



**THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM**

THE GREAT GREEN WALL

HOPE FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL



FOREWORD BY HER EXCELLENCY TUMUSIIME RHODA PEACE (MS.),
COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION



The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, launched in June 2005 in Ouagadougou, during the 7th summit of the leaders and Heads of State of CEN-SAD (Community of Sahel-Saharan States) by former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, strongly supported by the Senegalese President, was formally adopted at the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2007.

This huge African initiative carries a real message of hope for improving the living conditions of local populations on the long term to live on their land thanks to their own labor, by increasing their incomes and ensuring their food security.

Initially, designed around a mosaic of sustainable land management interventions and uses, from Dakar to Djibouti, the Great Green Wall is today recognized internationally as a huge African initiative, supported by all the international institutions working to preserve the environment.

Much has been done and much remains to be done!

In total, since the launch of the initiative, more than 8 billion dollars have been mobilized and/or promised to support the Great Green Wall.

Delivering on all of the Great Green Wall promises requires significant investment such as continued political commitment in all countries, resource mobilization, capacity building and support to local communities. It is also to monitor and coordinate, in the Great Green Wall area, all current and future activities in terms of sustainable land management, adaptation to climate change, sustainable and resilient agriculture...

Making the Great Green Wall a reality, we will create the largest living structure on the planet and we will have the opportunity to be part of a global movement to help "grow a wonder of the world".

I invite thus all the involved partners in the implementation of the Great Green Wall to reinforce their efforts and I ask to all interested stakeholders who share this ambitious vision to join us to participate to the greatest environmental achievements of mankind to overcome some of this century's greatest challenges, e.g. climate change, food security, migration, peace and international security.

Tumusiime Rhoda Peace



Africa is growing a real wonder of the world. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel could play a decisive role in the future of the African continent. The Sahel region is one of the most arid and most vulnerable places on earth. Food, water and economic opportunity are often scarce. The local population is growing rapidly and to survive people already face difficult choices every day. If climate change and land degradation continue at the current rate, vulnerable communities could be forced to make some disastrous choices.

With that in mind, African leaders and the people of the region have been taking a stand to counter land degradation and desertification. In the past decade, from Dakar to Djibouti, a ribbon of hope has been inspiring and connecting communities together. A mosaic of well managed and restored land is taking shape with Africa embracing the idea of land degradation neutrality and with the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel showing the way.

This bold initiative is bringing back natural resources certainly but it is doing much more than that. It is bringing back food and water security. It is creating jobs and new economic opportunities, especially for women and young people in rural areas. It is helping fight climate change. It is letting people not just survive but thrive.

I urge you to find out more about the successes so far and to support the full implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

Monique Barbut

THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL 2

BROKEN DREAMS... AND A CRAZY SUCCESSFUL BET 3

BIRTH OF AN AFRICAN INITIATIVE CARRYING A GLIMMER OF HOPE:

THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL 4

CONCRETELY, WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL ON LAND? 5

LET’S IMAGINE THE FUTURE 17

SOURCES 20

PHOTO CREDITS 22



THE GREAT CHALLENGES OF THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL

Since the 1970s, Africa has been heavily affected by recurrent periods of drought. These droughts have threatened the livelihoods and future of entire populations across the region. The lack of rain has led to the disappearance of livestock and the destruction of cereal crops. The great famines that rocked the Sub-Saharan region in the 80s each affected millions of people. In addition, the high population growth rate is increasing demand for food and increasing pressure to gain access to other natural resources which are the basis for livelihoods and the survival of the rural population. The region has an estimated population growth of 3% per year on average which will considerably increase the population from 100 million today to 340 million by 2050⁵.

In 2015 approximately 795 million people¹, 20 million of them living in Sahel² region, were undernourished in the world and nearly a billion people live in extreme poverty³. Most of the poor and hungry live in rural areas and a major part of their income comes from agriculture. This is especially true in Africa, particularly in the Sahel, where the economy and the livelihoods of communities are dependent on the exploitation of natural resources in rural areas, particularly soil, water and vegetation.

At the same time, 46% of African land is affected by land degradation jeopardizing the livelihoods of nearly 65% of the African population⁴. In Sahelian countries, land degradation causes a decrease of almost 3% of agricultural production per year, further endangering food security in the sub-region⁵.

The challenge for this region is to sustainably manage their lands to ensure the future of their people.



BROKEN DREAMS... AND A CRAZY SUCCESSFUL BET

Many Sahelian farmers have been severely affected by the consequences of past droughts. The droughts changed the lives and the dreams of thousands of people over a few short years. Many were forced to abandon degraded lands and go out in search of more favorable lands and better living conditions.

Not giving in, Yacouba Sawadogo, a native Burkinabe farmer in the village of Gourga, took control of his own destiny and that of his village. In 1974, he bet on the land and started working every day to restore degraded land through the implementation of stone lines and zai in which he planted trees.

