

The GREAT GREEN WALL
(research and compilation of news, success stories, references to projects, opinions etc)
10 March 2016

5 February 2016: The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) have launched a €41 million 'Action Against Desertification' project that aims to support six African countries - Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal - with the large-scale restoration of production landscapes affected by desertification and land degradation. The project is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) programme of support to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States.

The project builds on best practices from the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), which was endorsed by African Heads of State and Government in 2007. Under the Initiative, around 120 communities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have created a green belt on more than 2,500 hectares of degraded and arid land and planted more than two million seeds and seedlings from fifty native species.

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification/news-and-multimedia/detail/en/c/382412/>

- **The Great Green Wall initiative is an opportunity to bring a coordinated and harmonized response to the issues of forced migration, food security and peace in Africa", Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),**

So far, the African Union - in cooperation with the European Union, FAO, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew and the Walloon Region of Belgium - has mobilized more than €50 million in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative. The World Bank and Global Environment Facility are financing the US\$1 billion Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP), active in 12 countries together with a regional hub project called Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication, and Knowledge Services (BRICKS), implemented by the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/210852/icode/>

- **Six Questions to Monique Barbut, CEO of the GEF, on the Great Green Wall**

The GEF CEO answers six questions about this initiative to combat soil degradation in the Sahel region.

http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/gef_greenwall_2011_EN.pdf

http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/gef_greenwall_2011_FR.pdf

<https://www.thegef.org/gef/great-green-wall>

See also GEF

<https://www.thegef.org/gef/news/sahel-and-west-africa-program-support-great-green-wall-initiative-receives-world-bank-green-tea>

The whole program is based on \$108 million in GEF grant resources leveraging a co-financing of \$1.8 billion dollars. For instance, in Chad, the GEF and LDCF resources are coming on the top of two significant baseline projects on agricultural development (US\$25 million) and local development

(\$77.25 million). In Niger, the project is developed on the strengths and weaknesses of previous operations in the country in the areas of decentralization, local governance, community development, and sustainable management of natural resources.

“Many success stories and approaches should be inspirational, as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration in Niger or Mali, or the GEF3/WB Integrated Ecosystems Management Project in Burkina Faso” said Paola Agostini, GEF Regional Coordinator for Africa at the World Bank”.

See this publication

https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/SAWAP_English_Final.pdf

https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/SAWAP_french_Final.pdf

- See also **FAO (partners GGW and strategy)**

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap603e/ap603e.pdf>

- **Africa’s Great Green Wall reaches out to new partners**

More partnerships and investment are needed to support the pan-African partnership to tackle desertification and land degradation

<http://www.trust.org/item/20131216162913-va49g/>

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/210852/icode/>

- A new project dubbed BRICKS -- Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services – is the latest addition to the rapidly expanding bouquet of projects under the Great Green Wall of the Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GGWSSI).

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<http://global-mechanism.org/feature-story/another-brick-in-the-great-green-wall>

- This might be useful as well as case studies compiled through SSC

http://www.ebasouth.org/sites/default/files/case_study_full/EbA%20South%20Case%20Study%203.pdf

- **Our dream: The Great Green Wall of Africa**

There have been many successes over the last few years that are all based on local initiatives. Already in Niger an area greater than the Netherlands has been ‘re-greened’ and is again fertile using these methods. This has resulted in food security for an additional 1.25 million people. By acting together with our local partners and through mobilising donations and facilitating governments, it is possible with these few moves to go on to create scores of initiatives. And in turn that becomes thousands. Together they form the green stones in the ‘Great Green Wall’ which will be able to turn back the threat.

http://www.climatecentre.org/downloads/files/GGW/GreatGreenWall_EN.pdf

- Green economy Senegal

Fifty thousand trees have already been planted in Senegal under the 'Great Green Wall' initiative, which aims to build a 7,500 km wall of trees across the entire width of the African continent

http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/factsheets/___Bat_GE_FactSheet_Senegal.pdf

- Africa builds 'Great Green Wall' of trees to improve farmlands (again Senegal)

SCIENCEALERT STAFF 24 JUL 2014

"Examples of success [so far] include more than 50,000 acres of trees planted in Senegal," says [Ryan Schleeter at *National Geographic*](#). "Most of these are the acacia species *Senegalia senegal*, which has economic value for the commodity it produces, gum arabic. (Gum arabic is primarily used as a food additive.) A small portion of the trees are also fruit-bearing, which, when mature, will help combat the high levels of malnutrition in the country's rural interior."

