

# D'a Désertif' Actions

2026



6<sup>eme</sup> édition

## Final Report

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Co-organized by



Nations Unies  
Convention sur la lutte  
contre la désertification



OBSERVATOIRE  
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## Désertif'actions 2026 in a few figures....

### Before the Summit

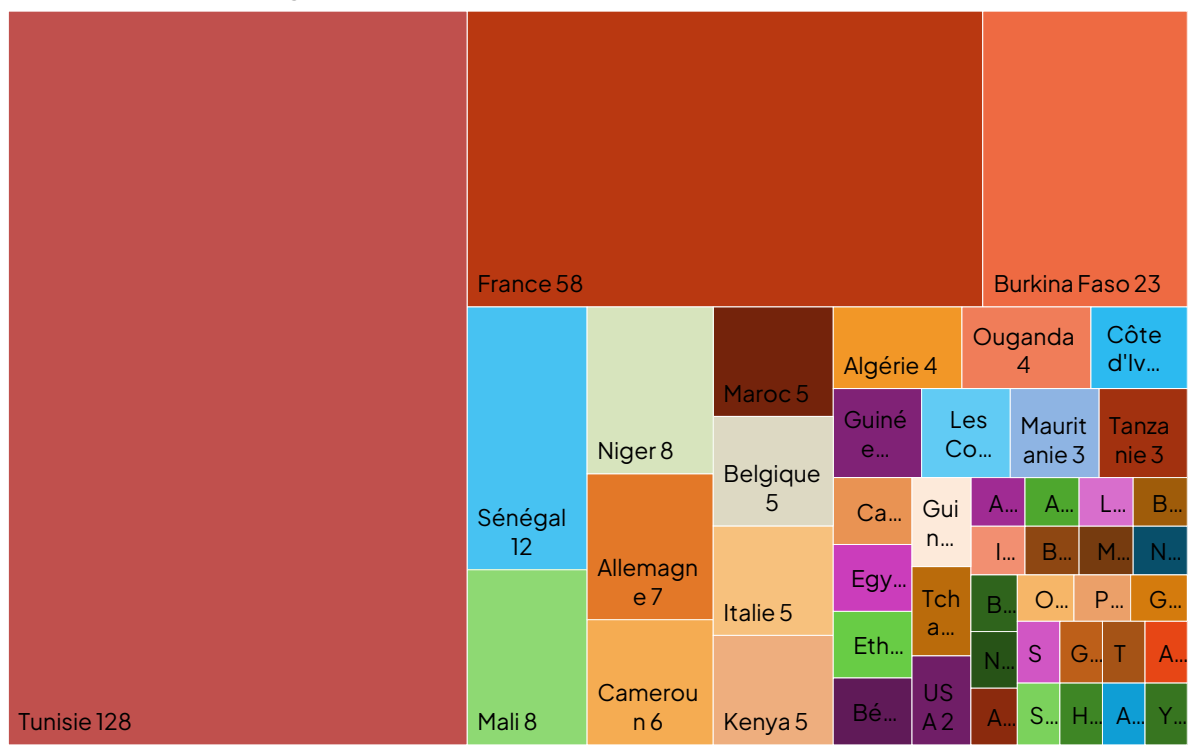
- 96 questionnaire responses received between June and July 2025
- 24 preparatory workshops held between June and October 2025 in 19 countries

3

### During the Summit

- 353 participants from 48 countries
- 8 plenary sessions, 22 workshops, and 7 side events organized

Geographic repartition of D'a 26 participants



- 486 press illustrations submitted to the press illustration contest by 272 cartoonists from 53 countries
- 33 articles, 3 video reports and 1 podcast recorded



# Contents

|                                                                                                                           |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>BACKGROUND</b>                                                                                                         | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>OPENING OF THE DESERTIF' ACTIONS SUMMIT 2026</b>                                                                       | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>DESERTIF' ACTIONS 2026, A SINGULAR MOMENT IN A WORLD IN CRISIS</b>                                                     | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>INTRODUCTORY PLENARY – DROUGHTS AROUND THE WORLD, THE EVOLUTION OF THEIR IMPACTS AND THEIR POLITICAL CONSIDERATION</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>PLENARY – DROUGHT ANTICIPATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND RECONSTRUCTION</b>                                           | <b>17</b> |
| <b>DISCOVERY AND EXCHANGES AROUND THE EXHIBITION SPACES AND THE INNOVATION FORUM</b>                                      | <b>21</b> |
| <b>PLENARY – PREPARATORY PROCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED</b>                                                                | <b>23</b> |
| <b>PLENARY – FINANCING RESILIENCE IN A WORLD IN CRISIS, WHAT REASONS FOR HOPE?</b>                                        | <b>28</b> |
| <b>GROUP WORK – SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES TO DROUGHT</b>     | <b>33</b> |
| 1. CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES                                                                         | 35        |
| 2. CREATING ATTRACTIVE JOBS IN THE TERRITORIES                                                                            | 38        |
| 3. AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, A LEVER FOR REGIONAL RESILIENCE                                                             | 40        |
| 4. OPTIMIZATION OF WATER RESOURCE USE                                                                                     | 42        |
| 5. BUILDING SKILLS IN THE TERRITORIES                                                                                     | 42        |
| 6. COLLABORATION BETWEEN SOCIETY – SCIENCE – POLITICS FOR THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES                                   | 47        |
| 7. MEASURING RESILIENCE AT THE TERRITORIAL LEVEL                                                                          | 50        |
| 8. ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES                                                                         | 54        |
| 9. INTEGRATE HUMAN RIGHTS INTO CRISIS ANTICIPATION AND MANAGEMENT                                                         | 56        |
| 10. TREES, A MAJOR RESOURCE FOR THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES                                                             | 597       |
| 11. ROLES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES                                                                | 619       |
| <b>SIDE EVENTS</b>                                                                                                        | <b>62</b> |
| APPROACH TO THE REHABILITATION AND PRODUCTIVE USE OF DRY VALLEYS IN ETHIOPIA                                              | 652       |
| THE RECOGNITION OF AGROECOLOGY IN THE RIO CONVENTIONS: LESSONS LEARNED AND PROSPECTS                                      | 66        |
| <b>PLENARY – UNCCD NEGOTIATIONS, UNCERTAINTIES AND A POSSIBLE PATH</b>                                                    | <b>65</b> |
| <b>GROUP WORK – RECOMMENDATIONS AND ROADMAP TOWARDS COP 17</b>                                                            | <b>69</b> |
| 1. OPEN DIALOGUE SESSION                                                                                                  | 72        |
| 2. NEW UNCCD STRATEGY (POST-2030)                                                                                         | 71        |
| 3. SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE 3 RIO CONVENTIONS                                                                                | 763       |
| 4. COP 17 OPENING STATEMENT                                                                                               | 80        |
| 5. DROUGHT STATEMENT                                                                                                      | 828       |
| 6. INFLUENCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S NEGOTIATORS                                                                          | 84        |
| 7. INFLUENCE OF THE AFRICA GROUP NEGOTIATORS                                                                              | 87        |



|                                                                              |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 8. INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNCCD NEGOTIATIONS                      | 86         |
| 9. PASTORALISM NEGOTIATIONS                                                  | 939        |
| 10. AVOID, REDUCE AND REVERSE THE DEGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND SOILS | 95         |
| 11. MEDIA QUESTIONS ABOUT COP 17                                             | 99         |
| <b>PLENARY – ON THE ROAD TO COP 17 AND ACTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE</b>            | <b>97</b>  |
| <b>CLOSING CEREMONY OF DESERTIF' ACTIONS 2026</b>                            | <b>104</b> |
| COP 17, WHAT STEPS FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT?                                     | 104        |
| <b>DRYLAND VILLAGE – GENERAL PUBLIC DAY</b>                                  | <b>106</b> |
| EXHIBITION SPACE                                                             | 106        |
| WORKSHOPS AND PARTICIPATORY DEBATES                                          | 106        |
| NATIONAL PETANQUE COMPETITION                                                | 107        |
| TREE PLANTING                                                                | 107        |
| FOLK MUSIC                                                                   | 107        |
| CLOSING CONCERT                                                              | 107        |
| <b>APPENDICES</b>                                                            | <b>108</b> |

## General context

In Tunisia, the island of Djerba hosted the sixth edition of the International Désertif'actions Summit from 25 to 28 March 2026, co-organized by CARI (Center for International Actions and Achievements), OSS (Sahara and Sahel Observatory) and UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) in partnership with ACDD (Association for Citizenship and Sustainable Development) and WWF North Africa.

The objective was clear and ambitious. To bring together 350 representatives of civil society, researchers, scientists, NGOs, associations, public and/or private institutions, local authorities,... from the four corners of the globe in order to co-construct advocacy based on relevant solutions in order to influence the decisions taken at the COP 17 on the fight against desertification scheduled for August 2026 in Mongolia, one of the countries most impacted in the world by desertification with nearly 77% of its land degraded.

Plenary sessions, thematic workshops and group work complemented the work carried out during the country workshops and remote consultations organized as part of the preparatory phase of the Summit by building, on the basis of the sharing of knowledge, experiences and scientific knowledge, concrete solutions to better anticipate and prevent the risks of drought on

6



ecosystems and populations.

*For drought-resilient territories :  
let's act now!*

The resilience of territories to drought was at the heart of this sixth edition of D'A with a program structured around four central themes for this issue: (i) the transformation of agricultural systems and/or sedentary livestock farming; (ii) support for mobile production systems, with a focus on pastoralism; (iii) territorial management of water resources; (iv) the management of territories.

At the initiative of Mongolia, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, recognizing their key role in reconciling the preservation of fragile ecosystems, economic development and social cohesion in arid and semi-arid areas. This new edition of D'A was therefore naturally an opportunity to highlight the resilience of pastoral systems in the face of droughts. The major characteristic of these systems, mobility, allows them to adapt to a climate crisis such as drought, despite intensifying constraints: increasing regulations and insecurity at inter-state borders, reduction in available travel spaces.

# Opening of the Désertif'actions Summit 2026

## Désertif'actions 2026, a singular moment in a world in crisis

7

### Facilitator: Ms. Nadia Khammari

*Communication Analyst at the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia*

The resilience of territories is crucial to cope with droughts and the role of multi-stakeholder dialogue is essential to address drought issues as well as those related to desertification and land degradation around the world. In a world facing an increase in environmental and human development crises, Désertif'actions is an event that makes sense by creating synergies and allowing the pooling and co-construction of solutions.

#### a. Mr. Walid Tabboubi

*Governor of Medenine, Tunisia*

In Tunisia, desertification and land degradation are a major threat with 75 to 96% of the territory concerned and a very high vulnerability for 53% of the land. Several causes can be put forward, mainly deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change, all leading to a drastic reduction in arable land and a decline in agricultural yields. The consequences are also multiple, including food insecurity, which threatens 10% of the population by 2030, rural exodus and the worsening of poverty in the most affected regions.

To address this, Tunisia has adopted two strategic documents:

- **The National Strategy to Combat Desertification** (2018 – 2030), which aims to achieve land degradation neutrality and the restoration of 2.2 million hectares by 2030. These actions are based on a national diagnosis and consultation work that have made it possible to define measures in terms of soil rehabilitation, the promotion of agroecology, reforestation and crop diversification.
- **The National Drought Plan** complements this strategy by detailing several measures aimed at strengthening the resilience of agricultural and water systems, in particular through the modernization of irrigation infrastructure and the sustainable management of water resources.

To promote the implementation of actions that promote the resilience of territories to droughts, it is necessary to adopt a sustainable, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. The essential role of civil society actors should also be highlighted, as well as the need to support research.

#### b. Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Haloui

*Director General of the Tunisian Tourist Board, Tunisia*

The tourism sector is directly threatened by the problems of drought and desertification, with impacts on tourism ecosystems (oases, beaches, natural parks), the availability of water for hotels and recreational activities, and more generally on the image of Tunisia as a sustainable destination.



However, these challenges also represent opportunities to develop a more responsible and ecological tourism focused on promoting land restoration initiatives, ecotourism in restored areas and raising awareness of environmental issues among visitors.

## c. Ms. Yasmine Fouad (video address)

*Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

Globally, desertification and land degradation affect 40% of the land area, with an annual loss of 100 million hectares of healthy and productive land. These phenomena directly threaten the lives of 3.2 billion people, causing population displacement, loss of biodiversity, increased food insecurity and economic costs estimated at \$880 billion per year. Drylands, which account for 41 per cent of the world's land surface, are home to nearly 2 billion people who are often the most vulnerable to these phenomena.

Tunisia, as a pioneer country in the fight against desertification, shows the importance of aligning national plans with international commitments (UNCCD, SDGs), while ensuring that funding and policies respond to the needs identified by local communities.

Indeed, at the international level, the challenge is to make decisions that reflect local realities. Events such as Désertif'actions are also particularly important because they make it possible to connect grassroots initiatives and global frameworks based on scientific data and concrete feedback. In Tunisia, as in the rest of the world, the fight against desertification cannot succeed without a strong and continuous mobilization of civil society, synergies of actions strengthened between actors and sectors, and finally international decisions nourished by the field because, as Mrs. Yasmine Fouad reminds us:

*"Resilience is not built within a conference but on the ground."*

## d. Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra

*Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia*

In the face of increasing land degradation and declining funding, the situation is alarming. Around the world, economies and development models are directly impacted. However, many solutions exist to face the growing challenges of desertification, land degradation and droughts, but they are still largely insufficient. The lack of appropriate funding and the difficulties in scaling up remain major problems.



## e. Mr. Patrice Burger

*President of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*

The CARI, which has been the driving force behind Désertif'actions since its first edition in 2006, has been working for 26 years to promote the principles of agroecology in drylands in Africa and can therefore be considered as an "architect of agroecology".



Despite a difficult geopolitical context and a strong questioning of multilateralism, it is urgent to act. Policies remain too timid and actions too slow in the face of the urgency of land degradation. Out-of-control systemic crises are already causing biodiversity to collapse and temperatures to rise. According to science, seven of the nine planetary boundaries have now been exceeded, including ocean acidification, which has been added to the list since 2025. By 2050, drought will affect 75% of the world's population, threatening to displace 700 million people by 2030, and will cause a crisis that has already been announced.



Local authorities are the first line of defence for territories against droughts and therefore have a crucial role to play. In this International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, it is also worth recalling the importance of integrating the challenges of pastoralism into reflections on resilience because, through the mobility that defines it, pastoralism is a real model of resilience.

For this Summit, the watchword is to reject fate and fear. To show creativity and audacity to build a historic roadmap capable of influencing international negotiations.

## f. Mr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha (video address)

*Deputy Minister of Environment in Saudi Arabia*

Anthropogenic factors are responsible for the degradation of 43% of the land and it is therefore urgent to take the necessary measures to remedy this situation. Implemented at COP16 in December 2024 in Saudi Arabia, the **Riyadh Agenda of Action** provides for the implementation of a hundred initiatives, mainly mobilizing non-state actors, which aim to accelerate land restoration and strengthen the resilience of territories to drought.

The fight against desertification and drought cannot succeed without the continued mobilization of indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society. Particular attention should be paid to creating synergies among all stakeholders, and international decisions should be taken on the basis of realities on the ground as well as respect for traditional knowledge. It is through the implementation of these dynamics that environmental challenges can be transformed into opportunities for sustainable and resilient development.

## g. Mr. Kalifa Traoré

*Director of the Institute of Rural Economy (IER) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)*

African scientific research has already highlighted innovative solutions to adapt agriculture to climate change. Although knowledge and technologies are available, they are generally not implemented due to a lack of resources and skills. However, they would protect the ability of territories to feed their populations, as food security is at the heart of the challenges of combating desertification, land degradation and drought.

Soil restoration, sustainable land management and the preservation of water resources all require coherent, coordinated policies adapted to local realities. It is at this level that another fundamental challenge comes into play: institutional capacity-building.

However, skills development does not only concern institutional actors but also communities. Indeed, training farmers in agroecological practices, encouraging local innovation and facilitating access to information are all levers to be activated to strengthen the resilience of territories and populations in the face of desertification.

## h. Ms. Monique Barbut (video address)

*Minister of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations of France and former Executive Secretary of the UNCCD*

Faced with the urgent need to act in the face of increasingly frequent environmental crises around the world, France, which is chairing this year's G7, has several key ambitions, including that of accelerating the ecological and climate transition. To this end, it intends to focus its actions on the protection of biodiversity, the fight against desertification, the preservation of the oceans, resilience to extreme weather events and the reduction of methane leaks. France also aims to initiate a dialogue on the links between desertification and security, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.

## i. Mr. Claude Gascon (video address)

*Director of Strategy and Operations and Acting Director of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

GEF-9, which is the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and covers the period 2026-2030, aims to be more inclusive, responsive and impactful by aligning its funding with environmental emergencies and the needs of the most exposed countries. One of its strategic priorities is the protection of biodiversity through the financing of actions to conserve ecosystems, combat deforestation and restore degraded land.

Désertif'actions is an international event in line with the ambitions of GEF-9 insofar as it makes it possible to make the link between resilience, droughts and preparation for the UNCCD COPs. With regard to global commitments, it is also particularly important to translate them into concrete and integrated actions.

10

## j. Mr. Chédli Abdelli

*Director General of the National Agency for the Promotion of Scientific Research and representative of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia*

Scientific research, training and innovation are valuable assets for anticipating, understanding and acting. Scientific knowledge allows local authorities, for example, to adapt their infrastructure, public policies and crisis management strategies. Research makes it possible to build bridges between scientists, elected officials and civil society actors and thus to promote a collective and inclusive approach. Citizen laboratories, participatory observatories and data-sharing platforms are all tools that strengthen the cohesion and effectiveness of actions and enable decision-making adapted to national and regional contexts.

*"The resilience of territories is no longer an option but a necessity."*



## k. Ms. Awatef Messai

*Acting Director General of the Directorate General of Environment and Quality of Life, Tunisia*

The official opening speech of the 26th Desertif'actions Summit was delivered by Mrs. Awatef Messai on behalf of the Minister of Environment of Tunisia, Mr. Habib Abid. This intervention provided an opportunity to review Tunisia's national commitments to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. It was also an opportunity to remind participants of the importance of strengthening international cooperation and the need to translate commitments into concrete actions.



# Introductory Plenary: Droughts around the world, their changing impacts and policy implications

**Facilitator: Ms. Khaoula Jaoui**

*Director of the Climate Department at the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia*



12

Drought is often a blind spot in political projections, it sets in sneakily and gradually. Drought does not have the spectacularity of a flood or a fire. However, it is essential to take the time to understand how drought takes hold, what its impacts are and how public policies must integrate it into their strategies.

## Panel 1: Droughts, what are we talking about and where do we stand?

**a. Keynote: Mrs. Nora Berrahmouni**

*Deputy Director, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Italy*



Although they are linked, drought, water scarcity, aridity and desertification stand out. **Droughts** are characterized by below-average water or precipitation levels normally observed in a given territory and period of time. **Water shortages** refer to an imbalance between water supply and demand and can therefore occur independently of drought conditions. **Aridity** is a permanent climatic characteristic of regions with low rainfall and high evaporation (such as deserts). Finally, **desertification** refers to the process of land degradation in arid regions, caused not only by droughts, but also by unsustainable human activities.

Droughts can be categorized into three types:

- **Meteorological** droughts refer to a deficit of rainfall during a given period of time and compared to the norm in a specific region. This drying out leads to a slowdown in photosynthesis and a limitation of plant growth, as well as a deterioration in plant health. The phenomenon then progresses in cascade.
- **Agricultural droughts** prolong meteorological droughts and occur when the water availability of soils, which constitute the useful reserve for plants, is no longer sufficient to meet the needs of crops and, more broadly, vegetation. The water content in the soil does not allow the plants to compensate for the evaporation due to photosynthesis, so they dry out.
- **Hydrological droughts** are manifested by the decrease or disappearance of surface water (lakes and rivers) and deep water due to a lack of supply. The water tables are no longer recharged.

Droughts are a threat that is increasing around the world. The increase in the frequency and intensity of its impacts is widely documented by science.



- **Increasing frequency:** Since the 2010s, multi-year droughts have become more frequent and severe globally. The south of France experienced more than three times as many drought episodes between 2000 and 2020 as between 1950 and 2000.
- **Increase in intensity:** In most of North Africa, the average intensity of all drought events in the period 2000–2020 was more than 50% higher than the average for those that occurred in the period 1950–2000.
- **Climate acceleration:** Rising temperatures intensify atmospheric evaporation, leading to cycles of drought that feed on themselves. Climate change not only increases the frequency of droughts, it extends their durations and amplifies their systemic impacts on all sectors.
- **Expansion of hotspots:** Drought-affected areas have continued to expand from 2000 to 2025 on all continents. In Europe, drought-affected areas are migrating from the south to the centre and east.

