



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



BUILDING  
**BRIDGES**  
BETWEEN TURKEY AND  
AFRICA'S GREAT GREEN WALL

**ACTION  
AGAINST  
DESERTIFICATION**



## DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION ARE VERY SERIOUS CHALLENGES.

THEY LEAD TO HUNGER AND POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, FORCED MIGRATION AND CONFLICT, WHILE EXACERBATING CLIMATE RISKS SUCH AS DROUGHT AND FLOODS.

RECENT INTERVENTIONS HOWEVER SHOW THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. BOLD ACTION AND INVESTMENTS IN LARGE SCALE RESTORATION CAN BOOST FOOD SECURITY, IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND HELP PEOPLE ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

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Now Turkey is partnering with FAO to support Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan combat land degradation and desertification through the sustainable management of their natural resources and restoration of degraded forests and landscapes.

Under the FAO-Turkish Forestry Partnership programme, the Turkish Ministry of Forests and Water Affairs (MFWA) is entrusting FAO with the development and implementation of a project called **BRIDGES - Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services.**

BRIDGES contributes to the Great Green Wall initiative, Africa's flagship programme aspiring to bring prosperity to the drylands of over 20 countries around the Sahara by responding to the challenges of deforestation, desertification, biodiversity loss, climate change, food insecurity.

The Great Green Wall initiative aims to boost the resilience of agrosilvopastoral systems and to transform the lives of millions of people by creating a great mosaic of productive landscapes across North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

BRIDGES will work in synergy with FAO's project Action Against Desertification (AAD), which is supporting the expansion of the Great Green Wall in six countries – Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Gambia, Ethiopia, Senegal. AAD is implemented in collaboration with the African Union Commission and with the financial support of the European Union and the ACP Secretariat.

Globally, BRIDGES contributes to FAO's working group on "Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral systems", established as a statutory body under the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).



## BRIDGES / 2 OBJECTIVES

- Catalyze action, support sustainable management and restoration of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems in three Great Green Wall countries - Eritrea, Mauritania, Sudan - stimulating production, benefiting livelihoods and generating ecosystems goods and services.
- Stimulate South-South cooperation between Turkey and Africa's Great Green Wall and across dryland regions worldwide.



## BRIDGES / 4 COMPONENTS

- **Restoration of 5,000 hectares** of dryland forests and landscapes.
  - **Using the restoration approach** successfully implemented by AAD, putting communities at the heart of restoration action. Restoration strategies include farmer-assisted natural regeneration, land preparation through water harvesting techniques, soil health and fertility management practices, direct sowing or planting seedlings of native trees, shrubs and fodder grasses that are selected by communities, and sustainable management and maintenance of the restored areas.
  - **Strengthening of national seed centres and programmes** to ensure the availability of genetically appropriate seeds of native species in quantities and quality needed for restoration and sustainable production in forest, pastoral and agriculture systems.
  - **Establishing networks of village-level technicians** to make sure that local communities have the support needed for sustainable restoration activities.
- **Reinforcing value chains of non-wood forest products** for resilient and successful, community-based green businesses, in particular gums, resins, fodder, livestock products and food products from trees.
- **Building Great Green Wall information and monitoring** systems in the three countries.
- **Compiling, managing, sharing knowledge and good practices, promoting communications and visibility** in the three countries, across Africa's Great Green Wall and throughout the global drylands.

# EXPANDING AFRICA'S GREAT GREEN WALL



## BRIDGES

**BOOSTING RESTORATION, INCOME, DEVELOPMENT,  
GENERATING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**



### BUDGET

→ **3.6 million USD**

(3 million USD from Turkey and 600 000 USD from the EU-ACP  
funded Action Against Desertification project)

### DURATION

→ **3 years**

(expected to start in December 2017)

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### Contacts

[mozcan@ormansu.gov.tr](mailto:mozcan@ormansu.gov.tr)

[nora.berrahmouni@fao.org](mailto:nora.berrahmouni@fao.org)

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