Even more dramatic is the project's potential social impact, [says Schleeter](#). By providing better quality land and more opportunities to earn an income from cultivating it, the Great Green Wall will open up thousands of job opportunities to the local population.

<http://www.sciencealert.com/africa-builds-great-green-wall-of-trees-to-improve-farmlands>

- See also opinions: Opposition building to Great Green Wall

<http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2011/04/08/opposition-building-great-green-wall>

<http://modernnotion.com/great-green-wall-of-africa/>

- The Great Green wall Grows and Grows (in Paris too.)

By [JW.Dowey](#)- 07 Dec 2015 9:44:32 GMT

The Dogon people of Mali grow trees in their town at Bandiagara Cliff but struggle to prevent desertification outside in the encroaching sands

<http://www.earthtimes.org/politics/great-green-wall-grows-Paris/2887/#ATRdbPZtiYIkI99>

- Africa's Great Green Wall

The continuing fight against desertification in north Africa

<http://theodysseyonline.com/lewis-clark/great-green-wall/148051>

- The African Great Green Wall project

What advice can scientists provide? A summary of published results (44 pages)

<http://www.csf-desertification.org/bibliotheque/item/the-african-great-green-wall-project-2>

- **The Great Green Wall of Africa-Can it Save the Continent?**

By Gary Thomas

Beyond the main aim of preventing irrevocable desertification, there are other advantages that also come with the construction of the world's largest hedgerow.

Firstly, the wall will protect vital water sources in the area and even help create new ones. It is hoped that the water table will become rejuvenated via surplus rainfall and this will lead to the regrowth of large bodies of water such as Lake Chad, which has been reduced by 95% since the 1960's.

The wall will also provide food in the form of fruit and vegetables, as well as environmentally friendly fuel. For example in Senegal, *Acacia nilotica* are being planted in vast numbers, which produce fruit for animal feed and components of certain medicines.

Lastly, it is hope that the great green wall can become a symbol of unity across a continent which has too often been ravaged by war. Perhaps the cohesion required to undertake such a project will provide political stability in a region which so desperately needs to join forces to tackle the larger issues of our time.

<http://www.azocleantech.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=250>

- **Nigeria: Yobe Govt. Raises One Million Tree Seedlings To Combat Desertification**

The Yobe Government said on Friday that it raised one million assorted tree seedlings for the establishment of shelter-belts across the state to combat desertification.

The Commissioner for Environment, Alhaji Idi Gubana, announced this in Damaturu.

“The shelter-belts are to serve as wind breakers to reduce the effects of winds that cause erosion, leading to the desert moving further into the hinterlands.

“The Yobe government is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Environment to implement the Great Green Wall Programme aimed at establishing orchards and tree plantations to serve as shelter-belts.

“The government has provided land for the Green Wall project and sensitised host communities for active participation and success of the programme.

“The state Ministry of Environment has also embarked on the excavation and evacuation of water ways and drainage as the rains intensify.

“At the commencement of the season, we embarked on the evacuation of waterways and drainage in

the five major towns.

“The towns include Damaturu, Potiskum, Gashua, Giedam and Nguru, and this was to allow free-flow of rain waters to avert floods,” he said.

Gubana said the ministry had evacuated refuse dumps in the five major towns to check water stagnation and outbreak of diseases.

“We are also working toward collaboration with the Federal Government through the ecological funds to erect embankments in Gashua and Nguru.

“This is to check excessive water from River Kumadugu Yobe, that causes yearly floods in the two towns,” he said.

He said that the ministry had intensified sensitisation campaigns against illegal felling of trees, bush burning and arbitrary disposal of refuse, adding that the efforts were yielding positive results.