Many thought he was crazy. Forty years on, Yacouba won his proverbial bet. The conclusion is clear: he reversed the land degradation trend in his community by directly restoring nearly 30 ha of once degraded land which has been transformed into a forest. Building on his experience, he now promotes his traditional techniques to farmers in the Yatenga region and far beyond the borders of Burkina Faso.

Yacouba once said:

"I wish people would have the courage to grow from their roots."⁶



BIRTH OF AN AFRICAN INITIATIVE CARRYING A GLIMMER OF HOPE: THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL

Just like Yacouba Sawadogo, African political leaders were coming to the same visionary idea during that period.

Indeed, as early as the 80s, Burkina Faso (then Upper Volta) initiated the idea of re-greening some parts of the Sahel region. By the 7th summit of the leaders and Heads of State of CEN-SAD (Community of Sahel-Saharan States) held in June 2005 in Ouagadougou, former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, strongly supported by the Senegalese President, put the issue high on the international agenda. From then on, the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative began to take shape. It was formally adopted at the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2007.

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel carries a real message of hope: improving the living conditions of local populations in the dry and arid zones, to enable them to find long term solutions to live on their land thanks to sustainable land management (SLM), by increasing their incomes and ensuring their food security.

With its harmonized regional strategy⁷, the Great Green Wall reflects an **ambitious policy vision** about a **"green, fertile and prosperous Africa rid of famine and images of malnourished children and livestock lease linked to famine"** where:

- Repeated humanitarian crises in the African Horn and the Sahel will be a thing of the past,
- by 2025, land degradation trends are reversed and people become more resilient to climate change, and
- by 2050, the vast arid lands of the Sahara and the Sahel are transformed into rural production and development hubs.



CONCRETELY, WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL ON LAND?

A strong image to unite the efforts in the fight against land degradation and poverty

Covering initially an area 15 km wide and 7,775 km long from Dakar to Djibouti (Map 1), the Great Green Wall is a metaphor to depict a mosaic of sustainable land management interventions and uses.

Among the fourteen countries initially involved (including Algeria, Libya and Tunisia and Sahelian countries), eleven (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan) have signed an agreement in N'Djamena, Chad, to create the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall initiative (PAGGW) and appoint an Executive Secretary to develop the initiative in June 2010. In 2012, the AMCEN meeting held in Arusha took a resolution for the Agency to become a specialized organ of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission.

Under the leadership of the African Union Commission, and its specialized agency (Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall – PAGGW), the concept was then extended to the entire Sub-Saharan zone. The initiative now includes 20 countries and the best practices have been extended to other drylands of Africa.

With such a clear image and vision, the initiative has mobilized the attention of the international community from the start. The international community is joining African efforts to fight environmental degradation, including desertification, and to reduce poverty among the rural population⁹, and supporting the African transformation programme, AGENDA 2063 and UN AGENDA 2030.

A first assessment of the commitments made by international partners and the results achieved on the ground, regarding implementation of the initiative, can be seen in the table below (table 1).

Map 1.

Initial transect of the Great Green Wall
© John Kappler, National Geographic⁸



Substantial funding mobilized; transnational programs and projects implemented

Recognized internationally as a huge African initiative, the international institutions working to preserve the environment have mobilized resources and are coordinating development projects in support of the Great Green Wall.

Financial resources have been mobilized at the level of the beneficiary countries, the Commission of the African Union (AU), and through several partners of the initiative, such as the European Union (EU), the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank (WB), the permanent Inter-State Committee for the Fight against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall Initiative, SOS SAHEL INTERNATIONAL, France, the Africa Forest Forum (AFF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Walloon Region of Belgium, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and many others.

Funding supports national commitment by countries who have heavily invested in the initiative since its launch. Senegal, for example, has put 8 billion CFA Francs on the table between 2008 and 2015 to implement the Great Green Wall¹⁰. The country has undertaken a huge range of sustainable land management and tree planting activities.



While not comprehensive, some of the most significant transnational programs and projects are also presented below.

The SAWAP program and BRICKS project (2013–2019)

The World Bank and the Global Environment Facility designed the Sahel and West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall (SAWAP), which has a budget total of **1.1 billion US dollars**. In this context, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has granted 100.8 million US \$ to the countries that are part of the Great Green Wall to expand sustainable land and water management (SLWM) projects. This will support the adaptation of landscapes and communities in the regions that are most vulnerable to climate change across West Africa and the Sahel. Each country should design a project based on national-level priorities to mobilize GEF resources (81.3 million US \$) and LDCF (19.5 million US \$)⁸.

The projects will support the following activities:

- Expanded investment in SLWM technologies to help communities adapt production systems to climate variability, generate income and livelihoods, secure global public goods (such as retention of greenhouse gases, nitrogen fixation, groundwater recharge and biodiversity), and reduce impacts of erosion, drought, and flooding;
- Improve land-use planning, such as at watershed scale and/or at local level;
- Improve and apply the information base: climate and water monitoring network improvements, ICT (information communication technology) innovations, institutional cooperation within and across countries, and evidence based policy development.

