

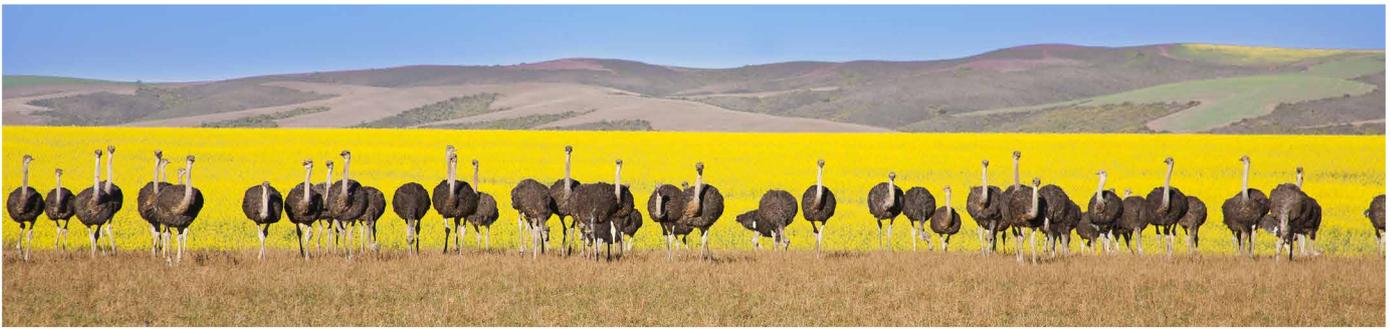


Sustainable development of African growth corridors

Integrated solutions for positive trade-off between economic and environmental outcomes



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



"Feeding the majority of the poor and vulnerable populations in Africa, while preserving the natural resource base and the environment, is one of the most pressing development challenges of the century."

Kofi Anan. From: A green revolution for Africa, Wageningen University & Research, 1 September 2008

Context

Africa is changing at a rate perhaps unmatched in recorded history. Of the 20 fastest growing economies in the world, nine are in Africa and the continent's population will double to 2 billion by 2050. Economic development in Africa is for a large part focused on major 'growth corridors' designed to boost agricultural production and economic integration. Today, 33 development corridors are operational, under construction, or planned, traversing 38 countries and totalling 53,000 km in length. One of the biggest challenges for partners involved in developing these corridors is how to address equity in the trade-offs between economic and environmental outcomes.

What do we have to offer?

We have a proven track record in offering sustainable solutions for agricultural development in Africa and globally, improving linkages between farmers, NGO's, private sector, research institutes and governments. We provide an integrated approach to tackle the multitude of complex issues at the corridor scale in order to maximise socioeconomic gains, while assuring the long-term maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity. Unique in the 'Wageningen' approach is the integration of information from different scale levels, in combination with analysis of landuse characteristics and the development of long-term perspectives. Based on spatial scenario modeling, careful planning helps guide corridor development that takes ecological and sustainability concerns into account.

Track record

The program CASCAPE in Ethiopia provides a firm evidence base for agricultural production and strengthening the capacity of stakeholders on scaling up of best practices, and the Soil Fertility Tool provides fertilizer recommendations using background data to establish precise recommendations. We've mapped key areas for biodiversity across Africa for set-asides and targeted conservation, and pollination services for their preservation and optimal use at large spatial scales. We developed an integrated land use plan for Chobe district, focussing on safari tourism development while minimizing human-wildlife conflict. In South Africa and Ghana, we enable sustainable production of irrigated areas while avoiding negative impacts on nearby protected areas, with emphasis on partnership, capacity development, and accountability. In the 3R Kenya project, Wageningen brings in expertise on sector analysis, innovation, multistakeholder processes, efficient and integrated chains and the circular economy, to find ways to scale up small scale projects in the horticulture, aquaculture and dairy sector.

Takeaways

- Delivering actions to maintain ecosystem services and biodiversity while increasing productivity in growth corridors
- Integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to complex issues
- Spatial planning that integrates ecological, biophysical and socio-economic aspects at a large spatial scale
- Tailor-made and innovative solutions to enable sustainable agricultural production
- Help deliver Corporate Social Responsibility targets

Research Programme Sustainable Land Use



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