

# Too Good to be True? The Flaws of an International Environmental Institution: The Case of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Sahel, Africa

Karina Devira

**Abstract:** The vulnerability of Sahel to the threats of climate change and the effects of desertification in the midst of population growth has become the essential foundation for the creation of international environmental cooperation. Through its harmonized regional policy, the Great Green Wall Initiative upholds its ambitious plan to encourage "*Green, Fertile and Prosperous Africa*". Regardless of its groundbreaking development plans, the progress of GGWI is not as ambitious as its initial targets. With only 15% restoration after more than a decade of its inception, it is conspicuous to expect that the institution is failing to reach its 2030 target. Looking at the disputable failure of the Great Green Wall Initiative. This thesis exerts to understand the underlying causes to its failure through the lens of International Relations. Using the Functional Theory of International Environmental Institution and the Ecological Modernization Theory, this thesis unravels the two main flaws contributing to the overall failure; the incapacity of GGWI as an institution and the incapacity of member states.

**Keywords:** Great Green Wall Initiative, Sahel, Environmental Cooperation, Ecological Modernization Theory

**Abstrak:** Kerentanan Sahel terhadap ancaman perubahan iklim dan dampak penggurunan di tengah pertumbuhan penduduk telah menjadi landasan penting bagi terciptanya kerjasama lingkungan internasional. Melalui kebijakan regional yang selaras, Inisiatif Tembok Hijau Besar menjunjung rencana ambisiusnya untuk mendorong "*Afrika yang Hijau, Subur, dan Sejahtera*". Terlepas dari terobosan rencana pengembangannya, kemajuan GGWI tidak seambisius target awalnya. Dengan hanya 15% restorasi setelah lebih dari satu dekade didirikan, sangatlah jelas untuk berharap bahwa institusi tersebut gagal mencapai target 2030. Melihat kegagalan yang tidak dapat disangkal dari Great Green Wall Initiative. Tesis ini berusaha untuk memahami penyebab yang mendasari kegagalan melalui lensa Hubungan Internasional. Dengan menggunakan Teori Fungsional Lembaga Lingkungan Internasional dan Teori Modernisasi Ekologi, tesis ini mengungkap dua kelemahan utama yang berkontribusi pada kegagalan secara keseluruhan; ketidakmampuan GGWI sebagai institusi dan ketidakmampuan negara anggota.

**Kata Kunci:** Great Green Wall Initiative, Sahel, Environmental, Kerja Sama Lingkungan, Ecological Modernization Theory