Overall, the SAWAP program aims to contribute to the development of sustainable land and water management in landscapes and areas vulnerable to climate change for twelve sub-Saharan African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad and Togo). Operationally, the BRICKS¹¹ project will provide technical and operational support to the national project teams and the key stakeholders of the countries involved in the implementation of the SAWAP programme over four years.

The Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services (BRICKS) project aims to improve access to best practices and tracking information in the SAWAP portfolio on integrated natural resource management, climate change and natural disasters. It will provide support for monitoring and evaluation and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practices between the twelve projects financed by the Bank, while increasing the capacity of regional centers of excellence (CILSS, including Aghrymet and Institut du Sahel, OSS, IUCN) to act in partnership with the countries.

Funded over a period of 6 years (2013–2019), the 12 national projects and the regional BRICKS project aim to implement a set of national resource management and Sustainable Land Management activities presented in the table below (table 1).

Countries	Project	Co-financing (millions USD)	GEF (millions USD)	Main activities of Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
Benin	Forest and Adjacent Lands Management Project	46.45	5.5	Implementation of classified forest management plans Reforestation Capacity building Support for a Trust Fund for the Protection of the West African savanna
Burkina Faso	Third Community-Based Rural Development Project	97.35	7.40	Strengthening of decentralized authorities Land conflict management Local investment plans Forest protection Microprojects of land and forests restoration (lessons SILEM and CPP)
Chad*	Emergency Agriculture Production Support Project	102.25	9.25	Soils restoration (walls, embankments , terraces) Small water retention infrastructure Rangelands management Support for producer organizations Testing and promotion of agroforestry Adaptation Awareness of climate change impacts
Ethiopia*	Sustainable Land Management Project II (SLMP 2)	94.65	12.96	Support for 135 watersheds Climate smart agriculture Assisted natural regeneration Reforestation Payment for Environmental Services Integration of biodiversity protection in agricultural sectors
Ghana	Sustainable Land and Water Management Project	59.50	8.75	Participatory management (watershed corridors, forest reserves) Assisted natural regeneration Fire prevention Rangeland improvement Support to producers (conservation agriculture, agroforestry) Sustainable financing mechanisms for SLM
Mali*	Natural Resources Management in a Changing Climate	13	8.42	Intercommunal Plan Community reforestation initiatives Participatory management plans for forests, agroforestry and to support SLM (soil conservation, reduced tillage, water storage, rotations)

Table 1. Description of projects and funding mobilized under the program SAWAP¹²

* including donations of LDCF (Least Developed Countries Fund) targeting actions to adapt to climate change

Countries	Project	Co-financing (millions USD)	GEF (millions USD)	Main activities of Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
Mauritania	Agriculture Sector Support Project	15	4.79	Capacity building Soil improvement, improved water management, agroforestry and reforestation Support for the Arabic gum sector
Niger	Third Community Action Program Support Project	43.65	4.51	Regional and intercommunal capacity building Local Investment Fund Climate smart agriculture Fight against erosion (small infrastructure)
Nigeria*	Erosion & Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP)	500	8.59	Planning and watershed protection Conservation of soil and water (fight against erosion) Income-generation activities Strengthening of institutions
Senegal	Sustainable and Inclusive Agribusiness Project	80	6.01	Support to farmers' associations (training, applied research) Community management plan of protected forests and natural reserves Fight against salinization and wind erosion Reforestation
Sudan	Sustainable Land and Water Management Project	25.68	7.73	Capacity building Capitalization of traditional knowledge in agroforestry, agro-forestry-pastoralism Reforestation, demarcation of forest reserves community water management practices Rangeland management Agroforestry Promoting alternative income and diversification
Togo*	Integrated Disaster and Land Management Project	55.29	9.15	Restoration of forests, agricultural areas, wetlands Participatory management of territories Knowledge systems, monitoring and early warning Adaptation (conservation agriculture, water retention, small irrigation, agroforestry)
BRICKS	Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge services project	10	4.62	Support to CILLS, OSS and IUCN Knowledge management Support to monitoring Communication
Total amount of mobilized funding		1,143.82	97.68	

The funds mobilized are mainly supporting South-South cooperation, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, field level action in sustainable land management and knowledge management for the benefit of countries taking part in the Great Green Wall.

Action Against Desertification Program (2014–2019)

The Action against Desertification Program was launched in 2014 by the European Union and FAO to bolster sustainable land management and restore drylands and degraded lands in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific¹³ (Haiti and Fiji).

In Africa, the program aims to support local communities, governments and civil society in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal for sustainable management and rehabilitation of forests and rangelands in arid areas.

The program has mobilized **41 million EUR** spread over a 4 and a half year to set up the following activities:

- Capacity building of government and NGO partners to create an enabling environment for sustainable management and restoration of land and forests,
- Dissemination of good practices on sustainable land management,
- Income-generating activities and the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas, especially for youth and women, based on the sustainable production, processing and marketing of agricultural products and forest goods and services,
- Farmer field schools and knowledge exchanges allowing farmers to learn about the causes of desertification and the best ways to combat and prevent it.

