

D'a17

Désertif'actions



LAND AND CLIMATE: TIME TO ACT!

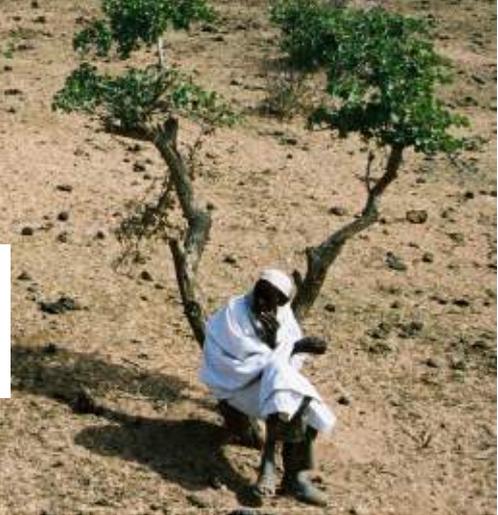
STRASBOURG UNIVERSITY - 27TH-28TH JUNE 2017

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF NON-STATE ACTORS

Land degradation and climate change in local territories

FINAL REPORT





Land degradation and climate change : time to act !



The timescale for soil to form stretches over thousands of years. Soil degradation and loss of arable land are among the major challenges facing humanity. All causes combined (rising temperatures, poor agricultural practices and urban sprawl), this global phenomenon threatens the future of society and can be exacerbated, here and there, by land grabbing. It defies people's security and food sovereignty and jeopardises vital services for life on Earth provided by ecosystems for years to come.



Rapid land degradation also deprives us of its priceless ability to store carbon, while swift cuts in atmospheric CO2 levels, constantly reiterated by the scientific community, are a top priority.

The years pass and time is short. 2015 raised high hopes with the adoption, in September, in New York, of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (including the target 15.3 for a land degradation-neutral world) and, in December, in Paris, at the COP21, of a climate agreement providing a specific framework for commitment and action by States and non-State actors. Although these universally approved procedures form a precious foundation to guide the international community in its priorities, action is now a global dictate, which must be widely embodied over and above words.

The international summit of non-state actors Désertif'actions 2017 appears like an answer to the need to act by creating synergies between actors in the fight against desertification and climate change.

High-level plenary and the 12 thematic workshops permitted to facilitate the exchange of ideas between the participants, who have reminded in a final statement the importance of a stronger interaction between land and climate change issues.

In my opinion, ONLY civil society can outline and define who we will become and what we will become as a society. It is your passion and your commitment that will outline and define our relationship with the world.



Monique Barbut - Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.



Adaptation and mitigation have emerged as a priority for populations already impacted and for whom the preservation of natural resources is essential. Way of exploitation is directly concerned as well as the forms of land tenure; land grabbing becoming a real problem. The different concepts and initiatives that have emerged in recent years provide a framework for action but fund rising still remains one of the limiting factors. In this context the mobilization of all is necessary. In this way, role of women and collectivities through decentralized cooperation process, in the valorization of the land was an element of reflection.



Worldwide, 2015 was the hottest year since 1850*



22 millions climate refugees in 2013, equivalent to the population of Ivory Coast.



Drylands account for 1/3 of the emerged land on the planet.



Desertification directly impacts 44% of cultivated systems.

Extract from the *Désertif'actions 2017*

(...) Following the declarations from the "Climate and Territories" summit in Lyon, in 2015, and "Climate Chance 2016" in Nantes, we stress that without this territorial approach, focused as closely as possible on local communities and stakeholders, we cannot implement sustainable policies to combat land degradation and deliver rehabilitation activities.

We highlight that rallying local and regional stakeholders around these challenges is crucial and that they should be aware that urban sprawl, in both the North and the South, must be fully contained and pre-empted. We stress the importance of providing elected representatives, especially those in the South, with planning and land management tools, and that funding these tools, which is ultimately inexpensive given the stakes involved, must be prioritised by the international community.

To this end, we support the development of decentralised cooperation initiatives for land restoration, by emphasising the importance of sharing experience, exchanging good practice and disseminating lessons learned.

We urge territorial stakeholders to procure regional food plans that empower them and boost their sovereignty, include a balance between production and consumption and safeguard the diversity of arable land. We also encourage the implementation of ecologically-intensive agricultural policies that respect human health and future generations.

Desertification is the catalyst for all inequalities, all forms of poverty, all kinds of extremism and all types of violence. Taking action to restore land is about providing a life plan and hope to communities suffering the most from desertification. It also extends a hand to all those pushed by misery on to the main roads in the cities of the North and South and contends the unacceptable tragedy of forced and irregular migration. Combatting desertification is equally about helping the most destitute to regain their dignity.

Extract taken from a message by Nicolas Hulot, Government Minister for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, to participants.





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www.desertif-actions.fr/en

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General context

Desertif'actions 2017 is the International Forum of non-state actors held on 27 and 28 June 2017 at the University of Strasbourg at the invitation of the City of Strasbourg, which agreed to host the Summit, to organize a parallel program in town for the general public and to support the Declaration of the Forum at the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to be held in Ordos, inner Mongolia, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017.

Desertif'actions 2017, which precedes the Conferences of the Parties (COP) of the UNCCD since 2013, and aims to develop a common vision on the major issues in sustainable land management and thus convey the voice of civil society in their discussions during the COP.

In this third session, Desertif'actions widened beyond civil society to all non-state actors thanks to the involvement of Climate Chance, which has been a major organizer alongside the CARI. The Strasbourg session brought together NGOs, scientists, local authorities, farmers' organizations, private and public institutions. They all agreed to meet to debate and share about the stakeholders' initiatives regarding sustainable land management and development.

Desertif'actions 2017 was built around plenary sessions and workshops. The workshops focused on various topics related to land degradation and climate change imposed by current world events, and the collateral risks they generate in terms of food security, development and international stability.

More than 150 participants travelled to Strasbourg, from more than thirty countries spanning the five Annexes to the UNCCD over Europe and the European Union, to contribute to the 2017 Desertif'Actions works, and enrich the Forum with their presence.

The final declaration, final program for Desertif'actions 2017 and the list of participants are attached as Appendices No.1, 2 & 3.





Welcoming Speech

Modated by Patrice Burger
President of CARI

1.1 Roland Ries

Mayor of Strasbourg

Mr. Roland Ries welcomed all the participants, which he was pleased to see representing over thirty countries in Strasbourg. He thanked and congratulated the organizers of DA'2017 and partners who have been willing to support the forum. Hosting this forum in Strasbourg shows, if necessary, the conviction of its local players that ecological transition is an emergency which requires the mobilization of all. He expressed the high and strong commitment of the city of Strasbourg, as parliamentary seat of Europe and capital of human rights, to fight against climate change, both in terms of mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to the impacts of this phenomenon. This commitment arises through that of local governments collaborating with local authorities, civil society and citizens, to implement global agendas on the required scale with matching responsibilities and resources.

Recalling his role in the world organization of local governments which France, with South Africa, assumes the Vice-Presidency, Mr. Roland Ries noted the links between desertification and poverty and the impact of land degradation on the living conditions of affected populations; degraded lands are degraded lives and lead in particular towards forced migration. This link causes a human tragedy not so far from Europe, which must in turn manage the flow of migrants. Thus, the city of Strasbourg, in an educational and awareness effort, organized several side events alongside DA'2017 Forum to mobilize citizens and tourists around these issues. In addition, and in order to share and exchange, field visits are organized to allow DA'2017 participants to discover experiences of sustainable land management implemented by local authorities and civil society of Strasbourg.

Mr. Roland Ries, also emphasized that the challenges of land degradation and climate change needed to change land management practices and act urgently to allow children to be born to live with dignity and decently; that it is not a fatality, but there is urgency in action.

Mr. Roland Ries concluded his speech by quoting the statement from the declaration of human rights: "a world where the future is not compromised by irresponsibility in the present." He guaranteed the support of the city of Strasbourg to bring the Strasbourg Declaration to international bodies, recalling that the 13th Session of COP/ UNCCD (COP13) to be held next September in Ordos, China, is a significant point in history to save the planet from the danger everyone is now aware of.





1.2 Mathieu Schneider

Vice President of the University of Strasbourg, in charge of culture and science

Mr. Mathieu Schneider first welcomed all participants to DA'2017 in the premises of the University of Strasbourg. He stressed that the choice of location of the Forum was not an accident but in fact justified primarily by the close link between the city of Strasbourg and its university, with which it shares the same objectives in welcoming students and value the results of research, and secondly by the University's ontological role in social debates, to enable an informed decision based on prospective and retrospective analysis. The university must, therefore, establish a bond of trust between scientists and people and secure the credibility of science. The function of certified knowledge is in this sense essential for the University to be able to provide, besides the mission of education and research, its role as the cornerstone of research, civil society and decision makers, through innovation and creation. A third mission of the University emerges to meet the challenges of the 21st century while ensuring the territorial anchorage of science, is that of innovation and co-construction research projects with citizens to achieve a truly participatory science. It is in this context that DA'2017 exists, as a collective and concerted action to combat desertification, neither exclusively in the political sphere nor in that of research, but at the interface of the two! The Forum has, on this matter, emphasized the value of the parallel program, the "Off" Program, to mobilize citizens and get their attention and interest on the issues of land degradation, often overshadowed by climate change.

Mr. Schneider has ultimately confirmed Strasbourg's commitment and its University to support efforts against desertification : "This is in our genes and you should not doubt it!", did he declare.

1.3 Nicolas Hulot

Minister of State, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (through video)

Through his recorded speech, Mr. Nicolas Hulot expressed regrets for not being present in Strasbourg, and reaffirmed his interest in the land issues; he is convinced of the importance of soil issues as much for those who live by it as for those who live from it. Mr. Hulot called for a more effective and more global consideration of the role of land in the fight against climate change. He assured that the protection of soil, and even more, the restoration of degraded land is at the heart of the battle against climate change. He deemed that the chances of winning this battle were already minimal and could not be handled by the single reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that they require further recovery of the natural ability of ecosystems to store these gases. Without action on soils, it will be impossible to maintain the temperature rise at two degrees as defined in the Paris Agreement.

Mr. Nicolas Hulot, then recalled that desertification was the catalyst of all the inequalities, of all poverty, all forms of extremism and all violences. Thus, Mr. Hulot insisted that acting on land restoration is to restore a life plan, a hope for the people who are most affected. It is also lending a hand to all those that misery drives on the roads of the great Northern and Southern cities and fight against the unacceptable tragedy of forced and irregular migration. Acting against desertification is also helping the destitute to reclaim their dignity.

To this end, he has given an agenda that includes actions closer to the local people to secure their





Introductory Plenary

inalienable right to land and to protect them from the scourge of land grabbing, as well as the action with the indigenous peoples by enhancing their invaluable contribution to the preservation of Mother Earth.

Mr. Hulot reaffirmed France's commitment to carry the voice of Desertif'Actions and the fight against land degradation to international and regional bodies like the European Union, the UN, the G5 Sahel, etc.

Introductory Plenary - Climate change and land degradation : The soil at the heart of the 21st century challenges

Moderated by Patrice Burger, President of CARI

In his introduction, Patrice Burger recalled that the slogan of Desertif'Actions 2017 was no longer only a requirement but an injunction to action. He rejoiced and praised the partnership established with Climate Chance for the organization of the third session of the forum for it had expanded the audience to indigenous peoples and local communities. He noted that with globalization, "geography tightens while time is more scarce, and in this context the fight against desertification is an act of the civilization against barbarism."

2.1 Monique Barbut

Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - UNCCD

Monique Barbut welcomed this third session of Désertif'Actions and hopes it will mark the time for action, quoting Thomas Jefferson she was confident "that this is the action that defines who we are and what we will become." Thus, and for our society to become the society we want, where "no one is left behind," the fight against desertification is an imperative. As Hama Arba Diallo said, "Desertification affects the poorest of the poor ...", those ones need to know what they should/can do today, to eat tomorrow and not be forced to leave their land after tomorrow. Without urgent action, they will be increasingly left behind by development.

Indeed, the estimates predict that 135 million people will be driven out from their land in the next 15 years, and that 12 million hectares are lost each year due to land degradation, the effects of climate change and bad management practices. The link between desertification, poverty and migration is well-established, and there are solutions. Several experiments at local scale set an example of what can be done in terms of land restoration and protection. We must now take action, "engage fully or stay home" as recommended in the American adage.





To do this, Ms. Barbut has drafted a 5 points action plan including :

1. The action for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) which is a target and an accelerator of sustainable development goals. One hundred and ten countries pledged to ensure the LDN. Civil society must be involved in the implementation of the LDN programs and projects, and must monitor the degree of achievement of their targets. It must attract the attention of the international community on current issues and challenges.
2. The action to change patterns of consumption and production before they become drivers of degradation. She recalled the role of family farming, stating that at present half a million farmers cultivate land under 2 hectares while feeding 80% of the planet altogether.
3. The action to limit the energetic and ecological footprint of cities and exported effects of their expansion and development. As a matter of fact, 20 million hectares of agricultural land are converted to urban expansion and related infrastructure.
4. The action to secure access to land and ensure equal opportunities to all those who work it. Land rights are increasingly recognized by the UNCCD through the significant efforts of civil society.
5. The action to boost local solutions and carry the voice of civil society in national and international forums. To do this, politics must change and agendas evolve.

To conclude her speech, Ms. Barbut urged participants to never doubt "that a few thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world ."

2.2. Eric Brun

Secretary General of ONERC , Focal point of France to the IPCC (Ministry for Ecology and Inclusive Transition)

Mr. Eric Brun introduced his speech by underlining that scientific knowledge on climate change are fraught with many uncertainties, but stressed the danger to hide behind these to deny the certainties that are verified. These certainties are related most notably:

- To dry areas, which will become drier and wet areas wetter
- To the general although not uniform increase temperature, which will be global and its effect on evapotranspiration;
- To the changes in rainfall patterns, which will increase in the northern regions and decrease between the tropics, as in the Mediterranean area;
- To the rarer and more intense rainfall, which will increase soil erosion and require adaptation efforts of current agricultural practices.

These trends suggest a disturbing outlook since all of them threaten the population's food security.

Recognizing the links between the issues of land degradation and climate change, and in view of its mission to provide validated scientific information, the IPCC decided to draw up a report on "Climate change and



emerged land: IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and flows of greenhouse gases in terrestrial ecosystems” whose final version will be published in September 2019. The length of the title reflects the complexity of the involved phenomena and the role of scientific knowledge to influence the agendas of international bodies.

Mr. Eric Brun briefly introduced ONERC and its role in the definition and implementation of policies in adapting to climate change in France, where several challenges related to climate change are already visible, such as increased risk of drought, heat wave episodes, water issues, soil degradation, etc. ONERC is the national organization that provides scientific knowledge on the trends needed for decision support.

2.3. Lauren Carter

Carter Foundation

Ms. Carter thanked the CARI and Climate Chance for the opportunity given to her to participate at DA'2017 Forum. She introduced her speech by recalling the challenges of climate COP21 and 22 which have constituted major turning points in global agendas in relation with commitments and action.

She stressed the importance of finding ways and approaches to use public money to amplify private investment. The budgets needed for the implementation of the states' national voluntary contributions are much more important than the available public finances. It is therefore important to mobilize private finance and to find ways to enhance the existing financing instruments.

She underlined that the financial resources available to finance adaptation actions are still very low compared to those available for mitigation. Nevertheless, she cited compelling initiatives that mobilize financial resources to support adaptation actions, and which might be useful to maintain focus on adaptation.

2.4. Xavier Sticker

Interdepartmental Ambassador for Environment, France

Mr. Xavier Sticker recalled the commitment and actions taken by France in combatting desertification and the effects of climate change. He was pleased that this commitment is confirmed after the changes which have occurred in the country and that France remains the world's largest donor in terms of development aid granted as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He highlighted the contribution of the French Scientific Committee on Desertification (CSFD) which just celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Paris.

Referring to the close links between the fight against desertification and human rights, Mr. Xavier Sticker stressed the importance of the next COP13, specifically in relation to sustainable development and the implementation of the SDG17. Land degradation neutrality is essential, and he recommended not to deviate from this objective but rather to provide a concrete content and secure a dedicated fund. He also recalled the role of the Science-Policy Interface and the need to ensure greater visibility for its achievements.

Without prejudging to the results of the negotiations, Mr. Xavier Sticker noted that, despite being absent





from the negotiations agenda, drought deserves to be discussed for an update on the implementation of actions.

It will be necessary to take into account the many achievements that exist, including work on the monitoring and evaluation systems and drought warning systems, developed in particular by the Observatory of the Sahara and Sahel (OSS) and Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). It will also be necessary strengthen the resilience of countries affected by drought.

For this, the institutions and instruments available and used in arid regions must be brought into line and strengthened, with the support of European partners who must play their role fully, to the initiative of Africans themselves who must take leadership on these issues.

Concluding, Mr. Xavier Sticker stressed the need to keep in mind the image associated with desertification, the face of a poor farmer in fields that are cracked by drought, and the need to work to change this imagery, "these are the human realities we have to keep in mind" while acting, he added.

Following these interventions, Mr. Patrice Burger noted that the previous speakers have established a fairly comprehensive overview of the current situation from the viewpoint of the "framework for action" (Monique Barbut), "science" (Eric Brun), "the financing" (Lauren Carter)", the commitment of the State" (Xavier sticker), which shows that the current setting was conducive to action. He then asked the panel members to complete their interventions by answering the question : "What are we waiting for to take action? "

Monique Barbut called on all actors to take all their responsibilities. The Secretariat of the UNCCD takes his and assumes the risk of promoting certain ideas even when they are still not unanimous, as it was with setting national targets for land degradation neutrality. Today, the results show the relevance of the approach. These are 110 countries that have set their target and prepare transformative projects to reach it. There are also two financing instruments which are being put together: The first one, the Land Degradation Neutrality fund, is the first global natural capital fund which will intervene in the same way in all countries. The second is a fund to support the preparation of projects in synergy with the other two agreements from the Rio process . Ms. Barbut ultimately stressed that we should not wait for the concepts to be well-defined and everyone to be in full agreement, we must take the risk of moving forward.

Ms. Lauren Carter stressed the need to bridge the gap between public and private funding and strengthen public-private partnerships to get to mobilize the necessary funding for the implementation of national voluntary contribution. The development of matrices to evaluate risks and establishing the actions of climate finance on a sound basis are also necessary prerequisites for this.





Mr. Xavier Sticker estimated that the stakeholders have entered the fray long ago, although at first the solution seemed simple and in the hands of nurserymen to erect barriers of trees against the advancing desert. Now that there is evidence that desertification was not advancing desert but a more complex phenomenon linked largely to human activities, the solutions are not just in the hands of foresters, they must be integrated in conjunction with all the components of human development.

Speaking last, Mr. Eric Brun highlighted the many changes befallen over the years. We must certainly not be overly naive, still there are many reasons for optimism. He stressed that desertification was a global issue which also involves developed countries that are not directly affected.





