



“Greening the Desert” project - Awarded 100 projects for Climate Change

After years of managing our grasslands in synergy with Nature, we have been able to “green” 100,000 hectares of former bare ground into thriving grasslands in the Chihuahua Desert, largest desert of North America. By **2030**, we expect to reach 800,000 hectares by supporting our fellow ranchers through on-going education and infrastructure development.

But, how do we reverse desertification? We mimic the great bison migrations, moving cattle everyday across pastures: breaking the soil with their hooves, fertilizing with their manure, and allowing the grass to fully recover before being grazed again.



Distant Neighbors: These ranches from the Chihuahuan Desert are next to each other with the same rainfall. The one on the left is applying planned grazing management. The one on the right is not.

Thanks to the management of planned grazing, our soil is protected by native grasses and brushes, which cool the soil **temperature**, captures more **rainwater**, recharges the **aquifers**, cleans the **air** we breathe through **carbon** sequestration, and promotes **biodiversity**.



Wildlife: Black “Cinnamon” Bear and Mule deer with fawns in ranches that are part of the foundation.

These desert grasslands have evolved with and supported bison, pronghorn and bighorn for centuries. In turn these species have preserved grasses and forbs in a healthy and beautiful state. It is our turn as ranchers to use our cattle to restore grasslands and promote wildlife, so together we can create a diverse and resilient environment where all living organisms can coexist in harmony and prosper.

By Alejandro R. Carrillo

from PASTICULTORES DEL DESIERTO(Mexico)

“Hydrologic Corridor” project

- If we can warm up the earth, we can also cool it down!

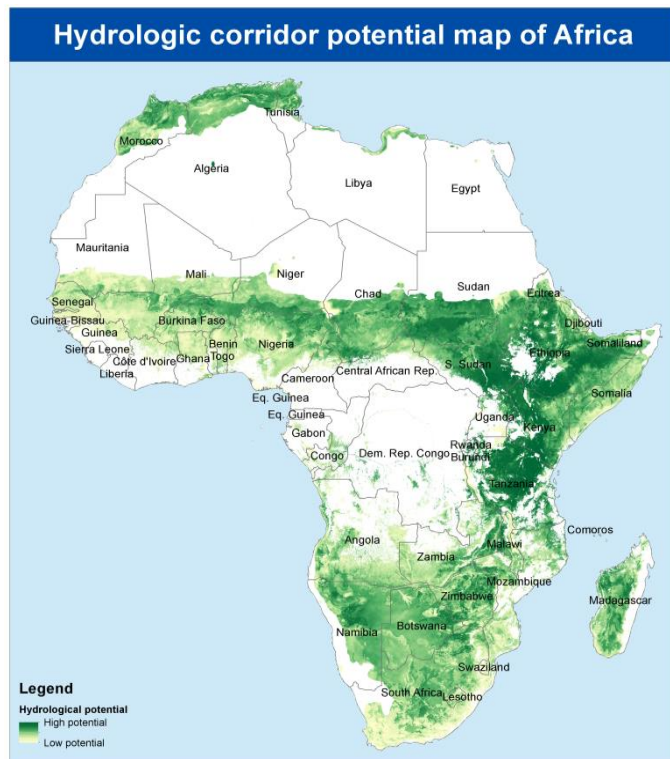
JustdiggIt is a non-profit organization with a mission to cool down the planet. We believe if we can warm up the earth, we can also cool it down again. By digging rainwater can enter the ground again making dry areas green and helping the earth to restore itself. Because greener land makes a cooler planet. We execute our mission through our projects, out movement and our educational program.



Projects

Currently our projects run in Kenya and Morocco where we are developing the so called “Hydrologic Corridors”. Please watch this [video](#) to find out how it works.

Together with Acacia Water and Aqua for All, JustdiggIt has created a Hydrologic Corridor potential map of Africa, as our main focus is currently on the African continent.



