

# GREAT GREEN WALL REPORT

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND WAY AHEAD TO 2030

In September 2020 the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) published the [Report \*The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030\*](#).

The Report, which was presented at a virtual meeting of the ministers of environment of the participating countries, presents the progress made to restore land, create jobs and generate income in 11 *Great Green Wall* countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

Launched in 2007 by the [African Union](#), the [Great Green Wall initiative](#) brings together more than 20 African countries, creating a barrier against climate change running across the semiarid region extended from Senegal in West Africa to Djibouti in the East. The *Great Green Wall* covers 780 million hectares of arid and semi-arid land around the Sahara where temperatures are rising faster than anywhere else on Earth. This area is home to 232 million people who are largely dependent on livestock and crop farming. 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.

Since 2007, [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. 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.

Nowadays, the *Great Green Wall* is receiving international attention in the context of the new commitments for land restoration. In 2019 the UN General Assembly declared the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), co-led by FAO and UN Environment, which is expected to shine additional spotlight on land restoration and mobilize financial resources for the implementation of national, regional and global initiatives. The *Great Green Wall* is well positioned in this context to be one of the programmes of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

In light of this perspective shared by all participants, the Report provides an overview of the status and implementation progress of the *Great Green Wall*, accounting for land restoration progress made on the ground as well as for financial resources allocated to the Initiative.



The focus of the Report on the eleven countries is mainly due to data availability. Some countries, in fact, have achieved great progress in land restoration and the lessons learned here should be made available to others. Other countries have not been equally successful in the implementation of their strategies and action plans. The *Great Green Wall* needs to scale up land rehabilitation and restoration activities in order to reach its targets. The Report indicates that close to 18 million hectares of land have been restored since 2007 and to reach the planned total area of 100Mha by 2030 it is necessary to raise the current rate of land restoration to 8.2 Million hectares annually.

The Report represents a collective investigation from the African Union Commission (AUC), the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PA-GGW) and some major partners, with the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) UNCCD taking the lead for its production. Additional information on GGW-related activities in the wider region, is based on the reports by donors and NGOs. The Report has been produced and published with the financial support from the Government of Ireland.

The Report draws the attention of the international community to this pioneer initiative which is operating to combat land degradation, desertification, drought, climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and food insecurity. As highlighted by the UNCCD... *Once complete, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on the planet: a grown, not built, world wonder, stretching across the entire width of the continent of Africa.*

### To know more

[The Great Green Wall: Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030 Report](#)

[Executive Summary Report](#)

[News in UNCCD website](#)

[News in UNCCD website](#)

[News in globallandscapesforum.org](#)

[Article in climatechangenews sitio web](#)

[Article in un.org sitio web](#)

[Great Green Wall initiative](#)

[Great Green Wall in Facebook](#)

[United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#)