Opening Plenary

Moderation: Ronan Dantec, President of Climate Chance, Senator of Loire-Atlantique

As an introduction to the opening plenary, Mr. Ronan Dantec briefly presented Climate Chance, a non-profit organization whose goal is to strengthen the participation of non-state actors in the negotiations on climate change and promote dialogue between them. In fact, experience shows that even if the multilateral environmental agreements have introduced practices of dialogue between non-state actors and states, the dialogue between non-state actors themselves was too often missing. Climate Chance provides a forum to encourage dialogue between civil society, local communities, elected officials and indigenous peoples. It was thus natural to join the organization of the third session of Desertif'Actions which, constituting a civil society dialogue forum, is expanding to other non-state actors.

He wished that this opening panel would be as interactive as possible and invited the panel members to call each other on any issues which they consider essential.

3.1. Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez

Aider, Drynet, OSC Panel - Latin America, Peru

Ms. Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez presented the commitment of her organization in the fight against desertification through supporting the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms, including cooperatives of small farmers. Its operations consist as much in conservation action in protected areas as restoration actions in buffer zones, thus defining a direct link with climate change mitigation. Civil society has a critical role at the local level to be able to provide the necessary expertise and secure sustainability of the partnership between the multiple actors. Indeed, the early stages of this platform were not easy since we had to find a consensus between the often conflicting interests of different actors. Once we established dialogue and gained confidence, the actors found ways to reconcile their interests. The role of the State is also essential to support this process and implement the necessary setting.

3.2. Brahim Hafidi

Former President of the Souss-Massa region, President of the National Development Agency of Oasis Zones and Argan (ANDZOA), Kingdom of Morocco

Mr. Brahim Hafidi recalled the strong commitment of Morocco in the negotiations and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. He stressed that this undertaking requires the mobilization of actors at the local level, where action is carried out, and without which the objectives of the Conventions can not be achieved. It is therefore necessary to have a transfer of skills and state resources to local authorities. He stressed, in this regard, the essential role of local officials and the need for their mobilization on the issues of



sustainable development.

Reflecting on the experience of the Souss-Massa region, Mr. Brahim Hafidi noted that the degradation phenomena affect both the most important ecosystems of the region: the argan tree and the oasis which he described as barriers against creeping desert. The impacts are important as much on natural resources including soil and water as on populations, and cause deterioration of living conditions, poverty and migration.

The drought that lasted from 1998 to 2008 caused a water deficit of more than 300 million cubic meters thus pushing for an increasingly important exploitation of deep aquifers. Faced with declining groundwater levels, the region decided to set up a new strategy for water resources management and the rehabilitation of degraded lands. The mobilization of all the players around this strategy required a year of negotiations and consultations to reach the program contracts agreements. This new development strategy is based on the value of local products and the rehabilitation of local improvements through the creation of coalitions of civil society and local stakeholders or local communities, and the adoption of drought adjustment measures, such as drip irrigation techniques.

After this period of drought, the region experienced heavy flooding in 2009. A revision of the previous strategy was then necessary to include this new natural disaster and envisage the appropriate course of action.

Indigenous peoples had developed ways to fight against drought and against floods, and these legacy technologies help manage water and land resources in climatic conditions characterised by a high variability. However, this traditional knowledge dwindled with the departure of local people who fled the increasingly difficult living conditions. The mission of the National Development Agency of Oasis Zones and Argan (ANDZOA) is to revive and develop traditional knowledge in regard of profitability in order to rehabilitate these ecosystems. This way, for 1 euro invested to make terraces, there are 10 euros of return on investment, including 4 euros for agriculture, 5.5 euros to prevent damage due to dams siltation and 0.5 euros for carbon sequestration.

Mr. Brahim Hafidi added that the biggest challenge in the establishment of such a development strategy was financing. State grants are certainly essential, but the contribution of the international community through international organizations is also important. Public-private partnerships are also crucial to face some challenges such as maintaining irrigated areas following the fall of the deep aquifers with the implementation of seawater desalination plants.

3.3. Mamadou Cissoko

Honorary President of the West African Farmers Organisations and Agricultural Producers Network (ROPPA), Farmers Representative, Mali

Mr. Cissoko reflected upon the Moroccan experience to see if it was widespread in Africa or whether it could only be linked to the economic interest of the argan tree. It is important to recognize that what happens is





outside of a God's anger but a corruption of established governance systems. As a matter of fact, the African continent is crippled by its low capacity to negotiate. Mineral resources earnings are not in line with the potential return for the States, and since these exploitations are operated in the open, they have direct impacts on the environment both on land degradation on climate change, and far more than the impact of agriculture on greenhouse gas emissions. Yet these impacts are not measured. Setting up an observatory would be required to measure the emissions caused by mining as well as those caused by the use of fertilizers for a clear and transparent evaluation of the real costs of mining products and cash crops.

Mr. Mamadou Cissoko has encouraged civil society to be a real counter force and to not align with the discourse of current leadership. He has to admit that States are not able to provide budgetary allocations for restoration actions due to their commitments with the Bretton Woods institutions. He also expressed severe doubts about the adequacy and effectiveness of public-private partnership brought forth by large multinational companies when it comes to sustainable land management. However, he called for greater economic justice : local people do not need help, they need a more transparent and fairer management of their mining and natural resources, paid at the right price, and that the nuisance brought by the extraction and management techniques would be considered. Therefore, alongside the observatories, the creation of agroecology laboratories is a priority to develop techniques and inherited knowledge rather than relying on imported techniques, he recommended, citing the example of local people in Casamance who cultivates rice without input regarding their belief that fertilizers contaminate water and the sacred forest.

"We know that we will die one day, we do not want to be told when, we just want to know what we must do to delay our end," he added.

3.4. Baris Karapinar

DKM, Drynet , SCO Panel, Turkey

Mr. Baris Karapinar recalled the importance of land issues in the agenda of the Civil Society panel of the UNCCD. He noted that access to land was a much more important issue for local people than access to finance. He stressed the links between the actions of combatting desertification, adaptation and mitigation based on the intervention of Mr. Eric Brun and in particular the report being prepared by the IPCC which confirms, if necessary, this link.

Soil is the second carbon tank after the oceans. Small farmers have a role to play in mitigating Greenhouse Gases (GHG). They need to be investing in the restoration of their land, but they will do so only if they are able to access to land ownership, thus securing returns on investment they have made and to sustain their actions.

In connection with the objective of land degradation neutrality, Mr. Baris Karapinar recalled the Civil Society Panel of concerns that the funding granted to Africa for the restoration of land constitute a risk of land grabbing. That is why this issue of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is strongly linked to the right of access to land, and is a major issue.



3.5. Christel Kohler

Deputy Mayor in charge of the nurturing city, Strasbourg, France

Ms. Christel Kohler gave an overview of the actions of the city of Strasbourg for the greening of its activities and its surroundings. She noted that the main issues were related to the preservation of groundwater and the restoration of a balance between urbanization and agricultural areas of intensive cash-crop farming (corn). The city has established a partnership with farmers to encourage changes in agricultural practices including the establishment of short circuits within the business of school canteens.

She also noted the actions of the City of Strasbourg in favour of the preservation of natural areas, development of green areas and conservation of natural heritage. This helped the city of Strasbourg rank 3rd city in France in terms of biodiversity conservation.

Ms. Christel Kohler stressed the importance of regulations for the protection of forest ecosystems and urban planning documents.

Questioned by the Moderator of the panel on this point, Ms. Christel Kohler admitted that after all these efforts, the city of Strasbourg is much richer in biodiversity than the surrounding countryside and that exported effects of urbanization in rural surrounding were not always reflected in the efforts of other cities to improve their own environment. However, actions with consumers showed their relevance in inducing new agricultural practices from new consumption patterns.

3.6. Charlotte Blondel,

Youth on the move, YOUNGO representative, France

Ms. Charlotte Blondel noted the importance of youth involvement in the discussions and negotiations on desertification and climate. Their contribution is undeniable, they have different approaches to problems, more innovative with more opportunities to make connections and to network. It is important to ensure young people training so that they assume this role and are active representatives in the negotiations. They will thus manage to connect advocacy to local action. By inviting Ms. Charlotte Blondel, Mr. Ronan Dantec questioned whether these experiences were spreading around the world or, on the contrary, they remained partitioned in the borders of their region or country.

3.7. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

IPAAC, Drynet, IPO Representative to the Panel of civil society organizations in the UNCCD for Africa

Chad

Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim noted that there was a need to agree on definitions for different levels of governance, noting, for example, that "poverty line" as defined by the international community did not correspond to such poverty as lived in reality. At the local level, poverty is not financial, measurable in dollars : it is loss of dignity, it is the inability to access funding by lack of organization of key players and capabilities to meet the financial backers' conditionalities.





Ms. Hindou Oumarou believes that the agreements can not be effective if they aren't accompanied by a real shift in development choices, which need to make more room for local people and local stakeholders who, alone, master the field realities and are capable of leading actions for change. She stressed the importance of taking into account local knowledge in addition to research results related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM), and she outlined the importance of having a coalition of all involved actors to create a critical mass capable of generating change in the field. She regretted that the funds currently available are insufficient to create real change, and that the complexity of accessing funding is felt as an injustice by local rural communities who struggle to fulfil the conditions necessary to mobilize funds.

She called for improved access to financing options, and for development partners to give more opportunities for local people to enable them to be masters of their development, learn from their mistakes and to evolve in their activities.

Commenting on the intervention of Ms. Hindou Oumarou, Mr. Ronan Dantec feared that a new fracture would emerge between the territories which have the means to be well organized and will then be able to mobilize the financing put in place internationally, and others with low organizational and action skills which will thus be marginalized and left further behind. Another inequality and injustice!

3.8. Discussion

Mr. Ronan Dantec invited participants to respond to the Panel's interventions by giving the three main points that they have noted. Below a summary of the key points :

- Promote and upgrade the farm work and life in rural areas, to attract the interest of young people in agriculture and the transmission of legacy know-how;
- Strengthen funding and rebalance priorities (arms, illicit enrichment, agriculture, rural and sustainable development);
- Clarify the concept of synergy between conventions and give it a more concrete content in order to convert commitments into action at the local level;
- Restore the rightful place of research in improving knowledge while enhancing local knowledge to make them more efficient;
- Strengthen local government competence to enable them to be powerful actors, able to move towards action-research;
- Take into account the negative externalities of cash and export crops
- (Re)Building trust between local populations and both stakeholders and development partners to allow much of the world's population no longer feel ignored, to recover their dignity and pursue life projects in their territory;
- Reboot the collective and local intelligence to think differently and change representations. It will require, to "liberate the creative genius", to listen more and better either the young and the oldest;





- Shift the paradigm to ensure a new approach to development;
- By redistributing authority at the local scale, the state must continue its roles of control, with critical and intersectoral vision, to support the structuring of local authorities and civil society;
- Show that it is possible to induce change and promote decision-making leading to action.





Workshop sessions

Tuesday June 27th 2017, 14:00 – 16:30

IV - Workshop no.1 : Drylands, adaptation and resilience : what tools are available in the territories to define their coping strategy ?

Moderator: Patrice Burger, CARI

Reporting: Manon Albagnac, CARI / ReSaD

4.1. Introduction

The resilience of territories resides in their ability to withstand shocks or large changes caused by human activities on natural resources, on land in particular. It represents the ability of a system and its components to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or cure the effects of impacting events efficiently and in a given time, ensuring the preservation, restoration or the improvement of these core components and functions . Historically, many territories have demonstrated that this capability exists, however it is now subject to shorter time frames, and stronger anthropogenic pressures. The growing impacts of climate change complicate these issues. The adaptation has become in this case a mandatory course of action that must mobilize energy and resources, meet strategic choice, study options for change and their social and economic consequences, etc.

In this context, the use of dedicated tools and methods helps to shorten timeframes, and improve efficiency in particular by sharing experiences. The workshop will focus on answering the following questions: What are these tools? How effective are they? Which are yet to be created?

4.2. Sophiko Akhobadze

Representative of Eastern Europe at the SC / UNCCD Panel

Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and the implementation of actions to prevent or reduce the damage. It is proven that a well-planned adaptation and adaptation measures implemented early allow to save money and lives. Strengthening the capacity of countries to support adaptation actions is therefore a major challenge.

The ability to adapt depends on the state of development and correlated with sustainable development and its three pillars. It is therefore necessary to integrate climate change adaptation into development policies





and recognize it as a critical component of sustainable development. The solutions are the responsibility of local communities, and the constraints weighing on their actions must be lifted. Two examples of action adaptation in local communities were presented.

4.3. Hervé Petit

Head of Asia projects AVSF

AVSF is involved since 2014 in a project to support goat breeders and cashmere producers in the Bayankhongor region, Mongolia. The goal is to help farmers improve their production and increase their income without increasing their herds, through:

- Strengthening capacities of breeders for the conduct of their livestock (breedind and feeding improvement, animal health);
- Improved cashmere wool marketing conditions, with the promotion of sustainable cashmere products towards major luxury groups (pre-ordering and payment of a premium on the product);
- Monitoring the status of grazing tracks with remote sensing.

4.4. Khadija Razavi

CENESTA — Iranian NGO for sustainable development

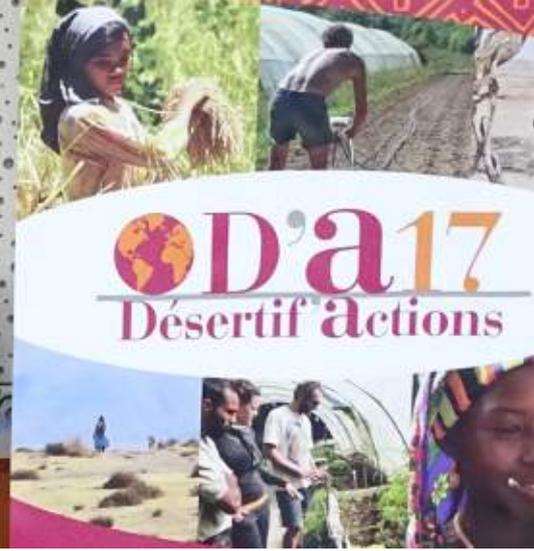
Adaptation and resilience are new terms for mechanisms implemented long ago. In Iran, the seasonal transhumance used by pastoralists is an adaptation strategy to protect pastoral ecosystems. There is a strong link between their identity, their methods of production and the territories.

Since the 1920s, consecutive autocratic regimes in Iran threatened this balance by orchestrating public sector land grabbing to inappropriate ends.

In an adaptation effort, nomadic tribes had to reorganize and federate to demand recognition of their rights and reclaim their land. CENESTA supports this restructuration, and examples of conservation and resilience actions are given, which are implemented with local communities to develop their local and traditional knowledge.

Based on these experiences, recommendations are being put forward to improve the resilience of communities:

- Recognize ancestral territories as communitarian and indigenous protected areas;
- Support community conservation initiatives for sustainable land management and adaptation to climate change;
- Strengthen national institutions and communities in arid areas;
- Promote socio-cultural and ecological strategies such as seasonal migration, to manage the environmental impacts;



- Local and traditional knowledge should be researched, be better recognized and applied as part of a collective governance;
- Recognize customary rights of pastoralists on their ancestral lands, their knowledge, expertise, governance rules, etc. ;
- Support their lifestyles through pastoral activities, agriculture and Income Generating Activities (IGA: ecotourism, medicinal plants, crafts, etc.).

Moderator's comments: These two cases in Mongolia and Iran are inspiring: they show how to preserve natural resources, including land, and adapt to climate change by developing a variety of activities throughout the value chain, from producer to consumer. In both cases, resilience does not come from technological development, but rather from the organization or reorganization of communities, with due respect for their social and cultural structure in the territories, and the promotion of ancestral knowledge. This is the basis for a collaboration with science.

4.5. Michael Woodbridge

ICLEI

Adaptation and resilience action planning tools are available to governments and local authorities, and are particularly employed by cities. Governments and communities use them to achieve their climate change adaptation objectives. These objectives must meet the following challenges:

- Biophysical: natural disasters (floods, landslides), extreme weather events;
- Linked to human activities: unsustainable land use, overgrazing, intensive agriculture, mining, deforestation, unsustainable resource management, use of chemical products, factors related to the increasing human population.

As an example, using the BARC tool (Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities) in Vancouver, Canada, has allowed local communities to develop an adaptation strategy in 2012 in five stages ranging from the formulation of a diagnosis, to identification of stakeholders, analysis of climate change at the global level and its impact in the region (risks). Adaptation objectives and a monitoring-evaluation system are then defined. The BARC tool also provides communications to the general public related to the progress of adaptation actions.

The strategy includes a strong rainfall storms management plan and flood management, which were identified by the city as priorities. These elements are integrated into construction laws and urban planning.

Moderator Comment: This presentation serves to illustrate one of the introductory remarks: adaptation of communities requires planning, risks identification, setting goals to mitigate those risks, and action steps. This must be considered at the local level, across the country, but in line with global changes and other territories. The rural adaptation can be connected to what is happening in cities, and vice versa. Many tools





exist to facilitate the adaptation of urban areas, which host most human populations and activities, and therefore can be severely affected by climate change.

4.6. Discussion elements

- The problems of transhumant pastoralists are similar in other parts of the world and particularly in the Sahel. The solutions come from the people themselves who must be accompanied;
- Social and cultural factors are essential to the fight against desertification and adaptation to climate change. When the capacities of communities are strengthened, they may organize, improve the management of natural resources and protect the environment. The return to traditional structures allows people to take action;
- The case of Iran shows that new technologies such as intensive agriculture, or the installation of large dams, may have had a detrimental effect on the environment and hampered adaptation to climate variability and change. Nevertheless, it is necessary to not completely rule out scientific and technological solutions, as was well evidenced in Mongolia. Conditions change, whether human, or environmental. The ancestral knowledge should be shared with whom can produce research efforts;
- A major concern to consider is the collection and sharing of local and traditional knowledge. The UNCCD offers a management system to capitalize good practices;
- The various branches of development (agriculture, food security, fight against desertification) have common areas and are also connected to urban problems. Although interventions across the territory of the community or the collectivity are preferred, it is necessary to think in a broader context and to not neglect their impact on neighbouring areas;
- When taking action, do not come with the “right answers” but with the “right questions” that must be presented to relevant stakeholders;
- Adaptation to climate change can not be based only on technical or financial answers alone, but must take into account the dialogue between the actors and their organization.

To conclude, traditional knowledge shows limitations in a rapidly changing world. For its part, science is not free from yielding disasters. It is therefore necessary to create a dialogue and to share ancient knowledge and supplement with what science can provide. In this sense, the adaptation of rural areas may also be guided by actions carried out in urban areas. The Slow Food movement demonstrates this: it is not born of scientific and technological prowess but relies entirely on the reorganization of populations along a productive chain.



V- Workshop no.2 : Can climate financing fund land restoration ?

Moderator : Ronan Dantec, Climate Chance

Rapporteur : Romain Crouzet, Climate Chance

5.1. Introduction

It is urgent to deploy worldwide agricultural and forestry practices that promote soil restoration, food security and protection for vulnerable populations. These agricultural and forestry practices can also help store carbon at low cost, thus providing multiple benefits. Given the importance of financing needs in land restoration, it is essential to enhance the attractiveness of viable projects for public donors, development banks and private investors to financially support this strategy.

This workshop explores both:

- The possibilities of existing financing such as climate funding, development banks and international agencies, environmental funds, non-governmental organizations, national resources, private funding, or non-traditional financing;
- Improving investment in the restoration of land and forests, identifying priorities and enabling favourable settings for investment from the experiences of the participants and build alliances to face the future.