FLEUVE Project — The Local Environmental Coalition for a Green Union (2014–2018)

Driven by the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and funded by the European Union, the FLEUVE project (budget of **approximately 7 million EUR**) contributes to the implementation of the Great Green Wall initiative through the integration of sustainable management of natural resources in local development plans and their implementation through partnerships. One of the expected outcomes of the project is the improvement of livelihoods of dryland populations and the strengthening of their resilience to land degradation, drought and climate variability. The project is based on the implementation of investments in micro-projects implemented in 23 communities in five Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Senegal). It is complemented by regional-level activities on capacity building, dissemination of good practices on sustainable land management and innovative financing¹⁴.

The Great Green Wall is also:

- **National Action Plans** derived from the harmonized regional strategy in several Sahelian countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan,
- A **regional program of capacity building**,
- A **communication plan**,
- A **platform for knowledge management, for sharing of experiences and dissemination of good practices**, including in the area of resource mobilization,
- A **result framework document**,
- **Concrete actions at field level** based on successful experiences, tailored to each country, to roll out the best and most appropriate sustainable land management practices across the Sahara and the Sahel,
- The **Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall Initiative Secretariat** in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania,
- The **Regional Coordination Hub** at the African Union Commission Head Quarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Some examples of good practices of sustainable land management...

- **Vallerani system**¹⁵ is a mechanized technology inspired by traditional practices. The Vallerani system is a modified plow named Delfino3, pulled by a heavy-duty tractor. A normal plow on flat land excavates a symmetrical furrow, and earth piles up equally on both sides of the furrow. The Delfino3 plow has a single reversible plowshare that creates an angled furrow and piles up the excavated soil only on the lower (downhill) side. This soil forms a ridge that stops or slows down runoff water as it flows downhill. The plow's blade moves up and down (i.e. in and out of the soil), creating micro basins about 5 meters long, 50 cm deep and spaced about 2 m, each with a ridge. Two rippers placed before the plow work the soil to a depth of 70 cm, rise at the basin and descend between the basins; thus forming a retention pocket for water which will flow directly into the bowls. Even with very low rainfall (150-500 mm/year) each micro-basin/storage bag can collect 1500 liters of water, including runoff. This water is protected against evaporation and remains available to plant roots and groundwater. The Vallerani System is then based on direct sowing of seeds, shrubs and trees of locally available and native trees. They are sown along the ridges of the basins and in the wake of the ripper. This technique helped restore more than 50,000 hectares of agroforestry systems in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal.

- **Farmer managed Natural Regeneration**¹⁶ is the systematic regeneration of living and sprouting stumps of indigenous vegetation which used to be slashed and burned in traditional field preparation. The naturally occurring seedlings and/or sprouts are managed and protected by local farmers. This agroforestry technique has enabled, for example, farmers in southern Niger in Maradi to restore more than 5 million hectares of land. This boosted agriculture and livestock yields and the production of medicinal plants and firewood.

- **Zai**¹⁷, mainly used in highly degraded lands, is a technique of digging small holes in the soil to retain runoff while adding manure to increase soil fertility. To date, more than 3 million hectares of Burkinabe barren land have been rehabilitated. Thousands of people have benefited from this. Zai allowed the Burkinabe farmers to increase their income but also slow down a rural exodus and strengthen the country's food self-sufficiency. 8 Sahel countries are now successfully replicating this technique.

... that are enhancing the success of the Great Green Wall:

- **Association of zai/stone lines/farmer managed natural regeneration**¹⁸ is a real innovation, combining three well known conventional techniques, which significantly increase yields. In the North of Ouahigouya in Burkina Faso, farmers have converted their rainfed sorghum fields with this combination and doubled the performance compared, reaching nearly 1,500 kg per hectare compared to 700 kg in the area around it without soil and water conservation. An extension of these techniques over 10% of the land currently sown with millet/sorghum/maize trees in these areas would have a significant impact in the fight against food insecurity and in adapting to climate change. Many simulations estimate a minimum increase of 500 kg/ha and that the mitigation effects will also be noticeable with a minimum of 8 tons of CO₂ stored by young *Acacia albida* trees. This would become permanent carbon storage as trees used in agroforestry are not cut. Finally, the annual return on investment (ROI) is high and can reach 63% once the trees start to produce.

