

# Expanding Africa's Great Green Wall

## STEPPING UP ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

**Action Against Desertification is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) to promote sustainable land management and restore drylands and degraded lands in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).**

Desertification and land degradation are very serious challenges. They lead to hunger and poverty, driving unemployment, forced migration and conflict, while amplifying climate risks as drought and floods.

But recent successes show that these problems are not insurmountable. Bold action and investments in sustainable land management can boost food security, improve livelihoods and help people adapt to climate change.

**Action Against Desertification** builds on the **Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative**, in which more than 20 African countries, international organizations, research institutes, civil society and grassroots organizations have come together to tackle the detrimental social, economic and environmental

impact of land degradation and desertification. The new programme is even expanding its reach to the Caribbean and the Pacific.

With a total budget of € 41 million, ACP, the EU, FAO and partners such as the African Union Commission, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Walloon region will support six African countries - Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal - as well as Fiji and Haiti in improving the state and health of production landscapes affected by desertification and land degradation.

Drawing from successful Great Green Wall examples, activities will focus on providing local communities with the support they need to start using

improved sustainable land- and forest-management and restoration practices. At the same time, local communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations will receive the necessary training and technical support to develop their capacities in making these efforts a reality.

**Action Against Desertification** will also raise awareness of the causes of desertification and land degradation and advocate appropriate measures to prevent and combat them. This will help partners mobilize resources for continued implementation of their efforts to combat land degradation, desertification and drought through the establishment of partnerships between national, regional and international stakeholders.

### Action Against Desertification

assists local communities, government and civil society in the sustainable management and restoration of their dryland forests and rangelands affected by desertification, land degradation and drought through:

- Sustainable management of natural resources, including soils, water, forests, rangelands
- Promotion of sustainable rural production systems in agriculture, pastoralism and forestry
- Sustainable production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and forest goods, such as non wood forest products and services, including biodiversity conservation and ecotourism.

■ Diversification of economic activities, for example through rural production centers, to stimulate job creation and offer income generation activities, in particular for youth and women.

■ Knowledge exchange about the causes of desertification and the best ways to combat and prevent it.





## A better living saving trees on farms

*In Maradi, Niger, farmers regenerated tree density by 50 percent on over 50 000 square kilometres of degraded drylands, using the farmer-managed natural regeneration approach. The total benefit - including wood sales, increased crop yield, increased livestock productivity, foods and medicines - is an estimated USD 200 per hectare, compared to a labour investment of between USD 10 and 15 per hectare. The annual income from selling wood alone is USD 140 per person.*

## Restoring degraded land

*More than 120 villages in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger work together with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and partners on the production of the most suitable trees, shrubs and herbs to turn degraded land into productive areas for people and their livestock. So far, over 1,000,000 seedlings and 5,000 kg of seeds of 50 species were planted, covering 2,230 hectares of planted areas for village managed and maintained land. These activities will be scaled up in almost twenty cross-border areas of the six African partner countries of Action Against Desertification.*



## South-south cooperation

**Action Against Desertification** will be an example of South-South cooperation across Great Green Wall countries and the wider African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. Activities will build on lessons learned from Africa's Great Green Wall Initiative in helping local communities in Fiji and Haiti adopt improved sustainable land- and forest management and restoration practices, while enhancing capacities of governmental and non-governmental organizations to support and sustain these efforts.

## Africa Special Hub

In Africa, **Action Against Desertification** will provide support to the African Union Commission through a special hub that will assist in coordination, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, knowledge management and technology transfer through South-South cooperation and the implementation of a Partnership and knowledge management Platform, for the implementation of the GGWSSI.



More information on: [www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification](http://www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification)



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