The main themes are agricultural and forestry practices that promote soil restoration, food security, protection of vulnerable populations, carbon storage and the financing needs for land restoration.

5.2. Lauren Carter

Director — Climate Finance Initiatives

Only 7% of climate finance (out of \$US 400 billion) is channelled for adaptation projects, while funding should be shared equally between adaptation and mitigation. It is therefore necessary to exert greater pressure for adjustment to be taken into account in climate change financing strategies, and for land restoration, which is not regarded as a mitigation effort, to be better considered.

There is a real willingness to finance adaptation to climate change, yet there is also a need to better structure projects to attract investors. Public resources should be used to strengthen project development capacities to harness private funding.

5.3. Mamadou Cissokho

Honorary President of ROPPA

To increase funding for adaptation, focus should be added on indirect financing, such as mechanisms to minimise pollution from transport systems, like a kind of carbon tax. The taxation of emissions in Africa is



necessary, otherwise there is a risk that emissions will be relocated there. A good project is the result of a comprehensive multi-stakeholder partnership, however one must keep in mind that development is not embodied necessarily in perpetual innovation (newness for the sake of being new), it must draw on ancestral knowledge, and mind the risk of always wanting to reinvent the wheel to attract investment. Confidence between North and South should be re-established, just as the South's confidence in research.

5.4. Anne Barre

WECF France Honorary President

Women assume between 40% and 80% of the world's agricultural production but own only 2% of the land, preventing them from defending themselves and imposing their essential role. Their access to finance is very low, and flows of climate finance that integrate climate and gender issues represent only 1% of funding. The Green Climate Fund does provide a gender related project evaluation, but access remains difficult.

Funding mechanisms are mostly directed towards States that do not always have the means to locally distribute the mobilized funds. Local actors thus have no access to finance. It would take intermediate structures to redistribute funding to local actors, on smaller projects than current ones.

5.5. Aurélie Reibel

Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES)

The GERES, which has been involved for 40 years in rural areas on issues related to access to energy among others, presented the approach CEMAATERR (Climate-Energy: Measures for Adaptation And Mitigation in Rural Areas and Secondary Relay Cities). The program was built with the objective of increasing resilience to climate change in rural areas and secondary relay cities through institutional support and adaptation and mitigation actions, strengthening social and economic resilience of generations present and future. This program takes place from 2017 to 2019 and is funded primarily by the AFD and the EU. The process aims to support local authorities in 4 key steps: diagnosis, climate oriented planning, implementing actions and replication based on obtained results. This approach combines awareness and capacity building. It enables the integration of mitigation and adaptation issues and provide communities with the capacity to seek funding for these actions. Understanding that the procedures are different for each donor, it can therefore be complex to manage. Today, there are 25 funds that finance adaptation. However, some have limitations: access to climate funding for example is strictly theoretical, not accessible at a community scale, thus forcing stakeholders to create coalitions.

5.6. Sandra Rullière

French Development Agency, AFD

Following her update of AFD operations and the various existing financing arrangements, Ms. Rullière presented the funding dedicated to desertification in recent years: 258 million for 2014-2015, of which 35



million euros in subsidies. This is an increase from 171 million in 2012-2013. Multiple areas of intervention are favoured:

- irrigation (Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Armenia, Burma, Vietnam ...) : hydro-agricultural infrastructure, support to develop and sustainably manage infrastructure, dialogue on sectoral irrigation policies integrated with agricultural policies and articulated with a rural development policy;
- management of pastoral resources (Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso ...) : forums for dialogue/negotiation/consultation for suitable animal care and conflict prevention/management, investment, market access and inclusion of social needs;
- Restoration of degraded land and agroecology (Burkina Faso, Niger, Tunisia, Cameroon, Mali, Benin, Ivory Coast ...) : Restoration of degraded land in different territorial projects, agroecology: towards an actors' coalition for upscaling practices, contract farming and agroecology;
- Support of developing rural areas (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Cameroon, Guinea, Tunisia) : Decentralization and natural resource planning at the territorial level, financing of planned investments: through municipal development funds (FPDCT, ANICT ANFICT, PACV, PNDP), institutional backing and capacity building for municipal project management.

5.7. Mr. Gautier Queru

MIROVA

The LDN fund managed by MIROVA, to be launched at COP13/UNCCD, aims to attract private funding to address the lack of public funding required to meet land conservation and restoration voluntary targets set by countries.

To attract private funding, it is necessary to ensure a return on investment and value creation. There is a risk that export crops would be favoured to overcome the weakness of local markets. Under the new arrangements in place, the first funded projects (including the LDN Fund) will have a demonstrative and educational role to help better define the types of actors and projects who actually need access to finance.

Jean-Luc Chotte and Claudine Foucherot have also shed light on the opportunities held by the 4/1000 initiative on one side (Jean-Luc Chotte, IRD), and the mechanisms of carbon compensation (Claudine Foucherot, I4CE) on the other.

5.8. Discussion elements

Disagreements over investment risk levels persist, however the consensus is established on the difficulties of access to finance by small players and the necessity for public national budgets to meet the challenges and needs.

Mobilization of financing for land restoration seems to produce a keen interest among investors, although it has yet to confirm whether this attraction is enduring and whether the value chain will be controlled to prevent rapid and harmful mutations. The role of civil society to constitute a safeguard is essential at this level.





VI- Workshop no.3 : How can projects in the territories contribute to national goals of neutrality regarding land degradation ?

Moderator: Antoine Cornet, CSFD and Nadège Hellemans, CARI / GTD

Rapporteur : Wafa Essahli, DesertNet International

6.1. Introduction

Since 2015, the combat against desertification is integrated into sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially the 15th Goal related to "Life on Land" through land degradation neutrality. The twelfth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) added the integration of the fight against land degradation in the Agenda 2030 and in the commitment of signatory countries to achieve a national neutrality objective, implying its operational implementation on the national scale. It is thus interesting to consider the contribution of the projects led by NGOs and local territories authorities in achieving the national target at the country level. This workshop tries to trace evaluation paths and concrete proposals on this issue around three approaches:

- the territorial approach and the local governance issues;
- the operational links between projects at the heart of territories and the national LDN implementation process;
- the response hierarchy to be established in projects and at different scales among : avoid, reduce and/or restore

6.2. Antoine Cornet

CSFD

The goal of land degradation neutrality comes from the recognition that land degradation, which was previously viewed as a local problem, is becoming a global issue. It comes from the observation that we can not completely halt land degradation, but that efforts must be made to minimize its harmful effects. Its inclusion as a target of sustainable development in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development ensures a global scale awareness.

The LDN is at the crossroads between the three Rio conventions (Desertification, Biodiversity and Climate Change) as land degradation leads to losses in biodiversity and the organic carbon stocks in soils. Moreover, the fight against land degradation enables both climate change mitigation and adaptation. The LDN is a point of synergy between different SDGs, and we must think of implementation rules to fulfil the three pillars (environmental, social and economic). The challenges of neutrality regarding land degradation are not only environmental ones, they are also socio-economic and particularly relate to food security and the fight against poverty.

According to the conceptual framework defined by the science-policy interface for the UNCCD, the LDN implementation has three main responses (avoid, reduce and restore) at three scales (global, national, local);





it requires the joint development of programs and projects by key stakeholders. It brings new questions about the place and role of civil society in this process, the actors in the degraded lands restoration and the financing modalities. The implementation of LDN calls for vigilance on a number of issues including observance of the response priority provided to favour prevention over preservation, and the challenge of preventing that compensation and restoration of degraded lands would lead to land grabbing and marketing.

Note : UNCCD / Science Interface - Policy (2016). Lands at equilibrium. The conceptual scientific framework for Neutrality regarding land degradation. Scientific and Policy Note 02. September 2016 UN Convention to Combat desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany, ISBN 978-92-95110-36-6 (printed version) 978-92-95110-35-9 (electronic version)

6.3. Abdoulaye Karama

SOS Sahel International — Burkina Faso

In June 2016, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) of Burkina Faso recommended the development of sectoral development plans. The national program for the rural sector is developed according to this framework, and provides for LDN in its objectives. Two agencies have been set-up to define the LDN target : The High Level Oversight Committee and the Technical Working Group. The target was defined on a baseline case for each of the indicators adopted by the UNCCD and the proposed measures associated with each of the LDN targets (restoration and conservation).

The implementation of the LDN is integrated into the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative. The actions on the ground favour sustainable land management, involving women in particular among other specific groups. This example demonstrates the synergies that exist between the various initiatives at different implementation levels (international, national, local, and even regional and sub-national). It also takes into account the participation of civil society and key stakeholders in Burkina Faso.

6.4. Bhawani Shanker Kusum

Gram Bharati Samiti

The association Gram Bharati Samiti ("Society for Rural Development") has been engaged for thirty years in the implementation of various environmental programs related to land degradation, drought and desertification in the drylands of India. The main activities, usually conducted with women's communities, include reforestation of various categories of degraded land, heavily sanded and eroded; stabilization of sand dunes; indentation of gullies; rainwater harvesting, etc.

Achieving land degradation neutrality requires a territorial approach. This enables a uniform, integrated,





multi-scale and progressive local development. Decentralization without autonomy can not lead to local development, but unfortunately this is still the case in many regions. The challenges are thus to:

- stop deforestation as well as firewood and fodder cutting (and thus provide alternative resources for women);
- prevent forest and rangeland/pasture grabbing ;
- restrict livestock grazing in forests and rangelands/pastures;
- train in soil conservation;
- restore traditional water harvesting structures (earthen dams, stepwell, and rainwater harvesting tanks);
- promote the production and use of organic fertilizer (vermicompost produced by earthworms);
- planting fast-growing species.

6.5. Nadège Hellemans

CARI / GTD

The Desertification Work Group (GTD) is conducting a study on the contribution of development projects in the territories subject to national targets on land degradation neutrality.

This study offers to produce a draft/project analysis grid, according to the method of principles and criteria. The analysis grid is the result of a literature search on neutrality and its implications, but also phone interviews with GTD partners, in order to identify implementation criteria. Specific work on the articulation of the LDN with other SDGs has helped pinpoint the main principles of this grid around the following axes: population, ecosystem and territory.

Note : The GTD/Desertification is a French platform of non-state actors (associations, scientists, engineering offices and local authorities) working to fight against desertification. Created at the initiative of the CARI in 2001, Desertification Work Group (GTD) is the French component of the Sahel Desertification Network (ReSaD).

6.6. Discussion elements

As a result of the group work, some answers have emerged around the following 3 areas:

- The link between the national and local level for project implementation

Different implementation scales are not necessarily disconnected. The concepts are defined internationally, they are structured at the national level and then declined locally. However, interactions do not happen solely downward (top-down), they also exist upward (bottom-up). To implement neutrality, a dialogue



between the national and local level is crucial. This allows factor traditional knowledge in, and to add value to it (this can also be done through research). Bottlenecks exist when it comes to mobilizing volunteer skills, and this converges with the difficulties in mobilizing funds.

Other scales exist between the local and the national level which is necessary to consider. It is recalled that these sub-national/intra-national structures must be autonomous (“decentralization without autonomy does not enable local development”). These other levels are all supranational initiatives as TerrAfrica or the Great Green Wall in Africa. The implementation of LDN therefore requires sustainable land management in the context of such initiatives, as they allow a holistic view and the harmonizing of sustainable development stakes.

- Territorial approaches to achieve neutrality

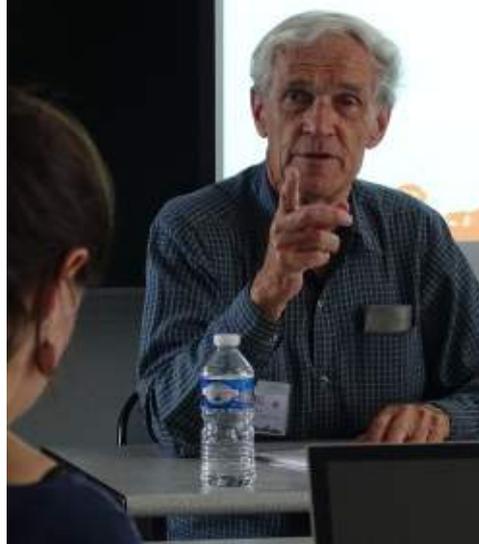
It is important to consider the local context, and not to establish general guidelines or framework projects. To achieve this, a fairly large group of actors must be mobilized. This representation also aims to establish a project that is consistent with the development prospects of populations living there, and allows the sharing of good practices. Furthermore, it is also necessary to provide counterexamples in order to avoid replicating them and produce a coherent territorial development.

- The response hierarchy among avoid, minimize, and restore

In the implementation of the response sequence to land degradation (avoid, minimize, restore), the time scale should not be overlooked. It is best to focus on the “avoid” component and therefore address the primary causes of land degradation to achieve maximum effectiveness. Reducing land degradation and restoring degraded lands are activities that occur at an advanced stage of degradation.

Putting sustainable land management into action appears to be the most appropriate axis of implementation, in a holistic sense, considering several interrelated SDGs. While the SDG15 is the appropriate framework for the implementation of the LDN, several other SDGs are linked to it, and can offer interesting input thematics for specific actions.





VII- Workshop no.4 : How to take the land issues into consideration in land restoration dynamics ?

Moderator : Marc Dufumier

Rapporteur : Magali Pausin

7.1 Introduction

Tenurial security is often cited as a prerequisite for investment on soil restoration and conservation. However, several questions remain about the terms of access to agricultural land (private property, rights of use, etc.). Indeed, the challenges remain: security of access to land is bought and rented, and can bring a new form of inequality, as denounced in Latin America for example. Rather, it should be considered that the land and agroecosystems are the common property of all and then question how to manage these common goods; indeed mutualisation does not exempt from inequality, e.g. given the number of cattle heads per person. There is state owned land in Africa which is distributed in the form of usage rights (customary rights). The conditions behind the distribution of usage rights must then be set to comply with the requirements of restoration and conservation.

The workshop aims to discuss these various access methods and determine the best ones.

7.2. Amani Hachimou

Permanent Secretary of APIMAK, Niger

The experience of Niger, as part of a program of decentralized cooperation with the former Picardy Region involved 12 towns, together with three NGOs (including the French CIEDEL and another one in Niger), allowed for the development of a number of tools (mapping, forest management scheme, social feasibility study) and the consolidation of existing assets.

The projects are funded under their integration into the municipal development plan, and actions are defined by local communities depending on the amounts granted to them. The territorial approach has been promoted with local officials who have taken interest in it to reconcile upstream and downstream partners.

Several examples of actions undertaken show that restoration is possible. However, a problem persists in protecting the restored land: as soon as biodiversity is restored, anthropogenic pressures come back.

7.3. Bachir Oloude

UCLG consultant

A tool was presented that has been developed for land management in Benin, and also the lessons that can be learned from it to adapt rural areas. This tool allows the improvement of knowledge about the land and its application to set up a local taxation system.





The results in the rural communes of Cotonou, Parakou and Nikki show that the establishment of a land information system allows, moreover, to support decision-making in land management and strengthen transparency in this process. The use of this tool has also helped strengthen the dialogue between the different actors and populations, thus contributing to alleviate existing tensions.

There is a strong demand for all towns to be equipped with Unified Land Repository (RFU). Knowing the concerns in terms of land management can form a cooperation framework at the municipal level, and develop mapping to have relevant information on the actions taking place on land, as well as a database, can all be useful for decision-making... Managing inclusively is not necessarily easy, but an efficient tool can help.

7.4. Marioldy Sanchez Santivanez

AIDER, CSO Panel

The presentation focused on highlighting the role of the State in land restoration including the mobilisation of funding and return on investment. Among its main tasks it is emphasized: the evaluation of restoration opportunities at the national level, the development of advocacy on land restoration and the creation of a favourable setting.

There are various land restoration initiatives launched by States, in the form of public programs, public funds, compensation mechanisms, coalitions or State platforms to promote restoration (20 for 20, AFR100). Their implementation requires strong political backing.

These initiatives are facing a number of challenges, including: lack of baseline data, weaknesses in the planning processes that are not participatory and do not take into account the actions taken or under way at the local level, solutions that are not always in line with the users' needs or assets even when innovations and solutions can be found within local communities, the different visions of land restoration within a government (different priorities in ministries ...). Policy makers at the national level often see restoration as a simple, short-term process when it should be integrated into community development strategies while taking into account all their aspects (cultural, planning, management, etc.). It is a complex dynamic that can not be reduced to an action of planting trees, as it is too often reduced to by domestic authorities, which still do not see the link between SLM and land rights.

7.5. Elements of discussion

Discussions with the participants identified the following key points:

- The link between natural resource management and access to resources;
- The role of the State, sometimes decentralized, in restoration;
- The process must be inclusive also during the diagnostic part;
- The needs for mapping in order to improve mastery of the land and uses knowledge;
- The possible modalities to secure the rights of access to land (tenant farming, share-cropping,



leases, etc.) have not been addressed, nor solutions to reduce inequalities in access to natural resources (youth, women, ...) and ensure fairness. How to ensure that the renovation is long term and it does not involve a capital gain on land that could lead to their overuse and again their degradation?

Stakeholders have also been questioned on a number of issues to which they have brought the following answers, about:

- Usefulness and use of FAO guidelines:
 - o In Benin, an agency was set up recently to deal with land governance issues, and uses these guidelines dating from 2012. The implementation process is slow, though, because it always takes time for the tools to be appropriated by the State.
 - o In Niger, the Rural Code is the main tool. Negotiations texts should be better disseminated in order to be used, because the stakeholders on the field are not always informed.
 - o In most Latin American countries, governments are not aware of land problems. It remains unclear who is in charge of the problems sector by sector.
- Operability of the tools presented:
 - o In Benin, if the conflicts persists then the courts are seized.
 - o In Peru, many tools overlap which hinders their effective implementation and conflict resolution. Moreover, conflict resolution is centralized which undermines its effectiveness. There are traditional systems to resolve social conflicts and that States should emulate.
- Conflicts in uses:
 - o In rural areas, nature is in charge (areas where construction is prohibited). Conflicts appear between customary owners.
 - o In Niger, it is the opposite. Initially certain zones were corridors of passage for animals which have been transformed into crop fields. This kind of situation ends in court. There are constant conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. In each region, there is a field release date to make way for breeders.
 - o In Niger, there are now entire agropastoral areas with a resurgence of trees, which is the result of land restoration activity without intervention from the State. The passage of the herds is favourable to farmers.
 - o The durability of agreements between farmers and herders is problematic. The state is sometimes forced to arbitrarily decide, thus generating other problems.
- Agrarian reform:
 - o In the 70s there was an agrarian reform in Peru where land has been returned to the poor. The most productive land is now used for commercial agriculture (grants/leases) but are still the property of communities that do not have the capacity to manage them. The challenge is to strengthen their management capacities so that they can perform their role effectively.
- Regarding equity, Benin women have access to land in urban areas but in rural areas it is much more





difficult, while in Rwanda and Burundi is the opposite. In some areas of Niger, husbands grant three days to their wives to work upon the land. However, the family head will not incur credit to offset post-harvest times. These practices are currently changing in some areas.

