



THE GREAT GREEN WALL



Deborah Seward, Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC)

Prior to arriving in Brussels, Deborah served as Director of the Department of Public Information's Strategic Communications Division at UN Headquarters. Before joining the UN in 2011, Deborah was an international journalist for nearly 25 years, with postings across Europe.



Camilla Nordheim-Larsen, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Camilla is the Senior Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Coordinator at UNCCD and is also the producer of the film, the Great Green Wall.



Veronika Hunt Šafránková, Head of Brussels Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Veronika has over 16 years of experience in the field of international environmental affairs. At the Czech Ministry of Environment (2000 – 2013) she was responsible at various positions, including Deputy Minister, for areas including relations with the EU institutions, EU funds and the overall international agenda. Before joining UNEP she worked for the academic sector.



Elvis Tangem - Coordinator of The Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel, African Union (AU)

Elvis is a Sustainable Development, biodiversity conservation & Climate change expert with over 16 years of experience in the United Kingdom, Africa, Asia. Elvis has worked with various National & International Development Organizations including UN FAO, TREE AID International, Watershed Task Group and others in the sectors of agriculture, sustainable development, conservation and Climate change, restoration, amongst others. He has also initiated and been pioneer member of several initiatives including the Cameroon traditional Rulers against Climate; He is currently serving at the African Union Commission as the Coordinator for the Great green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.



Sandra Kramer - European Commission, Director Africa, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)

Sandra is Director Africa at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships since June 2019. Sandra joined the European Commission in 1995 in the Directorate-General for External Relations. She served in two EU Delegations, Indonesia as Trade Counsellor and India as Head of Economic Co-operation. Sandra was assistant to the Commission's Chief Spokesperson and assistant to the Deputy Director-General of Directorate-General Enterprise & Industry.



Nora Berrahmouni - Senior forestry officer for Africa at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Nora is a forest ecologist, specialised on drylands. With over 20 years of experience, she is currently working as the Senior Regional forestry officer, at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, leading climate change and forest and landscape sustainable management and restoration programmes in the region. Nora's interest and focus is the role of forests and agro-silvo-pastoral systems in food security and nutrition, combating climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss.



Sarah Toumi - Tunisian entrepreneur and changemaker. Monitoring officer - Great Green Wall Accelerator (UNCCD)

Sarah is the monitoring officer of the Great Green Wall Accelerator, a UNCCD-based team seeking to facilitate the coordination and collaboration of donors and stakeholders involved in the Great Green Wall Initiative. Involved since her younger age in farming activities in arid areas, she has been a witness of the impact of desertification on communities livelihood and human rights and got involved as an entrepreneur to solve complex issues in arid areas empowering new collaborations based on innovation, tech4good and fairness.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook: **#GenerationRestoration**



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United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The Great Green Wall is the first flagship of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. This UN decade is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems, and restore them to achieve global goals.

African Union, European Commission & United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The Great Green Wall is a symbol of hope in the face of one of the biggest challenges of our time – desertification. Launched in 2007 by the African Union, this game-changing African-led initiative aims to restore Africa's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in one of the world's poorest regions, the Sahel. The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD implemented a flagship initiative under the Great Green Wall called FLEUVE. The project was financed by the European Commission and was aimed at strengthening the capacities of local communities to help boost investments in land restoration and created green jobs. The project was driven by local people themselves to strengthen community resilience to land degradation, drought and climate variability. The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD is also supporting the development of sustainable value chains, where it is working with the private sector who guarantee purchase of dryland products in the Sahel. This leads to the creation of land-based jobs for thousands of rural women in the Sahel.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO's Action Against Desertification implements Africa's Great Green Wall restoration programme on the ground in 10 countries currently. Action Against Desertification helps ten African countries - Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan - in the sustainable management and restoration of their dryland forests and rangelands. In Africa, FAO supports the expansion of the Great Green Wall initiative, Africa's flagship programme to combat the effects of climate change and desertification and building resilient landscapes and livelihoods.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. UNEP is one of the partners of The Great Green Wall Initiative. Through the Global Environment Facility and other donors, UNEP operates many restoration projects along with it. In Africa, programmes are under way to address some of the continent's greatest ecological challenges and tie environmental incentives to economic and social recovery in a post-COVID-19 world.

