# The Great Green Wall - UIA Student Single Stage Ideas Competition



**Key Dates:**

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| **Competition Launch:** | **18 April 2022** |
| **Deadline for Registration:** | **20 August 2022** |
| **Submission of Entries:** | **20-30 September 2022** |
| **Announcement of Competition Results:** | **24 October 2022** |

**Participants:**

**Students in Schools of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Preamble

The Great Green Wall in Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most inspiring and expeditious projects of the contemporary twenty-first century. It is an African-led initiative to create a huge 8000km long, 16km wide living greenbelt across the entire breadth of the Sahel-Savanah desert region from Dakar to Djibouti. The competition site in this Student Single Stage Ideas Competition is within the GGW belt between Senegal and Djibouti.

The Republic of Senegal, the starting point of the GGW shelter-belt traversing the Sahel- Savannah region is a French-speaking country in West Africa bordered by Mauritania in the north, Mali to the east, Guinea to the southeast and Guinea-Bissau to the southwest. It is a flat country with a population in excess of 17,223,000 people that lies in the depression known as Senegal-Mauritania basin.

The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) ends at Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa, a mostly French and Arabic speaking country of dry shrublands, volcanic formations and Gulf of Aden beaches. It is home to one of the saltiest bodies of water in the world, the low-lying Lake Assal in the Danakil Desert. The nomadic Afar people have settlements along Lake Abbe, a body of saltwater featuring chimneylike mineral formations. As at 2021, the population of Djibouti counted to 1,000,000 people.

This Single Stage Ideas Competition for Students was initiated by the UIA's Region V to engage the global community of architecture students in the effort to harness the benefits of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to architecture in the service of the GGWI.

## 1.2 Background

This is a multilateral and multi-dimensional programme to preserve local heritage and to restore the natural shelterbelts of the ecosystem while respecting the SDG goals, as framed by the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties - COP26 (Adejumo, 2019).
As a decade-long developmental scheme, it is expected to bring about the reduction of the evaporation-transpiration rate, shield the top-soil from wind and rain erosion, improve $CO_2$ sequestration rates and boost agri-business yields. Other environmental benefits include food security, poverty alleviation, combat drought and heightened awareness for climate action. Ultimately, the goal is to stimulate wealth creation and enhance well-being across vulnerable farmland communities on the continent.

Apart from the academic benefit to students, this project aims to revive the historical asset to promote entrepreneurship in local arts and crafts production, in addition to empowering the population economically and socially. The project must inspire the sustainability of the fading cultural and historical landscape.
This Competition aims to highlight the contribution of innovative design ideas to the GGWI and how simplified affordable shelters and housing can be provided within this green belt.

The competition focuses on the environment as a design resource for innovation in the use of sustainable materials through novel design approaches for change investigations. Apart from designing in context, objectives include enhancing the environmental and social prospects of the GGW region by encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving.

The webinars will be part of a pedagogical approach through online interaction by showcasing interrelated strands in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning and related fields among schools of architecture across the continents. This is in line with the aspirations of global networks and the UIA as it connects the SDG goals, UN-Habitat/ UNESCO and the African Union (AU).

### 1.3 Interactive Video Sessions

The organisers will host Interactive Video Conferences to raise architectural consciousness that will serve the expected human settlement around the GGW as a concept for human survival in a world under the increasing threat of imminent climate catastrophe. Online interactive video conferences will include at least four speakers to illuminate seminar topics that are multiple and diverse. Attending these online interactive seminars is preferably an "advisory" step for participation in the competition. Competitors who might have technical challenges attending live sessions will be given access to recorded versions in English and French for repeated viewing. There will also be an open channel for questions and provision of answers from the competition tutors for the period specified on the timelines.

The under-listed seminar topics will be expounded by UIA-RV selected speakers to generate more awareness about the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Proposed topics include, but are not limited to:

*Architecture in Extreme Environments

*Nature & Architecture

*Contemporary African Cultural Transformation

*Sustainability

Competitors will be expected to approach design ideas from these information and data perspectives.

*Online links to webinars and recordings will be available to all participants on the UIA website and competition platform.

### 2. REGULATIONS

### 2.1 UIA Approval and Endorsement

This Competition, conducted according to the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions and the UIA best practice recommendations (See: Competition Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related fields), is approved by the International Union of Architects (UIA).

