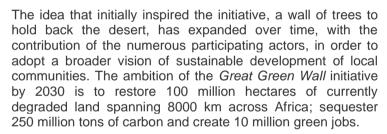
GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE RECOVERING DEGRADED LANDSCAPES IN THE SAHEL REGION

The <u>Great Green Wall initiative</u> continues its work of finding new sponsors and allies to achieve its purpose of reforesting and recovering degraded landscapes, transforming the lives of millions of people in the Sahel region.

Launched in 2007 by the African Union, the Great Green Wall brings together more than 20 African countries, creating a barrier against climate change running across the semiarid region extended from from Senegal in West Africa to Djibouti in

the East; from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. The Great Green Wall covers 780 million hectares of arid and semi-arid land around the Sahara. This area is home to 232 million people who are largely dependent on livestock and crop farming.



The initiative supports communities living along the Green Wall in their work towards sustainable management and use of forests and other natural resources, to grow fertile lands improving economic opportunities, to grow food security and the climate resilience in a region where temperatures are rising faster than anywhere else on Earth.

The *Great Green Wall* initiative involves the Governments and public services of the African Countries, research institutes, civil society and grassroots organizations, international organizations. By articulating the contribution of all the actors involved, the initiative has achieved important <u>impact results</u>, documented on its website:

- Ethiopia: 15 million hectares of degraded land restored and land tenure security improved;
- Senegal: 12 million drought resistant trees have been planted and 25 000 hectares of degraded land restored;
- Burkina Faso: 3 million hectares of land have been rehabilitated through local practices used by communities, called ZAI;











- Niger: 5 million hectares of land restored delivering an additional 500,000 tons of grain per year, enough to feed 2.5 million people;
- Nigeria: 5 million hectares of degraded land restored and 20 000 jobs created;
- Sudan: 2,000 hectares of land restored;
- Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger: about 120 communities involved, a green belt created over more than 2,500 hectares of degraded and drylands, more than 2 million seeds and seedlings planted from fifty native species of trees.

The Great Green Wall initiative is supported by the <u>Global Environment Facility (GEF)</u>, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the <u>Connect4Climate</u> Initiative. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is executing a project which is funded by GEF and implemented by UN Environment, in 11 countries. In order to identify new financial partners, the Great Green Wall has been presented in September 2019 at the Event <u>Green Walls to Green Wallets: Financing Nature Based Solutions</u> organized by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) during the Climate Week held in New York in the framework of the <u>Climate Action Summit</u> convened by the UN Secretary-General.

Through these initiatives the local practices of the *Great Green Wall* supported by the United Nations involved, will be oriented to adopt Natural Based Solutions as a mean to face climate change, restoring, re-establishing and protecting forests, peatlands, mangroves and other landscapes with the active participation of local communities. The Nature4Change website underlines that intact ecosystems can actively remove a quarter of global emissions and it is essential to maintain the continuity of this vast free service from nature. These solutions based on the knowledge of local and indigenous communities, are available immediately, are scalable and can transform key sectors of the global economy, such as forestry and agriculture.

To know more

Great Green Wall website

Great Green Wall in Facebook

Great Green Wall results

Great Green Wall Press Release

Great Green Wall in unccd.int website

Great Green Wall in globallandscapesforum.org website

News in globallandscapesforum.org website

News en globallandscapesforum.org

Great Green Wall in iucn.org website

Great Green Wall in FAO website













News in African Union website

Nature4climate.org website

Article in intelligentliving.co

Article in telegraph.co.uk

Great Green Wall in national geographic website

Great Green Wall in Wikipedia





