



ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION



NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

Trees and forest areas provide a wealth of products that are essential for the people who live around them. Balanites oil is used for cooking, cosmetics, or made into soap. People eat the leaves of the baobab, while the fruits and leaves of the gao tree feed animals. People can also make money from the sale of such products as honey or gum Arabic. Action Against Desertification helps this sector to grow, ensuring that ecology works hand in hand with economy in protecting the environment, while boosting incomes and creating jobs.

Action Against Desertification works with local communities in developing value chains of non-timber forest products to support economic growth, while at the same time promoting sustainable production, transformation and marketing of these products, contributing to natural resource management that helps combat desertification and land degradation.

→ THE NON-TIMBER FOREST

products were selected for development based on available resources and marketing potential: honey, edible fruits (baobab, *Ziziphus*, *Neocarya*), oil (*Balanites*), fodder (gao, *Philostigma*, grasses), gum Arabic and resins (acacias, *Commiphora*), palm and bamboo (*Oxythenantera*, *Pandanus*), small ruminant leather, briquettes (household energy), sandalwood (oil and incense), seeds and seedlings for restoration.

→ CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

events related to non-timber forest product development were supported, including two regional conferences of forest and farm producer organizations, a workshop on commercial gums and resins in Africa and a training on the FAO Market Analysis and Development to help local communities set up small businesses.





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Action Against Desertification supports the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA), particularly through development and implementation of its framework of priorities for 2017-2030. NGARA brings together stakeholders in the gums and resins sector, including farmers, collectors, traders, governments, non-governmental organizations, exporters and importers, with a common desire to improve the production and quality of locally produced gums and resins.

Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) is a participatory training approach designed to assist local communities in developing income-generating enterprises. It pays particular attention to how small business development is linked to the environment, to its social impact and to the role of technology. This will enable communities to target products and markets that will provide income and benefits without degrading their resource base.

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is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in support of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative and UNCCD national action programmes to combat desertification. It promotes sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Action Against Desertification is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

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