

GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE

RECOVERING DEGRADED LANDSCAPES IN THE SAHEL REGION

The [Great Green Wall initiative](#) 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 idea that initially inspired the initiative, a wall of trees to hold back the desert, has expanded over time, with the contribution of the numerous participating actors, in order to adopt a broader vision of sustainable development of local communities. The ambition of the *Great Green Wall* initiative by 2030 is to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land spanning 8000 km across Africa; sequester 250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs.

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 [impact results, 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 [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#), the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) and the [Connect4Climate 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 [Green Walls to Green Wallets: Financing Nature Based Solutions](#) organized by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) during the Climate Week held in New York in the framework of the [Climate Action Summit](#) 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](#)

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[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](#)