Droughts threaten water systems, cropland and consequently food systems. Their social and economic impacts are measurable. In 2023, in the Horn of Africa, 23 million people suffered a severe famine linked to the worst drought in 40 years. The 2018 drought in Europe led to agricultural losses exceeding €9 billion. The World Health Organization estimates that more than a third of disaster-related deaths are due to droughts.

They are also causing economic losses that are on a clear upward trend, reflecting growing and persistent economic exposure. Annual economic losses increase by 3 to 7.5%. Agricultural yields can fall by up to 22% in drought years. Drought-related costs are expected to increase by at least 35% by 2035.

Increasing the intensity, duration, frequency and geographic extent of droughts will result in an even greater burden on farmers if land degradation is not halted and reversed. Over the past 40 years, an estimated 11% of cropland with rainfed systems has been impacted by droughts. For pastoral land, 14% of it is frequently impacted. In Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, consecutive poor rainy seasons have caused the death of more than 13 million head of livestock, destroying the economic foundations of millions of households.

**Reports submitted to the UNCCD by more than 100 countries revealed that 1.84 billion people were affected by drought in the 2022–2023 biennium.**

In addition, they are recognized as an important factor in migration. Trade, energy, industry and social stability are affected, leading to population displacement. It should also be noted that the impacts on populations are uneven, with some countries being less equipped than others to respond to crises.

*"Worldwide, more than a billion hectares of agricultural land are now degraded due to human action, which means that something can be done to reverse it!"*

## b. Mr. Harouna Abarchi

President of the Nodde Nooto Association (A2N) in Niger and member of the Global Alliance for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)



The cascading impacts of droughts are illustrated by the often dramatic situation of livestock farmers. By leading to a decrease in vegetation productivity, droughts lead to a depletion of pastures, which leads to the death of livestock and impacts the livelihoods of pastoralists. Beyond livestock farmers, droughts impact the food security of populations by reducing the availability of animal products.

Faced with the risk of droughts, pastoralists are developing a variety of strategies to adapt and protect the food system. By migrating to areas less affected by the crisis, pastoralists have a lever to adapt to droughts. The mobility of herds also contributes to the fertilization of the soil and its sowing by seeds carried on the animals' coats. Pastoralists also select animal species and breeds adapted to arid conditions and walking.

It therefore seems essential to facilitate the mobility of pastoralists but also to draw inspiration from their traditional knowledge, which is validated by science.

*"In the Sahel, there is an urgent need for action. Strategies are much more effective when they are local. »*

## c. Mr. Mohamed Sahbi Mahjoub

*Founder and CEO of the agricultural company SADIRA, Tunisia*

Founded in 1987, SADIRA manages 700 hectares of fruit plantations in Tunisia. Over the past 20 years, 80% of crops have changed due to climate change. Drought-adapted trees such as olive trees have grown more. Similarly, it was necessary to learn to grow with very salty water by relying on technological innovations and to develop crops such as tomatoes in the south of Tunisia.

In the face of climate change and the increase in drought episodes, it is necessary to settle rural populations and offer them alternatives that are adapted and economically attractive. SADIRA's experience shows that developing new crops pays off in the long run, although there is an initial investment cost. The profitability of crops is a decision-making factor and a lever for change for private entrepreneurs.

## d. Ms. Dorothy Amwata

*Professor and Dean of the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Murang'a University of Technology, Kenya*

The cascading impacts of droughts are also manifested in the degradation of natural resources and an increase in conflict and inequality. Socio-economic losses lead to poverty and impacted livelihoods. The scarcity of natural resources leads to conflicts related to access and use of resources. Finally, rising inequality implies an increase in vulnerability, especially among certain groups of people such as women or people with disabilities who already suffer from lower initial access to resources.

In the face of climate change and greater uncertainty in projections, some strategies used in the past must be readapted.

It is necessary to anticipate and adapt to risks by moving from crisis response systems to proactive systems. Better data management and access to information are key elements of proactive systems. It is important today to evolve from a short-term vision by sector to a global long-term vision, involving real planning efforts.

For the resilience of agriculture and food systems, it is crucial to invest in natural capital by restoring degraded land, including rangelands, and to diversify production and sources of income for rural populations. There is now growing evidence that the principles of agroecology enable climate resilience in food systems.

There is also a need to strengthen the capacity of communities and local authorities to deal with risks, enable them to contribute to decision-making and reduce inequalities in access to

resources and information. In addition, the specific needs of genders or social groups must be taken into account to improve their capacities to respond to and adapt to droughts.

## Panel 2: Droughts in public policies: what strategies?

### a. Keynote: Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte

*Director of Research at the IRD and President of the CSFD (French Scientific Committee on Desertification), France*



Droughts are often referred to as a crisis, but they are increasingly a systemic risk. What makes the difference in the impact between two drought episodes is the vulnerability of populations and ecosystems, i.e. their ability to adapt and restore themselves. The more vulnerable a community is, the greater the impacts. Every year, 55 million people are affected by drought.

At the political level, multi-sectoral approaches are needed to deal with droughts. However, they are still insufficiently implemented. It is now necessary to reduce political fragmentation and to further develop proactive approaches to anticipate droughts.

A paradox should be highlighted, with the existence of international frameworks that allow us to collectively reflect on how to act in the face of droughts, but which fail to provoke rapid action commensurate with the urgency.

#### Drought is not central enough to global concerns:

- It is mentioned in the Convention on Biological Diversity, but without an action target;
- Within the Convention to Combat Desertification, political consideration has evolved, but without a decision to accelerate action at the global level.

### b. Mr. Harouna Mahaman Inoussa

*Managing Director of the rural commune of Hamdallaye and member of the Association of Municipalities of Niger*



38% of Niger's surface area is affected by desertification, which impacts 23 million inhabitants. Desertification is therefore a priority for the Nigerien government.

Desertification gives rise to the need to restore the productive base. A variety of techniques and approaches are being developed, such as the development of income-generating activities, the promotion of solar energy to combat forest felling, and the fixing of sand dunes.

In response to the climate crises, specific committees dedicated to climate change and desertification have been set up in each municipality. These committees are in charge of managing an early warning system. However, some policy frameworks still need to be reviewed and land reform needs to be carried out to avoid the reduction of plots.

### c. Mr. Barnabé Kabore

*Director General of Water and Forests, Burkina Faso*



Burkina Faso has joined all international frameworks on development and the environment, including the three Rio Conventions. At the national level, a body of legislation is focused on combating desertification, climate change and drought. However, several challenges arise, firstly with the implementation of

the policy frameworks adopted and, secondly, the sustainability of funding beyond the duration of the projects supported.

The work of NGOs as well as technical and public structures is really important for the implementation of actions at the local level. However, there is a need for associations, projects and programmes led by non-state actors to align themselves more closely with the guidelines set by the public authorities. These development operators play an important role in providing information and in appropriating effective measures to deal with desertification and droughts.

## d. Ms. Awatef Mabrouk

*Sociologist of Rural Development, Tunisia*

The systemic nature of the impacts of droughts and the need for a proactive systemic response has only recently been taken into account. This is evidenced by the recent adoption of national drought management and adaptation plans in Tunisia.



16

However, the transition to action remains punctuated by several paradoxes:

- While our era is marked by a scarcity of resources, agricultural performance is still very much encouraged.
- Centralized governance does not optimize connections with local realities. There is a need for open-air research, living laboratories, to co-construct with farmers, women, and the poorest communities.
- Local knowledge must be explored to avoid the misadaptation of technological solutions.
- There is also a lack of transdisciplinarity and sectoral anchoring of drought-related concerns. There is a real need for the involvement of philosophers, sociologists, geographers and for a better consideration of anthropological patterns.

Today, civil society is in a situation of resistance. We must listen to his plea, and avoid scattering. The speeches must be more sincere and truer. Transdisciplinarity is not only technical and academic, but it must also be done in society.

## e. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and members of the panels made it possible to insist on the need to better control the risk factors of drought by highlighting first of all an important issue concerning the management of competitions between water uses, which must take into account real needs. The competition between agriculture and tourism is often pointed out, but in Tunisia it remains seasonal and on a small scale. On the other hand, new competitive uses are emerging, in particular with the development of data centers that are fueling new questions and uncertainties about the compatibility between the digital transition and the ecological transition.

Industrial intensification of agriculture is mentioned as an aggravating factor in the vulnerability of food systems. On the other hand, the preservation of local seeds is cited as one of the possible levers for maintaining food sovereignty.

The effective implementation of public policies depends on the good buy-in of all stakeholders. In this context, communication is an essential tool that remains insufficiently mobilized.

Many people in vulnerable situations suffer from the consequences of droughts even though they have the know-how that can enable them to adapt. While it is most often men who emigrate, women remain in place and can thus be considered as actors of resilience. It would therefore be interesting to explore their levers of resilience. In Morocco, for example, women have maintained



knowledge about the argan tree for centuries. Nevertheless, when the economic value of argan products increases, these women tend to be dispossessed of their means of production.

## Recommendations and improvement suggestions

1. Droughts must be considered a priority risk in public policy, and binding, operational strategic frameworks must be put in place. National drought management plans must be further developed and include both proactive and reactive measures. Sectoral policies must also systematically incorporate drought risk.
2. Integrated governance mechanisms must be established to strengthen coordination among sectors, territorial levels, and public and non-state actors on drought management. National and territorial bodies for intersectoral coordination should be encouraged. It is also important to develop integrated resource planning systems—particularly for water—that take into account competing uses. Finally, the role of local governments should be strengthened, for example by creating regional committees dedicated to drought and desertification.
3. The development of public policies for drought management must be based on the active participation of local stakeholders and on the integration of scientific, technical, and traditional knowledge. Issues of social and gender equity must also be incorporated into



# Plenary: Measures for early warning, drought management, and reconstruction

## Facilitator: Mr. Antoine Cornet

Administrator of CARI and member of the CSFD (French Scientific Committee on Desertification), France



18

The systemic nature of drought means that we need to go beyond sectoral approaches. It is also necessary to articulate risk prevention and vulnerability reduction. The speakers at this plenary session are invited to provide some answers and to bring out possible recommendations relating to the following question:

*How can the impacts of drought be mitigated through adapted measures, at different scales and over the long term?*

## Panel: Anticipating and managing, models and conditions for success

### a. Keynote: Ms. Wafa Essahli

Independent Consultant, Tunisia



As part of the preparatory phase of D'a26, several activities were carried out in order to prepare a joint advocacy of international civil society on the resilience of territories to drought. A questionnaire was widely distributed to collect initial arguments based on the experiences of drought experienced by a wide range of stakeholders. Nearly 90 actors from all over the world responded to this questionnaire, with a strong representation from North and Sub-Saharan Africa, which reveals contexts where drought is already a structural constraint.

The results show that drought is mainly perceived through its impacts (environmental, social, economic) rather than its causes (meteorological, agricultural or edaphic drought). This perception favors reactive responses rather than proactive or preventive. The responses also indicate that drought experiences are recurrent and territorialized, with closely intertwined effects: soil degradation, tensions around water, migration, conflicts of use, food insecurity, etc.

*"Droughts are described through their impacts and not their causes, which induces reactive rather than proactive responses."*

The current drought management mechanisms are generally considered insufficient to effectively prepare populations and territories to manage these events, whether in terms of anticipation, crisis management or reconstruction. The following elements were highlighted:

- **Anticipation, prevention:** Preventive measures must make it possible to anticipate rather than suffer, based on the sustainable management of natural resources (in particular through agroecology and agroforestry), shared modes of governance (IWRM) and effective information systems (early warning systems, community information systems,...). The responses to the questionnaire nevertheless highlight the lack of links between the

plans developed at the national or local levels (national drought plans, communal food security plans) and the commitments made at the post-Rio international level.

- **Crisis management:** These measures are predominated by emergency actions (food distributions, securing access to water, subsidies,...) which often lack a long-term vision.
- **Reconstruction:** Recovery measures must strengthen the resilience of territories and constitute a real opportunity for structural transformation of systems through ecological restoration, capacity building and improved public policies. It should be noted, however, that these measures require time, funding and ownership from the various stakeholders.

Despite the existence of some strengths at the country level (policy frameworks, specialized institutions, knowledge accumulation, successful local experiences and cooperation at the regional and international levels), there are still major obstacles such as institutional fragmentation and excessive centralization of decision-making, lack of accessible data and difficulties in moving from science to operational. the instability and weakness of funding or the low appropriation of the schemes by local actors. To meet these challenges, several levers for transformation are proposed, including the strengthening of multi-level governance, the improvement of access, information and investment in human and technical capacities, but also the strengthening of the participation of local actors and civil society.

## b. Mr. Mustapha Mimouni

*Director of the GIS-Remote Sensing & IT Department, OSS (Sahara and Sahel Observatory)*



As part of the AdaptWAP project (2020-2025), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory has developed a multi-hazard early warning system in the WAP transboundary complex (W, Arly and Pendjari National Parks), a protected natural area shared between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. This system integrates the risks of droughts, floods, fires and conflicts, and is based on a community-based and multi-level approach. The objective is to provide accurate information for decision-making and the preparation of appropriate responses to the threats faced by the communities of the WAP complex.

To this end, the system is based on a strong regional institutional base, a broad mobilization of national institutions (meteorology, water, civil protection,...), effective involvement of local communities, data-sharing agreements and the rehabilitation of measurement infrastructures. These different means allow the system to circulate information quickly with alerts broadcast in just a few minutes to local actors.

Since the implementation of the system, several difficulties and challenges have nevertheless been identified, in particular concerning access and interoperability of data, institutional coordination as well as the technical and financial resources to be mobilized to sustain this initiative. The OSS's experience with this project has highlighted the importance of starting from what already exists and building a strong institutional and community ownership around the system.

## c. Mr. Tatenda Lemann

*WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies), Switzerland*



The role of knowledge-sharing platforms such as WOCAT is crucial in moving from reactive drought management to proactive management. The conclusion is as follows: many solutions exist and have already been tested. However, these initiatives are still not sufficiently accessible or poorly documented, thus limiting the dissemination of good practices and scaling-up. This is where knowledge-sharing platforms have a role to play: by

capitalizing, documenting and sharing successful experiences such as failures in order to avoid their repetition.

*"We already have a good idea of the good practices needed to combat desertification. Now we have to take action!"*

The main challenges surrounding the effectiveness of these platforms lie in the interoperability of databases, the adaptation of content to different audiences and the provision of knowledge in formats and languages accessible to the people who need it.

## d. Ms. Assawer Hedhli

CTAMA (Tunisian Agricultural Mutual Insurance Fund), Tunisia

Agricultural insurance mechanisms are important instruments of resilience as they allow farmers to maintain their activities despite climate shocks and thus avoid land abandonment, which also contributes to drought. These safety nets strengthen farmers' ability to invest in their farms and can therefore be seen as levers for the transition to more sustainable farming systems.

In Tunisia, a compensation fund for agricultural disasters has been set up thanks to the co-financing of the state and farmers. This system has made it possible to increase plant cover and maintain agricultural activities despite several years of drought. These results are encouraging, but there are also limitations, with low support from farmers for the fund, which can be attributed to cultural obstacles and the need for appropriate communication.

Combined with other measures, insurance mechanisms are post-crisis tools that provide real added value for the recovery of farms after climatic shocks such as droughts or floods. It should nevertheless be stressed that in the context of droughts, the involvement of States is particularly important because the costs of compensation are too high to be borne by traditional insurance structures.



20

## e. Mrs. Uxue Urteaga Ruiz de Vinaspre

GEF/GEM (Global Environment Facility)

The Global Environment Facility is an international financial mechanism that supports the implementation of decisions taken under several conventions, including the Convention on Desertification, by adopting a catalytic rather than a permanent funder approach. Through technical and financial support, it supports countries in achieving their sustainable development goals.

This fund, managed directly by the countries, emphasizes several elements such as national ownership of projects and the integration of different stakeholders (communities, private sector and institutions). The coherence of public policies is also essential and it is therefore essential that the Ministries work among themselves, in terms of coordination and coherence. Sustainability is also a major challenge for the implementation of ambitious measures due to institutional turnover and a lack of ownership. The example of a water management project in Kenya highlights the need to invest in capacities, especially of young people, in order to ensure the sustainability of actions.



## f. Mr. Luca Bernasconi

AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), Tunisia

Committed to drought resilience issues, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation has a long-standing partnership with Tunisia around an integrated approach to territories that combines ecological dimension, soil conservation, adaptation to climate change and risk management.



With the support of the European Union, AICS is implementing a financial instrument to support sustainable and resilient private investments that promote a more sustainable use of natural resources as well as capacity building for adaptation. This instrument represents a complementary lever to traditional public policies by allowing the private sector to be more involved in the dynamics of territorial transformation.

## g. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and members of the panel highlighted several structuring tensions and limits around the mechanisms for anticipation, drought management and reconstruction:

- **Gap between knowledge production and operational implementation:** Translating scientific results into tools that are accessible and usable by local actors is difficult and requires real efforts to adapt formats, languages and distribution channels (especially via local media).
- **Multi-level governance and coordination:** Important challenges lie in the difficulties of coherence between the international, national and local levels, as well as in the lack of articulation between public policies and realities on the ground. This discrepancy can also fuel mistrust among the population and limit the effectiveness of the measures put in place.
- **Economic instruments:** Insurance and agricultural contracting mechanisms can be important levers for improving the resilience of territories to drought. However, to fulfil this role and be truly effective, these instruments require contextual adaptations, better communication and consideration of social dynamics (gender, decision-making structures,...).
- **Scaling up solutions:** Many pilot initiatives exist but their dissemination remains limited. For solutions to scale, it is crucial to demonstrate their effectiveness in order to mobilize financing and influence public policies.

21

More generally, it appears that, although drought is now largely scientifically anticipated, responses remain insufficient due to political, financial and institutional constraints. In addition, drought management continues to rely on a reactive rather than a proactive approach: suffer rather than anticipate...

## Recommendations and improvement suggestions

1. Moving from reactive drought management to a systemic and anticipatory approach. This paradigm shift involves strengthening multi-level governance and institutional coordination, improving access to and flow of information, and investing in human and technical capacities at all levels.
2. Develop sustainable and appropriate financial mechanisms that must combine public and private instruments. It is also necessary to better articulate insurance schemes with other resilience tools. To promote sustainable ownership of these mechanisms, efforts must be made to strengthen the participation of local actors and the integration of endogenous knowledge.

## Discovery and exchanges around the exhibition spaces and the innovation forum

At the end of the first day of conferences, a specific time was organized so that participants could discover the different exhibition spaces as well as the innovation forum installed in the courtyard of the Higher Institute of Technological Studies (ISET) in Djerba, which hosted this new edition of Désertif'actions.

22

### Feedback on the exhibition spaces

On the occasion of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, participants were able to discover the immersive exhibition "Transhumances 360°" presented by CIRAD, the AFD Group and Imagéo.

Thanks to virtual reality headsets, this animation offered an immersion in the daily life of pastoralists, from five pastoral territories: a camel caravan in the landscapes of Chad, a summer pasture in the French Alps, a moment of life in a camp with herding families from Mongolia and a crossing of the Sahelian plains of Senegal.



Installed along the outdoor galleries bordering the main courtyard, the exhibition "En vie d'Oasis" was presented in its recently updated version as part of the PAOMA project (AFD funding, Occitanie Region and Fondation de France). Enriched with new texts as well as new illustrations from the work of Mr. Francis Tack, this exhibition aims to raise public awareness of the problem of oases. In particular, it presents the oasis problem and its challenges, the actors of the oasis dynamic, as well as several actions undertaken to safeguard these precious agroecosystems.

The participants were finally able to discover some of the 486 drawings received as part of the organization of the 2026 edition of the press illustration contest "Pastoralism, mobility at the heart of balance". A total of 272 cartoonists from 53 countries participated in the competition. Aiming to raise awareness and make people think about the role of pastoralism through humour, criticism and creativity, this 5th competition illustrated the social, environmental and economic issues related to pastoralism: mobility, adaptation, human-animal-territory link, climate and political challenges, etc.

