
COMMENTARY

Challenges of green city

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ABSTRACT

A history of low-level to advanced growth may be seen in the evolution of human society over the past tens of thousands of years, from the earliest forms of civilization to the agricultural, industrial, and ecological ones. "Respecting nature, conforming with nature, and protecting nature" is the cornerstone of the ecological civilization and

is crucial to the peaceful coexistence of man and nature. To achieve the win-win of resource development and environmental protection, this peaceful coexistence necessitates continually improving systems and mechanisms for the development of national space, the conservation and utilization of natural resources, and the protection of the ecological environment.

Key Words: *Air pollution; Pneumology; Asthma, UNESCO*

INTRODUCTION

Air pollution in Dakar is at record levels. It is visible: the level of fine particles is almost 7 times higher than the average, well beyond the standards recommended by the WHO.

The first to suffer from it are people with respiratory diseases. In the pneumology department of the Fann hospital, consultations have increased considerably. Asthma patients are more and more numerous, and during pollution peaks the risk of secondary infection is high.

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Beyond the desert dust, the air in Dakar is polluted all year round. The particle rate is 2.5 times above what the WHO recommends.

Although Senegal is one of the few countries in Africa to measure its air quality, prevention is no longer enough to protect the inhabitants of Dakar. The Quartier Vert Challenge is a citizen initiative that aims to raise awareness and engage citizens in a dynamic of improving their living environment and environmental protection. The initiative was born in 2019 in Zac Mbao at Abdou Touré, a founding member of La Green Factory and coordinator of Camp Climate. Abdou: "...I noticed the unsanitary state of the alleys in my neighborhood. I decided to change this image by sweeping the alley whenever the weather allows me and then planting flowers and trees. These activities shared on social networks with the hash tag quickly interested other young people who in turn committed to the label. It is important to evolve in a healthy environment to live better. This is how I decided to change the face of my alley by picking up litter and then I started planting trees and flowers. I did these activities alone, sometimes my neighbors joined me asking me to inform them of the next activities but I told them no, every citizen must feel responsible and decide to take care of their environment by respecting eco-citizen gestures because I do not believe in mass gatherings to clean up, it is not the right solution for Senegal. Then I started filming my environmental activities and posting them on social networks with the hashtag QuartierVertChallenge that I created to reach more people. Quartier Vert Challenge affects all regions of Senegal and is present in 15 African countries. Various activities are carried out such as urban greening, micro gardening, waste management, awareness raising.

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Many Senegalese are affected and are beginning to do the same in their cities, young scouts from different African countries have contacted me to ask for advice on how to launch the concept in their countries today we are several dozen Green District Ambassadors Challenge across Africa, Madagascar is the latest newcomer since October 2022. The local and international media have spoken a lot about the project, they have come to the house and the neighborhood to see the ecological transformation that is taking place little by little. We do urban and family farming, waste management, urban and rural reforestation, environmental education in schools with digital content adapted to different social networks.

In 2022 UNESCO Green Cities recognized the QuartierVertChallenge as one of the 100 most innovative and replicable environmental projects with an impact on their community