

# Greening land to offer perspective to the African country-side



**A Test of Endurance: Addressing Migration and Security risks by means of landscape restoration in Africa**, Van Schaik, L.G., Kamphof, R. and S. Sarris, June 2018, Report for NL Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality

# Main argument

- Land degradation – migration relationship is relatively well established
- Land (scape) restoration can fulfil many objectives: food production, biodiversity, capturing water, other livelihoods from land, storing carbon
- Donor funding for climate & migration policy objectives on the rise (MFF, trust funds, etc)
- In light of catastrophe looming in Sahel let's make landscape restoration a core element of EU-Africa partnership

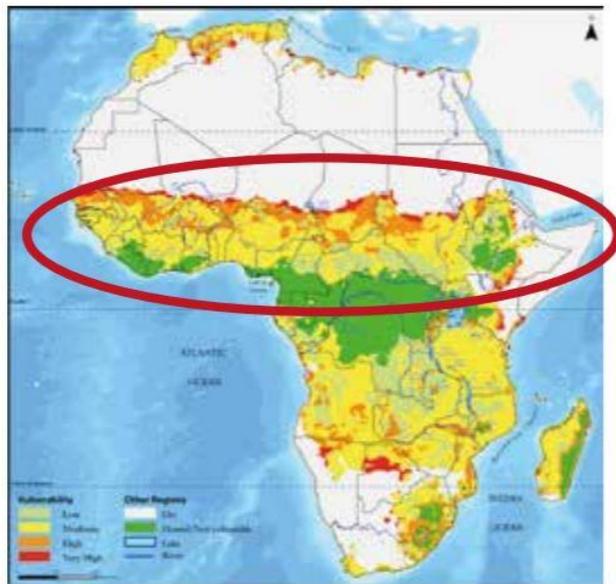
# Migration: push & pull factors

- Push (reasons to leave): Social, Economic & Political factors
- Pull (attraction of new destination)
- Quality of land = economic factor; it jeopardises livelihoods based agriculture
- If land can no longer provide food and water, people starve! (& no longer have the means to leave!)

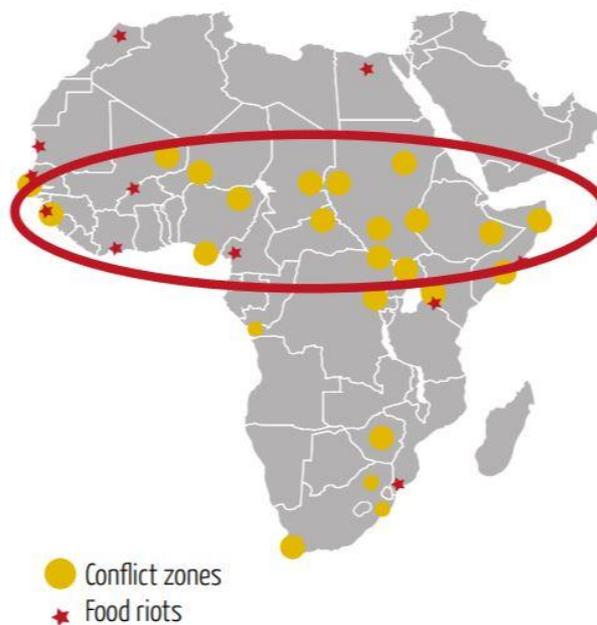
➔ but this is no excuse to do nothing about it!

# Land degradation caused by climate change, bad land management, local environmental pollution

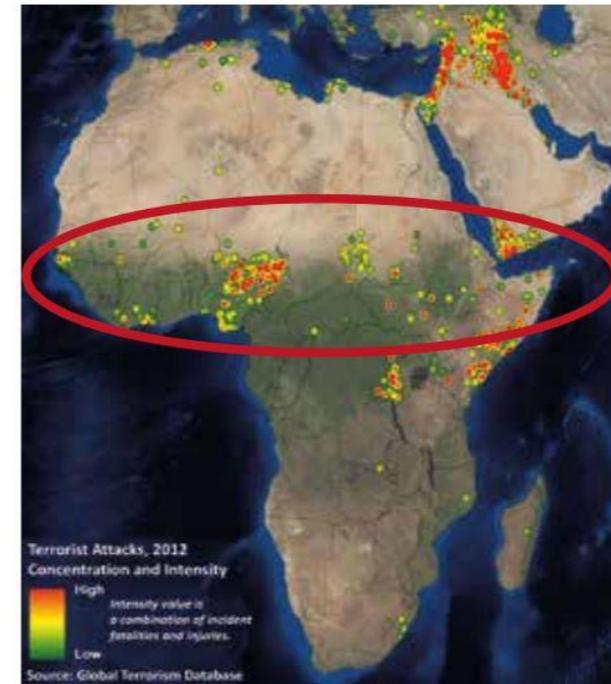
Desertification vulnerability in Africa (2008)



Conflicts and food riots in Africa 2007-2008



Terrorist Attacks 2012



Desertification, conflicts, food riots, and terrorist attacks in Africa. Adapted from *Desertification The Invisible Frontline*. UNCCD (2014)

# Landscape restoration could reduce migration?

- Landscape restoration may reduce push factors & create jobs
- PSI report stakeholder mapping: currently many ad hoc, small scale projects, financed by traditional ODA, undermined by political & governance issues common to aid projects
- Limited evidence re causal link land degradation & migration still forms obstacle



# Conclusions

- Climate change impacts on water, food & land
  - Topic rises on political agenda int security (UNSC) development (UNDP), but migration ? (global compact..)
- Inserting climate-security into early warning & risk analysis, financial instruments, UN mission mandates, etc.
- Greening land in Africa might yield more effect & be politically more attractive than restrictive migration policies

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# Thank you!

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