## Feedback on the Innovation Forum

New for the 2026 edition of Désertif'actions, the Innovation Forum aimed to allow a few private sector players to share their innovations in terms of territorial resilience to drought. The participants were able to discover the work and innovations of five entrepreneurs selected following a call for applications (including 3 from<sup>1</sup> the UNCCD's YECO programme).

**TerraSense** (Mohamed Rajhi, Tunisia) presented an innovative and cost-effective rain gauge that combines real-time weather data with high-resolution satellite imagery to make accurate weather forecasts and tailor-made recommendations.

**Soilhence** (Wiem Haouari, Tunisia) provided a precision agriculture solution aimed at supporting farmers in the analysis and optimization of plant fertilization needs in order to reduce the consumption of inputs, which are expensive and often imported.

**ArdhiPilot** (Manel Khlif, Tunisia) proposed a digital tool to transform satellite data into actionable risk information for farmers, insurers and public institutions operating in drought-prone regions.

**BioProtect** (Arsène Savadogo, Burkina Faso) presented its organic input solutions (fertilizers, bio-stimulants) aimed at "securing and increasing harvests, while respecting people, plants and soils", as well as processed products from Moringa.

**Lassaad Daghari** (The Food Quality, Tunisia) presented a technical assistance solution for irrigation and fertilization for farmers. This innovation is based on the use of meteorological, humidity and soil conductivity data acquired through the installation of connected equipment at farmers' homes as well as the company's laboratory specializing in physico-chemical analyses of soil, water, and plants.



<sup>1</sup> Youth Ecopreneur Programme (YECO)

# Plenary: Preparatory Processes and Lessons Learned

## Facilitator: Mr. Eric Scopel

*PhD and researcher in agroecology at CIRAD, France*



This session aimed to present the main results produced in the framework of the national workshops that were organized by the voluntary CSOs during the preparatory phase of Désertif'actions 2026. The aim of these workshops was to detail the specific concerns of the different countries involved in the D'a26 approach concerning four major themes: agroecological transition, pastoralism, water and land management. These themes were the subject of summary reports and dedicated webinars.

The common point of these themes is that they converge towards the transformation of territories for greater resilience. The two key words of this objective are "territories" where people meet to live, manage and act, and "resilience" which refers to the systemic dimension of action.

Coming from systems physics, the concept of resilience now applies to all systemic dynamics, including that of human psychology. Resilience refers to the ability to absorb shocks. For the territories, it invites us to consider several dimensions: ecological, social and economic. Thus, several levers can be activated as soon as drought resilience becomes an objective supported by all actors, especially those at the local level.

24

## Panel: Preparing for the resilience of territories to drought

### a. Mr. André Viola (video address)

*President of the General Council of the Aude department from 2015 to 2020 and Departmental Councillor for Europe and International Affairs on water management and climate change*



#### Theme: Strengthening the role of local authorities

Local authorities are on the front line in dealing with drought-related damage. The preparatory phase of D'a26 has shown this, with an unprecedented mobilization of the players. The result is a widely shared observation: local authorities are essential players in drought management because of their knowledge of the territory and their proximity to the population. However, they remain relegated to the background, due to a lack of resources with limited human resources, as well as because of reduced access to information which keeps them in a reactive position.

In order for drought management to change the paradigm, several levers of action have been identified:

- Institutionalize the place of local authorities in the governance of their territories and recognize the strategic role of local authorities in the implementation of the Convention;
- Ensure a smooth flow of information, particularly climate information, between all stakeholders;
- Encourage direct access to financing and innovative financing (e.g. Territorial Climate Planning);
- Re-establish trust between the different levels of governance to ensure effective action at the local level;



- Promote cooperation because no territory, no matter how robust, has the capacity to manage these crises alone.

In the Aude Department, the year 2025 was a pivotal year with an exceptional drought marking the beginning of a new climatic era. To prepare for this, the department has launched a multi-stakeholder participatory approach to understand the fragility of its territory and build solutions. This approach is based on the conduct of a territorial diagnosis and exchanges with many stakeholders that should make it possible to feed its drought management strategy. This is based on five main orientations, including the protection of agricultural land, the promotion of sustainable territorial food and support for the maintenance of sustainable means of production. Building on the department's major assets, these main areas are translated into concrete actions: agroecology and agroforestry, sustainable management of water resources, reduction of chemical inputs, support for young farmers, but also innovation and agricultural research, development of short circuits, etc.

Because the challenges brought about by drought are shared, the responses must be co-constructed and placed at the heart of international negotiations, in particular those of the three conventions resulting from the Rio process: biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

## b. Mrs. Absa Mbodj

Secretary of the Dynamics for an Agroecological Transition in Senegal (DyTAES), Enda Pronat



### Theme: Transformation of sedentary agricultural and/or livestock systems

For this theme, the general consensus is on the role of agroecology in the processes of system transformation. As agroecology is essentially a systemic approach, its effectiveness cannot be expressed at the level of the plot alone and the issue therefore arises on its implementation at the territorial level.

The preparatory workshops identified several obstacles to its scale-up:

- Significant implementation costs;
- Fragmented funding and therefore not adapted to the holistic dimension of agroecology;
- Segmentation of public policies while agroecology concerns the fields of agriculture, health, the environment and water;
- Lack of appropriate support.

It represents a solution but it does not have the capacity to compensate for prolonged extreme droughts, which means that action must be taken now with the support of public policies. Among the levers for action identified, we find:

- The institutionalization of agroecology at the national level with the decompartmentalization of public policies related to it;
- Strengthening the mobilization of stakeholders;
- The transition of public policies still focused on conventional agriculture.

*"The real challenge today is the change of scale by putting the territories at the heart of the agroecological transition."*

In Senegal, the DyTAES platform was created in 2019 as a coalition of actors from civil society, academia and consumers to advocate for the transformation of agricultural production systems. The national platform has expanded to the territorial level with the DyTAELs, which now cover 17

regions representing the country's six agro-ecological zones. DyTAELS provide an opportunity to engage in policy dialogue with decision-makers to integrate agroecology into local plans.

## c. Ms. Manei Naanyu

*Director of Programmes, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Kenya*



**Theme: Support for mobile production systems (focus on pastoralism)**

Pastoral mobility is a production strategy based on the management of resources (water and soil) and adapted to the climate (dry and rainy seasons). These ancestral practices have made it possible to maintain the ecosystem functions of the rangelands, the mobility of the herds allowing the regeneration of the soil and vegetation. However, there are many obstacles to the mobility of rangelands and the culture of nomadism is now threatened, despite its multiple importance that includes adaptation to climate change and improvement of soil fertility. The cultural function of pastoral mobility is essential in territories threatened by multiple degradations.

The Kenyan preparatory workshop provided several lessons and recommendations:

- Policy implementation cannot be effective without adequate funding;
- Research results should be brought to the local level;
- Solutions and actions at the local level must be co-constructed with the populations;
- The benefits of pastoral mobility need to be better recognized;
- Access to the carbon market must be explored.

## d. Mrs. Carole Chemin

*Water Resources Management Referent, Water Solidarity Programme (pS-Eau), France*



**Theme: Territorial management of water resources**

All the preparatory workshops highlighted the importance of the local level in territorial water management as well as the need to implement a concerted management over the long term rather than emergency measures at the time of crises. In a context where, out of the nine thresholds of habitability of the planet, three limits have already been crossed, including those on blue and green water, shared water management does not guarantee the effectiveness of actions if the representativeness of the various actors is not balanced, particularly with regard to conflicts of use (example of the problems posed by mega-basins in France).

The constraints identified are multiple, including sectoral and institutional fragmentation, conflicts of use, urban sprawl and lack of information. However, local water resources management could be improved through the following areas for improvement:

- Setting up territorial consultation frameworks;
- Strengthen access to information;
- Better articulate agricultural and water resources management policies;
- Improve the availability of inclusive and appropriate financing, including the application of equitable principles such as the polluter pays principle;
- No longer opposing local and academic knowledge, but on the contrary integrating them for a co-construction of adapted knowledge.

## e. Mr. Nicolas Cimbaro

*Head of International Relations, Aude Departmental Council, France*

It is essential to strengthen the role of local authorities in the management of water resources and to take advantage of the international meetings planned for 2026, in particular the Conferences of the Parties of the three conventions resulting from the Rio process, to make the voice of these essential actors heard and to allow for better consideration of their role in territorial governance.

## f. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and members of the panel made it possible to review several elements developed during the plenary, highlighting in particular the role of different actors (local authorities, women) in the management of water resources, the importance of taking into account traditional knowledge, and strategies to promote the scaling up of agroecological principles.

- **Water resources management:** Water management must reconcile two visions: that of water as a right (United Nations) and that of water as a need (national policies). Similarly, its different uses must be differentiated, particularly with regard to agricultural use and use in urban areas through the prism of access to energy for water dewatering. The role of local authorities in territorial water management is no longer to be demonstrated and decentralized cooperation is an important way to consolidate their actions. On the other hand, the role of women must be more recognized and, more generally, the integration of the gender dimension into public policies is necessary. In addition, the workshops did not consider the issue of water resources management techniques. Techniques for regenerating the water cycle are nevertheless very promising in the context of agroecology but do not emerge from the discussions, while drip irrigation techniques, although contested by some actors, are cited as examples of decisions that could be taken within the framework of a multi-stakeholder consultation.
- **Agroecology and agroecological transition:** Agroecology is not a new science insofar as it refers to ancestral knowledge and practices that deserve to be better valued and integrated into new practices and academic knowledge. Endogenous and academic knowledge platforms are therefore to be encouraged. Scaling up agroecology is a crucial issue today, and experiences in adopting agroecological transition policies and strategies such as those of Kenya and Senegal can be useful to countries that do not yet have an adopted policy framework. For the transition from the national to the local level, the role of local authorities is essential for the transition of territories towards greater resilience.
- **Pastoral mobility:** National borders should not set an insurmountable limit to pastoral mobility. As in Kenya, laws already exist to regulate transhumance between countries and secure the corridors created by pastoralists. We also note the existence of multi-stakeholder platforms that allow visions to be shared between decision-makers and pastoralists to make transhumance a method of managing the commons.



## Great witness: Mrs. Sarah Toumi

*Donor Relations Officer, UNCCD Global Mechanism*

The next UNCCD COP 17 will bring together 197 Parties and will include negotiations on the future strategic framework of the Convention in a context where the need for land restoration, estimated at 1.5 billion hectares, and financing is particularly important. During these negotiations, the voice of territorial actors will be necessary to highlight the realities faced by the territories as well as to carry the voice of the peoples and their needs.



*"Désertif'actions 2026 carries this voice!"*

28

## Recommendations and improvement suggestions

1. Institutionalize the role of local authorities as pilots of territorial transitions to improve the resilience of territories to droughts and support the scaling up of agroecology. To this end, it is necessary to give them the necessary technical, financial and political means by legally recognising their role in the governance of natural resources, by guaranteeing direct access to territorial funding or by encouraging decentralised cooperation between territories to share solutions, skills and knowledge.
2. Breaking down barriers between public policies and promoting multi-sectoral systemic approaches by adopting integrated policy frameworks to coordinate agriculture, water, energy, land use planning and environmental management around common objectives in favour of resilience. Territorial frameworks for multi-stakeholder consultation are also strongly encouraged and can be a particularly effective tool for securing pastoral mobility in territorial planning or for reducing conflicts of use around water.
3. Invest in knowledge, the co-construction of solutions and the scaling up of practices through the implementation of sustainable mechanisms for the production, sharing and application of knowledge adapted to the territories. Several axes can be identified, including the development of multi-stakeholder territorial platforms, the strengthening of links between research and local actors, but also the promotion of traditional knowledge.



## Plenary: Financing resilience in a world in crisis, what reasons for hope?

### Facilitator: Mrs. Anne-Cécile Bras

*Journalist and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Environment Department, Radio France International (RFI), France*



29

According to the figures put forward by the Convention, restoring 1.5 billion hectares would require about one billion dollars per day. This figure illustrates the scale of the needs: water infrastructure, adapted agricultural practices, land restoration, early warning systems but also safety nets for vulnerable populations.

Traditional instruments such as concessional loans, domestic public financing, budget support and donor grants remain central but insufficient in the face of growing needs, amplified by the climate emergency. At the same time, innovative financing is gaining momentum: development of public-private partnerships, risk-sharing mechanisms, climate insurance, crowdfunding, nature-based solutions, etc. The challenge now is to better articulate these traditional and innovative levers to maximize the impact of each dollar mobilized on the resilience of territories and populations.

### a. Mr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma

*Acting Director and Head of Division in the Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank (AfDB), Chad*



As early as 2009, the African Development Bank included drought resilience as a fundamental pillar of its Risk Management and Adaptation Strategy. Since then, this focus has continued in all of its climate change policy frameworks. More recently, under the leadership of the new President of the AfDB, resilience at the continental level has been placed among the four development priorities carried out by the institution. This vision is reflected in operations and investments, with \$25.4 billion invested in climate over the past five years, more than 60% of which has been allocated to resilience and adaptation. In 2025, out of 5.9 billion committed, 58% were earmarked for these issues.

The main obstacle identified by the AfDB is structural, with actors on the ground who do not have direct access to financial resources. The flows pass through the States which have to redistribute them on a more local scale, but it is here that the system is blocked. In response, the AfDB has developed two complementary types of financing: statutory funding, which flows through governments, and trust financing, which opens windows of direct access to NGOs, local communities and municipalities. The African Fund for the Financing of Local Actors is a concrete example. In Benin, a million-dollar project has financed 15 investments with a local impact; in Togo and Burkina Faso, a similar program mobilized an additional \$400,000 from the private sector, directly benefiting women producers. On a larger scale, regional programmes such as the Drought Resilient Programme for Horn of Africa have gradually integrated national and local components, involving communities in the design and implementation of projects.

However, several major obstacles hinder the expansion of these efforts:

- Drought, despite being identified as the costliest and deadliest climate crisis, is not yet a national priority for the majority of African states. However, multilateral banks respond to the demands of states.
- The institutional capacity gap, exemplified by a recent study that found that only seven African countries are sufficiently prepared to absorb large-scale financing.
- The complexity of funding mechanisms that are designed for national levels, poorly adapted to local scales, and have accreditation processes that are considered too cumbersome.
- The almost total absence of the private sector, which accounts for barely 20% of resilience financing in Africa. This situation is the result of a still very high risk perception, fuelled by unfavourable sovereign ratings and media coverage that is not favourable to the continent, which translates into a structurally higher cost of access to financing for African countries.

For COP17, the AfDB is calling for the adoption of the drought protocol, national reforms to attract more sovereign and non-sovereign financing, and above all a substantial strengthening of states' absorption capacities.

## b. Ms. Habiba Khiari

*Programme Officer, Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*



The Global Mechanism, the operational arm of the UNCCD, places the fight against drought and land degradation at the heart of its mandate. COP16 in Riyadh marked a decisive turning point: drought is no longer seen as a simple environmental problem, but as a systemic development and financing challenge, affecting several sectors simultaneously. This change in perception implies a change of approach: moving from the reactive mode, which has prevailed until now, to an anticipatory and proactive logic. It is in this spirit that the Saudi presidency of the COP has launched the Tafa'ul process, tasked with building a consensus by COP17 on how countries will collectively address the issue of drought, with the hope that a formal decision can be adopted there.

At the operational level, the Global Mechanism has been supporting countries in the development of their national drought plans since 2018. To date, 73 countries have finalized their plans. The next step, undertaken with FAO in particular, is to translate these plans into concrete investment plans, in order to transform anticipatory measures into bankable projects.

Launched at COP16, the Global Partnership for Drought Resilience has raised high expectations. Its implementation is now underway: a dedicated secretariat is being set up, with a governance framework, rules for the allocation of funds and eligibility criteria being finalised. The aim is for the secretariat to be operational and for the first funds to be available before the end of 2026.

This partnership is based on three pillars:

- **A Readiness Fund** to help countries develop integrated drought and investment plans, whether or not they have already developed a drought plan;
- **A project development facility**, reserved for the least developed countries, fed by a Multi-partner Trust Fund, of which Saudi Arabia will make a first payment this year, hoping to attract other donors. In addition, the GM is developing the DRIF (Drought Resilience Investment Facility), a tool targeting the private sector, based on the model of the LDN Fund created for land degradation neutrality;
- **A knowledge bank** aimed at pooling experiences and coordinating existing platforms.

However, several structural obstacles are slowing down the increase in financing. National plans are often fragmented, with redundancies between the climate, humanitarian and development frameworks, making it difficult to build coherent and "bankable" projects. The capacity deficit of local actors is central: they do not speak the same language as banks and international donors, which slows down direct access to resources and maintains their dependence on intermediary institutions. Capacity building is therefore considered essential, and the Riyadh Partnership intends to make it an explicit component.

For COP17, the GM's message is clear: to encourage coordination, the pooling of resources and efforts among all actors, without exception. The institution also announces its intention to organize, on the sidelines of the COP, a meeting of multilateral development banks to integrate sustainable land management and drought resilience as cross-cutting themes in their investment sectors.

## c. Ms Sandra Rulliere

*Deputy Head of the Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity Division, French Development Agency (AFD), France*



For several years, the fight against drought has been integrated into AFD's strategy with concrete actions relating to the diversification of agriculture, the promotion of living soils capable of storing water, storage infrastructure, water-saving agricultural practices and the reuse of wastewater. What makes AFD unique is its position on agroecological transitions – in the plural because this transition is intended to be pragmatic and adapted to local contexts – which constitute the implementation of France's international strategy, entrusted by mandate to AFD. This position translates into a significant financial commitment with between €600 million and €1 billion invested each year in transition projects for the benefit of family farms and areas converted to agroecological systems.

Ensuring that the money really arrives on the ground presupposes first of all the coherence of public policies: incoherent policies produce incoherent investments. However, these policies must not only exist, but also be applied, which implies decrees, dedicated services, support for decision-makers and decision-making tools. The mobilization of actors is also essential to diversify and maximize financing. It is therefore important to work collectively for the implementation of public policies.

AFD places public agricultural banks at the heart of its financing delivery strategy. These institutions currently provide two-thirds of formal funding for agriculture, but struggle to reach producers and breeders. It is to respond to this lack that the AGREENFI initiative was launched, which supports and strengthens these banks (Crédit Agricole du Maroc, La Banque Agricole (LBA) in Senegal, FIRA in Mexico, livestock bank in Uzbekistan) via subsidized credit lines (subsidized rates) conditional on agroecological practices, accompanied by technical assistance and innovative monitoring tools (satellite imagery in particular). Between 2008 and 2022, more than €900 million was committed to 50 financial institutions, which in turn financed thousands of farmers. Beyond agricultural banks, AFD advocates for the entire banking sector to embark on sustainable agricultural finance, in particular through the coalition of public agricultural banks, which facilitates the sharing of methodologies and innovations among peers.

Nevertheless, several structural obstacles persist:

- ➔ Overall lack of funding;
- ➔ Lack of alignment of public policies;
- ➔ Lack of territorial animation skills in agronomic training;
- ➔ Difficulty in economically valuing environmental performance.

On this last point, AFD has a strong message for COP17: mechanisms must be created to remunerate environmental performance: fair trade, responsible purchasing commitments by companies, equalisation mechanisms. Two additional messages are highlighted: to focus more public bank financing on resilient and economically viable agriculture, and to strengthen exchanges between peers (thematic coalitions, scientific committees on land and agricultural water) to disseminate solutions documented by research and the field on a large scale. Finally, AFD points out that the decisions taken at the major COPs have a direct effect on its own practices: the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Framework on Biodiversity have led the institution to align all of its funding with these international commitments.

## d. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and members of the panel made it possible to bring out several areas of discussion relating to the institutional mobilization of financing, the limits of existing mechanisms and the consideration of land rights in financing mechanisms.

32

- **The Tunisian experience: institutional mobilization and access to the Green Climate Fund.** The Tunisian Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency (APIA), a partner of the PRIMEA program, presents its modalities of intervention in connection with training and financing. For training, the APIA aims to integrate agroecology into the training courses for farm coaches. For financing, the institution offers incentive mechanisms ranging from 15 to 60% subsidies for sustainable investments. AFD confirms its support for this model, combining Tunisian public investment, concessional loans and grants, with the ambition of integrating climate finance via the Green Fund.
- **The issue of land rights** is raised by the International Land Coalition (ILC), which points out that when funding takes the form of multilateral or public-private investment, the *quid pro quo* may be incompatible with the real needs of local communities, who are sometimes excluded from the resources that are supposed to benefit them. AFD emphasizes that land governance and land rights are in themselves a profitable investment, economically and financially. All partners should also commit to the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Land. The AfDB recalls that environmental and social safeguards are now a *sine qua non* condition for any project financed by multilateral banks, to which, in the case of the AfDB, is added a specific climate safeguard.
- **Return on investment and limits of existing systems.** Private investors condition their commitment to an economic model that offers an identifiable return on investment, which small-scale sustainable agriculture, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, struggles to demonstrate. The lack of local financial engineering and the political fragilities of many countries constitute structural obstacles to the inflow of private capital. While the funds exist globally, their allocation to small-scale agricultural projects remains marginal. The solutions presented by the stakeholders are considered relevant but disproportionate in view of the scale of the needs, particularly in the most vulnerable areas.