- Burkina Faso: there were a lot of attempts at land reform on the legal level, but the regulation texts have shown their limits notably due to the omission of sociological prerequisite. It was necessary to reshape the law around rural land, allowing the setup of a land ownership certificate (marriage between modern and traditional): a consultation document must be completed beforehand. In order to manage conflicts, there are committees to prevent protagonists to go before national courts. This helped materialize the status of land (deferred grazing) with a convention signed by the owner (not to exploit this land before it was restored, and he is allowed to cultivate only the perimeter of the plot).

VIII- Workshop no.5 : How to deal with the competition between the various uses of water, considering the precarious resource availability ?

Moderator : Christophe Le Jallé

Rapporteur : Lucie Cugerone

8.1. Introduction

The link between water and desertification is obvious but rarely discussed. The existing approaches to deal with desertification are often agronomic, or related to development issues. Yet water uses are numerous and occur at different scales. The most obvious uses, but not the most important in terms of volume, are those related to health, domestic needs, small-scale agriculture, sometimes in small craft, whereas the most important uses are those related to irrigated agriculture and industries.

Today, the question is how to deal with the competition between the various uses of water considering the precarious resource availability due to climate change and pressure from these different uses?

8.2. Nabil Ben Khattrra

OSS (Sahel and Sahara Observatory)

Mr. Nabil Ben Khattrra presented a panorama of the real uses of water resources in the world, and recalled the definition of sustainable management of land and water as adopted by the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. He also presented the effects of climate change on water resources through the two factors that characterize climate change: temperature and rainfall. These have a direct impact on water resources.

The inclusion of water issues on a global scale is ensured through the SDGs (SDG6 and links with SDG1, 2 and 3) and from the 1992 Rio Conventions. Water is a source of life and therefore "at the heart of sustainable land management." In Africa, and particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, surface water is scarce and life is organized around major rivers (small watershed area) or aquifers. It is a resource available but difficult to





mobilize. Only about 20% of rainwater can be gathered.

As part of its program on major circum-Saharan aquifers, OSS has led several projects: the Northern Sahara Aquifer System (SASS), lullemeden Aquifer System (SAI), Water Resources in Africa East (IGAD) with the aim to better understand the resources and establish consultation mechanisms to improve the common management. The program also tested different technical and logistical innovation drivers on the resource. During the project, it turned out that the integration of water resources in socio-economic policies was essential.

Discussion

- Lack of data is common in Africa. This problem is also encountered on the Senegal River. In addition, the collection of basic data (hydrological surveys, hydrographic, rainfall) does not always endure where it was present.
- Water resources are of different qualities inducing different uses. The virtual water movement through the export of agricultural products (tomato / watermelon / cereal) is a problem that should be taken into account.
- Conventional methods for improving knowledge about the resource and estimate volumes are expensive. The remote sensing methods are not available for civilian applications when it comes to subsoil. It should be possible to mobilize other actors (municipal drilling managers, geologists, etc.) to share drilling data.
- Besides the technical problems related to monitoring methods and resource assessment, there is a funding mobilization problem for natural resources observatories. There are cases where even on the scale of the reserves listed in World Natural Heritage, there is no monitoring of basic parameters such as rainfall (e.g. the Bala biosphere, the hippopotamus pond). Similarly, priority in the use of available funds does not always go in the direction of outreach works, so there would be no money to fund a small drill (approximate cost of small drill : € 5000) but there would be funds for a workshop between actors (approximate cost of buffet : € 5000). Donors finance more easily a buffet that is within their budget lines than drilling or setting up a weather station.
- It is in areas where the lack of water is the most important that we note the loss and waste of water problems during the transport and usage.
- Given the cost of desalination operations, the system does not become profitable until combined with the use of renewable energy. The sustainability of such systems is not yet assured. The issues of salt management following desalination is not resolved either.

8.3. Tidiane Diallo

Municipality of Ouro Sidy

Senegal

The town of Ferlo consists of 3 zones: one on the axis of the river is very agricultural, the other near the road



with all infrastructure (school, clinic, etc.), and the third which is the area Ferlo, without infrastructure and without access to water resources. Ms. Tidiane Diallo has addressed the issue of reconciling the water users in the poorest area of Ferlo through joint management of the resource.

The project aims to overcome this inequality by drilling boreholes using a participatory approach that will enable people to appropriate the work and ensure its management, as well as public awareness to secure people around water points, and the establishment of participatory structures. Agreements have been concluded in respect of different uses and themes (bushfire, agriculture, pasture, environment, forest management).

Tensions between users have been reduced through the development of clear and shared rules. An agent is now responsible for the management of drilling: from volunteering at first, this activity has become a contract with the state. The management is delegated to a "water union" that brings together all users: "water GE" is a consortium of water stakeholders (farmer, craftsman, municipality). All users contribute to the cost and all types of use are represented in the Steering Committee by a (or multiple) representative(s). (This structure is close to the SAGE system in France).

The interconnections between water systems of other cities are made through the National Action Plans. Also, if neighbouring wells are poorly managed, the community refuses interconnection. Nevertheless, there is an interconnection need to complement the uneven drilling qualities, to ensure more solidarity and a mutualisation of funds and reserves.

8.4. Discussion

- The most important use of water is breeding. The demand on the drill resource is not very high because after the rains there are ponds available for about 4 months, and in the dry season pastors reduce the number of animals.
- Monitoring of water resources is provided by a hydraulic brigade dependent of the National Hydraulic service. Each hole has a metering system and a water tower. Local actors are strongly empowered notably through a pricing system where "you pay for what you use."
- The fields are enclosed by fences to prevent animals from being attracted towards hedges.
- The costs of water use are not so important for breeders who take interest into reducing their movements and having a better quality livestock.
- The oases are irrigated cropping areas where water management is at the heart of the system. Irrigation is carried out in "water turns" and is relatively effective. It is a very old and strong tradition dating 2000 years, and it is at the core the entire agricultural system. The problem today is the control of water points. Most systems are individual, they are not managed in a community as in the example of Senegal. The multiple drawing points makes management difficult, especially because no one has a comprehensive view of all uses. Hence the importance of projects such as the OSS. Today, someone wealthy enough can afford to irrigate and maintain traditional uses, but other farmers are withering for lack of resources or if they remained in traditional irrigation systems without being able to adapt.





- Traditional practices must evolve to deal with the effects of climate change and modifications in uses related to the increase of industry and tourism.
- It seems important to consider the whole water cycle. It would be important to “give water to land”, thus returning water to its natural cycle. Indeed, the use of agricultural water often prevents soil transpiration or absorption of water by the soil because of slaking crusts. Simple actions are feasible by all must be widely spread, such as inter-row ditches to collect rainwater, etc.

8.5. Group Work

Considering the small number of participants, the workshop has not been divided into groups, and discussions focused on the three issues initially planned to be group works :

- Management of water points : facing a withdrawal of the state, what kind of management and which resource monitoring options?
- Sustainable water resources management : diffuse irrigation areas, solidarity between stakeholders, what use and what additional resources are needed regarding water qualities?
- How to monitor the resource?

The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

- Knowledge and resource monitoring, both large scale and small scale: It is needed to strengthen the means of observations of the resource, with collaboration from the operator actors, monitoring brigade/driller, etc. These informations should be shared, firstly with analysts, but also with local communities to improve their management of the resource.
- The importance of multi-stakeholder and user consultation frameworks, and water user type (pastors, farmers, craftsmen and research, governance, etc.) to establish the rules of management, use, maintenance and enforcement. Two approaches are considered: mutualising resources (financial, human, expertise ...) and distributing the management tasks for greater efficiency.
- Reflection on the scale of spatial and intellectual management
 - o Exit the administrative boundary : intercommunal, inter-country. Water is not confined to a border.
 - o Exit Intellectual restrictions. Water managers are water professionals but other dimensions are omitted : social, socio-economic (which nevertheless make a project a success if taken into account).
 - o There is a complementarity between resources (quality, purpose and timeframe) to be elaborated for each territory. Example : prevent usage of deep water drilling in the rainy season to improve surface water.
 - o Taking into account traditional practices. How to build on traditional practices? How to develop them? If it is necessary to provide an interconnection between the water systems: under what conditions should it be? What management can be set up?
- Adapt funding. There is a divide for access to funding according to projected use (domestic / farming / sanitation), but water is not limited to a single use.





IX- Workshop no.6 : The migratory movement management - what development challenges and what synergies for the actors at the local, national and regional scale ?

Moderator : Charlotte Blondel, Youth on the move

Rapporteur : Magali Pausin

9.1. Introduction

Climate change acts as a threat multiplier in already fragile regions. In many areas, perennial effects of climate change are degrading already weakened territories by intensifying drought, soil erosion, loss of soil fertility, etc. Climate change aggravates some already very precarious situations and strengthens existing migration factors: poverty, crime, pollution and natural disasters ... The intensity of migration is thus increased, exercising a de facto pressure on populations locally within a given territory, and can lead to internal, regional or even international instability.

To handle the multiple challenges posed by climate migration, both in terms of adaptation or in terms of relocation, many principles are presented and defended on the international stage by a host of stakeholders. Yet the urgency primarily lies in the territories and communities: practical and effective solutions must be implemented at the local level, where the migration pressure is strongest. They must take into account the specificities of each territory and needs of each population. The matter of a link (horizontal and vertical) between the different actors arises more and more, whether international, national and local. Seizing the opportunity of this unique meeting in Strasbourg between the actors involved in combatting climate change and those mobilized around issues of land degradation, this workshop will seek to identify pointers for analysis and concrete proposals around the central axis of the synergy between actors.

9.2. Marcos Montoiro

UNCCD Secretariat

The issue of migration is closely linked to the issue of climate change and desertification, as well as security matters. Migration factors are multiple and complex, but climate change will add heavily to the risk factors.

To reduce forced migration, fifteen Sahel ministers made the Call of Ouagadougou on land exploitation related jobs in Africa, in which they question the possibility of gathering funds to provide solutions. The UNCCD therefore seeks to understand the factors which force people to migrate, the means used to migrate and the insecurity that these people suffer from every day, in order to support the initiatives implemented — like the 3S initiative (sustainability, stability and security).

9.3. Michelle Yonetani

IDMC, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



The IDMC is recognized by the United Nations to identify migration flows at the finest level. The IDMC has developed a model for defining climatic migration factors in an area based on multiple indicators (rainfall, soil erosion, etc.). It has been estimated that the majority of displacements is due to floods and storms, then conflicts. In arid regions, as in other regions, it is important to differentiate between voluntary or forced migration, domestic and cross-border migration, temporary or permanent migration.

To address the forced migration issues, the Kampala Convention of the African Union is the most successful project to date. The Paris Agreement has established the new Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM). The objective of WIM on migration is to coordinate the multiple policies discussed after the Paris Agreement and to develop guidelines to find integrated and effective solutions to migration problems. To date, some tasks have been completed based on the available data, the identified gaps, the method of data collection, aggregation and evaluation. The consequent recommendations will be presented at COP23 in Bonn.

Financially, funds are emerging as for example the Green Climate Fund or the Warsaw mechanism.

In the context of setting up international policies on migration, how to take into account the interests of the most affected communities and establish a stakeholder dialogue to implement policies at local level?

9.4. Amel El Idriss

National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH), Morocco

Climatic causes are often hidden behind the economic causes of migration. The farmers who migrate for economic reasons essentially do so because of water access challenges and soil erosion problems.

The safeguard of migrants requires two strands of action:

- a legal component to assert the rights of climate refugees;
- a financial component to set up the infrastructure for migrant assistance (focus, integration, etc.)

CNDH carry the advocacy of civil society. Many associations were created to allow migrants to access health care, education and employment.

Climate migration is internal first, then regional and international. This element is taken into account in the implementation.

Creating a "Gender and Climate" network in Morocco that involves local officials, researchers and NGOs. The issue of climate migration in Nadour was integrated in the local development plan.

We must develop centres of competence for local action for the rights of migrants but also on local knowledge to fight against desertification and prevent migration.

This is a public debate where there is a confrontation between European demands and the requirements of national authorities on the status of refugees.

9.5. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

Indigenous peoples and UNFCCC



The tools offered by the Paris agreement do not allow the inclusion of opinions and recommendations of displaced populations and climate refugees. The only organizations that support political refugees in Africa are humanitarian organizations. The UN timetable could be at odds with the urgency for climate refugees support.

9.6. Discussion

- Algeria is both a land of emigration and immigration. A migrant census file has been set up. The Maghreb countries constitute a bulwark against migration in Europe, however national policies and the national budget are not backed by European policies. To stabilize the migratory problems caused locally, we must develop access to employment for refugees to settle in respect of their rights.
- Efforts must be amplified to prevent migrations so that people do not lose their identity.
- The CLIMATES association has set up a network to identify hundreds of youth initiatives in developed countries or in developing countries.
- 20,000 associations are working on climate issues in Morocco, united by the Moroccan Coalition on Climate Justice.
- One of the roles of non-state actors is to listen to the stories and suffering of climate refugees to identify their needs and convey their interests, so that their voice is heard at national and international level. We need more coordination between humanitarian organizations and local authorities to observe the rights of political refugees.
- Hosting groups in Chad are organized to allocate natural resources, such as access to land, to integrate new refugees.
- The European Commission plans to release 44 Billion euros in order to find solutions to climatic or political conflicts.
- Civil society has a significant fighting force that must be recognized in the UN agenda.
- Protecting the country in relation to migration. We must reduce migration by both creating conditions favourable to maintaining populations in their territories, and work on cultural cohabitation in host regions.
- The biggest challenge is that each context requires specific solutions but must be integrated globally. For example, Japanese people affected by the tsunami: relocation plans in the mountains were put in place. Preferences and interests were not taken into account and have been an obstacle to the successful integration of populations in this new area.
- One speaker deplored the lack of research and surveys on migratory reasons, regardless of the host country.
- There is no migration of African people towards the equatorial areas where climate impacts are weaker.





- Beyond generosity, there are technical conditions to achieve in terms of training, to provide skilled jobs to migrants and integrate them on a territory in a dignified way.

The migration issue is closely linked to climate change, desertification and resulting insecurity. According to the IDMC, the first migration causes are floods and storms, before armed conflict. Behind the economic causes, there are mainly climatic causes such as access to water or soil erosion, alarmingly fuelling the number of climate refugees. The UN schedule foresees the development of concrete recommendations to coordinate and catalyse international actions of migration management and climate refugees protection. Given the urgency of this situation, non-state actors are already organizing in the countries where migrations origin from, with the establishment of territorial plans for the protection and distribution of natural resources, and in the hosting regions in terms of economic, legal and cultural integration of climate refugees. The Ouagadougou Call at G5 highlights the need to better manage the financial flows in order to act on migration causes first. The capacity of host communities, the development of measures for protecting and sharing natural resources on vulnerable territories, and consultation with target populations appear as necessary action levers for the implementation of effective migration policies that integrate cultural diversity.

Pointers for solutions have been identified, and relate to:

- National laws and international mechanisms should better reflect the interests of climate refugees
- Awareness-raising for the impact of climate change on migration flows
- Financial means for action and implementation control
- Legal recognition of climate refugees
- Integration of the cultural diversity of refugee populations in the implementation of international policies
- Identify and manage migration factors to minimize the flows
- Coordinate humanitarian actions and actions of local governments.



Workshop Sessions, Wednesday June 28th 2017, 9:00 – 11:00

X- Workshop no.7 : What update and what development prospects for the 4/1000 initiative today ?

Moderator : Jean-Luc Chotte

Rapporteur : Nadège Hellemans, CARI / GTD

10.1. Introduction

France holds an important role, especially thanks to Stéphane Le Foll's involvement in the development of the Initiative and the close connection between the 4/1000 Initiative and research. The Initiative is in a transition phase: the terms of reference are found, governance is established, it is now moving towards internationalization of its activities.

The objective of this session was to present the progress of the 4/1000 Initiative since its inception at COP21, and to debate short/medium-term development prospects.

10.2. Ludovic Larbodière

Ministry of Agriculture, 4/1000 Initiative

The current phase is marked by the internationalization of the initiative based on the results of a survey conducted among 130 members of the Consortium, which represents the decision-making body of the initiative. The survey sought to identify their expectations "to increase the carbon stock in soils worldwide, which would offset net emissions of anthropogenic CO₂" that defines the initiative and the ongoing projects in this direction.

Because it aims to increase the soils' carbon content to improve food security, to have stable soils able to adapt to climate change, and reduce anthropogenic GHG impacts to mitigate climate change, the 4/1000 initiative contributes to achieving land degradation neutrality.

The expectations of Consortium members relate to the sharing of knowledge and/or experience, the development of research about 4/1000, and finally supporting policies. The representation of farmers has certainly given a common answer, and emphasizing the desire of farmers to have a role to play and be properly represented in the initiative.

The funding, networking and the sharing and/or acquisition of knowledge were also among the main expectations of members.

This survey is a first step in the implementation phase of the initiative, we must now review the ways we ask questions and clarify issues depending on the category of actors, because not everyone has the same activity



or the same expectations. A “poster session” to allow partners to present the actions they take is planned in Montpellier (June 2017) and Bonn (COP23). Among the potential answers given by the initiative, there is a collaborative platform launched in September 2017 and a CIRCASA Project scientific cooperation.

Discussion

- The name of the initiative comes from the fact that an increase of 0.04% in carbon stocks in soils throughout the world (0-4 cm) would increase carbon sinks (soils, forests oceans) and compensate — or would be equivalent to — anthropogenic CO₂ emissions (activities issuing anthropogenic CO₂). It is not a goal, it gives an idea of the scope and potential. It is not so easy, there are still challenges in the implementation of practices to increase the organic matter content of soils.
- We must distinguish the research level and action level for cooperation. There is funding and ongoing projects for research, with financing prospects. However, regarding field activities, a census of the partners actions is expected to foster contacts and to envisage the prospect of funding with different partners (AFD, World Bank, GEF, foundations). Funds have been mobilized for the operation of the secretariat.
- The initiative is not a fund, its purpose is to influence and assist donors and actors who are implementing actions in this area, to convince them to do so in conditions favourable to the initiative. A repository will determine the type of indicator which shows whether the project is truly consistent.
- One ambition is to combine both an action plan and a research component in governance.

10.3 Jean-Luc Chotte

Research and Development Institute (IRD), 4/1000 Initiative

One specific aim of the 4/1000 initiative is to enhance the decision or support for action plans funded by various donors at the request of local players, by associating a research component and an action plan. The focus is on both the short and long term, to prevent reversibility and consider the continuation of practices for at least 30 years.

The 4/1000 initiative has 4 pillars:

Estimate the potential for carbon sequestration, which is not the same depending on the soil type. Global or regional data should be able to provide and improve estimates of potential sequestration or losses of COS (Organic Carbon of the Soil), to identify the process, to quantify the gains for crops and the impacts on the sustainable adaptation of production systems.

Develop practices suitable for specific soil conditions and climate, through the sharing of both farming and scientific knowledge, to reach a common understanding that will form a baseline for evaluation.

Define and strengthen the conditions for implementation, with research backing. Which governance? Which institutional and organizational arrangements? Which public policies? Which financial mechanisms, incentives and regulatory instruments? Which mechanisms for education and capacity building?





scenarios, measure and thus predict.

- There are data sets in Africa, which are not always sufficient to develop accurate scenarios, and the limited existing sets are not shared.
- We must move quickly when implementing networking actions, in the interest of safety of developing countries.