- **Sustainable Forest Management**¹⁶ (SFM) in drylands aims to ensure that the goods and services derived from the forests meet today's needs while ensuring that they also secure long term development. In Sub-Saharan Africa, forests and trees contribute significantly to rural livelihoods in the drylands, accounting for more than 25% of rural household income. Forests have multiple functions and uses. They play a significant role in the conservation of biodiversity adapted to the often harsh ecological conditions found locally. They provide ecosystem goods including fruits, gum arabic, shea nut butter (karité), fodder for livestock, medicines and provide services such as desertification control, conservation and improvement of water quality. **Non-wood forest products** (NWFP) can make a sustainable contribution to welfare. NWFP can be honey from beekeeping, mushrooms, medicinal plants, shea nut butter (from *Vitellaria paradoxa*) for the cosmetic industry, gum Arabic (from *Acacia Senegal*), baobab for ropes and baskets, etc. New niche markets for 'green' and 'fair trade' products and payments for ecosystem services provide new income opportunities for forest users.

Thanks to a resilience project funded by USAID and implemented by WFP and FAO in the region of Maradi, Niger, the villagers have been able to rehabilitate their land for agriculture and cultivate close to home by creating dams, dykes, zai or half-moons to catch water, and stone cribs to rehabilitate land by retaining water and organic manure.²⁸



Oumou Mounkaila said,

*"My plants are growing well and I'm glad. It's a nice feeling to grow my own crops. Plus, I have been able to save some money and buy two goats. Now my children can also go to school. I have more faith in our future."*²⁸

Concrete results already achieved on the ground since 2007^{19,20,21}

- **Ethiopia:**

15 million hectares of degraded land restored; land tenure security improved; incentives for communities to participate in land rehabilitation; water catchment improved.

- **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger:**

about 120 communities involved; a green belt created over more than 2,500 hectares of degraded and drylands; more than two million seeds and seedlings planted from fifty native species of trees.

- **Nigeria:**

5 million hectares restored; 319 km of windbreaks set up; 20,000 jobs created. Furthermore, in northern Nigeria: 415 km shelterbelt established, 135 ha community woodlot, 235 ha community orchard, and 138 ha of community vegetable

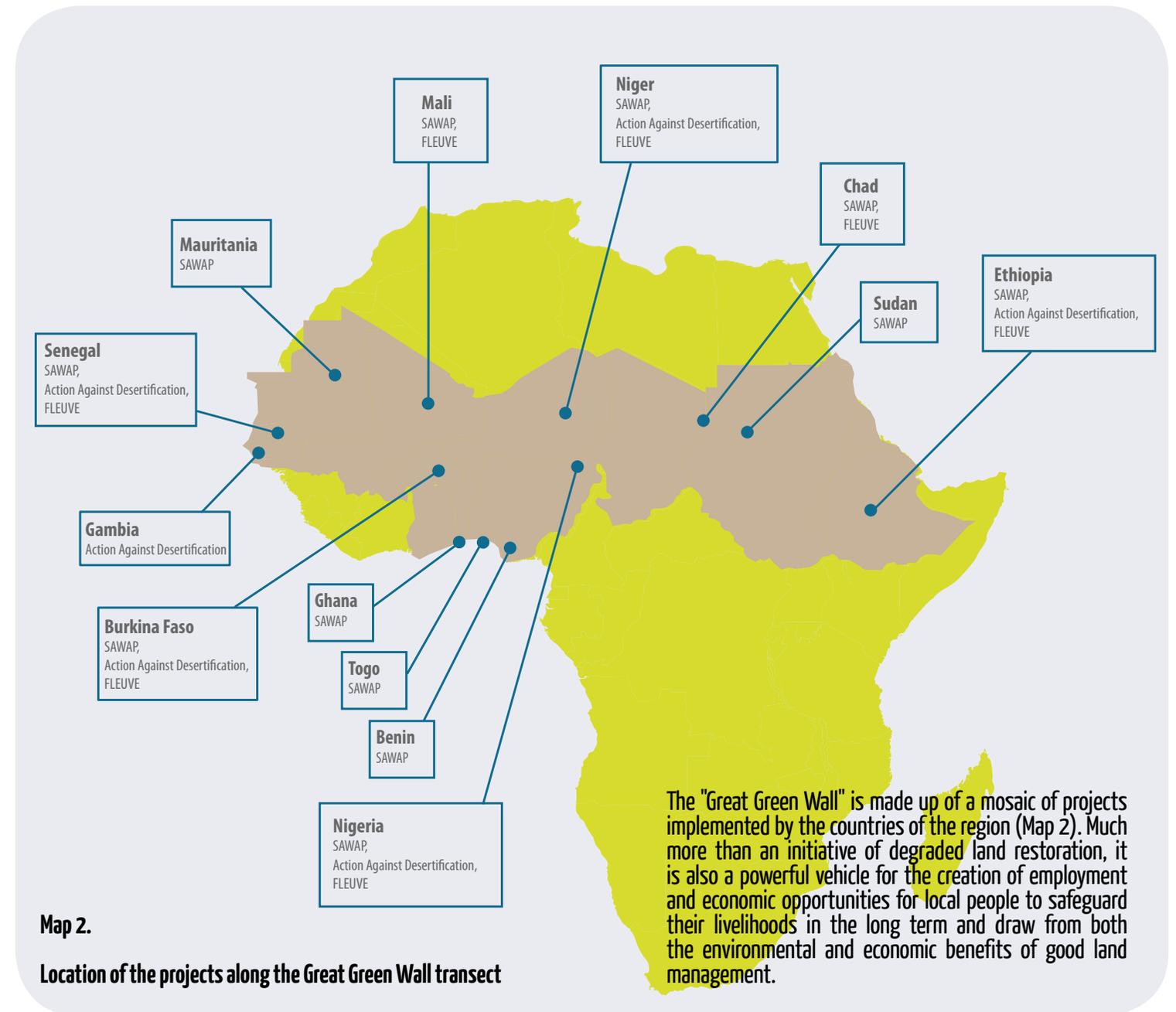
garden, training over 5000 farmers in natural regeneration and farm forestry; construction of about 156 solar and wind powered boreholes as sources of water for the affected people and their livestock; more than 500 young unemployed people hired as rangers, and the construction of 5 skill acquisition centers built for training unemployed youths and women in various livelihood activities.