Prepared by: A.S. Burger /
T. Niemannsdorf
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Scale: 1:10,000,000
Paper size: A0
Projected Coordinate System:
WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

*This map is prepared to provide an indicative and generalistic overview of areas where re-greening is possible, and will likely result in more rain locally and regionally.
The actual potential on the ground might result in a different decision.
A local field study is required to determine actual situation on the ground.



www.acaciawater.com



www.justdiggIt.org

The map takes into account rainfall, land use, soil, elevation, NDVI (‘greenness’) and climate and shows

the 30 African countries suitable for Hydrologic Corridors. Already, 15 African countries have shown already their interest in the project. We’ve got some digging to do!

If you’re active in one of these countries, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Movement

We are in association with various media partners who have kindly produced our latest commercial completely free of charge. Thanks to them, our media reach is covered in every field: creation, production, exposure (TV, radio, Out of Home, online), social media, and influencers.

We are rapidly expanding and currently we are campaigning in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. If you would like to help us in our mission to spread awareness and join our global movement please Let us know by sending an e-mail to info@justdiggIt.org.





Education Program

We've developed an education program for primary schools about climate change, soil, biodiversity and Justdiggit's solution for cooling down the planet. Our ambassador and Dutch astronaut André Kuipers supported us by making the introduction videos to each lesson and UNESCO has acknowledged our program on their website:

<http://bit.ly/UnescoJustdiggit>

We want the whole world to get involved and would like to invite you to help us cool down the planet and start a green global revolution.

By Olivier Maes

from JUSTDIGGIT(The Netherlands)

Drivers of Land degradation in Congo?

- Identifying the cause in the Maty agro-ecological zone(M'bé plateau)

Our work took place in the Maty agro-ecological zone situated on Mbé plateau, 140 km North-East of the Brazzaville agglomeration. The introduced the immediate and underlying factors of land degradation in Congo have been identified as poor soil management, deforestation, uprooting of natural vegetation, human pressure, overuse of vegetation cover for agricultural use, poverty, precipitation, and slash and burn agriculture. The Maty agro-ecological forests contain more than 80% of the worlds biodiversity, therefore the zone will benefit from community projects to encourage sustainable management to rehabilitate degraded lands. However, wrong practices can be seen on the ground. The Maty agro-ecological area is high in rich soils which poses the ideal conditions to enhance rural development.



Deforestation and fire in a field



After our visit, we noticed that smallholder agriculture is taking place therefore; we provided the necessary supplies to feed the Brazzaville's agglomeration. However, this agriculture is threatened because of human and natural factors. Agriculture is one of the biggest economic activities for the local communities in the area. Slash and burn agriculture is only rain-fed and thus highly climate dependent.



Burnt field and field in preparation for crops

This type of practice is the most widespread in the area, but leads to a quick impoverishment of soils. At



the moment, it hasn't successfully contributed to the reduction of poverty.

However, our visit generated a high amount of interest. The main crops introduced and grown were cassava, peanut, bean, and corn. The purpose of our visit was to inform the local community on how to protect land better and how to sustainably manage land resources so as to enhance the community's livelihoods. This shows that combatting land degradation can play a big role in agricultural productivity and poverty reduction. Particularly in this zone, there are many social challenges because of the abundance of smallholders who rely on the community for support.

By Moundaga Benoit

from Association for environment and sustainable development, APEDD (Democratic Republic Congo)

protected that are dealing with land degradation as a result of human activities such as illegal mining, deforestation and unsustainable agriculture and tourism, among others.



Nor Yauyos Cochas Landscape Reserve in Peru

New institutional arrangements in natural protected areas

– Strategies for nature-based solutions

Nature is not an obstacle to human aspirations but an indispensable partner. Several initiatives in Peru show various efforts to incorporate, articulate and make feasible new arrangements between social actors in order to ensure the maintenance of nature support systems, for both humanity and the wider community of living beings can continue prospering on the planet.

During the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, three Peruvian organizations, members of IUCN, will share their experiences and views on the relevance of environmental governance as a driver to nature-based solutions, particularly in natural

The society needs to identify opportunities for synergy around nature conservation but adapt it to deal with a landscape approach, which leads to sustainable land management. It is time for them to explore and create institutional arrangements which can take hold of their strengths and reverse their weaknesses, finally allowing us as a society to learn and implement together nature-based oriented solutions for sustainable development.