“Similarly, the ministry has engaged 500 casual workers to ensure periodic clearing of the drainage and general sanitation in the major towns of the state,” Gubana said.

<http://www.dailytimes.com.ng/article/yobe-govt-raises-one-million-tree-seedlings-combat-desertification>

According to the director general of the agency, Ahmed Goni, about 43 percent of Nigeria land mass risks desertification and hence, the need for adequate support to tackle this menace.

In a bid to curtail these effects, the Great Green Wall Agency, has begun massive development of these lands affected by desertification in 11 states, namely, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara states

<http://leadership.ng/features/462616/ggw-and-the-threat-of-desertification-in-northern-nigeria>

- [Senegal begins planting the Great Green Wall against climate change](#)

The Guardian, July 12, 2012

- [Africa’s “Great Green Wall” Bears Fruit For Families In Senegal](#)

WFP 11 April 2013

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/africas-great-green-wall-bears-fruit-village-senegal>

- [Desertification: GGW Trains 5000 Farmers In Forestry, Natural Regeneration](#)

<http://leadership.ng/news/493213/desertification-ggw-trains-5000-farmers-forestry-natural-regeneration>

- [Lake Chad, a living example of the devastation climate change is wreaking on Africa](#)

AfDB has released US \$12 billion and will mobilise an additional US \$50 billion to provide clean energy in Africa including in the Sahara-Sahel region.

“We are providing an additional \$4 billion and leveraging an extra \$40 billion to provide water in the affected areas. The problem has forced girls to drop out of school to look for water. If we don’t provide alternatives to the problems, people will still cut down the trees we are planting. This is because 75 per cent of deforestation is due to charcoal burning,” Adesina said.

Ministers for Environment and Agriculture from Africa attended the function and emphasized the need for political goodwill, good governance and transparency to ensure the Great Green Wall project succeeds.

Kenya’s Environment Minister Judi Wakhungu concurred with her colleagues, calling on individual member countries to do their part so that the project does not fail.

The Ministers revealed that their countries have embarked on projects to plant millions of trees in addition to implementing other related projects to avert the crisis.

Mustafa Ali Alifei, Chad’s Minister of Environment and Fishing, said the Sahara-Sahel deserts hosts 50 per cent of the country’s population, but the project has given hope to a majority of them who had previously lost hope for a better future.

Laura Tuck, Vice-President of Sustainable Development at the World Bank, said that 300 million people in East and West Africa live in drylands. The World Bank, she said, will continue financing the initiative.

“The project is doing wonders. Most land is being rehabilitated and used for farming. We have already bumped \$4.4 billion into the project and pledge more \$1.9 billion. This successful project is the best African and global answer to climate change and we will replicate it worldwide,” she said.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/lake-chad-living-example-devastation-climate-change-wreaking-africa>

- **Desertification:**
The people whose land is turning to dust

BBC, November 12, 2015

- **Wall of trees being planted across Africa to halt desert**

By **CARLEY PETESCH** and **CHEIKH A.T. SY**

Dec. 9, 2015 12:58 PM EST

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c3c521f58841428dae0bb2cf4a1fc5d2/wall-trees-being-planted-across-africa-halt-desert>

- **20 African Nations Together To Build 7,600 KM “Great Green Wall of Africa” Against the Sahara Desert**

The Speaker, July 26, 2014

- 'Green wall' to target Sahel terrorism

BBC, May 3, 2013

- Senegal begins planting the Great Green Wall against climate change

The Guardian, July 12, 2012

- Africa's "Great Green Wall" Bears Fruit For Families In Senegal

By Greg Barrow — 11 April 2013

<https://www.wfp.org/stories/africas-great-green-wall-bears-fruit-village-senegal>

- The Great Green Wall of Africa

Atlas Obscura

- The Great Oasis
Can a wall of trees stop the Sahara from spreading?

New Yorker, December 19, 2011

- Push for 'Great Green Wall of Africa' to halt Sahara

BBC, June 17, 2010

Last but not least, see Africa – EU partnership success stories here, among which some from the GGW initiatives. Fighting the sands of time

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/success-stories/fighting-sands-time>

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/success-stories-startpage>

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