### 2.2 Eligibility

The Competition is open to all full-time enrolled students from all over the world. Multidisciplinary teams are allowed and must be led by an architectural student. Student participants must be enrolled in a school of architecture at the time of submission.

Competitors may be individual students or teams of students. Competitors are only allowed to submit one entry. Students, associates, employees and family members of jury members and persons involved in the preparation of this competition are not allowed to participate in the competition.

### 2.3 Official Languages

The official languages of the competition are French and English. All documents for the competition will be provided in both languages. Entries shall be submitted in either French or English. The original language of the documents is English. They have been translated into French by the Organizer. The brief is also available in Portuguese thanks to the institutional support of CIALP.

### 2.4 Registration of Competitors

Participants will be required to register on UIA competition platform http://uia-competitions.org Competitors will receive a number or code that they will use to log into the system and download the competition documents. No fees are required for registering.

The following will be required during registration:
- Name of the competitor (mandatory)
- Name of team members (if relevant then mandatory)
- Name of academic institution (with year of registration)
- Country (mandatory)
- Email address (mandatory)
- Check box to confirm that the participant meets the eligibility criteria (mandatory)

Once registration is completed, each registered applicant will receive a secret random User Identification Number generated by the system. This number will be sent to the applicant via email. The same information will be then sent to a dedicated email address owned by the UIA. The system will store this information and keep it not accessible until after the Jury has appointed the winning entries. This e-mail system is managed by a third-party company. Nobody will be able to access the data until the email account will be assigned to a user once the jury has signed the results thus allowing access to the information.

**Modification of team information**
Applicants may list as many team members as they want. Moreover, further team members can be added after registration is closed. The team leader cannot be changed. Modification can only be done at the time of submission of entries but the information provided separately from the submission of entries.

### 2.5 Jury
1. Gaetan Siew (Mauritius), architect, jury president
2. Daniel Balo (Hungary), architect, UIA recommended juror
3. Helena Sandman (Finland), architect
4. Francisco Rodriguez-Suarez (USA), Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois
5. Zhang Yue (China) Professor of Architecture, Tsinghua University

   Alternate Juror
6. Alba Alsina-Maqueda, (Spain) architect

The jury will view, discuss and evaluate all entries. Alternates will participate in the deliberations, but will only vote if they replace a voting juror. The jury may consult specialists who will assist without the right to vote.

### 2.6 Professional Advisor

Vity Nsalambi, architect (Angola)
Mugure Njendu, architect (Kenya)

The professional adviser is in charge of the Competition brief and documents, the answers to the questions, the preliminary examination of the entries, the minutes of the jury meetings, the redaction of the jury report including the individual critiques of the prize-winning projects, the announcement of the results and the organization of the exhibit. They will assist the jury during the evaluation session. The technical committee will be composed by architects involved in the preparation of the competition

### 2.7 Timetable

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| Interactive Video Conferences (Optional) | 26 March 2022 |
| Competition Launch | 18 April 2022 |
| Deadline for Questions | 20 May 2022 |

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| Deadline for Answers | 31 May 2022 |
| Deadline for Registration | 20 August 2022 |
| Submission of entries | 20-30 September 2022 |
| Jury meeting | 1-21 October 2022 |
| Announcement of Competition Results | 24 October 2022 |
| Public Exhibition (Egypt CoP27 and online) | 7-18 November 2022 |
| Award Ceremony | 17 November 2022 |

**2.8  Questions and Answers**

Competitors may ask questions regarding the competition anonymously online at the competition website until the indicated deadline. Questions concerning formal aspects of participation will be continuously answered. Questions concerning content will be answered at the indicated deadline. Conditions and requirements will not be modified after the deadline for answers.

**2.9  Prizes & Honorable Mentions**

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| 1st prize | 5000 Euros and a certificate |
| 2nd prize | 4000 Euros and a certificate |
| 3rd prize | 3000 Euros and a certificate |
| 4th prize | 2000 Euros and a certificate |
| 5th prize | 1000 Euros and a certificate |

At its discretion, the Jury may also decide to allocate honorable mentions to proposals with particular merit.
All Prize winners may be invited to contribute further architectural research on the GGW

**2.10 Submission Requirements/Deliverables**

Applicants are required to submit one A0 poster (landscape and in PDF format) including, indicatively, sketches/graphic documents such as plans, site plans floor plans, sections, elevations and scale and, color resolutions for visualization in support of their entries. An explanation of the proposal's concept in written form should not exceed 500 words and should also be submitted in PDF format.

