

Semi Finalists of 2017 Land for Life Award winners

1. Watershed Organization Trust WOTR (India, South Asia)

A non-profit organization working extensively in reclaiming degraded lands through watershed development.

Achievements / Impacts:

- Has restored 8913 square kilometer degraded land and impacting over 1.38 million people across 7 states of India
- Participatory Watershed Development (WSD) approach were adopted by various states governments
- Migration (rural to urban) stopped after 2nd year of project implementation
- Created employment of 620,395 persons days in 2 years



Water Harvesting Structures – A series of Check Dams

More about WOTR: <https://wotr.org>

2. Alianza Internacional de Reforestación AIRE (Guatemala, Latin America)

A non- governmental organization focuses on mobilizing local communities, international volunteers on reforestation on deforested areas. It also empowers communities, in particular on sustainable land management.

Achievement / impacts:

- 25 community groups from 140 have begun micro-businesses
- 32 rural teens received 5 year scholarships, 18 graduated and found jobs.
- Planted 4 mil trees sequestered avg. 21-39 lbs carbon/year



More about AIRES: <http://airguatemala.org/>

3. Future Forest (Republic of Korea, East Asia)

A civil society organization focuses on reforestation/ rehabilitation of Kubuqi Desert through mobilization of young people from Korea and China and local communities in Daleteqi, Inner Mongolia.

Achievements / Impacts:

- Planted over 7.5 million trees at the area of 3000 ha in Kubuqi Desert (Daleteqi site)
- Employment generated over 11 years: 66,000 man days
- Returned migrants household number: 6 after project implementation



More about Future Forest: http://www.futureforest.org/eng/page/ff/about_ff.asp

4. Konya Seker Co. (Republic of Turkey, Mediterranean)

A commercial enterprise formed by 900,000 producers, promoting sustainable land management to the members.

Achievements / Impacts:

- Planted 19 million tree along 5000 km roadsides, rehabilitated 66 sq km barren land through afforestation
- Direct employment: 10,000 for locals from 8 different regions on Konya in Turkey
- Established university to promote sustainable land / agriculture management



Number of Trees, Planted in Konya Seker and Torku Forests exceeded 10 Million

More about Konya Seker Co.: <http://www.konyaseker.com.tr/en/icerik/detay/6460/konya-seker>

5. Common-land (Netherlands, Europe)

A non-profit foundation consists of social impact companies that promoting implementing landscape restoration projects through sustainable land management around the world with the concept of “4 Returns”

Achievements / Impacts:

- Engaged with investors to restore degraded land
- On-going restoration of more than 100,000 ha land in Spain, Australia, and South Africa
- Developed accredited curriculum with business schools on restoration economy



More about Commonland: <https://www.commonland.com/en>

6. Practical Action Sudan / UNEP project (South Sudan, Africa)

A partnership between UN Environment and Practical Action, local government and communities to implement ecosystem-based measures in North Darfur to mitigate water related hazards.

Achievements / Impacts:

- Restored 6,300 ha degraded wadi land
- Established 5 community forests managed by local women's group
- Annual migration from villages reduced, rehabilitated Eware water retention has brought stability for 5 local communities.
- Reduce conflict between farmers and pastoralists by establishing demarcation of 10km migratory pastoralist route. The route will expand up to 120 km.



Community members volunteered to rehabilitate the Eware water retention structure

More about the project: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/land-life-north-darfur-project-wins-global-award-0>

7. Florencia E Fonseca (Spain, Europe)

A 75 year old woman farmer who transmits her ideas and enthusiasm of sustainable land management, successfully mobilized local communities, and transformed abandoned farmland to response to employment and empowerment of vulnerable groups.

Achievements / Impacts:

- promote and implement organic agriculture and re-forestation
- engaged people with disabilities in their programme
- empowerment of women and young people through education
- created 10 new small businesses for local



More about Florencia E Fonseca: <http://www.elcolletero.org/>