



- National workshops -

Terms of reference for the preparatory national workshops of Désertif'actions 2022

Désertif'actions 2022

Agroecological solutions to inspire the transition

D'A 22: a long-term process in a changing context

The context in a few words

To combat soil and land degradation, greenhouse gas emissions and food insecurity, a transition towards more sustainable and inclusive food systems is needed. Using resources more efficiently and producing them more equitably are the main challenges. In this context, agroecology offers an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between soils, plants, animals, humans and the global environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that must be addressed for a sustainable and equitable food system.

But if agroecology is a concept that has gradually gained notoriety in political and institutional dialogues in the recent past, the discourse is still slow to be massively translated into concrete actions. Indeed, the budgets of agricultural policies continue to favor conventional and industrial agriculture, while the harmful effects on the environment and the health of producers and consumers have been widely documented. A considerable margin of effort is therefore presented for which it is still necessary to mobilize and accelerate the political decision in favor of action.

Désertif'actions 2022 aims to put agroecology at the heart of the agenda to combat desertification and land degradation, by sharing and pooling the results of actions carried out by civil society and research.



A collaborative process for building advocacy

This fifth edition of Désertif'actions will take place throughout the year 2022 following a three-phases process that will conclude with the International Summit in Montpellier (France) at the end of the year. This formula aims to gather the points of view and contributions of as many actors as possible, and to constitute a legitimate participatory basis for influencing public decisions on the implementation of agroecology.

Phase 1: January - April 2022 in as many countries as possible on a voluntary basis

⇒ **Preparation of a common advocacy of the international civil society on the links between Land, Biodiversity and Climate around Agroecology**

- A preliminary online questionnaire to collect general arguments allowing for an initial framing of the advocacy process thanks to the participation of a wide range of actors
- Preparatory national workshops to enable national collaborative productions and to bring up the specific concerns of the different countries involved in the D'a22 dynamic.
- An international webinar to share and consolidate the information received in order to identify priority topics and major arguments to be brought to the UNCCD COP 15 in May 2022 in Côte d'Ivoire

- ⇒ **Expected result:** to verify that agroecology is indeed a tool that can be used to address a number of issues addressed within the UNCCD, but also in other national and international policy frameworks.



The arguments produced through the online questionnaire, the national workshops and the international webinar will be recorded in a collection of civil society positions on agroecology as a solution for sustainable development. This compendium will be widely disseminated and remobilized by the organizations participating in the Désertif'actions dynamic.

Phase 2: May 2022 in Cote d'Ivoire during the UNCCD COP15

⇒ **The joint advocacy is carried by civil society spokespersons at the COP15 of the UNCCD in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in order to influence decision-making in favor of the implementation of agroecology.**

- Structured civil society participation at COP15, around common messages, in close collaboration with existing networks and the CSO panel, to invest all the spaces of dialogue and negotiations of the COP (open dialogue sessions, plenaries, high-level debates, thematic days and side events)
- ⇒ **Expected result:** to encourage States, through the UNCCD, to adopt and support agroecology as a solution to the threats to land and related issues.



Phase 3: October 2022 in Montpellier (France) the International Desertif'actions Summit

⇒ **A multi-stakeholder meeting open to the world, allowing international civil society to meet and deepen its advocacy.**

- Holding of the international summit Désertif'actions 2022 during several days to restate the decisions taken by the COP, to analyze the progress made (effects of phases 1 and 2), to promote the exchange of views on this subject. The 300 expected participants will prepare a roadmap for decision makers for the implementation of development policies for the coming years.
- ⇒ **Expected result:** following the advocacy built and carried out during phases 1 and 2, to start a movement of the international civil society to place agroecology at the heart of the implementation of environmental and development policies.



The work of the Summit, closing the Désertif'actions 2022 dynamic, will be recorded in a roadmap for the UNCCD and the countries that are parties to this Convention to guide them in the implementation of the decisions taken at the COP.

Désertif'actions 2022: Terms of reference for Phase 1 national workshops

CARI proposes to its partners and civil society organizations involved in sustainable land management and the promotion of agroecology to consult and develop common positions in advance of the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Desertification Convention scheduled for May 2022.

Dates: National workshops are to be held in the first quarter of 2022 (January-March 2022).

Objectives of the national workshops

These national workshops should allow the development of shared positions and recommendations from civil society in different countries and their partners.