This small event aims to expand the range of opportunities and possibilities for synergy between stakeholders as well as for dialogue for the construction of a new view of the complex reality where various elements of the social structure and the natural environment are connected to each other. This new view can contribute to understand the shared responsibility regarding current environmental problems and shared responsibility for finding solutions going from public policies to changes in individual practices.



Information of the event

Knowledge Café (WCC_10436)

Room: 311-1

Date: 4 September 2016

Time: 08:30 - 10:30

Stage language: Español

By Jaime Nalvarte Armas

From IUCN Peruvian Committee

The traditional organisational structure articulated around rigorous vegetation layering rules and the harnessing of water and shade are used in the variety of community practices that create the ‘oasis effect’: a hot and humid microclimate, perfectly favourable to diversified agricultural productions. Thanks to this organisation and management, the oases are able to protect themselves against climate aggressions and to combat desertification in the drylands. As a result, there will be able to secure life.

Because oases are located in hyper arid zones, they will be strongly impacted by climate change forecasts: their existence is therefore threatened.

RADDO: a CSOs network initiative that has been positively evaluated

– Combating Desertification: how people in oasis ecosystems hold the front line

Oases are agro-systems built and preserved by man. For nearly 4000 years, in both arid and semi-arid regions throughout the arid belt stretching from North Africa (Maghreb) to China, they have constituted one of the most effective human adaptation strategies in an environment challenged by both extremely high temperature variations and low precipitation. It is estimated that oases are used by approximately 150 million people throughout the world, mostly in Asia and Africa, and some also in America.

Oases have a good capacity to fix populations and their economic and social livelihoods through rigorous ecosystem management practices that use rare local land and water resources to their best advantages. While oases have faced a variety of crises, some of which are caused by changes brought about by globalisation, they have demonstrated a capacity of resilience along history.



To face the issue, local civil society in Maghreb have developed numerous projects for development, but; unfortunately still isolated from each other therefore it is urgent to increase the capacities for innovation within the populations. The RADDO network coordinated by CARI is a way to support exchange and mutual learning on both technical and organizational levels. Created in 2001, RADDO has led three action plans over five years and campaigned for appropriate national public policies. According to RADDO, public policies have to integrate sustainable management needs in drylands by including the specificity of oases ecosystem and to promote



cooperation among the various stakeholders of development.

The network is supported by the French Agency of Development (AFD) for 5 years, and has already benefited from a very positive external evaluation that highlights the relevance and usefulness of the initiative.



Among other benefits the evaluation highlighted the participatory way the networking process was conducted and the capacity to positively impact both on local and public areas by stimulating and advocating for further developments.

By Patrice Burger

From CARI (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales)

Call for Inspiring Stories

- Individuals or Communities that have transformed their lives through land improvements

Decision 4 of COP12 invites all stakeholders to share inspiring stories that will interest people in the general work of the Convention to Combat

Desertification. We invite you to share two inspiring human interest stories from your country, which focus on how a community, family or person improved their own life, or that of others, through the implementation of sustainable methods, in particular by finding solutions to land degradation. Human interest stories are short accounts about inspiring individuals or communities, which can educate and motivate audiences to adopt or promote sustainable practices. For example, Yacouba Sawado of The Man Who Stopped the Desert or Aba Hawi, the hero in Ethiopia Rising. Such heroes – individuals or communities – exist in every country. The information submitted will be presented as stories that capture the true spirit of the subject, and remain true to the facts. The stories will be filed in a database, by country, for easy access.

Submissions should be sent to: Hayley George, ERPA Unit, hgeorge@unccd.int. Deadline for submission: **15 October 2016.**

Find out more from our website ([Click here](#)) or contact:

- Ms. Hayley George, hgeorge@unccd.int
- Ms. Wagaki Wischnewski, wwischnewski@unccd.int



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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

If you would like to contact the CSO panel or make a contribution to the next UNCCD CSO panel e-newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us via email to cso.panel@unccd.int.