



# The Great Green Wall

A Viewing Guide

ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH FORUM

## Film Synopsis:

Renowned Malian singer Inna Modja takes us on a music-driven journey of hope, hardship, and perseverance across Africa's ambitious Great Green Wall. Part musical odyssey and cultural road-trip, part desertification and climate justice exploration, Inna sets out on a mission to explore the budding 8,000 km "belt of green" stretching from Senegal to Djibouti—providing food, jobs, and a future for millions of people. Inna leads us on a pilgrimage through the cities and savannahs with a band of artist-activists composing an eclectic soundtrack for a continent at a crossroads. Once complete, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on earth, three times the size of the Great Barrier Reef, and a new wonder of the world.

Film Notes: Documentary - Director Jared P. Scott | United Kingdom 2020 | 90 min



## As you watch...

- This film takes its viewers on an audible and visual journey across Africa's Sahel region. Find the region on a map and identify the countries that will be a part of the Great Green Wall. Why is this the right place for the Great Green Wall?
- Musician [Inna Modja](#) narrates this film and uses music as a throughline as she transverses the continent of Africa bringing musicians together to produce an album that is emblematic of her tour. Listen for the music and try to identify different styles she uses. What influences can you hear in the music? Do you think that following the path of the Green Wall through music is an effective story line? How so?

## What did you think...

- Inna Modja calls the Great Green Wall a "mosaic of restored lands - we used to think it was a band of trees, but it will be clusters of communities. The Great Green Wall is a metaphor." Why is this a powerful metaphor?
- What is the "Butterfly Effect"? And how is it hopeful?
- Modja and the Green Wall take us to Ethiopia, a country known for the tragic famine in the 1980s. How does Modja show us another side of Ethiopia? What images from this film stay with you as you watch? Is the use of startling images from the famine effective?
- Desertification and climate change are leading causes of degradation in Africa. What causes desertification in Africa? What are communities doing to stop the impacts of Climate Change?
- The images of Lake Chad are impactful in this film. The lake has shrunk 90 percent over the last 60 years because of drought. [Read more](#) about the importance of the lake and the political, religious, and economic crisis that the region faces as water is scarce. Can you find other areas of the world that have been severely impacted by drought or water scarcity?

## Next Steps...

- Investigate the [Great Green Wall Accelerator](#). What are the five pillars that will be measured to determine success? Can people living far away from this area impact change? In what ways?
- Supporters and advocates of the Great Green Wall claim that the Great Green Wall supports 15 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs"). Research the UN SDGs and determine which goals you think it supports. Identify learnings from the film that support the Sustainable Development Goals. Are you surprised by any of the SDGs that you identified?

