



CIRCULAR
BIOECONOMY
ALLIANCE

Living Labs for Nature, People and Planet

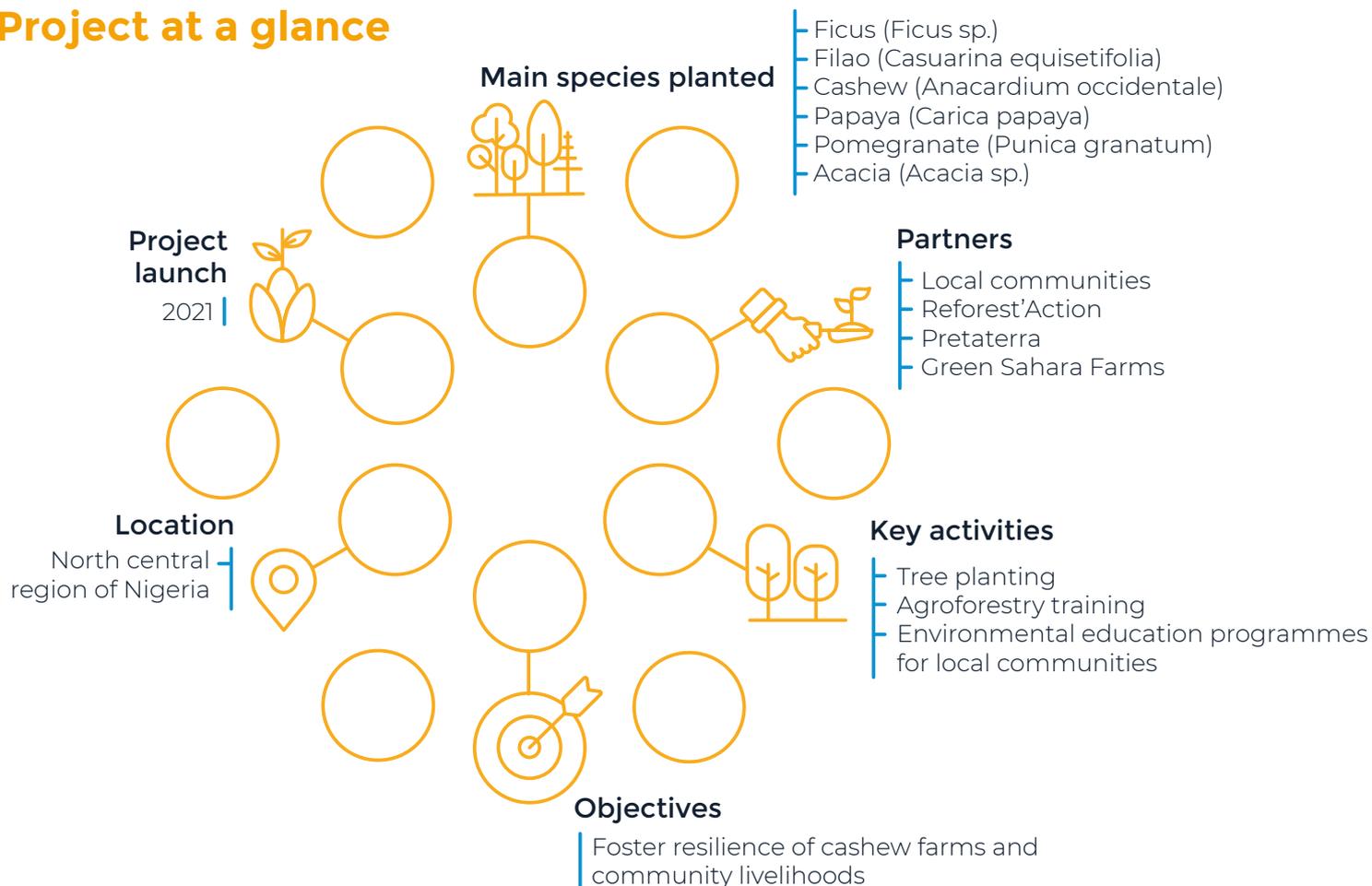
Developing agroforestry
with local producers in
Nigeria



A Living Lab for Nature and People:

Developing agroforestry with local producers in Nigeria

Project at a glance



Why?

Nigeria lost 60 million hectares of primary tropical forest during the 20th century, and continues to lose more than 5% of its forest area each year due to deforestation.

This Living Lab will showcase how to restore degraded land using agroforestry systems that integrate trees around and within farmers' fields. The planted trees provide multiple ecosystem services, including the enrichment of cultivated soils and the provision of a protective canopy to the underlying crops.

The benefits are also economic, with fruit trees enabling diversification of production and the generation of additional income through the sale of fruit on local markets. Ultimately, the integration of trees into agricultural plots will not only develop and sustain these new agroforestry systems, but also increase the productivity of their main crops, which will be sold to local agribusinesses for export or domestic use.



What?

Action on the ground

This Living Lab is a two-year project which aims to put trees and their countless benefits back at the heart of farmers' daily lives. The project aims to develop agroforestry in ten states in the north central region of Nigeria. During the first year of the project, a total of 250,000 trees of 50 different species will be integrated into individual agricultural plots owned by 2,500 local farmers, a total area of 1,250 hectares.

Developing agroforestry

The project will introduce and plant a multitude of tree species within and around cashew fields, providing a main crop of cashew nuts (which will be aggregated through Green Sahara Farms and sold to agro-industrial companies). This includes:

- **Fruit tree species**, such as papaya, pomegranate, to provide a secondary crop of fruit for the farmer's personal consumption or for sale in local markets.
- **Leguminous species**, such as acacia, fix nitrogen and provide the nutrients necessary for soil fertilization, as well as fodder for livestock.
- **Tall tree species**, such as ficus and filao, provide a protective forest cover over the food crops.

The interaction between the trees planted and the pre-existing agricultural crops will therefore improve agricultural production and gradually lead to an improvement in the living standards of the farmers.

Integrating and training local communities

The project, in partnership with Green Sahara Farms, provides training and capacity building to local farmers in the application of agroforestry and in the management of their farming enterprises. They are also encouraged to adopt organic production and environmentally sustainable farming systems.

Expected benefits

The project directly contributes to the achievement of 9 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, which provide a roadmap to a better and more sustainable future.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





What is a Living Lab?

The Circular Bioeconomy Alliance (CBA) is building a global network of Living Labs for Nature, People and Planet.

They demonstrate how harmony can be achieved by empowering nature and people in a concrete territorial context, integrating traditional knowledge, capitalizing on new research and innovation and based on public-private partnerships that place local communities at their centre.

Each Lab uses a landscape restoration project as the starting point to catalyse the development of circular bioeconomy value chains while restoring biodiversity and local livelihoods. They are the start of a journey towards more resilient communities and landscapes.

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