



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

Climate Action in Senegal

How CREATE!'s partner communities work to protect the environment

What is "Climate Action?"

The UN's 13th Sustainable Development Goal, titled *Climate Action*, is defined as "taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts." We agree and consider climate action essential to limit the negative impacts of climate change on people and ecosystems. To achieve this SDG, we partner with rural Senegalese communities to implement solutions.



How does CREATE! put this "action" to work?

The CREATE! team works closely with our partner communities to identify their sustainable development needs and challenges. We then propose solutions adapted to each community, using innovative and sustainable technologies and encouraging the use of renewable energy, such as solar panels and pumps, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The team rehabilitates communities' old wells to provide year-round clean water and teaches communities organic gardening techniques to improve agricultural productivity while conserving natural resources. We also facilitate a yearly tree planting campaign, which, combined with our improved cookstoves that reduce firewood use, help fight desertification in the Sahel region. All these activities work together to allow our partner communities take positive action to protect their environment.

Voices from a Community

Lena Diop- Keur Ndiouga



CREATE! has been working with the village of **Keur Ndiouga** for a few years to promote **climate action**. We talked to **Lena Diop**, the **Community President**, about her views on climate change and *CREATE!*'s programs. Here's what she had to say:

"Before *CREATE!*'s arrival, our village faced many challenges related to climate change, including drought, land degradation, and difficulty accessing water. Thanks to *CREATE!*, we learned that reforestation is an important action to combat these changes because trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store carbon in their wood and leaves. The trees we planted are chosen for their ability to adapt to local conditions and for their usefulness to the communities."

"We also learned how to save the firewood we use for cooking with improved cookstoves that play an important role in reducing the use of firewood and fighting climate change. It is a cleaner, more efficient cooking method and produces less smoke and pollution."

"Through these initiatives, our village has now become more resilient to the effects of climate change!"

Community Update - Ngaraaf

Last fall, we talked about Ngaraaf, our potential new community in the Louga region of Senegal. With your support, we started our partnership with Ngaraaf this year. The community has successfully rehabilitated their old, existing well and will very soon install solar pumps and panels to improve their access to clean water using climate smart pathways.

This community, like any other *CREATE!* partner community, will receive training on activities that are environmentally sustainable.

Stay tuned for updates on Ngaraaf's journey!



To help Ngaraaf take climate positive steps towards a sustainable future, please [donate](#) today.

Our work is getting noticed!

Earthshot Prize Nomination

Earlier this year, *CREATE!* announced our nomination for the **Earthshot Prize** and we could not be more excited! We were nominated by the **Purpose Driven Innovation Ecosystem (PDIE) Group** in the 'Fix Our Climate' category.

The Earthshot Prize was established in 2021 by Prince William and the Royal Foundation and is awarded to one organization in each of the five categories; Nature, Air, Oceans, Waste, and Climate, in order to **grow** their **work and impact**.

CREATE! was nominated because of the work we do to address climate change impacts in Senegal. Our participatory, climate-smart projects provide both immediate and long-term benefits while promoting sustainable development and economic stability. This work focuses on combating deforestation, improving access to clean water, and enhancing farming productivity.

We are deeply honored to have received this nomination alongside so many incredible groups and want to thank the PDIE Group for believing in our work. **We also want to say a big thank you to all of you who support us!**

If you are as excited as we are about this nomination and believe in our work to "fix the climate", please **help us continue this work** by donating [here](https://createaction.org).

CREATE! West Africa Climate Action

was nominated for the
Fix Our Climate Earthshot
by

THE
**EARTHSHOT
PRIZE**

OFFICIAL NOMINATOR
2023



PDIE
Purpose Driven Innovation



Energy Globe Award Recipient

While we are on the topic of awards...you may remember that in December, *CREATE!* won the **2022 National Energy Globe Award for Senegal!** We just want to highlight this incredible achievement one more time and say thank you to the Energy Globe Foundation for this immense honor.

It was *CREATE!*'s work on sustainable community gardens in rural Senegal using renewable energy that was recognized for this national award. This work, implemented by our team in Senegal, led by our **Co-Executive Director Omar Ndiaye Seck** and **Field Coordinator Amadou Diouf**, has helped 19 rural communities to date become self-sufficient while remaining mindful of their lived environment.

The Energy Globe Award is given annually to projects working to save our environment through sustainable action. Again, a big thank you to the Energy Globe Foundation and to everyone who supports our mission!



Leadership Change Announcement



Earlier this year, as an organization, **CREATE!** embraced a new shared leadership model with **Omar Seck** as **Co-Executive Director of CREATE! in Senegal** and **Paulomi Bhattacharyya** as **Co-Executive Director of CREATE! in the U.S.** The goal of this change is to shift more power and focus to **CREATE!**'s team in Senegal.

Both Paulomi and Seck have been influential in the continued success of **CREATE!** and will continue to collaborate closely to ensure many more successful years of sustainable agriculture, economic empowerment, and award-winning climate change mitigation projects in rural Senegal.



"It is with much pride and enthusiasm that I assume this new position with the mission to continue to support and grow our sustainable development programs. We will ensure that we meet the challenges of the future by pursuing fruitful, professional collaborations. Alone we go fast, together we go far."

-Seck



"Ever since I joined CREATE!, this organization has become a big part of my life. The position of Co-Executive Director is a position of great honor for me and I plan to do everything possible, together with Seck, to advance CREATE!'s success!"

-Paulomi

CREATE! Board of Directors

Fred Raley, Board President, Former Chairman and CEO of SpawGlass, a 100% employee owned construction company.

Ronald Taylor, Chief Executive Officer construction company (retired), Founding donor, **CREATE!**.

Joyce E Leader, Ambassador (retired), Worked in Africa for 15 years as a Foreign Service officer, PeaceCorps staff, and a volunteer teacher.

Delanson Y. Hopkins, BA, MBA, Retired health care and hospital executive. Brookline, MA.

Binta Mamadou, Associate, Allen & Overy, Magic Circle Project Finance Attorney.

Mary-Kay Miller, Board Secretary and Treasurer, Lecturer in French and West African literatures, Salem State University.

Susan Miller Briggs, MD, MPH, Senior Surgeon and Endowed Chair of Global Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.

Samba Gadjigo, Helen D. Gould Professor of French and Francophone Studies. Mount Holyoke College.

Aïda Sarr Lewis, An Educator and a Trained Human Rights Advocate.

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