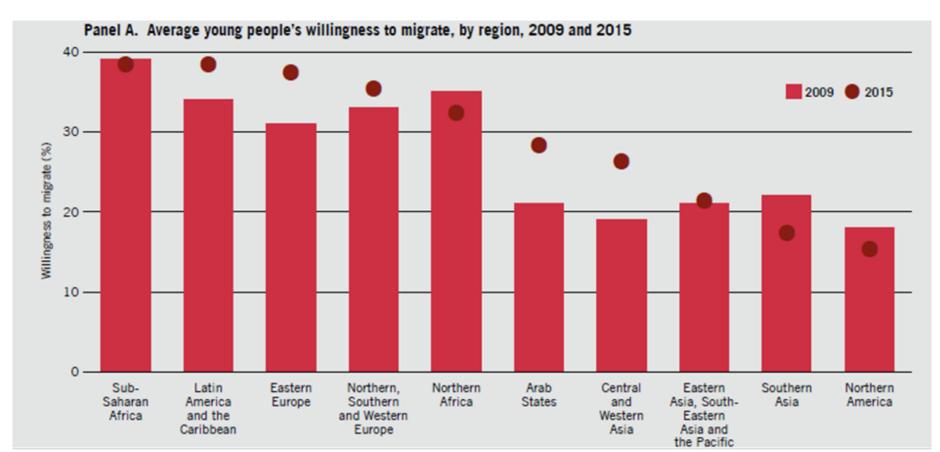
4 -12% of the continent's GDP is lost due to the loss on natural capital

### The 3S challenges in Africa

- Unsustainable use and decreased availability of land and water are leading to competition and conflict over access to resources
- **Instability** caused by the lack of employment is forcing rural youth to seek alternatives far from their home communities;
- **Insecurity** and risk of radicalization are triggered by social and economic disenfranchisement and increased exposure to extremist groups



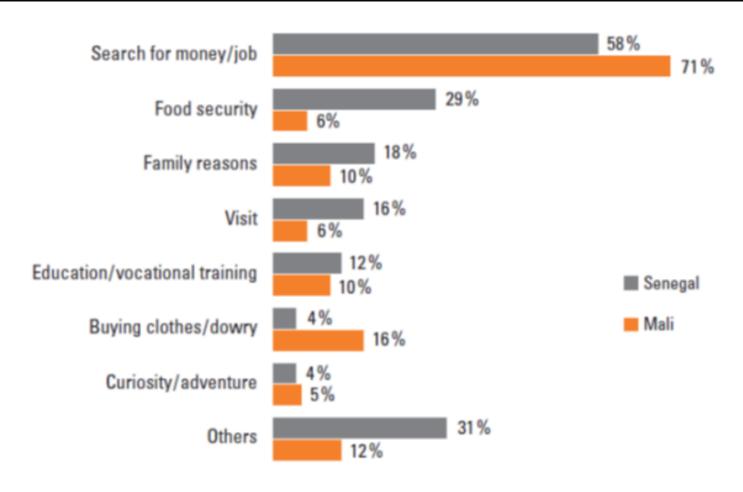
#### Willingness to migrate among youth aged 15-19



Source: ILO(, 2016, World Employment and Social Outlook 2016: Trends for youth



#### Reason for migration





Source: Micle project, 2014, "Social-ecological conditions of migration in the Sahel:

## The magnitude of the challenge in Africa

#### Agriculture is the backbone of most African economics: 1/3 of GDP

In the Sahel region, **67 million** people are already dealing with the effects of land degradation and desertification.

Over the next 15 years,

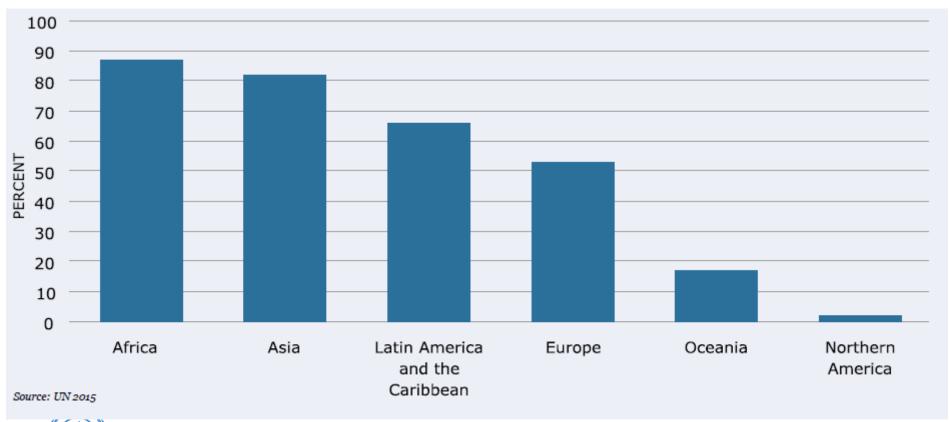
- **330 million** young people will enter the job market
- **200 million** people will leave in rural