## Great witness: Mrs. Imèn Meliane

*Vice-President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*

Ms. Imèn Meliane concluded this sixth session of D'a26 by making several observations and calling for a change of perspective, first and foremost on harmful subsidies because, while public funding dedicated to adaptation to climate change remains insufficient, there are some 3,000 billion dollars in subsidies allocated to environmentally harmful activities worldwide. This paradox, rarely put on the negotiating table, illustrates the lack of coherence of public policies.





The real barrier is not international but domestic. Indeed, as long as the fight against desertification is not among the priorities of the heads of state, and not only of the ministries of the environment, the COPs will not be able to produce results that are equal to the challenges. Civil society is called upon to play a leading role in bringing these issues to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the highest levels of decision-making. However, institutional fragmentation remains a real challenge because, within the same ministry, the focal points of the different international conventions and funds do not communicate with each other. This internal disarticulation makes any coordination on a larger scale illusory.

Regarding local access to finance, it should be noted that, despite all the efforts made, less than 1% of climate finance reaches local actors. A figure identical to that measured ten years earlier. Specific measures, such as the window dedicated to local adaptation within the Adaptation Fund, are progress, provided that they remain additional to existing national allocations.

Finally, it is essential to change the paradigm and, rather than starting from needs and shortcomings, to base ourselves on the continent's assets (biodiversity, natural resources, youth, traditional knowledge, capacity for innovation) to build African solutions, by Africa and for Africa. This is precisely what IUCN is proposing through its REGEN Africa programme. The question is no longer "how to distribute a billion dollars" but "how to produce it"?

## Recommendations and avenues for improvement

1. Improve direct and effective access to finance for local actors by setting up simplified financing mechanisms, accessible to local actors (local authorities, NGOs, producer organizations, etc.) and accompanied by capacity building in financial engineering, project management and monitoring and evaluation. It would also be relevant to develop local financial intermediaries such as agricultural banks, microfinance institutions or territorial funds.
2. Strengthen the coherence of public policies and prioritize the fight against drought at the highest level. Drought management needs to be integrated into national development plans, agricultural strategies and fiscal policies. Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms would also be relevant. Finally, training is identified as an essential cross-cutting lever with the training of agricultural advisors and field coaches in agroecological practices, but also the training of financial institutions to better know their customers and better assess the risks of the sector. The integration of agroecology into university curricula and technical training frameworks is considered essential to anchor this paradigm shift in the long term.
3. Encourage private and innovative financing through risk reduction and economic enhancement mechanisms. Risk-sharing mechanisms such as climate guarantees and insurance must be developed and mechanisms for paying for environmental services must be put in place (premiums for agroecological practices, certification mechanisms, fair engagement, etc.) to promote the



## Group work: Sharing experiences and recommendations to strengthen the resilience of territories to drought

Organized around 11 themes, this first session of group work aimed to feed the central theme of drought resilience through the sharing of experiences and operational reflections.

35



### 1. Circular economy and resilience of territories

Moderator: Ms. Victorine Che Thöner, Senior Programme Officer, IUCN

Resilience is not limited to climate shocks or drought, but also depends on how a territory organises its flows of value, inputs and resources. Over-dependence on the outside makes the resilience of a territory fragile, while resilience is strengthened when resources, value and nutrients circulate within that territory. The circular economy can thus help territories become more resilient.

#### a. Mr. Sandeep Jadhav

Director, Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), India

This first intervention focuses on the urban-rural nutrient and carbon cycle, which is presented as a circular economy model linking urban organic waste management to rural soil restoration and agricultural resilience. It addresses several challenges such as the deterioration of soil health, low soil organic carbon, stagnant agricultural yields and increasing dependence on chemical fertilizers, while addressing the underutilization of urban organic waste.

The model works by turning urban organic waste into quality compost and then returning it to farmers, restoring nutrient and carbon flows between urban and rural areas. Its implementation has focused on building the capacity of urban local governments to produce compost, developing operational guidelines, conducting crop trials, and promoting its uptake by farmers through demonstrations and a labeling strategy.

One of the key features of this approach is the involvement of agricultural producer organizations (OPAs) and women's groups that help to aggregate demand, distribute compost, raise awareness and train, as well as connect compost producers with farming communities. In addition to being an environmental solution, this model is therefore also a business opportunity at the local level.

This model has great potential for scaling up across urban local authorities in the state of Maharashtra in India, but also in other countries. Finally, it demonstrates how the circular economy can strengthen territorial resilience by reducing waste, improving soil health and maintaining the local circulation of value and nutrients.

## b. Mr. Claude Arsène Savadogo

*Managing Director of BIOPROTECT, Burkina Faso*

The Burkinabe company BIOPROTECT has been operating in the social and circular economy sector since 2011 with the aim of making agroecology the main method of agricultural production in Burkina Faso by 2030 through market development. Specialising in the local manufacture of bioprotectants from plant extracts and micro-organisms, its products are certified organic in accordance with the European regulation and the CNABio "bio-SPG" specifications.



36

The main challenges the company faces include:

- Product registration and regulations to ensure product efficacy and safety;
- Access to public and institutional markets;
- The need for better synergy, collaboration, integration and specialization among different stakeholders to encourage the widespread use of biopesticides;
- Access to financing appropriate in terms of amounts, duration and conditions to stimulate production and encourage widespread adoption;
- The omnipresence of the agrochemical industry, which is strongly established at all levels.

## c. Mr. Eliud Letungaa

*Operational Manager, MVIWAARUSHA, Tanzania*

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGSs) are quality assurance systems that certify producers and ensure the production of safe and healthy food. Their core principles include farmer participation, trust, sharing knowledge and responsibilities, dignity, soil health, transparency of agricultural practices and learning. All these principles complement and build on each other. PGSs are ideally suited for small-scale agroecological producers and help to encourage agroecological practices, strengthen local markets and build consumer confidence.



These systems are based on the active participation of stakeholders that include farmers, village committees, consumers and extension workers. In concrete terms, the establishment of a PGS begins with the creation of farmers' groups and then the development of local production standards. Peer-to-peer inspections are then organised so that each farmer understands and complies with the standards previously defined. Finally, the PGS label is created on the basis of a collective decision-making regarding certification. This is followed by regular peer-to-peer visits to document farming practices and develop corrective action plans in the event of non-compliance with standards. A participatory market study is also carried out to define a marketing strategy for the products from the farms.

These systems were created to meet the growing demand for safe, chemical-free food, which has strengthened cooperation and empowerment among farmers while reducing the need for third-party certification and improving market access. They have improved food safety and quality,



increased farmers' incomes, strengthened community confidence and better preserved the environment.

## d. Discussions

Participants highlighted the fact that shortening value chains, improving traceability and strengthening direct relationships between producers and consumers are promising opportunities to build trust among stakeholders, improve product quality and ensure affordable prices while supporting local livelihoods. Circular approaches allow for job creation, local innovation and stronger community cohesion, especially when they include farmers' groups, cooperatives, youth or women.

Despite real impacts on food sovereignty, soil health and the prevention of environmental and health risks related to poor quality products and the excessive use of chemicals, the relocation of resources and production systems faces several challenges:

- Governance challenges;
- Lack of clear regulations or conflicting legal frameworks;
- Difficulties in ensuring compliance with certification standards and processes;
- Limited access to markets and weak integration into value chains;
- Challenges related to maintaining product quality and competitiveness;
- Financial constraints.

Participants also highlighted the importance of awareness-raising, capacity building and behaviour change, both at the community and institutional levels. Without this, circular systems remain difficult to deploy on a large scale. The role of public policies, incentives and partnerships, including with the private sector, is essential to enable the implementation and sustainability of these approaches.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the first theme relating to the circular economy and the resilience of territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Strengthen local circular systems that reconnect producers, consumers and resources.** It is essential to support locally anchored systems such as participatory guarantee schemes, biopesticide production and short value chains that reduce the number of intermediaries and improve traceability while building trust between producers and consumers. These approaches must be designed to maintain value within territories by strengthening community cohesion, affordability, and food sovereignty.
2. **Invest in the sustainable and local use of resources and input systems.** To do this, it is necessary to encourage the production and use of locally available inputs (compost, biopesticides, agricultural residues, etc.) based on local practices and knowledge. At the same time, it is essential to ensure that the scaling up of these systems does not put new pressures on local resources by incorporating safeguards for biomass use, quality control and ecosystem sustainability.
3. **Establish governance, standards and coordination mechanisms that are conducive to the establishment of local circular systems.** It is important to strengthen coordination between the different actors, clarify their roles and improve regulatory frameworks. This includes developing appropriate standards (e.g. compost and certification schemes), ensuring fair representation of stakeholders and harmonising policies between different key sectors such as agriculture, waste management and the environment.
4. **Develop sustainable financing and implementation models at the local level.** The financial sustainability of circular systems needs to be supported through a combination

of public investment (municipal budgets, grants, etc.), private sector engagement and local business models. Particular attention should be paid to the financing of operational systems such as waste collection and treatment, support for local businesses and organisations, as well as ensuring a fair distribution of costs and benefits among actors.

## 2. Creating attractive jobs in the regions

*Moderator: Mr. Mamadou Abdoulaye Sow, Program Coordinator, Enda Pronat, Senegal*

This workshop aims to first present concrete projects that have created attractive jobs, highlighting good practices and lessons learned. On this basis, the participants are then invited to reflect in sub-groups on the conditions for creating jobs that strengthen the resilience of territories to drought.

38

### a. Mr. Alhadj Ali Abdelkerim Medideur

*President of the Association for the Assistance of Young People in Difficult Situations (AAJSD) Agro Business, Chad*



This first intervention concerns the Chadian company Bio Du Sahel, which specialises in the organic production and processing of local cereals (millet, sorghum) and non-timber forest products (moringa, berries), and more specifically its project to recover organic waste.

Led by the AAJSD, this project aims to create sustainable jobs for young people in arid territories. In Chad, 70% of land is considered degraded and 65% of young people are unemployed. In such a context, and in the face of the observation that organic waste remains an economic resource that is still largely unrecovered, the AAJSD proposes to transform this waste into green jobs by developing a complete sector. The organic waste is collected by collectors, then a technician takes care of the transformation, and finally vendors are in charge of marketing the compost.

The results of the project are very encouraging: more than 1,200 young people trained, 5 direct jobs created, 2 youth cooperatives structured, 20 micro-enterprises supported, 85% of young people who stay in their territory and 2.6 tonnes of compost recycled.

*"Creating attractive jobs means giving young people a reason to stay and restore their land."*

The presentation highlights several good practices that have enabled the project to contribute positively to the creation of sustainable jobs for young people:

- **The use of technology**, the Climate Tech Sahel sensors, which attracts young people by modernizing agriculture;
- **The development of micro-businesses** that allow young people to sell and earn money quickly;
- **The establishment of cooperatives** that make it possible to obtain status, social recognition and better access to the market;
- **Support for a variety of professions**: collectors, compost producers, salespeople, trainers,... each young person can find his or her place;
- **The labeling of products**, bringing pride and recognition to the young people involved in the sector.

### b. Discussions

The participants exchanged views on several topics that all converge on a central idea, which is to create local economic ecosystems capable of generating attractive jobs while strengthening the resilience of territories to droughts.

More specifically, the discussions focused on:

- The development of territorial economic sectors through the identification of high-potential sectors, the development of complete value chains, the development of local resources and co-products and the structuring of territorial markets.
- Market access and economic viability, including the identification and creation of markets, the structuring of marketing and pricing, the development of sustainable business models and the importance of securing market opportunities.
- Financing, equipment and the issue of the modernization of activities, with the emphasis on the importance for young people and women to have access to appropriate financing, but also exchanges around technical and digital modernization as well as on the strengthening of technical and organizational capacities.
- The organization of actors and territorial governance, which involve structuring organizations, networking the various actors, creating spaces for exchange and sharing of experiences, and encouraging the implementation of inclusive governance that integrates young people and women.
- Skills, training and the promotion of knowledge, highlighting the importance of developing technical, entrepreneurial and organisational training, raising awareness of opportunities and promising sectors, but also of promoting local knowledge and intergenerational transmission as well as conducting experiments and documenting good practices.
- The attractiveness of jobs, and more particularly the need to reduce barriers and improve working conditions to create attractive job opportunities that will make it possible to retain and even bring people back to the territories.

## c. Recommendations

Concerning the second theme relating to the creation of attractive jobs in the territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

- **Adopt an integrated approach to value chain development.** The aim is to structure sustainable local sectors based on the resources of the territory and their potential for job creation. On the basis of a territorial diagnosis, 2 to 3 priority sectors can be identified per territory, and then complete value chains must be structured, in particular by supporting processing activities and developing commercial outlets. To ensure the sustainability of these activities, capacity building is paramount and should be based on local knowledge. The implementation of sustainable resource management systems and practices adapted to drought is also essential to ensure the sustainability of the developed value chains.
- **To create favourable conditions for the development of sustainable jobs.** It is necessary to remove economic, technical and organizational constraints. Several actions are therefore to be developed: the analysis, creation and security of markets; facilitating access to finance through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms (micro-credits, targeted subsidies) and support for productive investments; the modernization of tools and practices, in particular in order to reduce the arduousness of the work; but also the structuring and strengthening of local organizations such as cooperatives or groups.
- **Strengthen inclusive governance and the involvement of local communities.** Local economic development must be based on the involvement of the entire community, and in particular young people and women, in the governance bodies of organizations as well as in the development of action plans, strategies and projects.

## 3. Agricultural biodiversity, a lever for regional resilience

Moderator: Mr. Jérôme Enjalbert, Program Officer at the Center for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France

Agricultural biodiversity is a central lever but still insufficiently mobilised to strengthen the resilience of farms and territories. It is therefore a question of looking at the mechanisms by which biodiversity strengthens resilience, identifying the obstacles to its development and then formulating operational recommendations.

### a. Mr. Marc Dufumier

Agronomist and Honorary Professor at AgroParisTech, France



40

Biodiversity plays a fundamental role in the functioning of agroecosystems and in their ability to cope with climatic hazards.

Biodiversity encompasses all interactions between domesticated, spontaneous, plant, animal and microbial species and directly conditions ecosystem services (soil fertility, pest regulation, water management). The loss of biodiversity thus leads to a degradation of these services, but it is often underestimated in political decisions.

Intensive agricultural systems, by simplifying ecosystems, increase their vulnerability. Conversely, diversification makes it possible to secure production and income, by avoiding depending on a single crop or a single system: "don't put all your eggs in one basket".

Several practices can be used to promote biodiversity, including:

- Maintaining soil vegetation cover;
- Increasing humus content;
- The agriculture-livestock association;
- Associated crops, especially cereals with legumes.

Often derived from traditional knowledge, technical solutions already exist (cultural associations, anti-erosion half-moons, agroforestry, etc.) but they need to be better valued and disseminated. In addition, it should be noted that the context of pressure to profitability in the short term may discourage farmers from adopting these practices.

### b. Mr. Mohamed Abdelhak Khorchani

Head of the Field Crops & Direct Seeding Development Department, COTUGRAIN, Tunisia



This intervention aims to illustrate a concrete example of biodiversity cultivated with meslin, defined as a combination of cereals and legumes. The aim is to highlight the benefits of diversification at the plot level in a Tunisian context marked by a strong dependence on poorly diversified forage crops and imports, as well as by increased vulnerability to climate variability.

Meslin appears to be a strategic solution to meet several challenges:

- **Agronomic:** Improved soil fertility, better root structure, reduction of weeds;
- **Nutritional:** Production of a balanced, protein-rich forage;
- **Economic:** Reduction of animal feed costs and improvement of farm autonomy;
- **Environmental:** Reduction of inputs and improvement of biodiversity.



Meslin also helps to strengthen resilience to drought by playing a role in diversifying the agronomic portfolio, thus diluting climate risks.

However, some constraints should be highlighted, in particular the need for technical skills to master crop associations and the need to adapt mixtures to local conditions. Partnerships between research, institutions and farmers are particularly essential in this respect to promote the dissemination of these practices and adapt them to specific territorial contexts.

## c. Discussions

The discussions with the participants first of all made it possible to review the multiple benefits of high biodiversity, highlighting in particular the securing of harvests, the improvement of soil fertility and moisture, the reduction of erosion and inputs, as well as the strengthening of biological regulation mechanisms.

However, these benefits are accompanied by significant constraints such as the lack of knowledge on biological interactions, the difficulties of economic valorization of products from diversified systems, but also the limits of access to adapted seeds.

The discussions also made it possible to identify and categorize the obstacles to the development of biodiversity:

- **Technical:** Lack of knowledge, access to seeds or equipment;
- **Institutional:** Inadequate legislative frameworks, sectoral policies;
- **Economic:** Transition risk and low product valuation;
- **Social:** Loss of knowledge, lack of awareness.

On the basis of the obstacles identified, the participants discussed the levers of action to promote the development of biodiversity and identified in particular the development of farmers' seed banks, the strengthening of farmers' capacities, the implementation of economic incentives and the promotion of sustainable food systems.

In a cross-cutting manner, the discussions insisted on the need to better articulate biodiversity, agroecology and territorial resilience by integrating the economic and social dimensions.

## d. Recommendations

Concerning the third theme relating to agricultural biodiversity, the work in sub-groups has led to the following recommendations:

1. **Implement coherent and incentivising public policies to remove the technical, economic and institutional obstacles to the development of agricultural biodiversity.** These policies should include the establishment of financial incentives to promote the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices, the adaptation of regulatory frameworks to facilitate agroecological innovation, the economic recognition of the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity, but also better articulate agricultural, environmental and territorial policies.
2. **Strengthen access to strategic resources: seeds, knowledge and finance.** The establishment and support of farmers' and community seed banks would ensure the availability of adapted and resilient varieties. Capacity building for farmers could be based on the development of appropriate training mechanisms, in particular through peer-to-peer exchange approaches. The promotion of participatory research, involving researchers, associations and farmers, should also be encouraged, as well as the establishment of specific funding mechanisms capable of supporting the transition phases towards more diversified systems.

3. **Promote diversified and economically viable agroecological systems.** To this end, it is necessary to strengthen the economic viability of biodiverse systems, in particular through the structuring of specific recovery channels, the awareness of consumers of the environmental and social benefits of these products and the establishment of market mechanisms that promote the recognition of their value. In addition, these transformations must be part of a territorial logic, by articulating agricultural biodiversity, sustainable food systems and natural resource management.

## 4. Optimization of water resource use

Moderator: Mr. Lamine Baba Sy, Director of the Water Department, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

42

In arid and semi-arid areas, water scarcity is no longer a distant risk but a daily reality. This workshop aims to reposition the debate by asking not whether to irrigate, but how to irrigate with less water, for a stronger and more sustainable impact.

### a. Mr. Badal Kenadid

Bureau of Agriculture, Somali Region, Ethiopia

This first intervention focuses on the approach put in place for the rehabilitation of dry valleys in the lowland areas of Ethiopia, more particularly in the Somali region, which has a high climatic variability, with irregular rainfall, high temperatures, significant evaporation, low infiltration, alluvial soils with contrasting permeability and an expansion of gullies. These characteristics cause significant damage to agricultural land and infrastructure.

The approach developed is based on the mobilization of communities and the establishment of physical structures to slow down flood waters, then biological treatment and cultivation of stabilized areas. Thanks to these actions, about 3000 hectares of degraded land have been rehabilitated. Several dry valleys have been treated, gullies have been stabilized, erosion has been reduced, infiltration improved, aquifers recharged and finally vegetation cover regenerated. These improvements have had important agricultural and social impacts by improving soil moisture, increasing yields and thus strengthening food security, as well as organizing local communities into cooperatives responsible for maintaining infrastructure.

Despite this, several challenges remain, starting with droughts becoming more frequent, but also the lack of institutionalization of partnerships, the need for local technical skills, insufficient market access and lack of income diversification.