- **Senegal:**

11.4 million trees planted; 1,500 km of firewalls; 10,000 ha using assisted natural regeneration; 24,600 hectares of degraded land restored.

- **Sudan:**

2,000 hectares of land restored.



LET'S IMAGINE THE FUTURE

New financial commitments, especially during the COP21 in December 2015 in Paris

On the 1st of December 2015, in the margins of the UNFCCC COP21, Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic, organized a summit on "Climate Challenge and African solutions" that brought together twelve African heads of state, the President of the African Union Commission as well representatives of several governments and international institutions (World Bank, African Development Bank).

Financial commitments were made to strengthen support to the Great Green Wall Initiative and adaptation to climate change:

- The World Bank announced its intention to scale-up its support of the Great Green Wall Initiative with an additional 1.9 billion US \$ investment²²,
- In the fight against desertification and climate change adaptation, France will gradually triple its bilateral commitments to Africa²³,
- The African Development Bank will invest 5 billion US \$ per year from 2020²⁴.

In parallel, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (also known by its French acronym, UEMOA) has also promised to make available to the Pan African Agency substantial funding for the benefit of Member States in 2016¹⁰.



Since the launch of the initiative, more than **8 billion US dollars** have been mobilized and/or promised to support the Great Green Wall by development partners. These funds will strengthen the efforts of all partners involved to achieve this bold vision. To move from promise to action, there will be a need to monitor progress and check, from time to time, that these investments bring concrete results on the ground.

Delivering on all of the Great Green Wall promises requires significant investment. It will need continued political commitment in all countries, resource mobilization, capacity building and support to local communities. Much has been done and much remains to be done!

Could the Great Green Wall become a strong African brand?

Yes and it would be desirable! Creating the brand and labelling projects implemented under the umbrella of the "Great Green Wall" would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to be recognized. They would be part of a common vision defined in a harmonized regional strategy. A Great Green Wall label would provide an overview of the progress in implementation of the Great Green Wall and would help ensure synergies are maximized. The scaling up process would be strengthened and the entire zone would be covered.

Learning from experience and success so far, a project "labeled Great Green Wall" might be based on the following principles:

- Carried out in order to:
 - Halt and reverse land degradation through the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, fresh water supply, preventing erosion, maintaining soil fertility...) through a mosaic of well managed landscapes and sustainable land use practices,
 - Increase the productivity of the land and build the resilience of land-based ecosystems and local communities to climate change,
 - Ensure food security,
 - Build security and strengthen peace in local communities.
- Carried out by and for local people,
- Be a project for sustainable land and water management, based on an integrated landscape approach in which participatory principles are the rule and the norm where local producer organizations or women's groups would be empowered and strengthened,
- Facilitate capacity building of all stakeholders, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences,
- Generate income,
- Create jobs.

Such a label would be most relevant if it were monitored and coordinated in the Great Green Wall area so that projects dealing with Sustainable Land Management, adaptation to climate change, sustainable and resilient agriculture each played their full part.



What benefits would be achieved if the Great Green Wall was fully developed?

Based on **ambitious objectives**²⁵ :

- Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality — Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 — as a result of sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land,
- Increase climate resilience of local populations in a region where temperatures are expected to rise by 2 to 5 °C by 2050,
- Mitigate the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration in soils,
- Ensure food security for 20 million people in the Sahel who suffer from hunger each year,
- Create "green jobs", rural jobs that protect natural capital and restore degraded land through the implementation of sustainable land management best practices and that build sustainable livelihoods for local people, especially women and young people,
- Provide a response to the migration crisis, bearing in mind that the International Organization for Migration estimates that 60 million people could migrate from Sub-Saharan Africa towards North Africa and Europe by 2020²⁶,
- Be a symbol of peace,
- Cultivate the Great Green Wall as the 8th wonder of the world.