This will allow:

- **To promote exchanges** between civil society actors on these issues.
- **To give a voice to** the largest number of actors, including local authorities, allowing them to participate, to express themselves and to be taken into account in an international advocacy process.
- **To constitute an argued background** on agroecology and the combat against desertification, which takes into account national specificities, and which will be shared during the international webinar, to be carried by the spokespersons of the civil society during the COP15, then deepened during the international Summit D'a 22.



Land degradation issues discussed at the UNCCD

8 themes covering major issues and policy frameworks have been identified and prioritized as entry points for advocacy. They are part of a set of concerns that are discussed both in-country and internationally. The CARI proposes that the Désertif'actions dynamics allow to highlight how agroecology brings solutions to answer them:

Work theme	Questions to be addressed during the national workshops D'a22
Droughts are characterized by a significant lack of water during a period, having an impact on vegetation, animal and human life. They are a major threat to all regions of the world. The COP15 will continue to examine measures taken to deal with droughts.	How can agroecology reduce the effects of drought on people and ecosystems?
Biodiversity is declining globally at a rate unprecedented in human history and this poses a threat to the future of ecosystems and humanity. Land degradation is one of the drivers of biodiversity loss.	To what extent can agroecology be considered as a relevant solution to the loss of biological diversity?
Food security is one of the goals of sustainable development, which is far from being achieved by 2030. The establishment of sustainable food systems is urgent in many ways.	In what ways can agroecology respond to food crises and contribute to community food sovereignty?
Climate change is at the heart of global concerns and the international community is facing the dual challenge of mitigation and adaptation.	How can agroecology be integrated into the definition and implementation of nationally determined contributions to climate change?
Ecosystem restoration is the subject of a United Nations Decade (2021-2030), a global call to restore forests, wetlands, drylands, and other natural ecosystems, which are essential for sustainable development, poverty reduction and improved human well-being.	How does agroecology contribute to the regeneration of degraded ecosystems and the conservation of intact ecosystems?
The One Health approach emphasizes the interconnectedness between humanity, animals, plants, and their environment. It recognizes that the resilience and well-being of humanity depends on the health of nature.	In what ways does agroecology contribute to the One Health approach and provide answers to the global challenges of human, animal and environmental health?
Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is the target 15.3 of the Earth Life SDG 15. The UNCCD guides states to achieve LDN with the implementation of actions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation.	To what extent can agroecology provide relevant solutions to be integrated in projects to achieve neutrality by avoiding, reducing or reversing land degradation?
The Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel (GGW) is a pan-African policy, strategic and operational framework to combat desertification, biodiversity erosion and the effects of climate change in 11 Sahelian countries, while putting in place the conditions for sustainable human development.	How can support for agroecological transitions contribute to achieving the land restoration, carbon storage and job creation goals of the Great Green Wall?



An explanatory note on each of these 8 themes is provided online : <https://www.cariassociation.org/Publications/Explanatory-notes-on-the-8-themes-of-Desertif-actions-2022>



Guide for the facilitation of national workshops

In each of the national workshops, organizations will choose from among the 8 proposed themes those that seem most relevant and urgent to address. It is possible to choose to work on one or more themes depending on the workshop format.

In order for the results of the national workshops to be pooled and consolidated to develop a collective international argument, CARI proposes a facilitation guide based on questions to be addressed in each workshop.

1. How would you define in your country the contextual elements around agroecology in drylands and the main theme(s) chosen?

- Describe the specificities of agroecology in the country,
- Describe the trajectory/history of the emergence of agroecology in the country (did it come from popular, political, scientific movements, etc.)
- Contextualize the theme(s) chosen among the 8 themes: how is the problem posed on the national level? What are its consequences?

2. What are the solutions existing in your country that illustrate that agroecology can be a relevant solution in the context of the theme?

- For each theme, collect and describe illustrations through practices, projects and initiatives carried out by the organizations taking part in the workshops
- On the basis of the contextualization of the problem and the illustrations: write illustrated arguments showing how such and such an aspect of agroecology makes it possible to respond to such and such an aspect of the problem.



Example of an argumentative message: the agroecological practices of diversification of genetic resources (species and varieties) make it possible to mitigate the effects of drought (resistance to hydric stress, different seasonality...)

3. What advocacy messages do you think are priorities, for which targets, and with what objective of change?

- Collectively identify advocacy targets, both nationally and internationally. These may include state representatives, institutions, the private sector, etc.
- For each target, formulate the priority advocacy messages to be carried.