### b. Mr. Humphrey S. Chilewa

Programme Manager, NGO RECODA, Tanzania

Based in Tanzania, the NGO RECODA has acquired solid experience in the collection and storage of rainwater for market gardening production through its projects with small producers and community and school structures.

A significant proportion (75%) of Tanzania's population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, with a predominance of small-scale producers who practice rainfed agriculture that is increasingly exposed to droughts and erratic rainfall. To reduce this vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of communities, the NGO RECODA has developed many actions:

- In-situ rainwater harvesting;
- Installation of domestic and school tanks;
- Organization of community demonstrations;

- Creation of raised gardens and improved keyhole systems;
- Installation of simplified drip systems based on inexpensive containers and pipes.

The implementation of these actions is based on the RIPAT (Rural Initiatives for Participatory Agricultural Transformation) approach, the three pillars of which are as follows:

- Create a vision of a better future through community awareness and mobilization of farmers to take charge of their own development;
- Establish farmer groups with good governance to promote the transfer of appropriate agricultural technologies;
- Work closely with local authorities, village chiefs and institutional representatives of the agricultural extension to ensure the sustainability of the project and promote the dissemination of actions on a larger scale.

43

Thanks to this approach and the activities carried out, it has become possible to produce vegetables during the dry season, which helps to improve food and nutrition security while supporting agro-pastoral livelihoods.

To disseminate these technologies to other dry and vulnerable regions, it would be useful to develop and strengthen public, private and associative partnerships. Capacity building for local farmers and craftsmen should also be encouraged, particularly for the construction and maintenance of facilities. Financing mechanisms (microfinance and grants) need to be made more accessible to encourage the adoption of these technologies by households. Finally, elementary schools and community structures must be considered and used as real hubs of demonstration and learning.

## c. Mr. Stephen Fragaszy

*Researcher and AI Muranah Project Leader, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)*



Based on the experience gained in the framework of the AI Muranah project (2021-2026), this last intervention proposes a systemic reading of nature-based solutions, applied for climate and water resilience in several farming communities in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, with a conceptual extension to Iraq and Morocco. The approach developed in this project combines biophysical, socio-economic and governance aspects by drawing on several key principles such as co-creation of resilient nature-based solutions to water problems (RNBWS), promotion of peace, sustainability, local ownership of solutions and the search for a replicable and scalable model.

The objective of this project is to strengthen water security in MENA countries by improving water and soil management, increasing agricultural production and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The activities implemented include:

- Laser leveling, solar irrigation, improvement of surface irrigation and rehabilitation of subsurface drainage systems;
- Biofertilizers, biopesticides, mulching, natural salinity treatments;
- Creation of water users' associations;
- Agricultural value chains, market access, financing mechanisms.

The results announced for a site in Egypt show water savings of 10 to 25% on an area of about 20 hectares, an increase in productivity of at least 15% for key crops, a sharp drop in soil salinity after one year, the creation of three processing units and income gains of about 15% for the women involved in the project.

## d. Discussions

Participants stressed that the conditions for success in optimizing the use of water resources depend less on technology alone than on the institutional, financial and human ecosystem that surrounds it. Indeed, the technical solutions already exist and the challenge today is related to the adoption, maintenance and large-scale dissemination of these solutions. Access to finance, equipment and maintenance mechanisms are major obstacles, especially for small producers.

Training, local ownership of solutions, institutionalization and multi-stakeholder cooperation are considered decisive conditions for success in actions to optimize the use of water resources. In addition, the most promising solutions in arid zones combine water sobriety, technical simplicity, agroecological adaptation and community organization. Participants also stressed that market information, weather and early warning systems, as well as the translation of knowledge to end-users, play as important a role as infrastructure.

To disseminate and scale these solutions, it is necessary to articulate local demonstrations, public policies, blended finance, value chains, and government support. Finally, the future of irrigation in arid areas is based on "right-tech", i.e. adapted, affordable, repairable and scalable solutions, rather than on costly technicalization that is disconnected from local realities.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the fourth theme relating to the optimization of the use of water resources, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Deploy irrigation solutions adapted to the local context through integrated territorial demonstrations.** The future of dryland irrigation does not lie in high technology but rather in good technology. In this sense, it is essential to develop territorial demonstration programs combining technology, training and local governance to test and disseminate irrigation technologies that are simple, robust, affordable and adapted to local realities. To ensure the sustainability of these initiatives, it is important to encourage inclusive financial mechanisms and to produce data on economic, social and environmental returns on investment to inform public and private decisions.
2. **Strengthen local capacities and water governance structures.** To promote the sustainable implementation of irrigation solutions, it is necessary to invest in capacity building of local actors, in particular water user associations, agricultural cooperatives and community maintenance mechanisms. This involves developing structured training programmes, including train-the-trainer (ToT) approaches, as well as the production and dissemination of practical content in local languages (technical guides, videos, etc.).
3. **Encourage participatory approaches and access to knowledge to accelerate the adoption of innovations.** Structured participatory mechanisms need to be put in place to foster continuous exchange between farmers, technicians, public institutions and financial partners. These approaches should include co-designing solutions with local actors, providing access to information in local languages, as well as networking territorial initiatives to facilitate the sharing of experiences. Integrating these mechanisms into national policy frameworks would ensure the coherence and sustainability of large-scale actions.

## 5. Building skills in the territories

Moderator: Mrs. Dominique Morel, Head of Programs in Senegal for the NGO Humundi, Belgium, and Mr. Sayouba Bonkougou, President of the Association for the Protection of the Environment and Rural Development (APEDR), Burkina Faso



As was highlighted several times during the plenaries, it is important to remember that the technologies and techniques adapted to each context to combat drought and land degradation are most often already known, and that it is the skills in terms of planning, dialogue, creation of a shared vision on the issues or development of consensual priorities that are still often lacking at the level of the territories.

The resilience of territories to drought refers to multiple disciplines and calls for specific technical skills (drought, climate, agroecology, land management, biodiversity, etc.), as well as transversal management skills (planning, territorial diagnosis, development and monitoring of public policies, risk analysis, etc.). The stages at which these skills are mobilised are spread out at different phases: prevention/anticipation, crisis, post-crisis/reconstruction.

Although capacity-building programmes are generally aimed at producers and farmers' organisations, actors in state, private or decentralised technical support services, elected officials and citizens, both civil society and consumers, are also essential targets for strengthening the skills of a territory as a whole. For all these actors, it is important to distinguish between individual and institutional skills.

There are several training tools and devices in the field such as CEP (Professional Development Counselling), agroecological centres and farms, vocational and qualifying training schools, awareness-raising days in schools in particular, or water/resilience/climate frescoes, which mobilise different training actors: universities, private training centres, NGOs, community associations, etc.

## a. Mr. Hoby Andrianjatovo Rakotoarison

*Agricultural and Rural Training Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Madagascar*

This first intervention aims to present a training program for farmers led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Madagascar, supported and financed by GIZ as part of the ProSol project.

Agriculture is a pillar of Madagascar, accounting for 75% of employment and accounting for about 25% of the national GDP. However, farms face major challenges related to soil degradation, climate instability and food insecurity. In this context, it seems necessary to strengthen agricultural advice and the dissemination of agricultural innovations to strengthen the resilience of producers.

Deployed since 2019, this program has the particularity of relying on relay farmers to carry out training activities. Specifically, the program is characterized through the following elements:

- Two-year training followed by progressive support in the field;
- Level control and certification, a recognised profession with the issuance of a diploma;
- Relay peasants chosen by the community;
- Defends a profitable economic model, with increasing yields and incomes among relay farmers;
- 1 relay farmer for every 200 farmers;
- Organization of site visits and open days;
- Links with other actors: NGOs, local authorities;
- This model should be made permanent, in particular by integrating a system to remunerate relay farmers.

The first results of the scheme are particularly encouraging and indicate an increase in the areas managed and cultivated in agroecology as well as an increase in yields. There are 500 relay farmers trained in two regions, and about 70,000 farmers sensitized by the relay farmers.

## b. Ms. Nancy Mugimba

National Coordinator at the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), Uganda



This second intervention aims to present a community education and training program on agroecology carried out by an umbrella organization of rural community organizations bringing together about 13,000 members in rural areas of Uganda characterized by high poverty rates and marked isolation.

The model developed for this education and training program is characterized by the following elements:

- The creation of clubs in schools to train young people from primary school onwards on agroecology and the use of low tech to produce and eat healthy;
- The establishment in communities of agroecology schools for adults whose training content is decided according to the requests and needs of the participants;
- The animation of community schools by ESAFF facilitators;
- The co-construction with universities of a curriculum for agricultural technicians and extension workers;
- Results in terms of empowerment of young people (gardens, compost, seeds, etc.) and adults that are part of the long term.

46

## c. Discussions

The two training models presented, both oriented towards the training of peasant actors, highlight the difficulty in certain contexts of exchanging and working with actors located between the government and farmers, although it is essential to interact strongly with all local actors. In the case of the ProSol project, NGOs and local authorities are involved from the start of the project to make them allies and potential actors in replication, monitoring, etc. In the case of the ESAFF initiative, despite the establishment of a formal relationship mainly focused on control, the question of the involvement of local authorities remains very dependent on the people who occupy the positions.

The exchanges with the participants made it possible to highlight other experiences and capacity building mechanisms.

In Tunisia, for example, the National Institute of Field Crops (INGC) has developed a program around leading farmers who are chosen by the communities and then set up farmer field schools. This fieldwork includes scientific methods and knowledge, including the use of satellite observations to study the results of different cereal varieties. The program also includes a component carried out jointly with the State to train extension workers based on a diagnosis of the capacities of extension agents.

In Senegal, the Enda Pronat association has a unique experience in training thanks to the deployment of innovative approaches such as "Art and Science". Following the conduct of a territorial diagnosis and foresight work, the project pays specific attention to transforming knowledge in order to make it more accessible to the target public. This approach is based on the participation of artists who develop artistic products related to the selected themes.

## d. Recommendations

Concerning the fifth theme relating to skills in the territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the following recommendations:

1. **Develop structured territorial systems for diagnosis, planning and management of skills.** Each territory must have a shared base of knowledge and planning tools to clearly

identify skills needs and coordinate capacity-building actions. Participatory territorial diagnoses must be carried out in association with all stakeholders, and they must make it possible to draw up integrated territorial action plans aligned with national policies and included in local development plans. Finally, permanent monitoring, evaluation and capitalization mechanisms must make it possible to adjust actions, document results and promote the replication of successful practices.

2. **Deploy multi-stakeholder training systems, anchored locally and connected to scientific institutions.** The strengthening of territorial competences must be based on diversified training systems adapted to the different audiences. Schemes based on local relay actors should be encouraged. Strengthening the institutional skills of technical services and local authorities, particularly in terms of planning, risk analysis and natural resource management, is also crucial for the resilience of territories. Finally, the creation of interfaces between territories and scientific institutions would promote access to data, technologies and up-to-date educational content.
3. **Promote collaborative and inclusive territorial dynamics to strengthen the appropriation and sustainability of skills.** The networking of local actors (farmers' organisations, NGOs, local authorities, etc.) is essential to avoid fragmentation of initiatives and to promote complementarities. Local elected officials and local authorities must be actively involved because their role is decisive in politically promoting agroecological approaches and integrating actions into public policies. The sustainability of territorial dynamics also implies providing economic and institutional mechanisms to support key actors, in particular to remunerate community relays.

47

## 6. Collaboration between society – science – politics for the resilience of territories

*Moderator: Mrs. Marion Comptour, Agroecological Transition Project Manager at the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*

Multi-stakeholder collaboration is when different actors (researchers, farmers, development actors, decision-makers, etc.) cooperate around common issues to achieve a common goal, with the ambition of amplifying the impact of their actions and developing solutions that benefit everyone. This system assumes that the diversity of the points of view, knowledge and actions of the different actors makes it possible to increase the relevance and effectiveness of collective projects.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration is opposed to a top-down approach that is still very dominant in agricultural development, where knowledge and technologies designed through research are "transferred" to farmers, through advisory and extension systems. This transfer process often leads to a low adoption of the proposed innovations, in particular because of overly standardised technical proposals, which do not sufficiently take into account the diversity of producers, their specific contexts and situations, but also their knowledge and knowledge.

### a. Mrs. Salma Jallouli and Mr. Walid Gharbi

*Post-doctoral researcher at the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT) and General Engineer at the National Institute of Field Crops (INGC) in charge of legume, fodder and industrial crops*



This first intervention aims to present the multi-stakeholder collaboration within the Living Lab in Siliana, Tunisia, set up in the framework of the NATAE (North African Transition to Agroecology) project. The Living Lab is a place for multi-stakeholder exchanges and collaborations aimed at promoting the agroecological transition of a territory. It brings together farmers, researchers, technical institutes, extension agents, government actors and companies to collaboratively co-create, test and evaluate solutions adapted to local contexts for the agroecological transition.



Located in the cereal plains, the Living Lab in Siliana is characterized by soil degradation, a high dependence on rainfall (rainfed crops) as well as a dominance of monoculture. Several experiments have been selected and tested in the Living Lab, in co-construction with farmers, in order to respond to the challenges of drought. These experiments include no-till, forage combinations and the integration of legumes into the rotation (choice of species and varieties).

Awareness-raising and information days, training sessions and workshops were also organized to promote the dissemination of practices.

## b. Mr. Antoine Orsini

*Hydrobiologist at the University of Corsica, President of the Community of Municipalities of the Centre Corse and Administrators of the Rhône Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency, France*



This second intervention was an opportunity to present the Territorial Project for Water Management (PTGE) of Cap Corse, which is a French national system aimed at organizing a concerted management of water resources at the territorial level. Indeed, while there are technical solutions for water management, the solution is essentially political and it is now essential to set up shared water governance and involve local populations.

In Corsica, the increase in temperature (+3°C since 1959), coupled with the gradual decrease in rainfall (≈-10 mm/year) and the increase in evapotranspiration, has led to a sharp scarcity of water resources, both surface and groundwater, as well as to a significant drought of the soil, a decline in biodiversity and a risk of eutrophication.

The PTGE of Cap Corse concerns 306 km<sup>2</sup> in 18 municipalities. A shared diagnosis made it possible to identify the vulnerabilities of the territory and to define an action plan according to four priority areas:

- Sobriety and control of consumption;
- Concerted definition of the volumes that can be withdrawn;
- Security through interconnections;
- Exploring innovative solutions.

The PTGE emphasizes shared governance and social acceptability through its various governance bodies (technical secretariat, technical committee, steering committee), including public services and establishments of the state, services and agencies of the Corsican community, communities, decision-makers, local actors (farmers and breeders) as well as associations for the protection of natural areas.

The PTGE thus promotes a global and co-constructed approach to water resource management. However, its implementation faces difficulties, in particular related to the lack of a shared perspective on water uses and the low commitment of users.



## c. Mr. Slim Jarradi

*Programme Manager for Landscapes and Climate Change at WWF North Africa*



The third intervention was the presentation of the Local Climate Action Plan (PLAC) of Beni Khedech, in the south of Tunisia. Implemented by WWF North Africa with the Association for Citizenship and Sustainable Development (ACDD), this plan should help reduce the effects of climate change on the arid zones of southern Tunisia through participatory mobilization.

The key principles of the PLAC are, on the one hand, multi-stakeholder collaboration as the foundation of territorial resilience and, on the other hand, the central role of civil society in the proposal and implementation of actions as well as in advocacy. Governance actors include authorities and institutions, research institutes, civil society organizations and local populations.

The co-construction of the PLAC was carried out in three phases:

- Capacity building and awareness-raising;
- Co-construction of the action plan on the basis of local consultations;
- Appropriation of the plan by the territory's stakeholders.

Three main success factors can be highlighted: early institutional anchoring, empowerment of local actors and agile participatory governance. Experience also underlines the importance of being able to rely on a unifying local actor, capable of leading the dynamics and mobilizing stakeholders over the long term.

## d. Mr. Eric Scopel

*Researcher in agroecology at CIRAD, France*



The last intervention of this workshop highlighted the FAIR Sahel project implemented in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali between 2020 and 2023 by CIRAD and its partners. This project aimed to strengthen interactions between researchers and farmers to foster the agroecological transition and to co-design agroecological intensification options.

The project's approach was based on three phases:

- Carrying out a participatory agronomic diagnosis;
- The collective identification of problems (problem tree);
- The co-construction of solutions through the realization of an ideotyping of agricultural systems, i.e. theoretical (and therefore "ideal") cropping systems that seem coherent from an agronomic and sociotechnical point of view.

The experimental set-up of the project included central fields (places for training, experimentation and participatory evaluation of innovations) as well as satellite fields with the aim of promoting individual ownership by farmers and adapting to the context of each farmer.

The project's experience highlights the importance of co-assessment, and more specifically the cross-referencing of scientific data and farmers' perceptions, as well as the need to work at several scales, particularly with regard to agroecological transition conditions.

## e. Discussions

The discussions first focused on the modalities of co-construction of agricultural experiments in research projects, using the examples of the Living Lab in Siliana and the FAIR Sahel project. How

are the farmers participating in the activities chosen and how are the experiments selected? The INGC recalled that the experiments are chosen in consultation with farmers in order to truly meet the needs expressed by them and territorial issues. Farmers are volunteers and the model of the Living Lab in Siliana is based on leading farmers and satellite farmers who promote the gradual diffusion of innovations.

Questions of temporality relating to the implementation of research or development projects were also at the heart of the exchanges. How can experiments be set up and their dissemination encouraged when the temporality is limited? In these cases, it is essential to have a well-established presence in the field with a good knowledge of the local issues and actors, as well as to have a strong ability to adapt methodologies to the field. Another central challenge lies in the creation of effective interfaces between research, field actions and public policies, in order to facilitate the scaling up of solutions. WWF North Africa's experience also highlights the decisive role of a local actor with a strong network and credibility to mobilize stakeholders.

Finally, the speakers highlighted several conditions for success in the implementation of multi-stakeholder approaches:

- A real commitment of stakeholders, especially producers;
- The legitimacy of the problems, promoted through the realization of a shared diagnosis;
- Local capacity building;
- The appropriation of experimental approaches.

## f. Recommendations

Concerning the sixth theme relating to multi-stakeholder collaborations for the resilience of territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Define and formalize a clear, inclusive and operational framework for collaboration.** The establishment of effective multi-stakeholder collaboration is based first and foremost on the explicit definition of a structured collaboration framework that must lay the foundations for clear and inclusive governance and contribute to strengthening the legitimacy of the roles of each stakeholder. This framework must also integrate appropriate collaborative tools to structure interactions and facilitate mutual learning.
2. **To build on existing networks and develop networking dynamics to promote mutual knowledge and the sustainability of collaborations.** These networks facilitate the mobilization of financial and technical resources and are an important lever for scaling up initiatives. The implementation of animation mechanisms makes it possible to maintain collective dynamics, to coordinate exchanges and to ensure the continuity of interactions between partners.
3. **Guarantee transparency on the motivations and expectations of the actors in order to strengthen trust, ownership and sustainability of actions.** From the beginning of the collaboration, it is important to organize an explicit analysis of the motivations, challenges and ambitions of each actor in order to identify potential convergences and divergences and thus anticipate the sources of conflict. This approach must be accompanied by a shared diagnosis aimed at building a common understanding of the issues and strengthening the collective awareness of the issues. These transparency actions make it possible to promote the appropriation of solutions by local actors.

## 7. Measuring resilience at the territorial level

Moderator: Mrs. Morgane Gaudin, PIAZO-M Project Manager at the Center for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France

In a context of increasing crises and uncertainty, resilience is particularly important for sustainable agriculture and food systems. Many tools already make it possible to measure resilience, such as the TAPE method developed by FAO or the AVACLIM method developed by CARI. Nevertheless, faced with the multiplicity of tools and sometimes their complexity, how can we ensure that they are useful, really used, and recognized?

## a. Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte

*Director of Research at the IRD and President of the CSFD (French Scientific Committee on Desertification), France*



This first intervention aims to define the concept of resilience because it is essential to understand what we are trying to measure. Resilience refers to the ability of a system and its components to anticipate, absorb, adapt or recover from a disturbance quickly and effectively, in particular by ensuring its preservation.

Several aspects of resilience can be identified:

- **Technical resilience:** Recovery time is concerned by looking at the time it takes for the system to return to its initial state.
- **Ecological resilience:** Sometimes a significant disturbance involves a change in state (in terms of structure and/or functioning) and the system never returns to its original state. It is then a question of assessing the degree of disturbance that a system can absorb before changing state. To do this, we are interested in the stability of the system, the distance from the tipping point as well as the precursor signals.