XI- Workshop no.8 : What coalition of actors and what means of action to ensure integrated and sustainable development of oases ?

Moderator : Wafa Essahli, Desertnet International

Rapporteur : Lucie Cugerone, CARI

11.1. Introduction

It was only much recently since the oasis systems started being addressed in international and national fora in discussions on sustainable land management, adaptation to climate change or biodiversity. Yet, these systems are exemplary models of adaptation to extreme conditions. In addition to their value as “producers” of ecosystem services (involved in the water cycle, food production, soil protection, etc.), the oases are places of culture, sharing and exchange. In Africa, they have historically punctuated the trade routes between North and South of the Sahara.

Long marginalized by development and centralized government programs in the too distant capitals, these prosperity havens have declined and are now facing various crises that threaten their very existence. It is to promote this historical heritage of knowledge and expertise that initiatives have been launched for several years, to bring the issue of oasis in international and national agendas and implement programs for their protection, upgrade and safeguard.

The workshop will focus on the exchange:

- Red lines on the degradation of oasis systems;
- Areas of intervention at different levels of governance, including the key points of an action plan;
- Factors to give life to an international movement in support of oases including the Sustainable Oasis Initiative.

11.2. Patrice Burger

CARI

Initially, and through a partnership with the UNCCD, CARI was focused on the issues of land degradation in drylands. This topic was long kept afloat only by NGOs in Africa in particular. Today the situation decides in favour of the UNCCD, as reflected in the recent mobilization of the Rio + 20 and the Conferences of Parties



of the other two agreements from the Rio process (biodiversity and climate) in the SDG. With land degradation, we approach an area where all the players lack answers: poverty, food security, etc. It also raises the problem of agriculture, a major contributor to the emission of greenhouse gases (forest, agriculture, etc.) for some production methods. Moreover, the land also contribute to carbon storage, allowing maintenance of many ecosystem services.

It's the agricultural/cultivated soil that feeds us all. And if farmers in isolated rural or arid areas decide to leave for something better, who will produce those 50% of global food supplies? What will we do then?

The oases form a specific agricultural system in arid areas where communities control "gardens", a set of terraces and boards organized through agroecological intelligence. Their preservation depends on the maintenance of men according to the rules of the agricultural system and strong social rules. Oases also have a strong role in trade relations. This last point is often forgotten for border and administrative reasons that do not respect the natural boundaries of the oasis; however they are placed in isolated areas where land issues are important. They also depend on an unquantifiable domestic economy, reducing their importance within the states. Ultimately, they are ignored by public policy.

Fighting for the oasis is somehow a symbol because they represent a fantasy, a resting, a certain image of Eden, in the collective imagination. It helps to defend an ecosystem with water and soil management which have become established communities. "An oasis does not live if we do not work" Without conservation, we lose them. Unfortunately, anthropogenic effects are much more visible there than in other ecosystems.

The creation of RADDO in 2001, a network of local actors and field acting in favour of the Maghreb oasis, follows from these findings. This network is not based in the capital but in oases of 6 countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Niger and Chad). One of the objectives, in addition to strengthening the capacities of its actors, is to advocate for oases and carry their voice internationally.

Today, some partners such as GEF, FAO, etc., are developing projects on oases. In 2016, the Sustainable Oasis Initiative (IOD) was launched in Marrakesh during the COP22. One of the challenges is to materialize this initiative and move forward on its implementation. It must be linked with other initiatives launched at the COP22 or elsewhere, such as AAA (Adaptation of African Agriculture) or SSS (Security, Stability and Sustainability in African agriculture), or GMVSS (Great Green Wall for Sahara and Sahel) or even 4/1000, etc.

11.3. Khaoula Jaoui

Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) Project Manager

The oases question is discussed at OSS in the "Management of natural resources and oasis in the Circum-Saharan" framework which involves, besides North African countries, countries of the Middle East (Jordan), even if in these countries the oases are not based on the date palm as they are in North Africa.

In all the countries under consideration, the oases are facing several challenges on three levels (socio-economic, environmental and institutional). The issue of oases is regarded through the perspective of:

- Improving agricultural water use, taking into account the socio-economic and environmental aspects related to irrigation practices that have been processed by the OSS under the SASS (Northern Sahara Aquifer





System) program

- Strengthening networks between organizations in charge of managing natural resources in a desert environment as part of MENADELP project.

The three studies that have been conducted in this framework recommend:

- The development of the sectoral approach in oases of the MENA region: having an appropriate legislative framework, facilitating access to financial credit and other services, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders through specialized structures such as the Producer Group;
- Recycling oases by-products — achievements and perspectives: developing and enhancing the use of animal feeding by-products as well as traditional techniques of date palm wood use (woodworking and other crafts);
- Management practices, conservation and enhancement of natural resources oases and desert areas of the MENA region: strengthening natural resource protection devices and programs and ensuring their legislative changes, adapting education, training, research, development and awareness programs to the challenges of natural resource management (NRM), establishing an open integrated information system.

To supplement these studies, the OSS conducted a survey based on an online questionnaire between May 11th to July 7th 2017. The results of this survey will be used to develop a note on oasis which will be distributed at the next COP13 in Ordos.

The questionnaire is organized around four themes:

- The inventory of knowledge and current state of oasis environments
- The threats hanging over oases
- The oases restoration measures
- The regional vision for a "Sustainable Oasis"

Discussion

The recommendations from the studies conducted by the OSS on oases concur with the guidelines adopted by the sustainable oasis Initiative (IOD); however it should be added the need to:

- Provide further thinking about a regional initiative in favour of the oasis;
- NRM must be supported by R&D;
- Extend the initiative beyond North Africa by integrating all the countries around the Sahara such as Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan;
- Importance of developing a specific regional information system by creating an exchange platform between the countries of North Africa and Sahel;
- The need to improve scientific knowledge of the oasis for a better resources management and NRM.

It should also be noted that:

- The biologically rich oasis provides a set of ecosystem services that are necessary for the settlement



of populations and their welfare;

- It is needed to duplicate the experiences of oasis rehabilitation on a larger scale;
- Improving agricultural productivity and fighting against diseases and pests is an economic and social issue.

11.4. Brahim Hafidi

ANDZOA, National Agency for the Development of Oasis Zones and Argan

The oases are specific areas of arid zones, mainly located in North Africa and the Middle East. They are home to nearly 2 billion people. Throughout history, Oases kept adapting to difficult weather patterns; they have exceptional natural, cultural and architectural heritages which it is necessary to preserve.

Yet oases are subject to multiple degradations, exacerbated by the impact of climate change and threaten their survival.

On a global scale, the Rio+20 Summit recognized the need to protect vulnerable ecosystems and COP22 in Marrakech has a dedicated section for these issues. Nationally, Morocco has made the protection and development of the oasis a priority for public policies both at institutional and civil society level : through a series of initiatives such as the Green Plan Morocco (PMV) and creating the ANDZOA .

The programs' implementation enabled the support of date palm production through in-vitro plant production, the support of farms, etc., which led to an increase of the annual production even in dry years.

To launch the Sustainable Oasis Initiative (IOD), Morocco has achieved the following:

- The presentation of the Sustainable Oasis Initiative at COP22;
- The presentation of the Sustainable Oasis Initiative at the International Exhibition of Agriculture in Morocco, 2017;
- The establishment of a commission for the creation of an association that will advocate for the initiative.

The next steps include:

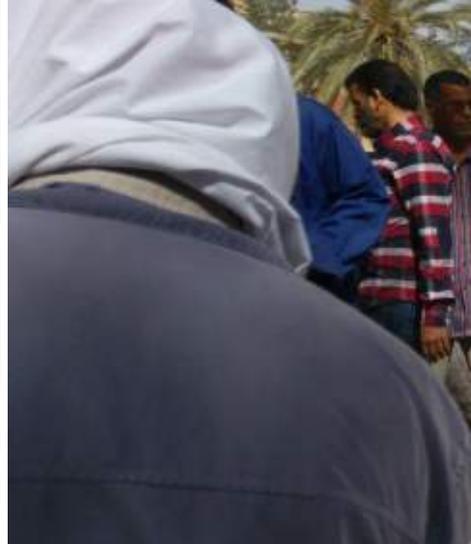
- The development of an advocacy organization to carry the SOI at the Climate Chance Summit to be held in Agadir, Morocco, from September 11th to 13th 2017 in preparation for the establishment of a stakeholder coalition on this occasion ;
- The creation of a special fund financed by member countries and organizations.

11.5. Mohamed Ould Tourad

TENMIYA, RADDO Focal Point in Mauritania

The RADDO was created in 2001, based on exchanges during the previous year in the oasis of Chenini Gabes, Tunisia, as a network of associations working for the sustainable development of oasis areas.





The RADDO focal point in Mauritania is TENMIYA Association (Development, in Arabic) which has conducted numerous awareness-raising and information actions on oasis issues, reaching more than 300 members of CSOs; as well as capacity building actions that benefited 49 local players on advocacy techniques, water saving (California system, solar pumping), etc.

A platform of local oasis associations in Tidjikja, gathering the four associations of the Oasis, was established. It allowed the technical capacity and management / organization of actors. "Organized around a citizen consultation framework that brings together all the actors of oasis development, the platform enables better integration of the concerns of oasis farmers in communal and national development policies."

The results of RADDO Mauritania actions is positive (exchange and knowledge sharing between associations and between national focal points, training sessions, international travel) although restrictions persist. Those constraints relate primarily to structural weaknesses of associations: lack of resources, understaffing, lack of cooperation for water management, weak national recognition and low support from the decentralized services of the state.

The prospects are numerous, and concern the extension of the Tidjikja experience to other oases in Mauritania, strengthening the gender approach through greater involvement of women by supporting their activities with micro-projects, and the implementation of a network of local outreach facilitators.

The Mauritanian example calls for the continuation of RADDO's activity and the need for such a network, increasingly representative, better organized and having more resources.

11.6. Nouredine Nasr

FAO

Nouredine Nasr has not been able to be present, and the presentation was ultimately carried out by Jean Baptiste Cheneval, co-director in charge of oasis programs at CARI, and RADDO coordinator.

The Adaptive Management and Oasis Systems Monitoring in the Maghreb (GASSOM) project is supported by FAO in partnership with RADDO and related ministries, and affects several Maghreb countries. Over a period of 3 years (June 2016 – May 2019), the project offers to equip oasis actors with the tools to adapt to climate change with the aim to strengthen, broaden and support adaptive management and monitoring the oasis ecosystems in the Maghreb.

It includes three components: (1) management and analysis for institutions in order to shape the program; (2) collection of best practices and knowledge sharing; (3) advocacy and awareness on the knowledge and collections.

11.7. Discussion

The discussion was organized around the three following questions:

- Recognition of the oasis uniqueness: which elements should be promoted to include oases in the international agenda?



- Preservation of the oases' heritage : What are the red lines on the degradation of this ecosystem?
- Oasis sustainable development : What are the factors, the main steps to contribute to the emergence of an international coalition. Which tools for decision? What role for the different actors?

The exchanges with the participants have identified the following key points:

- The interface between traditional knowledge and formal/institution knowledge is important to ensure the sustainability of actions and their appropriation by the local populations. The actions should be co-constructed, since the “modern” communication and information tools (satellite imagery, maps) are useful to discuss with local people whom also have a lot to give and share. The attitude of scientists and technicians needs to be more “humble”, for they have to learn from local people too;
- The Oasis Sustainable Development Program includes actions to maintain and restore oasis but also create new oasis. The knowledge of the impacts of climate change on the oasis will be refined to help find a possible balance between increased oasis zones, ways of groundwater exploitation, water use duplication and the increasing risk of evapotranspiration due to climate change;
- The utility of a network such as RADDO or organizations such as the OSS is to give coherence to the multiple actions, enhance knowledge and promote exchanges and the sharing of knowledge, which raise the question of the resources provided and the importance of articulating with the various development projects implemented in these areas. Tools for development: investment and financing;
- The oasis systems are based on high intensity labour economy, non-lasting in a self-sustaining system, however the establishment of a label/brand and a proper marketing system would enhance this production system;

In conclusion, it was noted that:

- The oases are systems with multiple roles but who are at risk, which preservation requires the restoration of their attractiveness, in particular to keep its youth close by giving them decent living conditions and opportunities to develop life projects;
- Several initiatives are underway, and must be supported and strengthened for oases to reach the place they deserve in the international agenda;
- The need to encourage, strengthen and maintain research activities and specialized networks that provide exploration and coherence of actions through a predictable and sustainable funding: “to acknowledge, one must know”;
- The horizontal networks also allows a better use of the knowledge of local actors and local people and help to establish dialogue. The acquisition and dissemination of knowledge remains a key element to be reckoned with when facing the “field” aspects of most projects;
- It remains to define the resource management measures, and to know the red lines. Knowledge bases exist, but they are incomplete and scattered;
- The need to develop project financing around 4 components: research activities, networking, training, field.





XII- Workshop no.9 : What solutions can decentralized cooperation provide in combatting desertification ?

Moderator : Marie Laure Martial, MAEE

Rapporteur : Romain Creuzet

12.1. Introduction

Land degradation is one of the challenges that threaten the prospects for sustainable development in many developing countries, particularly in Africa. It affects agriculture, livestock and natural resources which populations dependent on directly, inducing for example an exacerbation of poverty and migration. Therefore, sustainable land management requires the participation and commitment of all stakeholders inside and outside the country as well as in local governments which hold a responsibility in environmental and land management as part of the decentralization.

Many non-state actors are actively involved in the development of the territories through projects and programs dedicated to agroforestry, reforestation, improving agricultural production, food security, promoting energy renewable and management of timber resources. However, a broader part of this development should be based on the mobilization and development of local indigenous potential to improve the production of wealth in the areas affected by desertification, drought and land degradation.

The workshop aims to show the role of cooperation and partnership in the Climate process and potentially also as part of the UNCCD, with the development of the resilience of drylands populations.

12.2. Mame Bousso Faye

Environmentalist Geographer, Sustainable Development Project Manager, ENDA Energy

Sustainable land management: As part of the UNCCD, various initiatives have been carried out by actors such as ENDA Energy to strengthen the livelihoods of local communities facing land degradation. These initiatives are mostly related to: agricultural development and questions of food security; conservation and protection of natural resources; water resources management; strengthening the capacity of local people for a better environmental management, and raising public awareness to the demands of their environment and local endogenous potential; and rational energy use to reduce pressure on forest resources.

Decentralized cooperation: As part of sustainable land management, the territories are encouraged to strengthen the resilience of local communities, boost government efforts and promote cooperation. These territories should facilitate inclusive dialogue in their pursuit of innovative solutions, and the integration of sustainable land management in their planning.

This leads us to reflect upon the approaches and methods which could be built on sustainable local development. It also remains important in this context to encourage the exchange of experience and services between the North and South, which should, among others, help our communities better control the





standards required at international level and strengthen the enhancement capacity of local products as well as the organization around the production chains.

Alternative Financing through the diaspora: In the dynamics of development for communities, the funding question often arises, and it is clear from our various exchanges that there's a need to explore alternative funding beyond royalties and taxation. It is important to improve the role of the Diaspora in the development of communities by offering investment niches which support is no longer solely focused in the development of infrastructure, access to water, health, education, agriculture, but also in the creation of local businesses.

12.3. Pierre Tessier and Frijof Kolo, Madagascar

This development project takes place within a decentralized cooperation between the Regional Council of Reunion Island and the town of Morondova in Madagascar from 2017 to 2020. The city Morondova is located between land and sea and subject to the risk of coastal submersion, flooding, salinization and coastal erosion. For example, it was flooded after the passage of cyclone Chedza in January 2015. This development program should make this town more resilient to climate change by avoiding the degradation of the coastline, with flexible defences (ganivelles, wattle, slopes reprofiling) and revegetation with native and endemic species and improving the drainage of the watershed to limit flooding and encourage sediment transport towards the coast, reinforcing the defences against coastal erosion.

This project is one of 15 winners of the call for Climate project, launched in June 2016 by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of the Paris Climate Conference. He obtained the Climate Initiative label project at COP22 in Marrakech.

12.4. Promotional film of a decentralized cooperation initiative for sustainable management of land, between the communities of Seclin in northern France and Méguet in Burkina Faso

This film presents a decentralized cooperation aimed at sustainably manage natural resources, especially related to wood through the use of solar ovens and equipment of an isolated school with photovoltaic panels.

This project demonstrated several results like the widespread enthusiasm of populations when charged with the sustainable management of their natural resources, the elimination of bush fires, conservation of biodiversity with the reappearance of animal species, the use of wood as an economic backup and the establishment of a wood resources governance by the villagers.

In addition, the decentralized cooperation has helped foster human relations and exchanges to change attitudes and brought innovative ideas.

12.5. World Café

Several groups were formed in the room in order to discuss the following questions:



- Decentralized cooperation: What for? With whom?
- Who are the actors who can promote good practices in sustainable land management?
- Which funding?
- What are the different modalities of action?
- How to improve decentralized cooperation for sustainable land management?
- What recommendations (actors, scope, funding ...)?

The discussions led to the following results:

- An observation: the need to strengthen decentralized cooperation in the field of sustainable land management, currently neglected in agricultural decentralized cooperation.
- A certainty: a local government can not act alone, hence the importance of decentralized cooperation that is inclusive, based on civil society and on the technical skills of the diaspora. The basic premise for conducting decentralized cooperation is effective decentralization.
 - Major obstacles:
 - Difficulties in obtaining financing by local partner authorities;
 - Duration of decentralization implementation and animation costs of a territorial project, including the adequation with territorial level (e.g. inter-municipalities and watershed management).
 - Where SLM is not a competence of the French local authority and there's no interest in cooperating internationally on this topic;
 - When there are a multiplicity of funds and it takes real project engineering and strong technical capacity to be able to claim them;
 - The question of the continuity of decentralized cooperation is born of political will, but must always emphasize mutual interest.
 - Solutions :
 - The need for a solid diagnosis prior to the project, notably in relation to land, where diasporas can be very useful: preliminary studies are necessary, and often exist. We should not hesitate to build upon them.
 - Need to have a unique window of "climate" co-financing including the fight against desertification;
 - Include civil society ahead of the decentralized cooperation, to train and assist local authorities and create a lever effect to primarily mobilize local funding.
 - Promote the development of decentralized South-South cooperation on this subject.
 - Optimizing the link between urban and rural, as has been underlined by the World Habitat Conference 3.
 - Appropriating the challenges of sustainable management: Civil society has a clear territorial facilitation role for the population to appropriate the issues and projects. This appropriation should be done





through education for global citizenship. It should involve all stakeholders of a territory, even those that do not seem immediately relevant (for example, to integrate the informal economy).

- o Foster iterative dialogue between state and local authorities, and civil society coalitions.
- o Having a systemic approach: it is necessary to see sustainable land management in terms of economic and social development of the territory, while maintaining its sustainable approach, but also take into account the question of the link with migration.





XIII- Workshop no.10 : How to integrate a wood-energy component in the projects to combat desertification ?

Moderator : Christophe Brossé, CARI

Rapporteur : Manon Albagnac, ReSaD

For lack of participants, the workshop took the form of a discussion between the present GDT members who benefited from the contribution of the NGO Eco Benin. The introductory and illustrative presentations have been made, they are nonetheless summarized below for reporting purposes.