Project documents must be submitted anonymously and should not bear any indication of the authors. The name of the competitors (students, tutor, schools and their countries) should not be indicated on any part of the submitted material.

The following will be required from Participants
*Readable texts and drawings.
*Both graphical and metric scales are recommended for better visualisation.
*Any colour, drawing techniques and electronic models deemed appropriate.

**2.11  Submissions & Anonymity**

Submission is strictly via the UIA competition platform **http://uia-competitions.org**. The User Identification Number provided at the time of registration will enable participants to submit their entries on this secure online form. Documents will be compressed as uploaded in zip format. Each entry will be named as follows: User Identification Number.zip and should not exceed 150 MB

Participants must ensure anonymity while submitting their entries. The name of the student competitors or their schools should not be indicated on any part of the submitted material. The submitted files must not display the author's or university's name, nor signs that would allow the identification of the entry.
Note:
- After submission is completed, the applicant will receive a confirmation email.
- The same email will be sent to the email address owned by the organisers (an entry has been submitted by User Identification Number xxxx).
- Following the submission deadline, the competition organiser will be able to download the totality of the ZIP files submitted by the competition participants.
- It will not be possible to modify the submission once it is submitted.

**Technical support**
In case of technical issues, applicants can contact the UIA Secretariat via e.bonin@uia-architectes.org

**2.12 Reasons for Disqualification**

Entries submitted after the deadline, entries that do not respect the conditions for anonymity will be excluded by the Professional adviser.
Entries that do not meet the requirements set forth in this brief or that contain any kind of irregularity shall be indicated to the Jury by the Professional Adviser. The Jury shall decide whether to disqualify the entry, registering the decision in the Jury Report.

**2.13 Evaluation**

**a. Preliminary Examination**
The entries submitted will be examined by the Professional Adviser assisted by the technical committee, in order to assess their compliance with the submission rules before being formally delivered to the jury at the beginning of the evaluation procedure. The entries will be checked to ensure the following:
- submission of the entry until the deadline.
- compliance with the formal requirements.
- completeness of the requested deliverables and the project presentation.

**b. Evaluation process**
The Jury will convene in a meeting conducted in the form of an interactive video conference. At the evaluation session, the Jury will look at and discuss all entries and evaluate them according to the set criteria.

**c. Evaluation criteria**
The Jury may expound on the following criteria listed in no particular importance during the evaluation process:
*Compliance with the Competition goals.
*Innovation, Originality & Creativity.
*Contribution to sustainable development, environmental and social impact.
*Simplified Affordable Architecture.
*Coherence of overall concept.

**2.14 Jury Decisions**
Jury decisions are taken by majority vote. Jury decisions are sovereign, binding both for the organizer and the competitors, irrevocable and unappealable.

**2.15 Author's Rights**
The participant's intellectual and design rights will be in compliance with the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions.

The author of the ideas design will retain the copyright and the author's rights of his/her work. No alterations will be made without the latter's consent.

By submitting an entry, participants confirm that he/she is the author and that the design solutions do not infringe on the intellectual property rights of third parties

## 2.16 Publication Rights

The UIA has the right to publicise entries on the condition that the authors will be mentioned. Participants may publicise their own competition entry provided the UIA is mentioned. This must not be done before the Competition results are officially announced. Publication prior to the official announcement of the competition results will be grounds for disqualification.

## 2.17 Exhibition

The awards ceremony and a 12- day exhibition will take place at COP27, Sharm El- Sheikh, Egypt from 7 to 18 November 2022. A repeat exhibition will be held at the UIA Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark on July 2023. Winning entries will be displayed online on the competition platform.

## 2.18 Notifications of Results

The UIA will notify individually all award winners (Prizes & Honorable Mentions). The results of the Competition will also be published on the competition website and other online platforms.

## 2.19 Dispute Resolution

By submitting an entry, participants accept all conditions of the competition, rules outlined in these regulations and decisions of the jury in matters of evaluation. It is not possible to appeal in court against the organiser and the decisions of the jury. There will not be arbitration or mediation. Any dispute concerning the competition procedure will be examined by the ICC. Complaints may be addressed to the UIA Secretariat.