It is therefore understandable that if we only measure the recovery time, we risk missing the risk of collapse. The study of system dynamics is essential for this. These dynamics can be categorized into two types:

- **The fast properties of the system**, those that can be observed and that respond to perturbations. For example, in the case of a drought, we can easily see the impacts on soil, humidity or biomass.
- **Slow system parameters** that correspond to long-term processes and determine the stability of the system. These include, for example, organic carbon in soils, soil structure, but also biodiversity.

Technical resilience is concerned with the properties of the system, while ecological resilience depends on the parameters of the system. This distinction is particularly important when studying droughts because they not only affect the fast properties of systems but, over time, they can also have impacts on slow parameters and therefore fundamentally transform ecosystems. It is therefore not just a question of measuring the impacts of droughts, but of actually assessing the risk of long-term change, thus closely linking the concepts of resilience and drought risk.

## b. Ms. Anja Mütig

*Agroecology Advisor, GIZ, Germany*



This second intervention focuses on the presentation of the results obtained in the framework of two studies aimed at measuring the effects of agroecology on resilience.

The first study aimed to prove, through the analysis of studies and evaluations, as well as concrete examples of projects carried out by five German organisations (Misereor, Demeter International, INKOTA, KfW and GIZ), how agroecological approaches can strengthen the resilience of agricultural and food systems.

To do this, three types of resilience have been defined: (i) socio-political resilience; (ii) economic and food resilience; (iii) ecological and climate resilience.

The conclusion of this study is that all 13 agroecological principles identified make it possible to strengthen resilience. More specifically, the study shows that:

- The combination of several agroecological principles makes it possible to create synergies that increase their impact on resilience;
- Some agroecological principles play a more important role for resilience, including economic diversification, reduction of inputs, and synergies;
- Agroecology has significant potential in vulnerable contexts;
- A long-term vision and a shared vision of the food system are key elements for a successful transformation of food systems.

52

The second study is the result of the MAP (Measuring Agroecology and its Performance) project set up between May 2023 and June 2024 in Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya and Madagascar. This project aimed to provide evidence on the multidimensional performance of agroecology using the Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation (TAPE) and the Agroecology Criteria Tool (ACT).

The results of this study clearly demonstrated the positive impacts of agroecology on resilience, with a 20% difference between the control group and the agroecological group. Specifically, the study shows:

- Improved food and nutrition security;
- An increase in agricultural biodiversity and soil quality;
- Real economic benefits with a 40% increase in income thanks to the diversity of crops produced.

To conclude, these two studies make it possible to affirm that agroecology has significant potential to improve resilience in all its aspects (economic, socio-political and ecological). However, there is still a strong need to demonstrate the positive impacts of agroecology on resilience. As one of the core principles of agroecology, resilience is included in all agroecology measurement tools. However, it is often evaluated from a socio-economic point of view only.

## c. Mr. Amadou Adamou

*President of the MBOSCUA Association and Board Member of the International Land Coalition (ILC), Cameroon*



This last intervention focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of land tenure security, which is a critical parameter for the resilience of pastoral communities. Good governance of pastoral land promotes adaptive mobility, resting and restoration of pastures, as well as food security and livelihood maintenance. Yet, pastoralists' land tenure is often neglected. There are critical gaps in pastoralists' land tenure security with outdated and unfavourable legal frameworks that restrict their movement and access to the bush. Added to this is the statistical invisibility of pastoralists and their political marginalization, leading to an increase in their vulnerability to the combined effects of land loss and climate change.

The indicators developed by ILC, in partnership with LANDex and Prindex, make it possible to study the extent of pastoralists' land rights, which encompass collective, overlapping and seasonal land use, but also the elements that underpin them. The indicators are divided into three main categories:



- **"De jure" land tenure security:** formal recognition of rights (such as the law guaranteeing access to land), extent of this formal recognition, local formal rules governing access and use.
- **"De facto" land tenure security:** local norms and arrangements, status and level of social cohesion, the status and evolution of relations with other land users, local norms and the customary system governing access and use.
- **Perceived land tenure security:** perceived probability of losing rights.

These indicators relate to the monitoring and evaluation of land use and management. They can thus be used to fill gaps in national and international reporting with a view to improving and adapting them, including in the context of the UNCCD.

## d. Discussions

The participants discussed at length the adaptability of indicators, emphasizing first the fact that pastoral systems are inherently unbalanced systems based on uncertainty and variability. The characterization of resilience can therefore vary from one system to another, especially between sedentary and pastoral systems. In the case of pastoralism, for example, the area of stability would be broader. The question of indicators and their adaptability can therefore appear to be infinite, complex and time-consuming if we try to have an exhaustive list of indicators. It would be relevant to agree on common principles for measuring resilience so that each system can be represented.

The participants also discussed the importance of having a clear view of the fast properties and slow parameters of systems, and above all of precisely identifying the key elements that ensure the maintenance of systems in order to avoid their collapse. Risk analysis is therefore essential, especially when it comes to studying past events to better predict future events and their impacts.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the seventh theme relating to resilience measures at the territorial level, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Adapt and simplify multi-criteria tools by anchoring them in local knowledge and in the targeted operational objectives.** It is necessary to recognise that local communities have a detailed knowledge of environmental, agronomic and social dynamics, and therefore to cross-reference this local knowledge with scientific knowledge to produce relevant tools. These tools must also be adapted to the territorial realities in which they are deployed and be truly thought of as decision-making tools, which can be mobilised at different scales: farm, local territory, region, etc.
2. **Better integrate the temporal dimension by distinguishing between fast and slow dynamics in order to produce data that promotes anticipation and proactivity.** This distinction allows us to better understand what is a one-off adaptation and what reflects a lasting transformation of the system, making it essential to have an initial reference situation. These measures should make it possible to promote a proactive approach capable of anticipating future developments, in particular through the early identification of weak signals or the construction of prospective scenarios.
3. **Build indicator systems that are shared, inclusive, and usable at different scales to support the collective definition of adaptation goals.** The construction of shared indicators and a collective process that aligns perceptions and facilitates multi-stakeholder coordination. These systems should make it possible to identify priorities for action and targeted trajectories as well as to link local issues and public policies by providing data that can be understood and mobilized by decision-makers. Particular attention must be paid to the inclusiveness of the indicators in order to take into account

the diversity of populations and vulnerabilities, particularly those of women or young people. This implies integrating social and institutional dimensions, which are often less visible than biophysical indicators.

## 8. Role of women in the resilience of territories

*Moderator: Mélanie Requier-Desjardins, Teacher-researcher at CIHEAM-IAMM and Scientific Coordinator of the NATAE project, France*

The **NATAE** (North African Transition to AgroEcology) project, implemented between 2022 and 2026, recognizes the paramount importance of women for the resilience and agroecological transition of territories. As part of the creation of seven Living Labs in five North African countries, several women's organizations have been supported and several activities have been carried out to help structure them.

- In Tizi Ouzou (Algeria) with the creation of a cooperative and a seed bank as well as support for the collection, cultivation and processing of aromatic and medicinal plants.
- In Skoura Boulemane (Morocco) with the structuring and promotion of cooperatives for the collection, cultivation and processing of aromatic and medicinal plants.
- At PK 17 in Nouakchott (Mauritania) with the support of women farmers and the organization of farmers around the supply of food to school canteens to support the education of children.

The MEDAE multi-stakeholder network, set up as part of the NATAE project, gives an important place to the recognition of the role of women in the resilience of territories by promoting several initiatives and experiences in webinars and advocacy documents.

### a. Ms. Naanyu Manei, on behalf of Ms. Monicah Yator

*Director of Programmes, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Kenya*



In the arid and semi-arid areas of Baringo, Kenya, climate change is not a topical issue. He is a thief who steals water, livestock, and forces you to choose between survival and destruction.

This presentation aims to present the actions of the Indigenous Women and Girl Initiative (IWGI) to support women producers in Baringo in their activities. These women are seen as the architects of resilience and play a critical role in land restoration, seed and water resource management, and knowledge transfer.

The IWGI association's approach is based in particular on:

- The creation of Living Labs where degraded land is transformed into micro-climates;
- The integration of Living Labs into school curricula to raise awareness among future generations;
- Support for production and processing activities: beekeeping, organic fodder, etc.

## b. Ms. Rita Jalkh

*Post-doctoral researcher at CIHEAM-IAMM and Coordinator of the NATAE project, France*



This presentation focuses on women's food processing cooperatives in rural Lebanon and their role in the preservation of traditional foods and the empowerment of women.

There is a strong link between the preservation of traditional foods, food identity and Lebanon's culinary heritage. Preserved foods, known as "mouneh", are directly linked to the mobilization of territories and communities, and food processing activities rely on women, particularly on their know-how and intergenerational transmission of knowledge. Historically, women's cooperatives have been formed to fill the void left by the decline of community activities while rural-urban migration and technology have reduced food storage at home.

55

Today, women's cooperatives play an important role in:

- Financially empower women, especially rural women, and increase their economic participation;
- Strengthen women's capacities as well as their bargaining and decision-making power;
- Modernizing traditional food preservation, improving food quality and safety;
- Develop smart and sustainable food preservation practices (solar drying, use of glass jars or eco-friendly packaging, use of production surpluses, etc.);
- Strengthening market access.

However, they face a number of internal and external challenges, including technical, managerial and governance challenges, as well as financial difficulties and high production costs due to internal factors; and challenges related to the monopoly of large agri-food industries, unstable national and regional contexts, or dependence on external financing and development projects for external factors.

## c. Discussions

At the end of the presentations, the exchanges with the participants first highlighted the key and historical role of women in the resilience of territories, particularly in times of crisis (drought, food insecurity). Women have multiple responsibilities: agricultural production, food processing, natural resource management, but also domestic and family tasks. What can be seen as a form of empowerment also reflects an unevenly distributed structural burden.

Several examples were given to illustrate the leading role of women in the development of local economic solutions that contribute to resilience, including food processing initiatives, self-financing and microcredit systems led by women's cooperatives in Mali, Tanzania and Uganda, and village community banks. The participants nevertheless underlined the limits of such initiatives, in particular in terms of structuring and sustainability. The lack of access to funding for women's organizations is a threat to their sustainability. Less than 1% of funding dedicated to gender equality would be directly allocated to these organizations<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the excesses of certain projects were highlighted, particularly when women are integrated in an instrumental way to meet funding criteria, without any real consideration of their needs or their effective participation.

More generally, women continue to face many structural inequalities that limit their ability to act and their recognition: limited access to productive resources, inequalities in value chains and wages, difficulties in accessing decent work, etc. An example is mentioned in relation to marketing

<sup>2</sup> Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action

channels where intermediaries, often male, capture a large part of the added value, to the detriment of women producers.

Finally, the exchanges highlighted the importance of collective spaces led by women as levers for empowerment and resilience. These initiatives, which are sometimes informal, make it possible to create networks of solidarity between producers, to pool resources (common funds for example), to promote products under their own identities (name, brand), or to strengthen the sense of belonging and community.

## d. Recommendations

Concerning the eighth theme relating to the role of women in the resilience of territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Encourage women's political autonomy by creating women's groups in strategic negotiations to advocate for policy changes.** It is essential to guarantee women access to fundamental rights: the right to water, the right to land (land), the right to organize, the right to enjoy social rights. To this end, it would be useful to create a specific negotiating group, for and by women, in the Rio Conventions and in particular at COP 17, to enable them to participate fully in the negotiations and defend their rights. At the national level, women must also be involved in the development of national and regional drought plans.
2. **Strengthen women's access and women-led initiatives to finance.** There is an urgent need to increase international funding for women in the fight against drought and to ensure the sustainability of the actions financed by co-constructing these actions with them. The Tanzanian and Ugandan experiences of local credit/women's collective savings and loan banks, implemented in a decentralized manner within a legal framework, are examples of economic and social success that can be replicated in other territories.
3. **Support the creation and accompany women's cooperatives and associations.** It would be interesting to create a platform or forum for the exchange of experiences between women's cooperatives and associations in different countries to build up a capital of good practices. Countries should also establish, structure and formalize a type of organization whose mission would be to support women's cooperatives and associations by providing them with services on common problems that they cannot solve, such as access to the market, information and information technology, control and quality of products or protection against abusive intermediaries.

## 9. Integrating human rights into crisis anticipation and management

*Moderator: Ms Camille Rouaud, Coordinator of the Minka International network, Belgium*

Drought is a systemic human rights crisis, causing many rebound effects and directly affecting access to water, food, health and livelihoods. In this context, the human rights-based approach (HRBA) consists of integrating international human rights standards into public policies and interventions, positioning populations as rights holders and states as debtors of obligations.

This approach is based on several fundamental principles: non-discrimination (priority attention to vulnerable groups), participation (effective involvement of affected populations in decision-making), accountability (accountability of States), transparency (access to information) and empowerment (ability of populations to claim their rights). It implies a paradigm shift, moving from a logic of response to needs to a logic of legal rights and obligations.



In the context of drought, this approach makes it possible to better target structural inequalities, strengthen the legitimacy of actions and anchor responses in fairer and more sustainable governance frameworks. Considering the interdependencies linked to polycrises and the multitude of actors mobilized in drought prevention and management, it seems essential to adopt an integrated approach articulating humanitarian, development and peace (HDP nexus).

## a. Ms Marie-Sara Bouloumou

*Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy Officer, Secours Islamique France (SIF)*



Drought represents a slow human rights crisis, which does not create inequalities but exposes and aggravates them. Violations of rights (access to water, food and hygiene) begin well before the visible manifestations of the crisis, which implies rethinking anticipation mechanisms.

In times of drought, the HRBA is thus a lever for good water governance, which involves guaranteeing equitable, affordable and culturally acceptable access to water, while making information accessible and monitoring inequalities in access to this water.

In this context, early warning systems should integrate human rights indicators (deterioration in access to water or food, etc.) and not just climate data in order to trigger earlier and better targeted responses. Human rights must therefore be considered as a compass for action at all stages of crises (anticipation, response and reconstruction), and not as a simple normative framework.

In Senegal, decentralized warning systems combining climate data and human rights indicators have significantly reduced agricultural losses and anchored sustainable solutions. In Somalia, community-based mechanisms (local committees and pre-existing solidarity networks) have been successful in maintaining access to water and limiting dependence on humanitarian assistance, demonstrating the importance of building local capacity in advance of crises.

## b. Ms. Josée Lemire

*Director, Learning and Business Development, Mission Inclusion, Canada*



Drought-related crises are neither neutral nor equitable. They amplify pre-existing structural inequalities, whether environmental, socio-political, economic or institutional. This observation confirms the importance of adopting an HRBA approach, rooted locally and attentive to the differentiated vulnerabilities of different groups (women, young people, people with disabilities, displaced persons).

Women, who make up a significant part of the agricultural workforce, face major structural barriers: limited access to land and resources, unpaid workload, low decision-making power, and increased exposure to violence, aggravated by displacement. Crises exacerbate these vulnerabilities, including an increase in gender-based violence.

In this context, the concept of the feminist triple nexus aims to articulate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding interventions, while integrating a perspective of transforming gender inequalities. It is not just about responding to emergencies, but about addressing the structural causes of inequality and building long-term resilience. Women are indeed agents of change, particularly in the management of natural resources, the implementation of agroecological practices and social cohesion. However, to avoid superficial approaches to inclusion where women are present without any real power of influence ("symbolic participation"), it is crucial to remove both structural (social norms, access to resources) and individual (lack of

trust, access to training) barriers, by offering appropriate mechanisms: safe spaces for participation, leadership training, access to microfinance, etc. income-generating activities.

Finally, it is important to recall the importance of conflict-sensitive approaches and the principle of "do no harm", as some interventions can, if poorly designed, increase tensions or expose vulnerable populations. Inclusion must therefore be thought of in a differentiated and contextualized way, taking into account local dynamics and power relations, in order to contribute to a truly inclusive and transformative climate justice.

## c. Mr. Abdoulaye Ouédraogo

*Director of the Association for the Promotion of Local Initiatives (APIL) and President of the Permanent Secretariat of NGOs (SPONG), Burkina Faso*



58

This last intervention aims to present and analyze the context of polycrisis in Burkina Faso, marked by massive population displacements and strong pressure on resources. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are characterized by specific vulnerabilities: loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, psychosocial fragility, etc. In this context, agroecology is presented as a structuring lever for resilience and the promotion of human rights, making it possible to restore livelihoods, strengthen social cohesion and support the autonomy of populations.

Valuing the principle of participation, at the heart of the HRBA, APIL's approach is based on a strong inclusion of communities, especially IDPs, in all stages of projects that concern them: diagnosis, planning, implementation and monitoring. The intervention thus underlines the shift from a logic of assistance to a logic of sustainable resilience and inclusive development, facilitated by the projects designed with the HRBA.

## d. Discussions

The exchanges with the participants first highlighted the tensions between humanitarian and development as well as the difficulty of articulating these two logics in the context of protracted crises. The issues of confusion between the respective mandates of the actors (between humanitarian and development) and the scales of intervention underline the need for better coordination and clarification of roles.

Regarding the effective implementation of human rights-based approaches, participants highlighted a gap between the intentions expressed by donors and the results observed on the ground. Indeed, if the principles are largely integrated into the discourses of the institutions, their concrete translation remains limited.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of access to information and raising awareness among populations, particularly on their rights, as well as the need to adapt approaches to socio-cultural contexts, in particular through the conflict-sensitive approach.

Finally, the participants insisted on the role of local and community dynamics, which are often more effective than external mechanisms, as well as on the importance of strengthening the localisation of aid.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the ninth theme relating to the integration of human rights in the anticipation and management of crises, the work in sub-groups led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

- 1. Integrate human rights indicators into drought prevention and management systems.**  
Existing warning systems must be complemented by indicators of the degradation of

human rights (access to water, food, health, etc.) so that human rights become a real decision-making tool, and not just a normative framework. It would also be relevant to develop decentralised alert mechanisms including local authorities and community structures. Finally, climate data must be combined with social data disaggregated by gender, age, disability and displacement status.

2. **Strengthen the identification, participation and decision-making power of vulnerable populations.** The most exposed populations must become actors in crisis anticipation and management systems. Regular participatory diagnoses would first make it possible to identify vulnerable groups in detail. Safe and inclusive spaces for participation must be created for these groups and actions to support local leadership, especially women's leadership, must be developed through training, access to resources and funding.
3. **Implement operational coordination based on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and the localization of aid.** There is a need to establish permanent mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination, with systematic sharing of data and analysis. The roles and mandates of actors must be clarified at each phase, anticipation, response and reconstruction, and intervention planning must systematically integrate approaches that are sensitive to conflict and power dynamics. It would also be appropriate to increase direct funding to local organizations, including through the strengthening of their technical and institutional capacities.
4. **Adapt policy, legal and financial frameworks to structure and sustain the human rights-based approach.** National crisis prevention and management plans must be revised to explicitly integrate human rights and legal frameworks related to environmental displacement and the protection of affected populations must be strengthened. To invest sustainably in prevention and resilience, it is also necessary to develop flexible and multi-year financing arrangements. Finally, requirements for accountability and monitoring of human rights impacts must be introduced into funded programmes.

## 10. Trees, a major resource for the resilience of territories

*Moderator: Mr. Adel Moulai, Project Coordinator at the El Argoub Association, Algeria*

Long perceived as a constraint by agricultural policies that have massively deforested the Maghreb, the Sahel and the Mediterranean, the tree in the field is nevertheless considered by science to be one of the most documented levers for strengthening the resilience of agricultural territories.

Firstly, the tree improves the soil and the micro-climate: hydraulic redistribution, thermal regulation and windbreak effect. Secondly, trees are an economic lever by making it possible to diversify income and limit the effects of climate variability. However, several structural obstacles can be identified, with land tenure insecurity (without land rights, no farmer invests in a tree in the next 20-50 years), the lack of funding in support mechanisms for the transition phase (5-10 years) but also the lack of local governance of shared tree resources (common good).

### a. Mr. Hazem Cherni

*Project Coordinator, Association Les Amis de CAPTE, Tunisia*

This presentation aims to present the experiments carried out by the association Les Amis de CAPTE around agroforestry systems combining olive, carob and agricultural crops in Tunisian arid zones.

Their approach combines field experimentation, the involvement of farmers and anchoring in local territorial dynamics. Their experience shows that integrating trees into farms helps improve soil fertility, build resilience to droughts and diversify farmers' incomes. It also shows how practices tested at the farm level can be part of a broader territorial dynamic of ecosystem restoration and sustainable management of natural resources.