This workshop has gathered members of the Desertification Work Group (GTD) who exchanged on the basis of their projects and practices to improve channels of wood-energy and spurring wood-less construction techniques, to reflect and propose ways to enable integration of these components in the projects and programs dedicated to combating desertification.

13.1. Aurélie Reibel

GERES on wood-energy in the context of the fight against desertification

Aurélie Reibel recalled some basic data on desertification in the world:

- 1/3 of the world population is affected by desertification;
- 40% of the land is threatened;
- Drylands are mainly located in Africa (37%), Asia (33%) and Australia (14%);
- Desertification progresses by 10 million hectares per year worldwide, at the estimated cost of 42 billion USD per year.

She stressed that desertification stem from, among other reasons, a destruction of vegetation, soil erosion and their declining productivity, and is a combination of three contributing factors:

- Fundamental causes are population growth, inadequate access to resources, economic crises and poverty, institutional frameworks and development choices which do not meet the threats of desertification.
- Underlying causes related to the management of natural resources hampering their maintenance, climate change and fragile ecosystems.
- Immediate causes for vegetation: overgrazing, agricultural intensification, deforestation, ...

Deforestation is therefore a cause of desertification, it is also directly responsible for 15% of GHG emissions. It is used primarily for the expansion of cultivated areas, and secondly by wood-energy needs.

Desertification, energy access and climate change are therefore strongly linked.





Wood-energy is the primary source of energy for heating and cooking in Africa and Asia, where it is used primarily for domestic purposes, but also significantly by the industrial sector. In Morocco for example, the largest consumer of wood is the tertiary sector, with hammams consuming up to 16-40%. At a national level, deforestation affects 30 000 ha / year.

Worldwide, population growth leads to increasing demand for wood-energy. Yet, currently this resource is only poorly renewable and sustainable.

Energy is an issue catalyst and a development factor, affecting several areas:

- Economic activities;
- Resource use and GHG emissions;
- Health: Smoke exposure;
- Technique: networks and technology efficiency .

Establishing sustainable sources of wood-energy thus represents a solution in the fight against desertification. It relates to developing interventions affecting both the harvesting of natural resources and wood-energy use techniques (improving energy efficiency), as much as the institutional framework related to resource management.

Those interventions should favour a comprehensive approach starting with a diagnosis of the territory, to identify the obstacles to practice change, among others.

The introduction of new practices must then go through a demonstration pilot phase involving the various stakeholder groups to test technical solutions in situ. This phase would then be capitalized on and technical solutions would be adjusted and validated before being distributed.

In the diffusion of new wood-energy use practices, such as economical stoves for example, the technical aspect is often highlighted while communicating with the general public. This is, however, not necessarily pure technical innovation but the adaptation of existing technologies. And the success of their distribution is mainly based on the acceptance and use by end users.

13.2. Omer Isdeen Akambi

ECO Benin

ECO Benin is an NGO working for the promotion of eco-tourism and local development in Benin. It promotes eco-tourism as an economic pillar of the development of local communities by creating simple tourist services involved in the protection of natural resources and cultural identity. The NGO has also set up a carbon action plan including the promotion of improved stoves around national parks.

In Benin, over 93% of the population use wood-energy in rural areas, although it is not a heavily forested country. The development of sustainable wood-energy sector is therefore a major challenge for safeguarding the environment in the country. In the north, in Pendjari, the pressure on timber resources is increasing and threatens indexed natural areas, rich with wildlife and with high tourist potential.





ECO Benin intervenes for the dissemination of Wanrou cooking stoves replacing the three stone hearths, improving the energy efficiency of cooking and therefore limiting wood-energy usage.

The spread of this technology is based on extensive outreach efforts towards women, and the training of women extensionist workers who spread the manufacturing protocol of Wanrou stoves and provides maintenance.

This type of hearth is particularly suitable for the area, since it is made from the type of soil easily found there.

Beyond limiting the pressure on timber resources around villages, the use of Wanrou stoves impact people's lives since its chimney reduces exposure to fumes, and freeing up much time previously dedicated to wood gathering.

13.3. Amarys Preus

The Nubian Vault Association (Association la Voûte Nubienne, AVN)

In West Africa, housing is often precarious or inaccessible. The scarcity of wood makes traditional building techniques impossible. The traditional wooden roofs were replaced with metal sheets, which proves somewhat unsuitable because it exposes the building to heat, and is often short-lived because of the poor material quality.

The Nubian Vault Association aims to facilitate access to affordable and sustainable housing, without metal or wood. The technique of the Nubian vault is an ancient concept using local materials: bricks.

The Nubian Vault is suitable both in rural than urban areas, it can be built as personal habitat but also for public or community buildings (health centre, school, warehouse, etc.). This way the association helps strengthen the resilience of Sahelian populations to climate change. Its architectural design also keeps the freshness inside the habitat.

To disseminate this type of construction, AVN educates people to the concept and seeds the local market.

AVN trains local masons which are then autonomous in meeting local demand. Masons then train apprentices, and materials (bricks) are provided by the local population. The spread of Nubian vaults thus creates jobs, especially in the dry season and boost the local construction market.

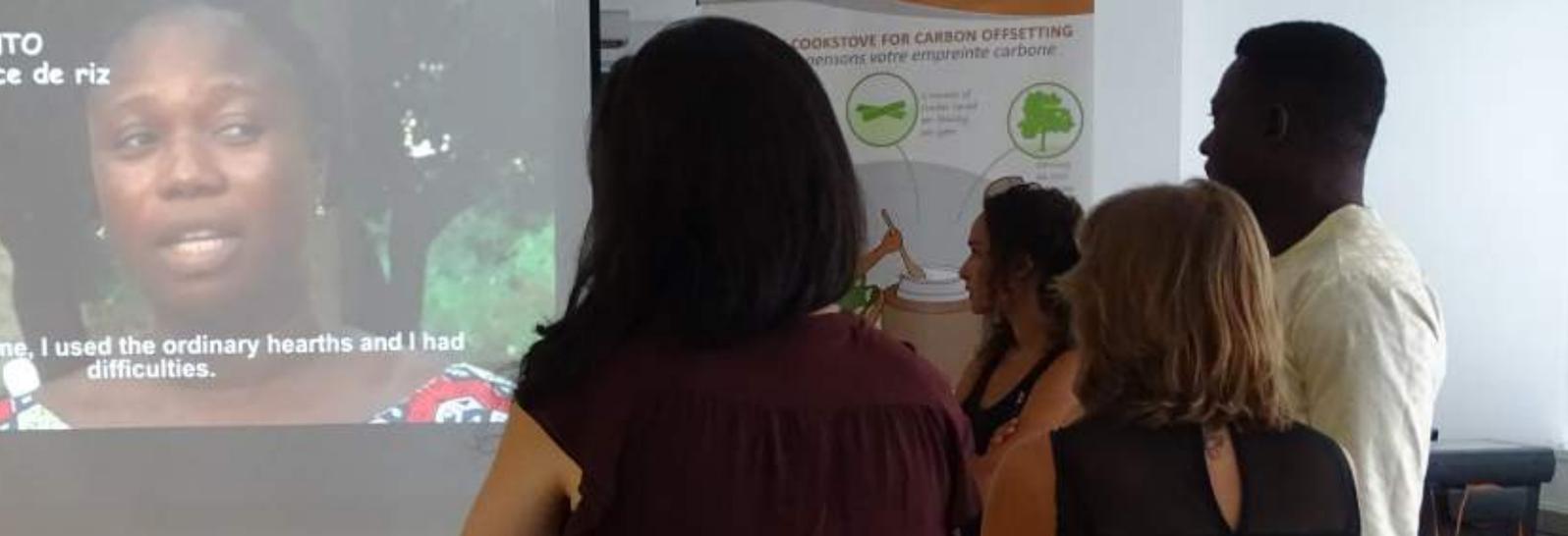
An energy efficient, woodless construction then becomes a technical proposal serving the territories' development.

13.4. Discussion

Members of GTD discussed the question of integrating the challenges of wood-energy in the development of territories, noting that:

- This issue is insufficiently considered, yet it is a major issue in the preservation of the environment (wood resources in particular). Members of GTD recognize the need to integrate the improvement of wood-





energy usage within the framework of the fight against desertification and adaptation to climate change. Today there is a lack of integration solutions for wood-energy in the projects and programs.

- Obstacles exist :
 - o The lack of reliable data on wood-energy, whether economic data on the production chains, data on energy efficiency of raw materials (wood, charcoal, dung, ...) and combustion techniques. Where available, this information is old.
 - o The wood-energy markets are currently informal, and lack standards.
 - o There are social barriers to change practices, therefore when the techniques to improve the performance of cookers and reduce pressure on wood resources exist their acceptance is complex.
 - o Energy is a specific business requiring technical knowledge, often preventing its integration in food security projects, reforestation, ...

- Prerequisites for working with wood-energy are:
 - o The technical approach should make more efforts to know the context, local customs, local and culinary practices. It is necessary to conduct a real diagnosis of the timber production chain before any intervention;
 - o It is necessary to integrate industrial considerations and not only focus on domestic use. In Morocco for example, hammams are popular institutions which consume a ton of wood per day. In Cambodia, the textile industry and the brickyards are causing deforestation at record speed. The production of charcoal is an important economic activity for 80,000 households. In these contexts, acting only on household consumption will have a minimal impact;
 - o Having an approach centred on income generating activities is a good option to make the link between domestic and industrial levels, and will facilitate the dissemination of technology;
 - o Impacting an entire industry: in Cambodia, GERES distributed innovative cookers, but households could not maintain them. The association backtracked on this method and now aims to accompany the practices upstream of cooking: training operators on wood drying;
 - o In the accompaniment of households using wood-energy, it is necessary to appeal to women who are mostly responsible for the purchase or gathering of coal or wood, as well as its use in the kitchen. They must take ownership of any new introduced technology.

- Needs related to data were also identified:
 - o How to achieve traceability of wood resources;
 - o Data is collected empirically, therefore it is necessary to work with research centres to improve its quality. In the drafting of a project, this may mean keeping a line for research and capitalization;
 - o There is a real need for the development of major research programs on this issue;





- o It is necessary to identify the individuals and organizations which already have data (GIZ should have some).
- GTD proposals ultimately include:
 - o The CFSD can receive solicitations on data related to wood-energy, to check whether they exist or not, and how to acquire them;
 - o The GTD can offer a technical and/or methodological tool to address the issue of wood-energy inclusion;
 - o It is necessary to strengthen the synergies between specialized actors and non-specialized to facilitate methodological support;
 - o The GTD can be brought to play its part in terms of advocacy.

The relevance of this issue must be verified with all members of GTD. It is necessary to produce an explanation of the link between wood-energy and the fight against desertification, and then to produce a guide or other type tool. A workshop to promote experience exchange on this theme could be organized before the end of the year as a prerequisite for the production of a dedicated tool.





XIV- Workshop no.11 : What impact for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative in the territories ?

Moderator: Nabil Ben Khadra, OSS

Rapporteur: Magali Pausin

14.1. Introduction

The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI, hereafter shortened to GGW) was launched in 2015 at the Heads of States of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) Summit. It covers all states of Sahel (from Dakar to Djibouti) but must be extended to the whole of Africa. This workshop aims to present the initiative and the current state of its implementation. It will try to initiate an assessment of the initiative in view of the results that begin to emerge.

14.2 Elvis Paul Tangem

African Union

GGW is an initiative brought forth by the African Union (AU) commission heads of state, and gets much support from them. This is a special program to support the 2063 calendar (long-term plan to transform the African continent).

Since its definition in 2007, GGW has not only been an agroforestry program to fight against desert encroachment and soil degradation. Today, the challenges are more important than during the great drought of 1998 because many problems of different types are overlapping (armed conflicts, terrorism, forced migration ...) and increasing. GGW is composed of many sustainable land management activities. Several projects support the implementation of this initiative: the SAWAP program (Sahel And West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall) supported by the BRICKS project (Building Resilience through services related to the Innovation, Communication and Knowledge); FLEUVE (Local Environmental Fund for a Green Union); ACD (Action Against Desertification); "Bridging the gaps in the GGW" (IUCN / UNEP). These many activities are strongly supported by civil society such as CARI (FLEUVE project) APEFE (capacity building in Burkina Faso), Scienza por amore or SOS Sahel.

Today, we can speak of a GGW 2.0 because it no longer consists only of tree planting, it became a sustainable management program of land and water, fitting to the new challenges of Africa. Similarly, it aims to extend to the north and south of the Sahara and not remain confined only to Sahel. However, GGW has not been included in the very arid Sahara, which is a mistake given the existence of oases in these areas. GGW should therefore extend in Southern Africa, in Cameroon and Ghana, which would represent more than a billion hectares of land to be restored. This is explained by the will to act directly on the watersheds to indirectly resolve the situation in the Sahel.



A few results:

- The relation between GGW, conflicts and migration is becoming clearer. We must therefore take the initiative as a solution to these challenges.
- Today, donors only discuss with the States and/or contractors, thus we must advocate to ensure the role of civil society in GGW, which proves to be very important.

14.3. Didier Woirin

APEFE

APEFE is the international Wallonia enforcement agency, laden with international relations at the federal level. This organization conducts an institutional capacity building program for the implementation of the GGW.

The presentation addressed three main areas:

- The GGW in Burkina Faso: The action plan consisting of four strategic objectives was developed in 2012 and is focused on SLM. The intervention area covers 4 regions, 15 provinces and 111 municipalities, representing nearly a third of Burkina Faso. APEFE acts as a technical assistant to strengthen the environment ministry's capacity to implement the GGW. This is explained by Burkina Faso's decision to prevent the stacking of implementation structures.
- The interventions with local communities: Cooperation with local authorities is very important for the implementation of the GGW as the Burkina Faso is made up of regions and municipalities. National coordination has decided to test the implementation process of the GGW at the town Bourzanga and 9 other cities on a more streamlined program. At the regional level, a working group on SLM is set up in each region. In addition, GGW works with CARI and SPONG for developing the Form'Action module for SLM projects targeting local communities.
- Working with NGOs: NGOs are involved in the implementation of the GGW, in accordance with national coordination. SPONG participate in all committees and participated in the advocacy training for SLM. Many activities are conducted with the CARI and participation of civil society is promoted at the consultation bodies level.

14.4. Moussa Halilou

CNCOD, ReSaD focal point, Niger

As part of the FLEUVE project, activities contributing to the GGW are performed under 2 angles (micro-investment projects at national scale and a regional component). There are two areas of intervention in Niger: the Tahoua region (4 towns) and the Dosse region (5 municipalities).

National activities:

- The local investment fund is channelled through the municipalities to implement sustainable land



management actions and income-generating activities. NGOs therefore accompany municipalities in mounting SLM projects (identification, implementation and monitoring) and support women through income-generating activities.

- The funds for capacity building: NGOs strengthen the capacity of communities by helping them to define priorities.

Regional Activities (5 Sahelian countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Chad):

A Form'Action module was developed for local communities regarding SLM project assembly. In Niger, Form'Action took place in the town Torodi. It lasted 5 days and allowed this town to turn a project idea (which was present in its municipal development plan in recent years) in an operational component. The project was related to "the restoration of the Niamba plateau for a pastoral recovery/valuing". Following this Form'Action, the project idea is formalized in a draft document developed in a participatory manner, using a specific method based on the definition of the logical framework. Originally planned as a 10 hectares project, it was expanded to 50 hectares. A financing plan has been set up, and we must continue to support the town in search of funding to implement the project.

Civil society is not only about criticism and denunciation, it is also involved in supporting implementation.

14.5. Fama Touré

Regional Development Agency (ARD) of the Louga region, Senegal

Although many efforts have been made to meet the issues weighing on Saharan States, there is a lack of coordination at the operational level. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) must therefore meet this challenge.

The RDAs: In Senegal they are created according to laws characterizing the creation of local authorities; they aim to coordinate and harmonize local development activities within the regional territorial space. They cover several fields: permanent support in the development of planning documents, supporting the development of participatory budgeting, capacity building on several topics, monitoring and evaluation, project management, etc.

A territorial planning process is underway today. A platform was set up and a new guide containing innovative new tools (like IR2P which collects data via smartphones) is distributed.

The GGW in Senegal covers 3 regions, 5 departments and 16 municipalities. Its goals are the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, diversification of exploitation systems and support the creation of sustainable incomes, meeting domestic needs, enhancing carbon sequestration in managed areas. In terms of results, it appeared that multi-purpose gardens generate a lot of resources especially for women, and that the GGW is a great opportunity for local communities.

We must therefore integrate GGW in territorial planning to ensure the opportunities and synergies between the various actions of territorial development. FLEUVE is an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of local communities. However, there is a weak local governance in Senegal, where only 5 local authorities are





interested in the process within the FLEUVE intervention area.

RDAs are a Senegalese specificity (development in Mali) supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Ministry of Planning and Local Government. It allows to convey national or international agreements to local the level to facilitate their implementation.

14.4. Kadidiatou Souley Yéro

Agrhymet

A tool dedicated to extensive evaluation of land degradation dynamics was presented. This tool is composed of many indicators allowing the development of two major indices: the potential land degradation sensitivity index, and the situational land degradation index. This tool was subsequently tested in 6 countries of the ECOWAS area.

The results from this tool can be used to identify priority areas of intervention for the GGW.

New indicators derived from good practices (erosion control practices, NAS ...) must be added to highlight the resilience of the environment, at the level of municipalities and rural lands. This visibility would improve the understanding of donors, which could increase funding for the fight against desertification.

This tool is useful for planning and decision support as well as monitoring and evaluation

14.6. Discussion

- Valuation by the AU of the actions carried out by NGOs under the GGW and access of civil society to funding: During the regional steering committee, it will be decided how to involve civil society. However, there is a questioning about which approach to choose: individual structures or networks? A new structure within the Committee will ensure coordination with the civil society.
- The data collected by Agrhymet is disaggregated at the municipal level over different periods: use of lower resolution data may be required, with the involvement of stakeholders in the municipality. A related study exists in Burkina Faso, as well as a monitoring and evaluation manual which capitalizes on SLM actions for projects of any size. In addition, SSO has developed land use maps in the SAWAP program, and a geographic information system.
- The socio-economic indicator does not measure the resilience of populations in the restored land.
- The cost of the tool and the component indicators: Most of the data is free except socio-economic data which is bought (LandScan). Each monitoring tool requires compromising between the means / resources and what is sought through them.
- There's currently no pairing, strictly speaking, with the RDA but municipalities appeal to the RDA in the formulation of projects and programs.
- In Burkina Faso, the National School of Waters and Forests incorporated SLM in their courses, but training is still inadequate because of the lack of practical work.





- Overall planning of the GGW:
 - The AU ensures policy, advocacy, implementation strategy, and implementation on the ground is realised through partnerships. The program is very well-structured with planning at all levels (harmonized strategy), updated with emerging challenges.
- The restoration actions already engaged are multiple and depend on the nature of the terrain.
- Link between GGW and field projects: Through knowledge and expertise transfer. UNCCD capitalizes on all the good practices (WOCAT database). This database provides a framework to help in decision-making with a very flexible use. The Desertification Work Group (GTD) also disseminates technical data and best practices on its own resource centre.
- Synergy between all interventions: It is up to each country to establish how to establish a synergy between all interventions. The IUCN / UNEP program should ensure synergy in the implementation of the GGW in over 15 countries.