The completion of the Great Green Wall by 2030²⁵ brings hope to:

- Restore 50 million hectares of land,
- Sequester 250 million tons of carbon in the soil,
- Ensure food security for 20 million people,
- Support 300 million people in communities across the Sahel,
- Create at least 350,000 jobs (25,000 jobs in 14 countries),
- Provide access to 10 million smallholder farmers to agricultural technologies resilient to climate change.



Once complete, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on the planet, 3 times the size of the Great Barrier Reef. It will provide partners the opportunity to be part of a global movement to help "grow a wonder of the world" and represent one of the greatest environmental achievements of mankind to overcome some of this century's greatest challenges, e.g. climate change, food security, migration, peace and international security.

"The potential that exists both at the local and national level needs to be tapped to develop public and private partnerships so that through Africa's Great Green Wall we can 'grow a world wonder' — that serves all humanity for generations to come²⁷".

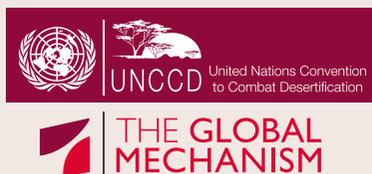
SOURCES

1. UNOCHA, 2015. <http://www.unocha.org/sahel2015/>
2. FAO, FIDA et PAM, 2015. L'état de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde 2015. Objectifs internationaux 2015 de réduction de la faim: des progrès inégaux. Rome, FAO
3. Banque mondiale, 2015. Povcalnet. Outil d'analyse en ligne de la pauvreté de la Banque mondiale. <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm>). Consulté en juillet 2015.
4. Botoni E. et S. Subsol, 2013. La mise à l'échelle de la gestion durable des terres au Sahel : des solutions pour une sécurité alimentaire durable. Communication, CST/UNCCD, 09-12 avril 2013, Bonn, Allemagne.
5. Ann Brody Guy, College of Natural Resources, 2013. "Perfect Storm" of Climate Change and Population Growth Brewing in African Sahel, Experts Warn. <https://nature.berkeley.edu/news/2013/04/perfect-storm-climate-change-and-population-growth-brewing-african-sahel-experts-warn>
6. Clément Goutelle, 2013. Yacouba, le Burkinabè qui arrête le désert. Article de presse, L'Obs dans Rue 89, publié le 11/03/2013,. <http://rue89.nouvelobs.com/blog/rencontres-burkinabe/2013/03/11/yacouba-le-burkinabe-qui-arrete-le-desert-229810>
7. Union Africaine et Agence Panafricaine pour la Grande Muraille Verte, 2010. Stratégie Régionale harmonisée de mise en œuvre de l'initiative « Grande muraille verte pour le Sahara et le Sahel ». Avec le concours financier et technique de l'Union Européenne, de la FAO et du Mécanisme Mondial de la Convention des Nations Unies de Lutte Contre la Désertification. 36 p. <http://education.nationalgeographic.org/news/great-green-wall/>
8. GEF. Six questions à Monique Barbut sur ... la Grande Muraille Verte. 8 p. https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/gef_greenwall_2011_FR.pdf
9. P.N. Souane, 2015. Entretien avec le Colonel Pape Wally Guèye, directeur général de l'Agence nationale de la Grande muraille verte : « Il nous faudrait plus de 500 milliards de francs CFA pour arriver à faire la première réalisation de reverdissement ». Article de presse, Le Quotidien, publié le 31 Octobre 2015. <http://www.lequotidien.sn/index.php/societe/colonel-pape-wally-gueye-directeur-general-de-l-agence-nationale-de-la-grande-muraille-verte-il-nous-faudrait-plus-de-500-milliards-de-francs-cfa-pour-arriver-a-faire-la-premiere-realisation-de-reverdissement>
10. Banque Mondiale, 2012. Programme Sahel et Afrique de l'Ouest en appui à l'initiative de la Grande muraille verte. Pour développer la gestion durable des terres et de l'eau dans les paysages ciblés et les zones vulnérables au climat. 112 p.
11. Jean-Marc Sinassamy, 2015. Le Programme pour le Sahel et l'Afrique de l'Ouest en Appui à l'Initiative de la Grande Muraille Verte. Revue Grain de sel, 63-66 : Agroécologie en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre : réalités et perspectives. <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/publications/revue-grain-de-sel/63-66-agroecologie-en-afrique-de-l/article/le-programme-pour-le-sahel-et-l-11457?lang=fr#nb1>
12. FAO, 2014. L'UE et la FAO intensifient la lutte contre la désertification en Afrique, aux Caraïbes et dans le Pacifique. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/fr/item/261517/icode/>
13. Global Mechanism, 2014. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/great-green-wall-sahara-and-sahel-initiative>.
14. WOCAT, 2016. Le Système Vallerani. https://qt.wocat.net/qt_summary1.php?qt_id=1012&lang=english
15. Liniger, H.P., R. Mekdaschi Studer, C. Hauert and M. Gurtner. 2011. La pratique de la gestion durable des terres. Directives et bonnes pratiques en Afrique subsaharienne. TerrAfrica, Panorama mondial des approches et technologies de conservation (WOCAT) et Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO).
16. GTD, 2014. Fiche « le zaï ». Remettre en culture des sols dégradés par le zaï agricole manuel amélioré. Fiches techniques GTD/RéSaD, Collection « Savoirs de paysans et lutte contre la désertification ». 3 p. <http://www.gtdesertification.org/IMG/pdf/zai-2.pdf>
17. AGHRMET, 2014. Les Techniques innovantes d'agriculture intelligente face au climat au Sahel. 4 p. <http://www.agrhymet.ne/portailCC/images/pdf/ficheaic>
18. Global Mechanism. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative. Facts and figures. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/great-green-wall-sahara-and-sahel-initiative>
19. Iyie Ihejirika P., 2016a. Desertification: Ensuring Sustainable Future For Communities Through GGW. Leadership, Nigeria's most influential newspaper. Article de presse, 3 Février 2016. <http://leadership.ng/features/505887/desertification-ensuring-sustainable-future-communities-ggw>
20. Iyie Ihejirika P., 2016b. Desertification: GGW Provides Succour To Affected Communities. Leadership, Nigeria's most influential newspaper. Article de presse, publié le 6 Avril 2016. <http://leadership.ng/news/515487/desertification-ggw-provides-succour-affected-communities>
21. World Bank, 2015. TerrAfrica: Building the Resilience of Land and Livelihoods in a Changing Climate. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/12/01/terrafrica-building-the-resilience-of-land-and-livelihoods-in-a-changing-climate>
22. Communiqué de Presse de l'Élysée, 2015. Sommet Défi climatique et solutions africaines. <http://www.elysee.fr/communiqués-de-presse/article/sommet-defi-climatique-et-solutions-africaines-3/>
23. Banque Africaine de Développement, 2015. Vidéo accessible au lien suivant : <http://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/multimedia/video/cop21-great-green-wall-1104/>
24. UN Climate Change Newsroom, 2015. Great Green Wall: 'Growing A World Wonder'. Restoring the Productivity and Vitality of the Sahel Region. <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/resilience/great-green-wall-growing-a-world-wonder-restoring-the-productivity-and-vitality-of-the-sahel-region/>
25. Van Eeckhout L. et S. Foucart, 2015. Le changement climatique, facteur de déstabilisation et de migrations. Article de presse, Le Monde, publié le 11 Septembre 2015. http://www.lemonde.fr/climat/article/2015/09/11/le-changement-climatique-facteur-de-destabilisation-et-de-migrations_4752611_1652612.html
26. Global Mechanism, 2015. Scaling up Africa's Great Green Wall. Side event, UNCCD COP12, Ankara, Turkey. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/scaling-africas-great-green-wall>
27. Hounkanli, Vigno, 2015. Niger: Resilience Project Starts Bearing Fruit. Article published on 6 November 2015 on World Food Programme website, <https://www.wfp.org/stories/niger-resilience-projects-start-bearing-fruit> accessed on 20 April 2016 . Both photos and farmer quote © WFP / Vigno Hounkanli