## Mass migration is an African issue

87% of international African migrants stayed on the continent





#### 3S Initiative

- The *Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S)* is an inter-governmental initiative that aims to present **an African perspective** on migration and instability linked to natural resources.
- Launched by **Morocco** and **Senegal** at COP22 in Marrakesh and endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at 1st African Action Summit (Marrakesh, 16 November 2016).
- The overall goal is to tackle the conditions that force people to migrate, trigger conflicts and increase exposure to extremist groups, such as acute land scarcity, rural unemployment, insecurity of tenure and competition for natural resources.



#### The political process

- Led by a "*Task Force*" composed by a geographically balanced group of 10 12 countries
- Each country is represented by senior officials directly appointed by the **Heads of Government**
- Advocacy purposes: Prepare position papers for key international events on migration and security including the *Global Compact* on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the G7 and the G20, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, NEPAD/AU statutory meetings.



# The approach: Rehabilitating land to create jobs

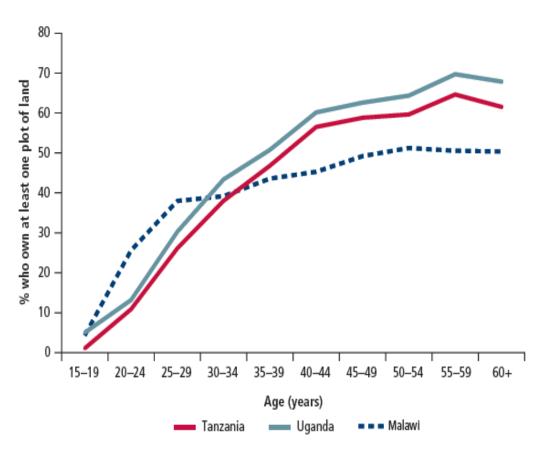
The Task Force and the UNCCD Secretariat will **promote partnerships** between the 3S African constituency and the international development community, where:

- African governments will work to create the enabling conditions for new job opportunities and identify sites where tenure or land access rights can be secured and provided to vulnerable and socially-at-risk groups (unemployed rural youth, returned migrants, former smugglers, etc.);
- **Development partners** will be called on to support investments in rural infrastructure, land rehabilitation tools and skills development in the sites identified as migration-prone and socially at risk areas.



#### Land-based jobs

Unlike any other employment opportunities, land-based jobs that provide access to tenure increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place.





Source: Based on data from the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study, Integrated Surveys for Agriculture (2011 in Malawi, 2010 in Tanzania and Uganda).

#### **Demonstration projects**

Agadez, Niger was chosen as "demonstration site" [more the 100.000 migrants transited from the region in 2016]



- At least 470 ha of degraded land will be restored and land-based jobs will be created for unemployed youths, returning migrants and former smugglers
- At the same time, other sites in the countries of origin of the migrants present in the Center (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Gambia) will be identified.



## The 3S Initiative Next steps

- **First meeting of the Task Force**, July in Senegal, Senior Officials Meeting of the 12 countries identified
- High-level symposium World Day to Combat
   Desertification Global Observance Event, 15 June in
   Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Ministerial event and call for
   actions on land-based jobs
- **G20-Africa partnership** negotiations for inclusion of the 3S in the final communique are on-going
- Design the demonstration projects with the governments



#### The 3S Initiative

#### Messages for the GFMD and the Global compact on migration

Climate and environmental changes have already been recognized as migration drivers by the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016. As next steps, the 3S Initiative calls for:

- Accelerating the implementation of practical solutions that considered the key role of natural resources on livelihoods
- Recognizing that land rehabilitation is crucial to create new jobs while reversing the processes of desertification
- Establishing regular consultation meetings with regional initiatives, such as the 3S



## THANK YOU





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