GGW should help resolve the many challenges that overlap in the African territories. Capacity building actions are necessary and useful for its implementation. This should be done through multi-stakeholder partnerships. It is necessary to involve civil society through a partnership program, because it has an important role to play, particularly in bringing actors together.



XV- Workshop no.12 : Gender equality, access to land and ancestral knowledge : What challenges and what means of action?

Moderator : Anne Barre

Rapporteur : Anne Barre

15.1. Introduction

In many countries worldwide, women do not have equal access to land ownership: access to fertile land is limited by socio-cultural practices that favour male control. However, women are working to adapt and cope with this environment and secure their economic independence, thanks to their knowledge of the land and the relationship they have with it; they have been practising sustainable management of their environment for generations.

Alongside this issue of unequal access to land, women face discrimination in access to and control of other resources such as raw materials and water in arid regions. When these reserves are dwindling, the consequences are serious for the inhabitants of these regions, particularly for women. Because of the gender division of labour, women are confined to difficult tasks such as collecting water and the preservation of this increasingly scarce resource in the southern regions of the Mediterranean. Local knowledge was developed by women to prevent these situations, either alone or with the support of NGOs, and they are driven to develop and manage community irrigation systems.

Our workshop's objective is to develop a reflection on how traditional knowledge can become tools to fight against climate change, and how the protection of this expertise and of the rights of women and indigenous people can be strengthened, for the benefit of territories threatened by desertification, and the people who live there.

15.2. Amal El Idriss

NCHR-Morocco

Morocco displays a real commitment to women's rights, especially since the 2000s with many reforms: reform of the Family Code (2004), the Labor Code (2003), the Criminal Code, the Nationality Code. All this is the result of hard work of civil society. The result: the 2011 Constitution is a huge step for women's rights in Morocco : the criminalization of discrimination against women and the assertion of male / female equality as a fundamental principle. In addition, whereas before we only alluded to the right to vote, we now speak of economic, social, environmental, cultural rights.

However, the Moroccan land system is very complex and is characterized by unequal access. We must distinguish two regimes, the traditional rule (the customary Muslim law) and the modern rule (since 1912 under the protectorate, with land registration) as well as a variety of categories of land. Unequal access to land ownership between men and women is a global phenomenon in Morocco, recently exacerbated by land grabbing practices and privatization. The Moroccan system of succession gives women half the share of land





that men receive, causing economic insecurity and vulnerability. Access to land also determines the access to water, because the right to use water in rural areas is linked to the possession of irrigable land: there is therefore a male control over the water supply.

The women's access to land ownership rate is 7% in urban areas, 1% in rural areas. Only 4.4% of farms are run by women, or about 2.5% of the Utilised Agricultural Areas. Upon succession, women often voluntarily cede the land to their brothers, to keep the family unity and prevent fragmentation. It is mostly women who work the land, but they do not control it. Studies suggest that agricultural productivity could increase by 20% if there was equal access to fertilizers, seeds and land.

In conclusion, the land insecurity that befall women clearly impact their autonomy, without preventing them from developing traditional skills in addition to modern techniques.

15.3. Katim Alaoui

Mohammed VI Foundation, Morocco

In the past, the argan forest covered a large part of the Moroccan national territory. Most of the argan tree is now in the region of Souss Massa (Agadir region) covering 740,000 hectares. The population of the argan forest has always lived in the forests. Very ancient texts establish rights of use (*usus* and *fructus*) for these populations on the land owned by the state. Indigenous peoples benefit from the total of the usufruct of the argan nut, namely the collection of nuts, the nuts transformation and the production of oil. This is a long and complex process because the argan nut is one of the hardest nut in the world. Pulping and crushing are exclusively manual and feminine operations (no machine has yet been able to properly crush these nuts).

The Mohammed VI Foundation wants to improve the acceptability of deferred grazing by offering people some income generating solutions. The solutions are based on alternative crops (cheese, dairy, honey), while the plot where they grew argan would regenerate (which can take 10 years).

Women are not involved in decision-making in the communities, despite being important economic actors. The community is made up of men. Women stay at home. Men do not cultivate argan directly, they have a commercial role. But since they had access to education, some women now manage cooperatives.

The Foundation tries to return to the customary practices of respect for the soil, in the *Agdal*, to ensure that people will accept deferred grazing. This decision should come from them and not from the state. The challenge now is to resume the old traditional system of Argan cultivation combined with deferred grazing, and with involvement of women in management (thus correcting this system).

This presentation was followed by a discussion with the participants on the potential benefits brought by mechanization for the manufacturing process of argan oil. One participant suggested that by mechanizing the most difficult tasks, one could free up time for women to learn to read and write. Katim Alaoui explained that of course women must be educated, but it is important that they remain those who have mastered the technique of production of argan oil, otherwise they will be excluded from the production process. Although machinery for pressing and extraction of argan almond exists, women are the only ones able to handle crushing.





15.4. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

As a result of the Muslim culture in this region of Africa, women have half the access to all resources (compared to men). The Mbororo Peuls practice transhumance, moving over 5 countries (Cameroon, DRC, Chad, etc.). There are facing several challenges: drought which now includes flooding phases, desertification, biodiversity loss. Their traditional knowledge include methods to fight against desertification. The Mbororo have specific knowledge to predict the weather which are shared among men and women, but it is common to say that men are the keepers.

Ms. Hindu Oumarou Ibrahim then introduced a mapping exercise conducted in her village to document the knowledge of the people in their territory. The men accepted knowledge from women. The men first spoke of the great landmarks in the area: water points, transhumance corridors, etc. But women gave details ignored by men: here there is a medicinal plant, here a leaf which will feed the family... Often the authorities are trying to help nomadic communities by trying to "build this right here". But communities through this kind of shared map may be able to answer "no, here we need our water source": these maps reinforce their right to decide on their development.

It is important to develop a multi-stakeholder dialogue, involving UN agencies and the government around these maps. The UNFCCC also provides for the creation of a platform on traditional knowledge as adaptation tools, proving that this idea is accepted at the institutional level. The mapping tool allows a male/female relations transformation, provides essential knowledge elements in the territory, and acts as a lever in respect of development organizations.

15.5. Discussion

The workshop concluded with a group exercise, participants were divided into two groups to answer the following questions:

1 / What are the main barriers that block women's access to land ownership and control of land?

2 / What can we change in the internal regulatory systems or policies/practices to strengthen local women's rights? How to act to reduce the discrimination that prevent them from implementing land restoration strategies?







Closing Plenary

16.1. Thanks

Ronan Dantec: This event was prepared in a very short time but has nonetheless resulted in a real collective work, which should be able to benefit the COP due to past experiences (Da'15 and Climate Chance summits). Thanks are extended to all participants, and especially those who made the effort to come despite the Forum starting on the second day of the ending festival of Muslim Ramadan.

Patrice Burger He added his voice to that of his predecessor to thank the participants and especially those who have left their families on a holiday. The process is started, it is on the way. Changes never come from the crowd but from people who get organized, as it is the case at the Forum.

Christel Kohler: It was a huge pleasure to welcome you to Strasbourg. Northern countries are aware of land degradation and in the words of Mr. Nicolas Hulot, "without action on land, there is no salvation about climate." Everything is linked, we must therefore engage all together. Civil society is essential and Strasbourg will carry this message, including at COP13.

16.2. Restitutions by the main speakers/great witnesses

Anne Barre, women's representative : There is a strong will from local actors to get into action. Do not believe that a small group of utopians can not be an agent of change. Still, women are discriminated against in many aspects: no access to rights, funding, etc.

However, the workshops confirm...

- Interesting leads like those on the funds mobilization at the local level and the involvement of civil society as stakeholders; the pooling of public and private funds through indicators and a framework to safeguard the social and environmental rights; the establishment of funds with a mandate on gender issues ...
- But also persistent challenges such as women's problem of access to land and necessary financial means. Solutions have been outlined from examples in Morocco and Chad. Very specific recommendations were developed, in particular on the work at the territorial level (involvement, recognition of knowledge ...).

Max Van Deursen, youth representative : It is obvious that land degradation is linked to development and we need to combine the two issues in the United Nations agenda: it is a part of the 2030 Agenda sustainable development goals. The topic of land is quite sensitive and its discussion at the international level is difficult. We must therefore connect distinct sectors together to solve this problem, and this is what DA'17 managed to do by successfully joining the themes of climate and land.

- Migration: It is necessary to link local reality and global policies. The stakeholders of civil society





have a key role to play, particularly towards hospitality in order not to turn this phenomenon into a problem.

- Decentralized cooperation: This topic is relevant to current events and particularly with the actions of Donald Trump: if the state moves back against its commitments, local authorities can take over and continue the cooperation actions. The decentralized approach is probably the solution for the future, as with sustainable tourism.

Sylvestre Tiemtoré, civil society representative : Often we talk much and act too little. But this two-day exception offers concrete actions to implement.

- Migration: This is a fact, a cross-border problem aggravated by climatic factors. It is necessary to approach it contextually.
- Great Green Wall: This is an original initiative of heads of state, which is reflected in the territories today with a multitude of actors.

Positive conclusion of this event: A strong battle remains to be done for women. However, during these two days, we could see that there is genius where you can find despair. It is time to act, we must stop talking. Desertif' Actions challenges us to do so and shows that actions are indeed carried out in the field.

16.3. Final declaration

The Final Declaration, "Reducing land degradation and restoration of degraded land must become a priority of the international community", summarizes the findings of twelve workshops and must be conveyed at future events. It emphasizes the territorial approach and ecological agriculture. The statement was approved by all the participants, it will be available on the Forum website after integrating feedback and comments from participants in regard of the following points:

- Besides food security, we need to define food and seeds sovereignty ;
- We should introduce the concept of "local partnership";
- Migration, as a population movement, can be a positive adaptation to climate change and the fight against land degradation, but we must clarify that it is forced migration which should be prevented;
- Regarding land degradation, targeting neutrality is not enough, we must show greater ambition;
- Public funding should come first from States and regional communities before being complemented by the international community;
- Synergy should not be solely linking climate change and land degradation, but also the preservation of biodiversity, etc.
- We should insert the FAO voluntary guidelines on land governance;
- We should insert traditional knowledge at point number 3;
- It is important to treat certain topics independently: do not bring women and youth in the same





point as it leaves women in their maternal role, for example;

- We should add a point on the sharing of knowledge;
- We should add a point on the production of knowledge and cross-search with local knowledge;
- Soil contamination by chemicals should be mentioned as a cause of land degradation.

This declaration must be signed by as many participants as possible and circulate on social networks to increase its impact.

16.4. Closing panel

Panel Speakers expressed themselves on carrying the Strasbourg Declaration.

Brahim Hafidi: This declaration will be discussed at the Climate Chance Summit in Agadir in September, and will be expanded with the results of the next summit. It is necessary to rehabilitate ecosystems to leave no empty seats. We must propose projects which attract funding. The only regret about this meeting was the lack of private sector representatives and the low participation of scientists.

Representative of the Chinese Government, organizer of COP13: The collaboration between state and non-state is essential. China has the largest proportion of population affected by desertification in the world, and it has conducted numerous actions on the basis of this cooperation to fight against desertification which have yet to be valued. Thus, Inner Mongolia is strongly affected by drought and desertification, but the change in agricultural practices (replacement of cereal production by planting trees), gathering a multitude of actors involved in the various phases of production (selection, planting, seeds, water, tools, knowledge, marketing, sales, export), allowed to fight desertification effectively. This result is based on collaborations between different actors: the population manages and allocates land labour; infrastructures are managed by local authorities and strategies are implemented at state level. The state has an important role to mobilize financial resources, providing incentives to engage in business in the desert and live in it.

Xavier Sticker: Congratulations to those who drafted the text and who negotiated it. One can hope the text from Ordos to be that clear. This agreement calls for broader participatory approaches. Organizing Desertif'Actions in Montpellier was relevant, and it could not necessarily appear as relevant to do the same in Strasbourg if we were not aware of what is happening right here (Environmental Initiatives). Desertification does not only concern the affected areas, it is a global phenomenon. The story of the flag hoisted on top of Strasbourg Cathedral by an inhabitant of the Kufra oasis [during the liberation of the city in 1944, NdT] has significance in the history of Strasbourg and France, and that solidarity now has to be mirrored for peace and Development.

Marcos Montoiro: After a day and a half of work and numerous steering committees, the statement brings real satisfaction. All the discussed elements will be brought to the COP. This is why Desertif'Actions is a good preparatory meeting with the participation of all stakeholders. There will be opportunities to include elements of the statement in the ministerial dialogues: on the topic of land and the gender with civil society organizations; with local authorities including Strasbourg, carrier of the declaration, about the rehabilitation of land with the private sector. These elements must find their way into the final decisions of the countries.





Patrice Burger: Alone we achieve nothing! We reached agreement by engaging together! A sincere thank you to all who participated. Regarding COP13 in Ordos, it is necessary to stress the diversity of the civil society representation in China coming from all continents and in particular in Asia, Latin America and Africa. A slogan may be appropriate for this meeting: Do something for the earth, and climate will reward you!

Ronan Dantec: A big thank you to those who made the effort to gather here, it is they who have contributed to the declaration. We are part of this chain that is now established.





Déclaration

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT DESERTIF' ACTIONS 2017

27/28th JUNE 2017 - Strasbourg

STRASBOURG DECLARATION OF NON-STATE ACTORS

« REDUCING LAND DEGRADATION AND REHABILITATING DEGRADED LAND MUST BECOME A PRIORITY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY »

The loss of arable land and soil degradation are some of the major challenges facing humanity. Whether identified causes are climate change, poor agricultural practice imposed by short-term profit seeking, water and soil contamination, land grabbing or urban spread, this phenomenon threatens the tenets of our societies' future, questions the population's security and food sovereignty, and ruins the essential favors that the ecosystems render (water, biodiversity). This fast land degradation also deprives us from their irreplaceable carbon storage capacity, at times when rapid CO2 atmospheric levels decrease is an absolute priority, constantly reaffirmed by the scientific community.

Years pass and time is lacking : 2015 raised lots of hope with the adoption, in New York in september, of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (including the 15.3 goal regarding neutrality in terms of land degradation) and, in december in Paris, of a climate agreement providing a precise framework for States and non-state actors action alike. These international agreements are a precious foundation in guiding the international community towards its priorities.

Taking action is henceforth a shared worldwide injunction.

Gathered in Strasbourg at Désertif'Actions 2017 and representing a diversity of non-state actors - civil society organizations, local authorities, scientists, businesses, native people representatives, women and youths, farmers and unions, together we deem that the time has come to reinforce action, at the height of the environmental and social urgencies, including the reduction of development inequalities, and in compliance with the whole Sustainable Development Goals.

We specifically emphasize on the necessity of a territorial perspective. Following the declarations of the





“Climate and Territories ” summit in Lyon in 2015 and “Climate Chance 2016” in Nantes, we underline that without this territorial perspective, close to populations and local stakeholders, we won’t be able to implement sustainable policies to combat land degradation or to undertake rehabilitation actions. We underline that rallying local and regional stakeholders regarding these issues is crucial, that they must especially be aware that the urban spread, in both North and South, must be absolutely contained and anticipated. We insist that providing elected representatives, particularly in South, with land planification and management tools, and that financing these tools, ultimately inexpensive in view of the stakes involved, must be a priority for the worldwide community. To this end we support the growth of decentralized cooperation in the field of land degradation, while emphasizing the importance of experience sharing, good practice exchange, and knowledge dissemination.

We urge local stakeholders to establish regional alimentary strategies that will help strengthen their autonomy and sovereignty, integrating a production and consumption balance, water and arable land diversity preservation, local seeds conservation, and encourage the implementation of ecological agricultural policies, respectful of both human health and future generations.

Following the Désertif’Actions 2017 summit workshops, we declare that :

- Sustainable Development Goal 15 “avoid, decrease, restore” must be converted to concrete actions. In order to reach the goal 15.3 for neutrality regarding land degradation, the multiple project phases (diagnosis, identifying actions, assess outcomes) must be articulated from local to national scale, together with all the relevant stakeholders. We wish to restate that in the context of a land restoration policy, it is fundamental and urgent to prioritize the prevention of further degradation, and that it is necessary to aim further than the neutrality objective. In this context, scientific production must be greatly boosted and be put forward.
- Investing in the restoration of degraded land must be a priority in the view of the challenges this issue connects (food, migration, climate, ...), most notably in regard to small actors funding. We call for a fast increase in the financial flows from worldwide backers, development banks and consider that a convergence of financial operators working on the climate and those mobilized on land degradation would be of strategic interest. All the while, we must remain vigilant and prevent climate funding from monopolizing land or break up farming economies : opportunities exist, major initiatives have been launched these past few months (4p1000, AAA, 3S, etc.). They must be examined without any dogmatism, and can allow for a change of scale in the implementation of the necessary rehabilitation operations. In order to avoid the abuses, the civil society must remain vigilant and have the means to follow and assess these projects. We require that the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of





National Food Security of the Committee on World Food Security be applied, along with free and informed consent of the communities.

- The first cause of migration is intimately linked to climatic causes, to desertification and the insecurity that ensues, of which the livelihood deterioration is the key. Although migration is often a means of adaptation to changing circumstances and that in this context restricting displacements would be a poor option, forced migrations are unacceptable. We relay the call of Ouagadougou regarding the necessity to rehabilitate 10 million hectares of degraded lands while creating 2 million jobs linked to sustainable land use for youth, women and migrants, and to better manage the financial flows in order to act firstly on migratory causes. We claim that reinforcing the capabilities of host communities, the development of actions to protect and share natural resources in vulnerable territories and the consultation with target populations are action drivers that are essential to the implementation of efficient migratory policies, mindful of cultural diversities. The Oases ecosystem, particularly at risk, must be part of these dynamics via the sustainable Oases initiative.
- The paramount role of women, as key players and carriers of ancestral knowledge and sustainable solutions to preserve and restore the lands and ecosystems must be better acknowledged. Women represent 40 to 80% of the agricultural workforce depending on the region, but own less than 2% of worldwide land. We support women's land rights, as producers and recipients, so as to lessen present inequalities and reinforce their global contribution to combating desertification.
- Youth are also the holders of solutions and innovations. The transition towards an ecological and sustainable agriculture, manned by the youth and for the youth, by promoting trades tied to the land, to the preservation of biodiversity, to ensure the communities food security, must be guaranteed.
- It is of key importance to modernize the usual administrative approach regarding water management, and to broaden to a more inclusive perspective. The latter must encompass the diversity of water uses while integrating the socio-economical aspects and favor a diversified and coordinated approach between inter-municipalities, watersheds, or inter-countries. There is a complementarity linking a territory's water resources. We underline that differentiated and complementary management based on time and seasons is invaluable.
- Regulation of multiple and complementary users areas rather than differentiation of area use is to be favored. We restate that it is necessary to build up on what's already implemented while supplementing the national framework with features inspired from the local scale. We warn that creating an added value regarding restoration will generate an access competition that will need to be anticipated. We reaffirm the fundamental importance to list and acknowledge land rights in each degraded land restoration operation, in order to protect ecosystems and the beneficiary communities.
- Adaptation to climate change is too often seen through the prism of preservation from risks and catastrophes ; we affirm the importance to make "combat land degradation" a priority in adaptation strategies, and allocating the necessary resources to it, including local and national funds mobilization, with a major section dedicated to the access to water.





