



ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity development is at the heart of efforts led by Action Against Desertification to combat land degradation and desertification. Strengthening the technical and functional capacities of individuals, communities and organizations in restoration and sustainable land management is the best way to help communities become self-supporting. Action Against Desertification also works to reinforce the enabling environment for its interventions, because it increases their impact and sustainability.

Action Against Desertification helps countries to identify, assess and prioritize their capacity needs in land restoration and sustainable land management by engaging a wide array of stakeholders at local, national, regional and international level. This includes government, civil society, women's and producer organizations, technical organizations, research institutes and local communities.

→ **27 INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS** contributed to building an international community of practice. 800 people participated in those workshops, held between 2015 and 2017 in 11 countries - Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Fiji, The Gambia, Haiti, Italy, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania.

→ **TOPICS OF THE WORKSHOPS**, which involve gatherings from the international to the community level, include: capacity assessment, socio-economic and bio-physical assessment and monitoring, large-scale restoration techniques, non-timber forest product enterprise development, project management and operations, communications and resource mobilization.





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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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FAO believes that capacity development should be driven by country actors, consistent with national priorities and the local context, and anchored in national systems and local expertise.

Capacity development is understood to be the process whereby individuals, organizations and society as a whole create, adapt, strengthen and maintain capacity over time. It has traditionally been associated with knowledge transfer and training of individuals, but is a complex, non-linear and long-term change process.

Action Against Desertification focuses on developing technical skills in sustainable land management and restoration practices, such as planting, maintenance and management of restored areas, forest seed collecting and nursery techniques, as well as monitoring the impact of those activities. Capacity development also covers functional capacities, or “soft skills” that are vital to ensure the sustainability of efforts such as knowledge and information sharing, partnership building, communications, participatory processes, advocacy and resource mobilization.



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