## 3. PROGRAMME

### 3.1. Objectives

The competition encourages participants to view the environment as a design resource for innovation, through the use of sustainable materials and novel design approaches for change investigations. Participants are expected to trigger many opportunities and explore solution-driven approaches to indigenous architectural challenges. Learning opportunities will include design that responds to realities of climate change, climate actions, peculiar contexts in urbanism, and the making of culture-sensitive productive rural landscapes while taking into account the need for affordable shelter, resilient dwelling, and sustainable livability in twenty -first-century rurality. The theoretical background of civilisations, histories and architectural transcript of the GGW belt must serve as context for a practical solution.

Participants are to provide creative ideas for harmonising shelter that will exude originality and innovation. This UIA Competition is driven by a quest for inspirational ideas for Sustainability, Mobility, and Opportunity.

**3.2 Task**

The task is a design proposal for a Sustainable Dwelling for up to 25 people. This is to be conceptually arranged in a combination of about 5 dwellings in the sense of a cluster of urbanisation, while one dwelling is presented in more detail. This enlargement will include the definition of community/public space as context for the dwelling proposal. Communal dwelling should enhance the ongoing development of the greenery percentage around the selected site.

A participatory approach in design is recommended to review the courtyard system/cultural synthesis of the many tribes along the Sahel-Savanah shelterbelt. Further study of the Cultures along the region will help propose architectural solutions for the civilisation on the GGW belt.


**3.3 Site Description**

A typical site within the GGW can be described using geotechnical information such as annual rainfall index, temperature, humidity, topography, vegetation, airflow-windspeed, soil condition, satellite imagery, name of human settlements, history and other specific geographical information and data.

The site can be in any of the selected countries, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan, within the Great Green Wall belt. The site selected by the Competitor(s) has to be within or adjoining a settled area. Sites that are not within settled areas or areas adjoining them will not be considered. The project site and the proposed ideas must have the potential to contribute to the architectural, ecological, economic and social development of the Great Green Wall belt. The GGW core area is 780 million hectares, more than two times bigger than India. The GGW core area comprises arid and semiarid zones that surround the Sahara and on either side of the isohyet, marking an average annual rainfall of 400 mm. 232 million people live in the GGW core area.10 million hectares need to be restored each year in the GGW core area to meet SDG 15.3 by 2030. One quarter of this area is in the arid zone and three-quarters is in the semiarid zone. 2012 is the year in which concerned countries and partners adopted the GGW harmonised regional strategy, while the African Union endorsed the strategy in 2013.

**4.0 Bibliography**

**A video documenting typical sites and topographies of the GGW area.**

• https://youtu.be/ZDXRAFT-cNM

• https://youtu.be/Olg4et4fFbg

• https://youtu.be/AfbM-DNMnNg

• https://youtu.be/ROkiv_U5AoU

• https://youtu.be/JRhpIOwio8w

**Relevant literature on Traditional Architecture of the GGW zone.**

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10113-019-01481-z

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266967576_Increasing_the_Effectiveness_of_the_Great_Green_Wall_as_an_Adaptation_to_the_Effects_of_Climate_Change_and_Desertification_in_the_Sahel

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326082736_Africa%27s_Great_Green_Wall_A_transformative_model_for_rural_communities%27_sustainable_development

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331634942_The_Great_Green_Wall_for_the_Sahara_and_the_Sahel_Initiative_as_an_opportunity_to_enhanc_resilience_in_Sahelian_landscapes_and_livelihood_s

**Cultures and histories of local civilizations.**

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https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283568038_Local_Civilizations_in_the_Face_of_Globalization_Contemporary_Theoretical_Approaches_and_the_Future_of_Some_Non-Western_Cultures

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331125535_ETHNO_CULTURAL_FACTORS_OF_LOCAL_CIVILIZATIONS_DEVELOPMENT?_sg=1W65YZAasp7AOr9I9-ft-Utt1ll_YtPz5hyWPQ5LM3PuULAifetFhOxBlOU1wkmhSHKrR_zmjpq3Mso

**UN-SDGs information for development.**

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https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html#:~:text=The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20(SDGs,economic%20challenges%20facing%20our%20world.

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**Climate Change Action thrusts.**

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https://www.who.int/globalchange/mediacentre/events/2011/social-dimensions-of-climate-change.pdf

https://www.asanet.org/sociological-view-effort-obstruct-action-climate-change

https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-Multisectoral-Framework-for-climate-change.pdf

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/

**- Photos on Indigenous Knowledge and Local Technologies.**

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