CREDITS

Cover:	The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel, aerial view, © UNCCD
Cover inside:	Sahelian lady, seen from behind, © UNCCD
p. i:	Her Excellency Mme. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, © African Union Commission
p. ii:	Mme. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, © UNCCD
p. 1:	Sand cloud over landscape in Niger, © N. Moyer/The Humanitarian Coalition, Flickr CC 10055701163_5df53e5830_o; Young Sahelian pastoralist, © UNCCD
p. 2:	Sahelian family, © S. Jauffret/UNCCD
p. 3:	photo-sorghum-field_Yacouba-Sawadogo_Chris-Reij, © C. Reij/WRI, Flickr CC 10403109045_fe82a47fb2_o
p. 4:	Sahelian women working, © UNCCD
p. 6:	Innovative farming practices in the Sahel, © M. Tall/CAAFS West Africa, Flickr CC 8057688673_2c8a641ac1_o
p. 11:	Sahelian vegetation, detail, © S. Jauffret/UNCCD
p. 12 and 13:	https://www.wfp.org/stories/niger-resilience-projects-start-bearing-fruit ; both photos, © WFP/V. Hounkanli
p. 14:	Landscape of the Sahel 2, © D. Tiveau/CIFOR, Flickr CC 5656407416_fda8f9c73d_o
p. 16:	Harvesting in the Sahel, © S. Jauffret/UNCCD
p. 18:	The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel, aerial view, © UNCCD
p. 19:	Sahelian people with water tube, © UNCCD
Back cover inside:	Sahelian women working together, © UNCCD





United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn, Germany
Postal Address: PO Box 260129, 53153 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 228 815 2800
Fax: +49 (0) 228 815 2898/99
E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int
Web-site: www.unccd.int
Web-site of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD: www.global-mechanism.org

Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture
African Union Commission HQ
Roosevelt Street, PO Box 3243
Addis Ababa Ethiopia
Tel. Office: +251115517700
Elvispault@africa-union.org