Two key conditions for success are highlighted: first, the adaptation of agroforestry systems to local agroecological conditions (choice of species adapted to the arid climate and soil types), and second, the involvement of farmers and local actors in the co-construction and dissemination of practices. The main obstacles identified concern access to water, insufficient technical support and inadequate support policies.

## b. Mr. Daniel Désiré Ouédraogo

Country Director, Tree Aid, Burkina Faso

Tree Aid has been active since 1994 in the drylands of Africa, specifically in Burkina Faso, and works with communities to restore forests and build resilience to climate change.

The intervention highlights the role of trees and forests through four axes:

- **Food and nutrition security:** Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) cover 43.47% of rural food needs in Burkina Faso;
- **Natural resource management:** Importance in combating desertification, climate regulation and the water cycle;
- **Forest governance;**
- **Rural economy:** Development of rural enterprises based on tree resources (shea butter, soap, etc.), representing 4% of GDP and 23% of jobs in rural areas.

Five conditions for success have been identified in order to allow the tree to fully play its role in the resilience of territories in the face of drought:

- Enabling political and institutional environment;
- Funding for Community Initiatives;
- Land tenure security;
- Investment in ecosystem restoration and protection;
- Capacity building on good practices in production and resource management (agroforestry, agroecology).

Nevertheless, several obstacles remain for the implementation of these initiatives:

- Insufficient and difficult to access local funding, particularly for the development of NTFP value chains, slowing down the structuring of value chains and compromising the sustainable management of ecosystems.
- Lack of or inadequate legislation and regulations concerning the management and commercial exploitation of NTFPs.
- Difficulties in accessing land for local populations, especially young people and women, which impact securing access to land for investments.
- Security crises and conflicts that reduce or block opportunities to conduct resource management and exploitation activities.

## c. Discussions

The exchanges between the participants and speakers at this workshop made it possible to return to the importance of land tenure security, which constitutes the substrate and the productive basis of any resource exploitation and management project. It is preferable to opt for legal



security rather than the customary system, although it is still widespread. In Senegal, for example, nearly 90 to 92% of farms do not have legal security.

Local knowledge and practical knowledge of local communities are also particularly important for designing systems that are adapted to the local context, highlighting the need to co-design solutions with producers to ensure their effectiveness.

Several examples from the field were highlighted, with the first being the presentation of a community conservation contract scheme consisting of giving communities trees to plant around sensitive areas, in exchange for which they commit to developing alternative income-generating activities. A Tunisian producer, founder of an Agricultural Development Group (GDA), shared the experience of an integrated farm combining more than 1,700 olive, pomegranate, palm and almond trees with a livestock system. Agroforestry management has gradually been integrated on the basis of a local diagnosis, by valuing livestock manure as organic inputs. This farm also includes agrotourism and training activities, illustrating how a diversified system can generate economic and educational co-benefits, beyond production.

## d. Recommendations

Concerning the tenth theme relating to trees as a major resource for the resilience of territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Operationalize land tenure security and recognize community governance of pastoral rangelands.** States must make secure access to agricultural land effective for communities and officially recognize local governance mechanisms for agroforestry rangelands beyond the control of state forest services. Without this recognition, scaling up agroforestry is not realistic. Flexible forms (long-term leases, collective titles, recognized customary rights) are sufficient; An individual cadastre is not a necessary requirement.
2. **Create a mechanism for paying for ecosystem services (PES) conditional on agroforestry diversification.** States and donors must set up PES schemes to remunerate farmers who provide multiple benefits (social, economic, environmental) via diversified agroforestry systems. Agroforestry in arboreal monoculture must not be eligible: the condition of remuneration is the diversity of species and functions. These mechanisms must cover as a priority the transition phase (5 to 10 years), which corresponds to the period without a visible return on investment for farmers.
3. **Redirect agricultural subsidies that penalize agroforestry systems.** The legislator and the relevant ministries must identify and eliminate direct or indirect subsidies to destructive conventional agricultural practices (monoculture, intensive tillage, chemical inputs) that constitute unfair competition to agroforestry. This is a prerequisite for any large-scale deployment.

## 11. Roles of young people in the resilience of territories

Moderator: Mr. Ismaël Allahi Bizo, Agricultural Economist and Founding President of the Youth Association for the Environment and Civic Education (AJEEC), Niger

### a. Ms. Fanna Gado

Lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Agronomy of the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey and President of the association Jeunes Volontaires de l'Environnement (JVE), Niger

70% of Niger's population is young. Young people are one of the most vulnerable segments of the population to the impacts of drought, desertification and climate change. However, it is young

people who are taking action and who are an essential link in the fight against desertification and droughts. Because of their mastery of current technologies, young people are able to develop innovative solutions. They also play a role as knowledge keepers insofar as they are able to better capitalize on and document their activities.

Youth is not only the future, it is also the present. It is therefore necessary to listen to young people and bring them to the discussion and negotiation tables so that they can play their role of advocacy.

The JVE Niger association has been active for 16 years and is one of the largest youth organizations. It carries out awareness-raising actions on the impacts of climate change in particular, as well as training for young people on renewable energies (construction of improved stoves). It also works to improve youth leadership by training them in advocacy, and creating spaces for expression. Finally, the association promotes inclusion, i.e. the participation of young people in governance and political dialogue spaces.

62

## b. Mr. Jalel Chaabani

*Support Officer, Shanti Association, Tunisia*



The Shanti association is committed to the promotion of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) and works in particular on the creation of jobs for young people and women. By allowing the development of collective approaches, the SSE is an essential lever for the resilience of territories and populations.

As part of its actions, the association develops partnerships with local authorities and associations in order to identify solutions adapted to the territories. More specifically, it offers support to students on job creation, and it explores different economic models, with, for example, production contracts or support for value chains.

## c. Mrs. Uxue Urteaga Ruiz de Vinaspre

*GEF/GEM (Global Environment Facility)*



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the financial mechanism for multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio Conventions. Its objective is to bring global environmental benefits, but it also attaches particular importance to those who live in the environment and thus takes into account social political orientations. Feminist movements, for example, have changed the orientations of projects, which now necessarily integrate gender into their approaches. Although there are no yet successful policy guidelines on young people, their inclusion in GEF funding is progressing and all projects must therefore enable the capacity building of actors, including young people.

The strategic directions of the GEF are set directly by the countries and the GEF Secretariat does not have decision-making autonomy over funding priorities. Advocacy with national decision-makers, through the focal points of the GEF and the three Conventions, is therefore essential to ensure that GEF funding meets the concrete needs of territories and communities.

At the territorial level, it is the young people who maintain the results of the projects over time and this role should be more visible and valued. Among the GEF's facilities, the Small Grants Program, accessible directly to civil society organizations, supports youth-led projects and contributes to job creation.

## d. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and speakers first made it possible to return to the characterization of young people, specifying that, for the United Nations, the youth group

includes people aged 16 to 24 while, for the African Union, the youth group includes people up to 35 years old. We realize that youth is a social construct that differs from one part of the world to another. However, these categorizations forget children, even though they are also impacted by environmental issues and may also have a role to play, for example by educating their elders on eco-responsible gestures.

Another point of discussion was the transmission of knowledge to young people and highlighted the interest of new technologies which, mastered by young people, can be tools for the safeguarding of ancestral knowledge and its intergenerational transmission. It is also important for young people to be able to mobilize the "elders" as resource persons, especially in their advocacy actions.

## e. Recommendations

63

Concerning the eleventh theme relating to the role of young people in the resilience of territories, the work in sub-groups has led to the following recommendations:

- 1. Invest in training and capacity building for young people on territorial resilience.** Young people must become actors capable of implementing local resilience solutions. The challenges of climate, environmental and territorial resilience must be integrated into school and university curricula and popular education systems. Technical and practical training programmes must be developed, particularly in the fields of agroecology, renewable energy, sustainable management of natural resources and digital technologies. It is also important to support the creation of learning networks among young people and to encourage the intergenerational transmission of knowledge.
- 2. Promote the economic integration and entrepreneurship of young people.** The aim is to enable young people to become economic actors contributing to resilience and sustainable job creation. To achieve this, it is necessary to set up financing mechanisms adapted to youth initiatives (microcredits, targeted grants, public guarantees), to create or support territorial incubators and innovation hubs led by and for young people, as well as to encourage partnerships between young people, local authorities and the private sector in order to develop local and sustainable value chains. It would also be appropriate to adopt regulatory frameworks that facilitate the creation of businesses by young people, in particular by simplifying administrative procedures and reducing barriers to access to finance.
- 3. Institutionalize youth participation in governance and territorial decision-making.** Young people must be recognised as full actors in the definition of public policies and resilience strategies. To this end, it is necessary to create formalised spaces for youth participation such as youth parliaments, advisory councils or territorial platforms, to develop mechanisms for regular consultation with young people, relying in particular on digital tools and social networks, as well as to systematically integrate young people into decision-making processes, including in national and international delegations related to climate issues. It is therefore important to train young people in advocacy, negotiation and political dialogue in order to strengthen their capacity to influence.



**Désertif'actions**  
2026



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## Side events

At the end of the second day of the Desertif'actions Summit, seven side events were organized by several civil society organizations to highlight specific themes or projects: climate change and desertification in Africa, local experiences of nature-based solutions in Tunisia, pastoralism and resilience in arid areas, multi-stakeholder project around agroecology in North Africa, etc.

This chapter proposes to return in more detail to two of them.

### Approach to the rehabilitation and productive use of dry valleys in Ethiopia

65

#### Presentation of the event

Moderated by GIZ's Dr. Anneke Trux, ProSoil & Soil Matters Programme Manager, in collaboration with the Ethiopian government and regional agriculture offices, this event aims to present integrated approaches to address the challenges of land degradation in the lowland and mountain regions of Ethiopia. These challenges include soil nutrient depletion, land degradation and increasing climate variability.

The presentations focused on two key "SOILutions":

- The approach to the plains through the rehabilitation and productive use of arid valleys (DVRPU);
- The highland approach via Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM+) and the use of a Decision Support Tool (DST).

Regarding the first approach, the DVRPU model was presented as a holistic, community-led approach to rehabilitate degraded arid valleys. It integrates social, technical, ecological and institutional dimensions through a process structured in seven steps. Real-world examples highlighted the transformative impact of this approach on livelihoods and land rehabilitation with more than 4,000 hectares of degraded land rehabilitated and more than 9,200 agropastoral households benefiting from improved access to water and diversification of food production.

Regarding the second approach, it is a gradual approach to the agroecological transition structured around four stages. This approach includes integrated soil fertility management and the use of a decision support tool. The tool, which is based on an extensive educational and agronomic database from Ethiopia's National Soil Information System, makes it possible to make site-specific fertilizer recommendations, significantly improving nutrient use efficiency and yields.

Following these presentations, interactive group discussions allowed participants to exchange in more detail on the approaches presented and then to collectively reflect on the ways of scaling, implementation and learning between countries.

#### Areas for improvement and recommendations

Discussions between stakeholders and participants identified several key recommendations and areas for improvement. Overall, the event highlighted the importance of combining practical on-the-ground approaches, digital innovations and enabling policy frameworks to advance sustainable soil management and food systems resilience.

More specifically, the elements highlighted are the following:

- **Scaling up integrated approaches:** To be effectively deployed in Ethiopia and beyond, proven models such as DVRPU require strong institutional support, long-term investments, and real adaptation to local contexts.
- **Strengthening community engagement:** The sustainable participation of local communities is essential for ownership, long-term maintenance, and the success of land rehabilitation efforts.
- **Building climate resilience:** Approaches need to incorporate more strategies to address extreme weather, especially droughts and floods, while taking into account trade-offs and limitations.
- **Development of data-driven decision-making:** Further development and scaling of tools such as DST are essential to enable soil and nutrient management adapted to a larger-scale context.
- **Capacity building and knowledge sharing:** Countries wishing to replicate these approaches require technical advice, training, and platforms for peer-to-peer learning and exchange of good practices.
- **Policy alignment and support:** Strong alignment with national and continental frameworks is paramount to ensure sustainability, coordination, and resource mobilization.
- **Cross-sectoral integration:** To effectively combat land degradation, coordinated action is needed across different sectors (agriculture, environment, etc.) and at all levels (from local to national).

## The recognition of agroecology in the Rio Conventions: lessons learned and prospects

### Presentation of the event

Organised by the Minka International network and the NGO Humundi, with contributions from CARL, the Agroecology Coalition, and with the support of the Belgian Cooperation, this event aims to analyse the dynamics of recognition of agroecology in the Rio Conventions by crossing the perspectives of civil society and institutions. This event is a continuation of the work carried out since 2024 by the Minka network and its members as well as the Agroecology Coalition, highlighting a still fragmented recognition of agroecology, often reduced to certain practices rather than apprehended in a systemic way.

The interventions made it possible to take stock of recent progress. On the institutional side, significant progress has been observed, particularly in the context of COP 16, with the increasing integration of references to agroecology in strategic decisions and documents. However, this recognition remains uneven according to the conventions, and particularly limited in climate negotiations, where agroecology remains little explicitly mentioned. Agroecology is nevertheless a major opportunity for synergies between the Conventions, offering a cross-cutting approach capable of connecting people and the challenges of climate, biodiversity, land and food systems.

The interventions also highlighted the decisive role of civil society in these advances. Through structured influence strategies (work ahead of COPs, development of common positions, mobilization during negotiations, etc.), organizations have contributed to gradually placing agroecology on the UNCCD's agenda, despite an international context marked by a weakening of multilateralism. Finally, the role of States and financial mechanisms, in particular the Global Environment Facility, was identified as an essential lever for translating political progress into concrete actions and for directing funding towards agroecological approaches.

## Areas for improvement and recommendations

The discussions between speakers and participants led to the emergence of several structuring recommendations:

- **Strengthening the explicit recognition of agroecology in the Conventions:** The texts of the Conventions need to move from a practice-based approach to a recognition of the systemic nature of agroecology to influence national policies and funding mechanisms.
- **Strengthening synergies between the Conventions:** By positioning agroecology as a common entry point, climate, biodiversity and desertification issues could be better linked, going beyond silo approaches.
- **Strengthening advocacy strategies:** Common positions of civil society must be strengthened, particularly ahead of the COPs, as well as dialogue with national focal points and state delegations.
- **Funding orientation:** It is recommended that international financial mechanisms be further mobilized in support of agroecology and that funding program priorities explicitly integrate these approaches.
- **Scaling-up:** Scaling up is essential, and must be based on the capitalization and valorization of existing experiences as well as on the strengthening of links between local initiatives and international frameworks in order to concretely demonstrate the impacts of agroecology and to feed into decision-making processes.

## Plenary: UNCCD negotiations, obstacles and a possible way forward

### Facilitator: Mr. Patrice Burger

President of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France

After a first phase of understanding the issues and then a second of exploring solutions to improve the resilience of territories to drought, this plenary session aims to answer a central question:

*How can these achievements be transformed into real influence in international negotiations, particularly in view of COP 17?*

The stakes of this plenary are therefore strategic and political. It is a question of identifying ways to bring about ambitious decisions in a context of inevitable compromises. As a framework for action, the UNCCD has a structuring role and it is essential that civil society project itself concretely into the negotiation dynamics.



68

## Panel: Perspectives on the challenges of future negotiations

### a. Keynote: Mrs. Philippine Dutailly

UNCCD Focal Point and Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), France

The context of the forthcoming UNCCD negotiations is characterized by a brutalization of international relations, marked by the weakening of multilateralism, the multiplication of conflicts, increased budgetary pressures, the questioning of the role of science in decision-making processes, etc. Two major blockages that have recently emerged are of particular concern in influencing the Convention's ability to project itself in the long term: the impossibility of addressing the Convention's post-2030 strategic framework, as well as the science-policy orientations at the CRIC, a real danger because science must remain the basis for guiding political decisions.



Regarding drought, the idea of a failure of the negotiations should be qualified since there is a consensus on its importance, but the divergences concern the modalities of action, reinforcing the need for dialogue. Although essential, the participation of civil society in the negotiations is not a given. It is crucial that the Commission plays a role as a "beacon and watchdog" in order to guide and maintain the ambitions of the Convention. Strategic structuring work should enable it to:

- Target your messages;
- Identify the right spaces to get your messages across, especially between the green zone (space dedicated to the general public, more open) and the blue zone (official negotiating space, access reserved for Parties and accredited organizations);



- Avoid fragmentation in the face of the multiplication of topics covered by the UNCCD and arenas of representation and exchange;
- Strengthen advocacy at the national level, including through focal points.

Philippine Dutailly illustrates this articulation in France by the complementarity between scientific expertise (via the CSFD, French Scientific Committee on Desertification) and feedback from the field (via the GTD, Desertification Working Group, led by CARI).

## b. Ms. Ellen Otaru-Okoedion

*Member of the Association of Environmental Journalists of Tanzania (JET) and Africa Representative to the UNCCD Panel of Civil Society Organizations (CSO Panel), Tanzania*



69

The issues related to soils and drought are systemic. They affect the entire livelihood and affect women in particular. In this sense, it is important to adopt a holistic approach that integrates environmental and social dimensions, but also gender dimensions, without forgetting the issue of conflict and violence.

The CSO Panel is an institutionalized structure within the UNCCD that represents civil society at the regional level. Composed of five members (one per major region), it is responsible for ensuring that the voice of civil society is taken into account in the CRIC and COP. This panel has a dual function: to relay policies to CSOs, and to report feedback from the field to international bodies.

Civil society is an essential actor in guaranteeing the effectiveness of political decisions, provided that it is organised, accredited and able to carry a structured voice.

*"Let's aggregate initiatives, even modest ones, rather than putting efforts in competition or dispersing energies, in order to create a common dynamic, strengthen the collective momentum and nurture hope!"*

## c. Ms. Wangu Mwangi

*Programme Manager, Ambition Loop, Kenya*



There is a real gap between the dynamics of negotiations and the realities on the ground. Indeed, although many initiatives emerge in the wake of COPs, they often remain poorly connected to international processes. It is therefore necessary to better connect the scales of action (local, national, global) and to create continuous dynamics that last beyond the COPs. The Ambition Loop initiative aims to ensure precisely this continuity, in particular following the Riyadh Action Agenda adopted at COP 16. Given the magnitude of the challenges, such as large-scale land restoration targets, it is also important to aggregate initiatives rather than disperse efforts to create a mass effect and reinforce impacts. Finally, the actors must be better connected to financing mechanisms.

## d. Mrs. Manon Albagnac

*Programme Officer at CARI and Observer at the UNCCD IPS, France*



The science-policy interface (SPI) plays a crucial role in translating scientific knowledge into operational recommendations for UNCCD decision-makers. However, issues in terms of funding and recognition weaken this essential mechanism, even though science should be the basis for decisions.

The mobilization of civil society organizations has led to several major advances in the UNCCD:

- The operationalization of the CSO Panel, the structuring of a common voice of civil society and the establishment of a follow-up between the COPs;
- Integrating land rights into discussions;
- The progress of agroecology in the texts, still insufficient but expanding.

Thematic coalitions and action research are particularly important for valuing local knowledge and influencing negotiations.

## e. Ms. Juliane Wiesenhüter

Project Manager at GIZ and Advisor to the UNCCD Focal Point, Germany



70

The current international context is marked by a rise in the balance of power to the detriment of international law. Despite these challenges, and even if progress is limited, it is crucial to maintain the multilateral dialogue. Moreover, the negotiations themselves are already an outcome, although there is a need to go beyond declaratory commitments. It is also important to strengthen policy coherence, access to finance and visibility of impacts.

*"Even if civil society's contributions to the negotiations often lead to only small steps, dialogue remains essential and must not be cut off."*

Civil society organisations, scientists and the media are key players in producing and disseminating evidence, influencing agendas and influencing the negotiations ahead of the negotiations. Citizens also have a critical role to play as governments need their input to generate ideas and evidence to guide strategies and influence future decisions.

## f. Discussions

The exchanges between panel members and participants highlighted several cross-cutting issues:

- Although science is widely recognized as essential, there is a need to better integrate traditional knowledge and value it in decision-making processes.
- Despite their central importance on the ground and in the daily life of communities, some subjects remain insufficiently addressed during the negotiations, in particular agriculture, land, children and certain categories of actors such as pastoralists and small producers.
- The issue of land tenure is a recurring issue as a key lever for sustainability, but it comes up against approaches that are still largely voluntary and implementation difficulties.
- The challenges in mobilizing finance are significant and involve efforts to redirect environmentally harmful subsidies and demonstrate the profitability of land investments, including under the Great Green Wall.
- The coordination and structuring of civil society is crucial and it is now necessary for its representatives to speak with a unified voice, organize themselves into thematic coalitions and strengthen their links with national focal points. Active citizenship, involving CSOs, local communities and the various actors in the production and dissemination of solutions, appears to be an essential dimension for the success of measures to combat desertification.

