



ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION



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THE GAMBIA

Land degradation and climate change are serious threats to food security and sustainable development in Gambia. Desertification has resulted in a loss of nearly 100 000 hectares of forested areas between 1998 and 2009. Yet, over 40% of Gambia's land area, some 423 000 hectares, is still covered by forest. Government policy aims to pass on the management of half of these forests to local communities in order to satisfy their needs for forest products and services.

Since its launch in 2016, Action Against Desertification has been supporting over 50 rural communities in Gambia's North Bank Region, Central River Region North and Upper River Region North to sustainably manage forest resources and control land degradation and deforestation. The project promotes:

→ **COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

management by putting 1 250 hectares of forest in the hands of ten communities and consolidating community forests of at least 17 communities. So far, 82 hectares were planted for restoration, while 16 communities planted 8 205 seedlings of 13 native species. In addition, nearly 100 mud stoves, using significantly less fire wood, were built to help lessen the pressure on forests.

→ **JOINT MANAGEMENT**

of forest parks by state authorities and communities of three parks in Central River Region North and North Bank Region, covering nearly 3 200 hectares.

→ **IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL**

livelihoods through development of 30 community-based businesses, focused on the harvesting, processing and marketing of non-timber forest products, including beekeeping and honey production, edible forest fruits and nuts, and handicrafts.

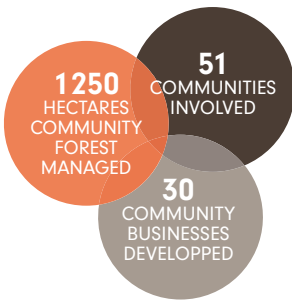
→ **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

of over 300 government workers, community members and school students, trained in participatory forest management, seed collection and handling, as well as school tree planting and nursery development.

→ **AWARENESS RAISING**

in collaboration with nine youth clubs, called Environmental Green Clubs, which have received training on environmental protection.





The project directly benefits farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, sellers of forest products and medicinal herbs, craftsmen and local authorities in 51 communities in the three regions where it operates, an area with an estimated population of nearly 400 000 people.

In close collaboration with:

- Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and natural Resources
- Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
- Agency for the Development of Women and Children
- Natural Resources Consulting
- National Agriculture Research Institute
- Forest and Farm Facility, FAO
- Community-based Sustainable Dryland Forest Management, Global Environment Facility

ACTION AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

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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