



SHANGHAI ROOTS & SHOOTS: THE MILLION TREE PROJECT

The Shanghai Roots & Shoots Million Tree Project (MTP), which began in 2007, aims to raise community awareness of the Earth's precious environment while focusing on steps individuals can take to lessen their negative impact on the natural world. MTP is designed to improve both ecological and humanitarian conditions by planting trees. The project gives individuals and organizations an opportunity to fight climate change by planting oxygen-producing trees. It also encompasses true capacity building as the local population is intimately involved with, and benefits from, every step of planting, maintaining and monitoring the trees.



2007-2008 Poplar Site

Program Background

With the generous support from everyone, MTP has successfully planted TWO million trees over the past ten years, covering an area of nearly 1800 hectares in Kulun Qi and Kezuohou Qi in Tongliao, Inner Mongolia. Significant impact is observed in terms of vegetation restoration and ecosystem reconstruction in the forests planted 10 years ago.



2008 planting site, taken on Apr.2008



Planting trip



Volunteer planting



2008 planting site, taken on Jul.2015

In addition to tree planting program in Inner Mongolia, MTP has expanded to Ningxia, and started a desertification control and ecological protection program at Maosuwu desert.

Location and Goal

The new program in Ningxia is located in Baijitan Reserve, Lingwu, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, at the southwest margin of Maowusu desert, where the typical ecosystem structure of sandy land and the species of *mongolian ammopiptanthus* are in need of protection. The annual rainfall is approximately 200mm, whereas the evaporation capacity is 2862.2mm with vegetation coverage less than 10%. Desertification is caused by a complex set of environmental and anthropogenic factors that have been at work over historical periods of time and is now threatening critical infrastructure and farmland in the Yellow River corridor. MTP's effort would contribute to stop Maowusu Sandy Land from expanding, improve the ecosystem and lessen the economic impact of desertification to Yellow River corridor region.



Local Involvement

Lingwu Baijitan tree farm is the local partner, who has sound experience in desertification control technique. In view of local circumstances, an integrative method of controlling sand movement by planting a mix of shrubs and constructing massive straw grid will be carried out instead of afforestation technique. Massive straw grid is able to reduce air flow transport capacity by increasing the surface roughness at the meantime decelerate evaporation and improve the soil moisture to ensure the survival rate of shrub and grass planted. Compared with trees, shrubs form a more dynamic soil protection system with its flourishing branches above the ground and extended roots beneath. It provides a solid foundation for soil development and restoration of vegetation diversity. Species has been selected by its adaptability to the local environment and *Calligonum*, *Caragana*, and *Hedysarum Scoparium* are the main species. Our objective is to gradually immobilize the moving sand dunes and rehabilitate the ecosystem through restoration of native vegetation by afforestation. It is expected that the demand for straw would be met from local communities nearby, which would be able to sell straw to the project. This component would also generate some income benefits to local farmers as these would be contracted to carry out the grid establishment, seeds collection, and planting activities.



Sand control project carried out by local tree farm, photos were taken separately on Year 2004 and Year 2007

In cooperation with Ningxia Baijitan tree farm, MTP started a pilot project in the spring of 2015, and has been monitoring the project's implementation ever since. The indigenous grass and shrub has started to revive and the ecosystem is under progress of recovering one and half year after plantation. From 2017, MTP will dedicate more efforts and resources to working with Ningxia Tree Farm, joining hands to fight desertification in the local area.



Locals constructing straw grid and planting shrubs, taken on Jul.2015 MTP 2015 pilot project, separately taken on Jul.2015 and 2016

Get Involved

- ✓ **Donate one shrub costs RMB 10**, which includes the expense of the planting as well as the cost of straw grid placement and grass seedling to ensure the shrub's survival rate. Our full-time forestry managers, with their academic background in forestry and agriculture, work on-site to evaluate how the trees are growing and to ensure continued success.
- ✓ **By donating 5,000 shrubs**, cooperates could help with ecosystem reconstruction on 16,666 m², which could help fight desertification and benefit the locals as well as offsetting the CO₂ emitted from work and life. This sends employees and clients a strong message that your company cares about its environmental impact.
- ✓ **Ecological volunteer trip**; Sponsor companies and schools will have chance to go on an eco-trip in Ningxia where they can experience constructing straw grid and planting shrubs to fight desertification. It's also a great opportunity for volunteers to witness the environmental problem at the first hand, and collectively contribute to improve the motherland by their own hands. According to the feedback of previous volunteers in Inner Mongolia, it's not only a great personal memory for all of them but an important way to understand the corporate's value by fulfilling the social responsibility. The trip is only open to the corporates who committed more than 5,000 shrubs (50,000 RMB), schools who committed more than 2,500 shrubs (25,000 RMB) or individuals who donated more than 1250 shrubs (12,500 RMB) in a year. Participants need to be over 16 years old and pay for the trip expense.

