

# Thinking big: How engineering can restore lush forests and lagoons in the Sinai Desert

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 8, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- NEW PODCAST by renowned conservationist and financier Ben Goldsmith has emphasised the importance of working together with the engineering and construction industries to restore wildlife.

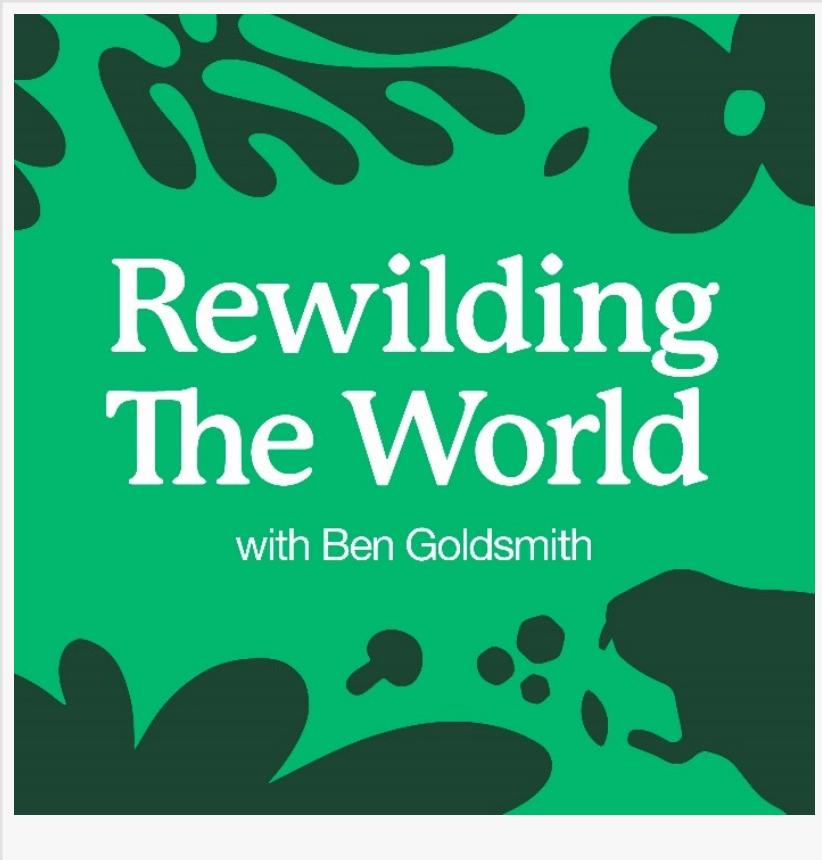
In the final episode of his first podcast series *Rewilding the World*, Goldsmith speaks to Ties van der Hoeven, Creative Director of The Weather Makers. The episode focuses on van der Hoeven's ambitious project to restore and 'regreen' Egypt's Sinai desert.

Weather Makers uses engineering to restore water cycles. In its Sinai Regeneration project, Weather Makers is seeking to restore the lush forests and river networks which once existed in the area, through various water harvesting initiatives.

van der Hoeven describes how the Sinai desert once contained a lush lagoon - protected by mountains - which supplied the surrounding area with water, but that thousands of years of erosion and deforestation has destroyed this water source, leaving Sinai nearly desertified.

In the episode, Goldsmith and van der Hoeven discuss the immense challenges involved with this restoration work the Sinai desert - which is one of the one of the world's starker examples of ecosystem collapse.

Together they discuss other restoration projects which inspired the Sinai Regeneration project, including the restoration of China's Loess Plateau, an ecosystem which faced similar damage to the Sinai Peninsula.



One regeneration tool championed by van der Hoeven is that of responsible dredging, where nutrient-rich sediment is brought up from river and ocean floors to enrich the surrounding land.

Talking about the importance of adopting new and innovative industrial methods when restoring torrid environments, Ties van der Hoeven said: “[engineering] can be very destructive, but if you change the purpose, it can become a very big, powerful tool to upscale regeneration projects.”

Ben Goldsmith said: “The Sinai Peninsula is an example of about as much ecological desecration as can be imagined [...] If we can restore it based on ideas brought from the dredging industry and other ecological restoration projects around the world, then really we can restore anywhere.”

The limited podcast series Rewilding the World features six episodes in total. The podcast was produced by The Podcast Coach and can be heard on Spotify, Apple and on the web.

The podcast immediately follows the launch of Goldsmith’s new book, God is an Octopus. The book reflects on Ben’s grief after losing his teenage daughter, Iris, in a tragic accident and the solace nature offered him.

Ben has also recently launched The Iris Prize, named after his late daughter, which is seeking to reward outstanding young people who are working on projects to restore nature around the world.

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