Workshop Deliverables

In order to pool all the elements produced in the countries, we expect a report, an example of which is available [in the annex¹](#). This report must reach us by March 31, 2021 at the latest in order to be integrated in the preparation of the international webinar to be held in April.

The report must also include a list of participants (including their structures and contacts) in order to highlight the diversity of the actors who took part in the Désertif'actions 2022 process, and to keep them informed of the next steps.

Recommendations concerning the organization

- The preparatory workshops are intended for civil society (associations, local authorities, grassroots community organizations, researchers, etc.), and the positions and recommendations will be carried by civil society. The participation of scientists, institutions or political representatives is nevertheless highly recommended to enrich a multi-stakeholder dialogue and initiate advocacy at the national level. It is therefore necessary to constitute a panel of participants that is relevant to the results that we are seeking to produce.
- The purpose of the preparatory workshops is to produce position papers and recommendations. It is therefore important to avoid organizing these workshops in the form of a conference where the public would only be informed of major concepts. Instead, a schedule of work groups should be favored, with appropriate facilitation methods to allow the greatest number of people to express themselves and to be heard.
- The preparatory workshops can last one day or more, depending on the means you have in your structures or projects. If you do not have the means, you can also imagine a session of 2 or 3 hours during another activity that you are organizing. In this case, choose a theme to be dealt with in depth, rather than trying to deal with too many different themes without going into them in depth.

Support for the coordination of Désertif'actions 2022

The CARI coordinates the Désertif'actions 2022 dynamic. As such, the CARI ensures that the results of all activities organized within the framework of this dynamic are shared.

If you are organizing a national workshop, you should inform CARI so that the results of your consultation are integrated, valued and made visible in the international advocacy process.

- **For each country, get in touch with all the actors potentially interested in organizing this workshop to pool your efforts.** Do not hesitate to come back to CARI if you wish to be put in contact with structures in your countries, because we have connections with many actors in the networks and countries we work with. (ReSaD, RADD0, Drynet etc.)

¹ <https://www.cariassociation.org/Publications/Reporting-of-Desertif-actions-2022-national-workshops>



- **CARI and the D'a22 co-organizers will produce a synthesis of the civil society recommendations**, based on the written reports sent to CARI by March 31, 2022. This synthesis will be posted online and will serve as the basis for the preparation of the webinar to be held in April 2022 to actively prepare the participation of civil society organizations at COP15.
- **The CARI provides a set of thematic sheets in the appendix of this document to provide background information on each of the themes to be addressed.** These are partial elements that we recommend that you enrich with your own knowledge.
- **CARI is available to provide methodological support** to any organization that needs to organize a preparatory workshop. However, CARI does not provide financial support for the organization of national workshops.



Annex

- National workshops - Report format of the Désertif'actions 2022 preparatory national workshops

Désertif'actions 2022

Agroecological solutions to inspire transition

General information

- Organizers
- Date and place of the workshop
- Sources of funding (donors): *information on donors will be used to give them visibility in international reports for their contribution to the whole of the Désertif'actions 2022 process*

Contents of the workshop

A. National context of agroecology in drylands

- 1.1. Description of the specificities of agroecology in the country
- 1.2. Description of the trajectory/history of the emergence of agroecology in the country (did it come from social, political, scientific movements, etc.)

B. Results of the work on the chosen theme(s)

Repeat the sections below for each theme covered in the country workshop.

- 2.1. Theme covered:
- 2.2. Description of the national context related to the topic: what is the national context of the problem? What are its consequences?
- 2.3. Civil society solutions to the challenges: list and description of initiatives, practices, projects related to agroecology identified among the workshop participants



2.4. The evidences/arguments for agroecology in the context of [theme]: arguments written based on the analysis of civil society solutions, showing how this aspect of agroecology can address this aspect of the problem.

C. Priority advocacy messages to be carried, for which targets, and with what objective of change?

Based on a collective work to identify advocacy targets and goals for change, complete the following table. These can be advocacy targets, both nationally and internationally. They can be representatives of states, institutions, the private sector, etc.

Objective of change	Advocacy target	Advocacy message formulated for this target

Attach as annexes

- Workshop agenda
- List of participants (name, surname, organization, e-mail address): *the transmission of the list of participants and their e-mail addresses will allow CARI to keep them informed of the continuation of the D a22 activities and to send them the final deliverables*
- Presentation slideshows
- If another workshop report is produced, you may attach it as an annex
- Photos of the workshop: *please send photos by email directly*
- Any other document deemed useful...