- To ensure resilience and adaptability, a perspective focused on basic communities (and on native people) knowledge is indisputable and must promote time-tested traditional expertise such as recognized in article 7.5 of the Paris agreement, specifically sharing on adaptation and mitigation.

The declaration of Human rights, supported by the City of Strasbourg and other cities around the world, highlights that "land degradation is a violation of fundamental human rights worldwide, and a critical threat for present and future generation" ; the participants of Désertif'Actions 2017 share this message. The urgency to act must mobilize here and now, it is the responsibility of our generation.

TAKING ACTION NOW, IT IS POSSIBLE !

Désertif'actions 2017 was jointly organized by the associations CARI and Climate Chance, the City of Strasbourg, and supported by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The financial partners of Désertif'Actions are the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the French government including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Ministry for Ecological and Solidary Transition. The opinions developed in this document do not necessarily reflect that of the financial partners and will be ratified by each participant at a later date.

Signatory organization:

Liste non exhaustive : ONG Change Human's Life, Association Agroécologie Oasienne, Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Recherche et la Sauvegarde de l'Arganier, World Future Council, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Alagsan Foundation for Agriculture and Environment Development, ICENECDEV Cameroon, Lupane state university, DesertNet International, ONG la Brique, All Gambia Forestry Platform, CARI, Association DANAYA, ONG SOS Sahel international, ICENECDEV Cameroon, Coordination Régionale des Usagers (ères) des Ressources Naturelles du Bassin du Niger (CRUBN), Alagsan Foundation for Agriculture and Environment Development, Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Éducation Relative à l'Environnement (COSAPER), l'Observatoire Africain pour le Développement Endogène (OADE), Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement, CENADEP (Centre National d'Appui au Développement et à la Participation Populaire), ADAF/Gallè (Association pour le Développement des Activités de Production et de Formation), AgriSud International, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Association pour le Développement et l'Echange Culturel (ADEC-France), Metropolis, Géo-CSP, Urbanistes sans frontières, FMDV, GPS-Dev (Governance & Policies for Sustainable Development), La route nubienne, France Libertés - Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, AFPAT – Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad, CGLU, Enda Energy, WECF, World Association of the Major Metropolises, NGO BIOS, AJDC (Association des Jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire), Sandhan Foundation, Association de Développement Agricole Educatif et Sanitaire, MONFEMNET National Network NGO, OT Watch, Association Pour un autre monde, Pasticultores del Desierto, A.C, Association Tchadienne des Volontaires pour la Protection de l'Environnement (ATVPE)...





Agenda

Day #1 - Tuesday 27th June / 9.45am - 6.30pm **Jour #1 - Mardi 27 juin / 9h - 16h30**

Morning

High-Level Introductory Plenary – Climate imbalance and land degradation: lands at the heart of 21st century issues

- Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive secretary, Germany
- Hakima El Haité, Moroccan Climate Champion, Morocco
- Hoesung Lee, IPCC President, South Korea
- Xavier Sticker, Interministerial French Ambassador for environment
- Plenary sessions of multi-actors dialogues

What non-state actor's dynamics on land degradation and desertification?

- Charlotte Blondel, Youth on the Move, YOUNGO representative, France
- Mamadou Cissokho, ROPPA Honorary President, FARMERS representative, Mali
- Brahim Hafidi, ANDZOA, Souss Massa Region President, LGMA representative, Maroc
- vBaris Karapinar, DKM Turkey, WEOG/UNCCD CSO Panel
- Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, IPAAC, Chad, IPO representative, Africa/UNCCD CSO Panel
- Roland Ries, Mayor of the city of Strasbourg, CUF President, UGLC France Vice-president, LGMA representative
- Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez, Latin America/UNCCD CSO Panel, Peru

Afternoon

Thematic workshops (divided into two sessions) :

- Drylands, adaptation and resilience: what tools are available in the territories to define their adaptation strategies?
 - Can Climate finance contribute to land restoration?
 - How territories based projects can contribute to land degradation neutrality national targets?
 - How to take into consideration land issues in land restoration dynamics?
 - How to face up to the concurrency between diverse water uses faced with the precarity of the resource availability?
 - Migratory flow management: what development challenges and actors' synergies at the local, national and regional scale?
- 17.00-19.00 Organized visits in the city of Strasbourg
- Monique Barbut, Secrétaire exécutive de la CNULD, Allemagne





- Hakima El Haité, Championne marocaine du Climat, Maroc
- Hoesung Lee, Président du GIEC, Corée du Sud
- Xavier Sticker, Ambassadeur inter-ministériel de la France

Day #2 - Wednesday 27th June / 9am - 1pm

Morning

Thematic workshops :

- What progress report and development perspectives of the 4/1000 Initiative today?
- What actors' coalition and what means of actions to ensure an integrated and sustainable oases development?
- What solutions decentralized cooperation can offer to combat desertification?
- What economy of energy practices for the development of territories?
- What impact of the Initiative of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel in territories?
- What challenges and lever to rebalance access to land to women who can build on ancestral knowledge?

11.30-13.00 Closing plenary

Session 1

- Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive secretary, Germany
- Hakima El Haité, Moroccan Climate Champion, Morocco
- Xavier Sticker, Interministerial French Ambassador for environment
- City of Ordos representative, China
- UNCCD Turkish Presidency representative

Session 2

- Presentation and adoption of the Désertif'actions 2017 Declaration

Session 3

- Closing speech by Roland Ries, Mayor of the city of Strasbourg, France

15h15-16h45 Boat trip "Strasbourg, European capital"



Agenda "Off"

International press cartoon contest

As part of Désertif'actions 2017 Summit, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the City of Strasbourg, CARI association and Climate Chance organize for the second time an international press cartoon contest on the theme: **"Land degradation and climate: Europe and the world facing the ultimate borders!"**

The panel composed of personalities from press, artistic and graphic professions, cartoonists and organizers, took about thirty cartoons on exposed during Désertif'actions 2017 Summit. They will be also exposed during the next United Nations Conferences of Parties to combat desertification and climate change (COP13 in Ordos and COP23 in Bonn).

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CARTOON CONTEST

As part of Désertif'actions 2017 Summit, the United Nations to Combat Desertification, the City of Strasbourg, CARI association Climate Chance organize for the second time an international press cartoon contest on the theme: "Land degradation and climate: Europe and the world facing the ultimate borders!"

13 countries represented

AUSTRALIA,	ITALIA,
BELGIUM,	KENYA,
CAMEROON,	NIGERIA,
CANADA,	ROMANIA,
CYPRUS,	TANZANIA,
FRANCE,	UKRAINE,
HONDURAS,	

International summit

OD'a17

Désertif'actions

65 cartoons received
42 artists
3 winners

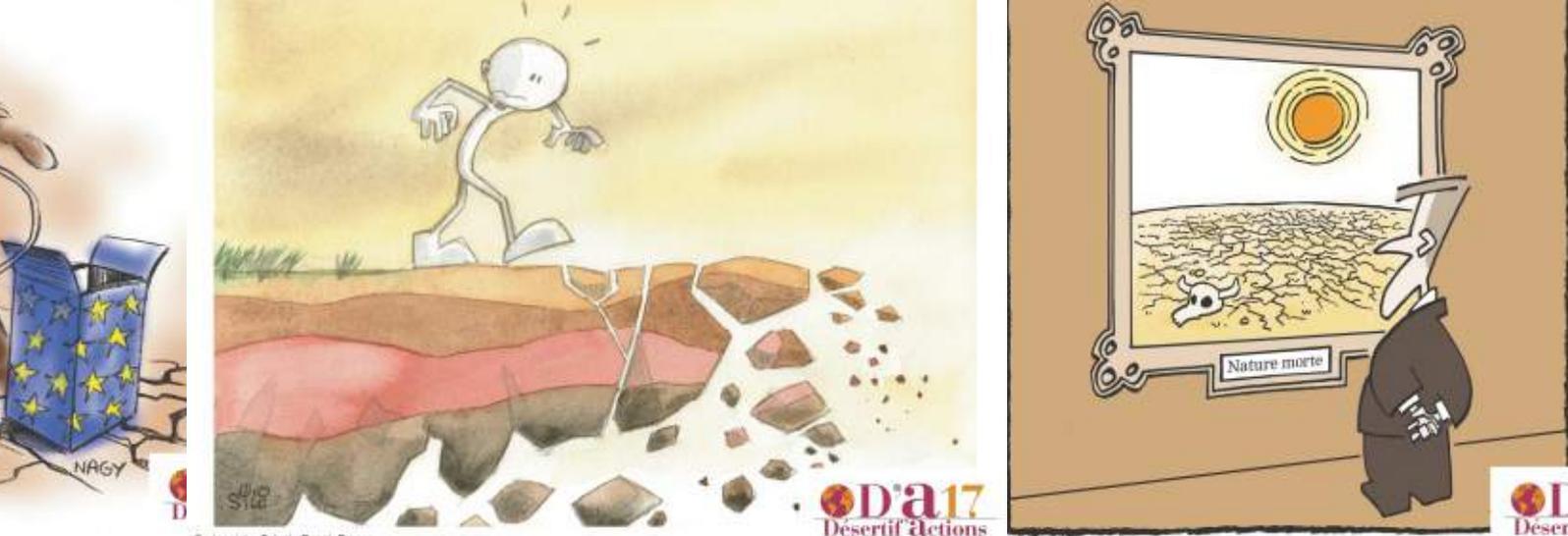
First prize
Batti - France

Second prize
Robert Rouso - France

Second prize ex aequo
Guy Badeaux - Canada

#DesertifActions
www.desertif-actions.fr/en





EXHIBITION

From friday 23th to 20th June
60 solutions against climate change
> Place Kléber

PROJECTION : TERRA

25th June, 5.30pm
> Cinéma Odysée, rue des Franc-Bourgeois

DEBATE

Monday 26th June, 5.30pm
In the face of the dead ends of industrial agriculture and climate change, what is the agroecological transition to respect the land, pay for work equitably and produce healthy food for all, North and South?
> Hôtel de ville, place Broglie

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CARTOON CONTEST

From Monday 26th to Sunday 30th June
Land degradation and climate : Europe and the world facing the ultimate borders !
> Hôtel de Ville, place Broglie

CONCERT TETE & ANDRE MANOUKIAN

Monday 26th June, 8.30pm





List of participants

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Acknowledgement

Dear Désertif'actions 2017 participants,

We wish to warmly thank you for your active participation to the non-state actors international Summit "Land degradation and Climate Change in territories "Désertif'actions 2017". You proved your strong engagement all along the workshops and plenaries and we recognise the large interest that you expressed for the different Strasbourg's city tours and for the cartoonists prize giving.

We hope that D'a 17 agenda, the "In" as well as the "Off", corresponded to your expectations. We also hope that you travelled safe back home.

Désertif'actions 2017 has been a success thanks to you all. This success is equally based on the innovative approach of this year bringing together engaged actors in combatting land degradation and in climate change, and by illustrating climate change on lands. This approach allowed to highlight UNCCD and UNFCCC convergence points and new synergies have been created in favour of action. We formulate the wish that works and messages produced could serve as lever in combatting land degradation, in their consideration in climate or land international negotiations as well as in sustainable development goals.

We give you the Strasbourg Declaration based to a great extent on the different elements coming from the workshops and reviewed with the comments expressed during the final plenary. Genuine common message of non-state actors, this Declaration underlines the collective and joint approach engaged in D'a17. Already, CARI, Climate Chance, WECF, the Fondation France Liberté and the ROPPA signed it. We call to its signature in order to carry it on during the 13th Conference of Parties of the United Nations to Combat Desertification in Ordos, China, next September. For this, you just have to send an email to association@climatechance.fr .

Following on from D'a17, some elements will be included to the Climate Chance global Summit Declaration of climate actors in Agadir next September (www.climatechance2017.com).

You will find on Désertif'actions 2017 website the totality of documents released during the meeting: www.desertif-actions.fr. We will forward you the complete report of the event and a synthesis document next weeks.

You will also find a picture set of key moments on Désertif'actions 2017 Facebook page and on its Flickr page.





You can also discover or re-discover the press release of the 17th of June on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification. Like this your participation does not stop in Strasbourg!

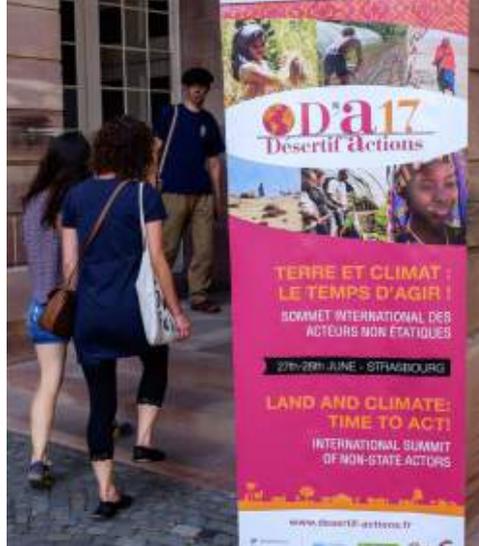
The UNCCD Secretariat relies on your participation to the COP 13 in Ordos. As a reminder, only accredited organisations can participate to Conferences of Parties.

Allow us to renew our honest thanks for your uninterrupted support and your particular attention during the event. We are really touched.

Sincerely yours,

CARI and Climate Chance associations, the City of Strasbourg and UNCCD





List of acronyms

% - Pourcentage

AAA - Adaptation de l'Agriculture Africaine

ACD - Action Contre la Désertification

AFD - Agence française e développement

AFR100 - African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

AIDER - Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integral

ANDZOA - Agence Nationale pour le Développement des zones oasiennes

ANDZOA - Agence Nationale pour le Développement des zones oasiennes et de l'Arganier

ANFICT - Agence Nationale de Financement des Collectivités Territoriales

ANICT - Agence Nationale d'Investissement des Collectivités Territoriales

APEFE - Association pour la Promotion de l'Education et de la Formation à l'Etranger

APIMAK - Association pour la Promotion de l'Intercommunalité dans les 12 communes des départements de Madaoua, Malbaza et Konni

ARD - Agence Régionale de Développement

AVN - Association de la Voute Nubienne

AVSF - Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

BAD - Banque africaine de développement

BARC - Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities

BM - Banque mondiale

BM - Banque Mondiale

BRICKS - Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services

CARI - Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales

CC - Changement climatique

CCNUCC - Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique

CdP - Conférence des Parties

CEDEAO - Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

CEMAATERR - Climat-Énergie : Mesures d'Adaptation et d'Atténuation sur les Territoires Ruraux

CENESTA - Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment

CGLU - Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis

CIEDEL - Centre International d'Etudes pour le Développement Local

CILSS - Comité inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel

CIRCASA - Coordination of International Research Cooperation on soil Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture

CNCOD - Comité national de Coordination des ONG sur la Désertification

CNDH - Comité National des Droits de l'Homme

CNULCD - Convention des Nations Unies ur la lutte contre la désertification

CNULD - Convention des Nations Unies pour la Lutte contre la Désertification

CO2 - Dioxyde de carbone

COP - Conférences Of the Parties

COS - Carbone organique des sols

COS - Carbone Organique des Sols

CSFD - Comité Scientifique Français de la Désertification

DA'2017 - Désertif'actions 2017

DKM - Doğa Koruma Merkezi

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation

FEM - Fond pour l'Environnement Mondial

FEM - Fonds pour l'environnement mondial

FLEUVE - Front Local Environnemental pour une Union Verte

FPDCT - Le Fonds Permanent pour le Développement des Collectivités Territoriales

G5 Sahel - Groupe des 5 Sahel

GASSOM - Gestion Adaptative et Suivi des Systèmes Oasiens au Maghreb

GDT - Groupe Travail Désertification

GERES - Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités

GES - Gaz à effet de serre

GIEC - Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat





GMV - Grande Muraille Verte (cf. GMVSS)
 GMVSS – Grande Muraille Verte pour le Sahara et le Sahel
 GRN – Gestion des Ressources Naturelles
 GTD - Groupe de Travail Désertification
 Ha - Hectare
 I4CE - Institute for Climate Economics
 ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
 IDMC - International Displacement Monitoring Centre / Observatoire des situations de déplacement interne
 IGMVSS – Initiative Grande Muraille Verte pour le Sahara et le Sahel
 IOD - Initiative des Oasis Durables
 IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 IRD - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
 LCD – Lutte Contre la Désertification
 LDN – Land Degradation Neutrality
 MEAE - Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères
 MOS - Mode d'occupation du sol
 NDT – Neutralité en terme de Dégradation des Terres
 ODD - Objectifs de développement durable
 ONERC - Observatoire national sur les effets du réchauffement climatique
 ONG – Organisation Non Gouvernementale
 OSC – Organisations de la Société Civile
 OSS - Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
 PACV - Programme d'appui aux communautés villageoises
 PED - Pays en développement
 PNDES - Plan National de Développement économique et Social
 PNDP - Programme national de développement participatif
 PNUE - Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement
 pS-eau - Programme Solidarité eau
 R&D – Recherche & Développement
 RADD - Réseau Associatif de Développement Durable des Oasis
 RDC - République Démocratique du Congo
 ReSaD - Réseau Sahel Désertification
 RNA - Régénération naturelle assistée
 ROPPA - Réseau des organisations paysannes et de

producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
 SAI - Système aquifère lullemeden
 SASS - Système aquifère du Sahara septentrional
 SAU - Surface Agricole Utile
 SAWAP - Sahel and West Africa Program
 SC – Société Civile
 SSS - Sécurité, Stabilité et Soutenabilité de l'agriculture africaine
 UA - Union Africaine
 UE – Union Européenne
 UNCCD - United Nations Convention to combat desertification
 UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future
 WIM - Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
 WOCAT - World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies
 YOUNGO - Youth + NGOs



A declaration to defend and pass on ! A call for signatures

The Désertif'actions 2017 summit concluded with a declaration unanimously adopted in the closing plenary session on Wednesday 28 June, in Strasbourg, France.

The Désertif'actions organisers ask you to **support this declaration by adding the signature of your organisation to it** and by passing it on in your own networks. To do this, we kindly ask you to send an email to association@climatechance.fr, indicating the name of your organisation and the name of a contact person. The more and varied the signatures, the more influence this declaration (the only one giving a common voice to non-State actors) will have when presented at the two UN summits.

Désertif'actions : land at the heart of the agenda !

Various stakeholder groups involved in combatting land degradation and climate change came together for two days, at the University of Strasbourg for Désertif'actions 2017. They adopted a declaration on Wednesday 28 June 2017, reiterating their determination to place land at the centre of local actions and international agendas.

Unique by its very nature, this multi-stakeholder gathering brought together 200 participants from some thirty countries to develop a lasting dialogue between stakeholder communities involved in combatting land degradation and climate change.

Numerous points of convergence and synergies were identified, sketching out a roadmap for actions to be delivered on the ground and political messages to take to upcoming international meetings, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, at Ordos, in China (COP13), in September, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Bonn, Germany (COP23), in November.

The full declaration is available at www.desertif-actions.fr/en

 #DesertifActions

 Dersertif.Actions

www.desertif-actions.fr/en

Désertif'actions 2017 is an event organized jointly by CARI association, Climate Chance, the city of Strasbourg, with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