## Recommendations and improvement suggestions

1. Develop a strong collective voice of civil society by encouraging structuring into thematic coalitions to produce clear and coherent messages. Positions must be coordinated ahead of major deadlines (CRIC, COP) to avoid the dispersion of messages, and operational links between civil society and national focal points must be strengthened to anchor influence at the national level, where some of the political arbitrations are at stake. The establishment of common strategies between scientific organisations, CSOs and local networks would also increase political credibility.
2. Strengthen the science-field-policy nexus to produce concrete and understandable evidence to influence decision-makers. Science-policy interface mechanisms must be supported and their funding secured. Action research programmes involving scientists, local communities and CSOs need to be developed and traditional knowledge needs to be better integrated and valued. The production and dissemination of data demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of investments in sustainable land management is a priority, and the mobilization of media and communication channels must make evidence and results visible.
3. Ensure continuity between local actions, national policies and international negotiations to avoid lags between decisions and implementation. This implies promoting platforms for exchange between local actors, decision-makers and international institutions.

# Group work: Recommendations and roadmap to COP 17

Organized around 11 themes, this second session of group work aimed to produce advocacy content aimed at several targets, decisions and agenda times before and during the UNCCD COP 17.

## 1. Open Dialogue Session

Moderator: Mr. Noel Oettle, Drynet Coordinator, South Africa

### a. Ms. Sopiko Babalashvili

Young Professionals Association for Agricultural Development and member of the UNCCD CSO Panel, Georgia



This introduction aims to introduce open dialogue sessions, their role and objectives. The COPs include two open dialogue sessions that allow civil society organizations to address Parties and national delegates from the podium. These sessions do not lead to decisions but they feed into the debates and can thus contribute to highlighting certain issues or recommendations. In addition to these sessions, civil society can also express itself at statements and side events.

The panel of civil society organisations is composed of five members representing Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and North America, as well as the Central and Eastern European regions. Elected for two years, the panel's mission is to facilitate coordination, communication and collaboration among accredited CSOs.

### b. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around three themes:

- Reduce vulnerability to drought;
- Preserve pastures and support pastoralists;
- Strategies for engaging stakeholders.

Regarding the first theme, participants stressed that drought resilience strategies must be developed and implemented in collaboration with vulnerable populations and that they should strengthen existing local strategies and initiatives. Specifically, these strategies should be science-based, culturally and socially acceptable, proactive and anticipatory, transformative, inclusive for all, innovative, take into account traditional practices and not encourage unsustainable practices.

Regarding the second theme, the participants stressed the importance of several elements to effectively promote the preservation of pastures and support for pastoralists. These include access to finance, inclusive governance, and supportive regulations and policies, particularly to ensure the mobility of pastoralists. Participants also highlighted the management of protected areas, animal health through the development of veterinary services, as well as income diversification.



Finally, for the third theme, the participants identified several actions to be implemented before the COP and then during the COP in order to promote the involvement of all stakeholders during the open dialogue session.

Regarding the strategies to be developed **ahead of the COP**, the participants highlighted the following elements:

- Strengthen the capacities of the focal points;
- Listen to the focal points;
- Explain the value of participating in the session;
- Support the focal points in their missions by providing them with data, drafting minutes of meetings as well as reports on important themes and issues to be defended;
- Organize a meeting to share the elements discussed during D'a26;
- Organize exchange visits with farmers and civil society representatives;
- Organize workshops in the field;
- Highlight examples of successful initiatives as well as the consequences of inaction.

73

Regarding strategies to be adopted **during the COP**, participants identified the following:

- Assign a role to each stakeholder;
- Maintain an attendance list to recognize and encourage participants who have participated in the sessions;
- Organize a meeting each evening to take stock of the day's activities and plan those for the following day;
- Organize role-plays;
- Present concrete examples of successful initiatives as well as the consequences of inaction.

## c. Recommendations

Concerning the first theme relating to the open dialogue session, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Strengthen political recognition of pastoralism and support inclusive approaches to natural resource governance.** Strategies to ensure secure pastoralism and equitable access to resources between different user groups need to be rethought. Pastoral and agro-pastoral issues must be better integrated into the COP17 discussions and mobility must be recognized as an essential strategy for pastoralist communities to adapt to droughts and climate change. In order to develop adaptation strategies that truly take into account territorial realities and local knowledge, local governance frameworks involving farmers, pastoralists and vulnerable groups need to be strengthened. Finally, the strengthening of alliances between pastoralist organizations at the regional and international levels is a key lever for joint advocacy that will have more influence on negotiations.
2. **Promote drought resilience strategies based on agroecology, scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge.** The strategies promoted must be scientifically sound, culturally and socially appropriate, inclusive and aligned with traditional knowledge. These strategies need to pay particular attention to agricultural droughts that directly affect the most vulnerable populations. Thus, public policies and financial mechanisms must promote the transformation of agroecosystems through the principles of agroecology, by placing the soil-water-agriculture nexus at the heart of adaptation and resilience strategies.
3. **Strengthen advocacy, civil society mobilization and engagement during the COP 17 processes.** It is crucial that civil society actively engages with national focal points before

and during the COP in order to influence negotiating positions. Spaces for open dialogue must be strengthened to become real platforms for coordination, joint advocacy and visibility of the priorities of local and pastoral communities. The mobilization of the media and communication tools is another major strategic lever to make the challenges of desertification and drought more understandable for the general public and decision-makers. To this end, the development of networks of specialized journalists, opinion leaders and content creators is essential to amplify the visibility of the concrete impacts of desertification and strengthen support for solutions led by local communities.

## 2. New UNCCD strategy (post-2030)

Moderator: Mr. Abdoul Aziz Sidibe, Director of Operations, The Soil Solution Association, The Gambia

### a. Ms. Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez

President of the Committee of Civil Society Organizations and Representative of Latin America and the Caribbean, Peru



This scoping presentation aimed to first present the current strategy of the UNCCD and to go into more detail on its usefulness. Covering the period 2018-2030, the current strategy is structured around five strategic objectives:

- To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification and land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality;
- Improving the living conditions of affected populations;
- Mitigating, adapting and managing the effects of drought to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems;
- Generate global environmental benefits through the effective implementation of the UNCCD;
- Mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at the global and national levels.

The strategy provides a framework for countries to report on national and international issues, including indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the Convention.

At COP 16 in Riyadh, the main results of the mid-term review of the UNCCD's strategic framework were presented and accompanied by several recommendations, including the mobilization of the private sector, the creation of synergies between the three Rio Conventions, and the establishment of a scientific and policy-oriented approach to improve visibility and consideration of national needs.

The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework (IWG FCS) was established at COP 16. Composed of 20 members, including 15 national representatives and five technical experts, this group is tasked with developing the key elements of the post-2030 strategic framework based on the mid-term evaluation of the 2018-2030 strategic framework,

drought results and the work of the Science-Policy Interface. The final report will be presented at COP17 in August 2026.

The first results of the IWG FCS highlight the following elements:

→ **About the indicators of the current strategy:**

The IWG FCS emphasizes the importance of better representing real-world dynamics on the ground, maintaining a human-centered narrative, and valuing local knowledge to interpret socio-environmental relationships. To better monitor the interactions between humans and land, it highlights the need to better integrate livelihood diversity, land tenure, food security and migration into indicators. It also calls for strengthening the adoption and implementation of existing indicators at the national and international levels rather than replacing them.

→ **About the strategic objectives:**

The five strategic objectives remain relevant and appropriate, although there is room for improvement. Rather than undertaking a major restructuring, the IWG FCS recommends improving coherence, strengthening implementation and communication around the strategic objectives of the Convention. The role of drought and agricultural land could be strengthened in the work of the UNCCD, in particular by further clarifying the links between land condition, vulnerability and the impacts of drought.

## b. Discussions

Discussions with participants highlighted several elements to be taken into account when developing the new UNCCD strategy.

First, they stressed the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism that should monitor progress in the implementation of the Convention at the national level, measure real impacts using clear indicators, and accurately identify the stakeholders involved in land restoration.

In order to strengthen national adoption of measures and their integration into policies, participants highlighted the need to encourage countries to develop and implement national strategies aligned with the UNCCD objectives and to strengthen political commitment, including by integrating these strategies into national budgets.

With regard to access to finance, administrative procedures for accessing funds need to be simplified and capacities at the national and local levels need to be strengthened to improve resource mobilization. Investments in restoration projects should be encouraged and links with the other Rio Conventions could be strengthened to unlock additional funding.

Participants were also able to discuss issues of inclusion and representation, and more specifically the importance of increasing the representation of local organizations in decision-making and ensuring better participation of women and youth. Another point of attention highlighted is the need to strengthen the links between the UNCCD focal points and civil society representatives.

The latest exchanges between participants provided an opportunity to return to the role of science, innovation and knowledge systems, highlighting that the science-policy interface (SPI) needs to be supported and strengthened, as well as the integration of traditional knowledge into innovation.

## c. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around two themes:

- Strategic objectives of the new Convention;
- Levers to be mobilized to increase the impact of the new Convention.

On the strategic objectives of the new post-2030 Convention, participants stressed the need to simplify or reformulate some objectives that were considered unclear and to consolidate related objectives. It would also be relevant to give a more political orientation to the objectives formulated as well as to better highlight the benefits of environmental goods and services.

Regarding the levers to be mobilized to increase the impacts of the new Convention, the participants highlighted the importance of strengthening the involvement of civil society and research as well as that of women and youth. The mobilization of the private sector must also be encouraged, as well as the establishment of regulatory frameworks and the promotion of innovation.

76

## d. Recommendations

Regarding the second theme relating to the new UNCCD strategy (post-2030), the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

- 1. Build inclusive territorial governance to ensure national and local ownership of the strategy.** The future UNCCD strategy should be based on bottom-up governance based on the effective participation of local and regional governments, CSOs, women, youth, etc. Strengthening the links between national focal points and local actors would improve coherence between national priorities and realities on the ground. In addition, the integration of these objectives into national budgets and public policies should become a structuring and measurable political commitment.
- 2. Establish a simplified, funded and impact-oriented operational framework.** The strategic objectives should be simplified, better articulated among themselves and directly linked to the expected results in the territories. This approach should be based on a monitoring and evaluation mechanism based on harmonised indicators capable of measuring the real socio-economic and environmental impacts. Finally, access to international financing should be simplified, national and local capacities strengthened, and incentives for the private sector encouraged.
- 3. To make the UNCCD an international strategic platform for the resilience of territories.** To increase its impacts, the UNCCD should evolve into a platform role that can further connect scientific knowledge, traditional knowledge, public policies and funding mechanisms. This includes strengthening the science-policy interface. In addition, the future strategy should strengthen synergies with the other Rio Conventions in order to pool funding, harmonise actions and develop integrated approaches to resilience to drought and land degradation.

## 3. Synergies between the 3 Rio Conventions

Moderator: Ms. Wangu Mwangi, Program Manager for Ambition Loop, Kenya, and Ms. Amélie Steu, Associate Coordinator for Agroecology Coalition

This workshop aims to deepen the understanding of how the three Rio Conventions, namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), can work in synergy on pastoralism issues, agroecology and land tenure, including women's land rights. It is also a question of highlighting the political contradictions that prevent these Conventions from working in synergy.



## a. Mr. Bernard Bonnet

*Programme Manager, Actors, Resources and Territories Unit at the Institute for Research and Applications of Development Methods (IRAM) and member of the CSFD, France*



This first intervention focuses on the role of pastoral systems as a bridge between the three Rio Conventions. Covering more than 50% of the land, these systems play a crucial role in sustainable land management, the fight against climate change and the conservation of biodiversity. They provide essential ecosystem services – soil enrichment, carbon sequestration, seed dispersal, etc. – and make it possible to sustainably manage vast areas impacted by climate variability and unsuitable for agriculture. They are also an important economic driver for large regions and contribute to the resilience of pastoralist societies despite uncertainties.

77

The presentation nevertheless highlights that pastoralism is under threat due to deep-rooted political contradictions, including:

- The conversion of pastures to agricultural land, contributing to soil degradation and biodiversity loss;
- The exclusion of transhumant herders from protected areas;
- The development of unsustainable approaches to the rehabilitation of Sahelian pastures based on forestry techniques including plantations and fencing;
- The blocking of transhumance routes and in particular access to water.

Several measures can be put forward to mitigate these threats and secure pastoral systems and protect the lifestyles and livelihoods of the communities that depend on them:

- The development of innovative and context-specific techniques for pasture rehabilitation;
- Improving access to social, educational, and health services, as well as civil registration, including recognition of pastoral skills and professions;
- Support for pastoral value chains, especially for youth and women pastoralists.

Finally, the presentation highlights several concrete examples of integrated solutions within the framework of the three Rio Conventions:

- The dynamics of pastoral civil society in West and Central Africa;
- The High-Level Forum on Pastoralism in the Sahel and West Africa (Nouakchott+10), held from 6 to 8 November 2024, which provided an opportunity to share an evaluation of actions and chart the course for regional, national and local policies in favour of pastoralism;
- The HIMO Pastoral approach, which aims to directly mobilize pastoralists for the rehabilitation of degraded pastures;
- The **PASTOREG** initiative, developed in three pastoral territories in Morocco, Tunisia and France, which aims to lead a reflection and a political dialogue around the theme of pastoral management in the context of climate change.

## b. Mrs. Camille Rouaud

*Coordinator of the Minka International Network, Belgium*



This second intervention focuses on the recognition of agroecology in the three Rio Conventions and highlights the convergence around the need to treat the sustainability and resilience of food systems as a central pillar to achieve the overall objectives of each convention.

Agroecology is a powerful lever for meeting the challenges related to climate, biodiversity and desertification. As such, agroecology is already relatively well recognized in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. However, it remains less prominent in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, although it is still recognized as an effective option for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

The UNCCD recognizes the critical role of sustainable land management, particularly within food systems, as a powerful tool to address land degradation and restore degraded land. The CBD emphasizes that sustainable land management in agriculture and the preservation of agro-biodiversity within food systems contribute to food security, resilience, long-term efficiency and productivity. Finally, the UNFCCC recognizes the importance of climate-smart practices within food systems given the dual role of food systems, which contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions while being highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The recognition of agroecology in the Rio Conventions contributes to:

- Support a systemic vision of the response to global challenges;
- Encourage States to include agroecology in their public policies;
- Support synergies between the Conventions, with agroecology as a link that transcends them;
- Provide direct funding opportunities for agroecology in the Global Mechanism;
- To contribute to the strengthening of the global narrative around agroecology.

The presentation recently highlighted that the Coalition for Agroecology has 53 member governments and that this offers a strategic opportunity to systematically integrate agroecology as a common thread in the implementation and monitoring of the Conventions.

## c. Mrs. Victorine Che Thöner

Senior Programme Officer, Forests and Grasslands, IUCN, Germany



This last intervention focuses on the consideration of gender and women's rights in the three Conventions. First, she notes that while land is essential to ensuring access to food, water, security, livelihoods and dignity, land also symbolizes insecurity, exclusion and dependency for many girls and women, which undermines women's ability to reap these benefits.

Women's access to land should therefore not be considered as a secondary issue but truly as a structural issue. As land is a focal point between the three Conventions, women's land rights must be addressed centrally and as a priority, especially since, according to data from the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender-Based Action](#) (GAGGA), less than 1% of philanthropic funding for climate change is allocated to women-led solutions. However, they are often the ones who cultivate the land, restore it or depend on it. Just climate finance for gender equality is therefore a key factor in achieving the strategic objectives of the three Rio Conventions.

## d. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around three themes:

- Existing cross-cutting initiatives and good practices illustrating ways to strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions;
- Ways to strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions, both on the negotiating side and on the action programme side;
- Recommendations and advocacy messages reflecting civil society priorities to strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions.

On the first theme, participants highlighted the use of cross-cutting indicators such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Index to facilitate monitoring, harmonize reporting systems and promote integrated implementation among the three Conventions. In addition, the inclusion of the land issue as a common theme provides a solid basis for articulating issues related to climate, biodiversity and desertification, particularly at the national and subnational levels. Finally, national intersectoral coordination mechanisms such as inter-ministerial committees appear to be relevant tools to improve the coherence of national positions and to strengthen synergies between the Conventions.

Regarding the second theme, the negotiation component of which concerns the processes and decisions of the COPs, the participants first stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between the three Conventions at the national level, in particular through common institutional mechanisms, in order to ensure better coherence between international negotiations and national public policies. It would also be relevant to develop joint work plans as well as a common monitoring and reporting framework between the Conventions in order to reduce silo approaches and improve the effectiveness of implementation. The promotion of cross-cutting indicators would make it possible to achieve harmonized monitoring of the commitments and impacts of each Convention. In addition, capacity-building for policymakers and public administrations would be useful to foster an integrated understanding of the issues related to the three Conventions. Finally, the participants stressed the need to reflect on an evolution of the COP calendar towards a three-year cycle to improve the articulation between the negotiation, programming and monitoring processes.

Regarding the third theme, the participants first highlighted the need to rebalance funding by increasing funding dedicated to the fight against desertification, which remains insufficient today compared to that mobilized under the Climate and Biodiversity Conventions. The participants also consider that the land issue should be placed at the heart of public strategies and policies to build a common discourse between the Conventions and strengthen the impacts on territories and communities.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the third theme relating to synergies between the three Rio Conventions, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Promote integrated governance and enhanced policy coordination among the three Conventions.** Common institutional mechanisms must be put in place at the national and international levels, for example with the creation of inter-ministerial coordination bringing together the three national focal points, or the strengthening of cooperation between the presidencies of the COPs in order to develop common and coherent work programmes.
2. **Develop common tools for implementation, monitoring and financing to reduce silos between the Conventions.** Emphasis should be placed on existing cross-cutting indicators to harmonize monitoring and reporting systems, reduce the administrative burden on countries and strengthen joint monitoring of commitments. Funding mechanisms and programmes of international funds need to operate with greater synergies to limit overlaps, competition between funding and siloed approaches.
3. **Build a common discourse focused on land and territorial approaches to connect the issues of the three Conventions.** There is a need to develop a coherent land-based narrative that articulates issues related to agroecology, pastoralism, gender, food systems and other cross-cutting issues. This approach should make it possible to better connect objectives relating to climate, biodiversity and the fight against desertification while promoting integrated responses at the territorial level.

## 4. COP 17 Opening Statement

*Moderator: Mr. Jérôme Enjalbert, Program Officer at the Center for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*

The opening declaration of civil society organizations is highly strategic since it constitutes a moment of political expression in front of all the government delegations present at COP 17. Recommendations from the field must be put forward and structured to influence international negotiations.

### a. Mr. Omer Ouedraogo

*President of the Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CCDD), Burkina Faso*



80

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is the only legally binding international agreement linking the environment and sustainable development. Its main objective is to combat desertification and the effects of drought. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is its decision-making body, meeting every two years to adopt policy guidance, assess progress and adjust policy frameworks.

Civil society organizations can attend the COPs with accredited observer status that allows them to participate in the sessions, contribute to the working groups and above all make statements in plenary.

The opening session of the COP is a key moment of visibility and influence. The CSO declaration plays a structuring role: it makes it possible to carry a collective voice resulting from global consultations, to alert on priorities and to propose political orientations. The opening statement must therefore be representative, strategic and operational, in order to really weigh in the debates. It is important that it is able to respond to current challenges while capitalizing on the achievements and limitations of COP 16, including the lack of agreement on drought.

Key issues for COP 17 include inclusive governance, women's and youth participation, land rights and pastoralism, as well as financing issues.

### b. Discussions

A first axis of the discussions focused on the thematic priorities to be integrated into the declaration. These themes are inspired by the work carried out during the preparatory phase of the Desertif'actions Summit.

- Water security appears to be a central issue, closely linked to the issues of drought, water management and territorial resilience. It is also necessary to address these issues in a concrete way, in connection with the realities experienced by vulnerable populations.
- Pastoralism is an unavoidable theme, especially in the context of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Pastoral mobility must be recognized as an essential adaptation strategy in the face of climate change.
- It is crucial to underline the importance of the role of local and regional authorities, which are considered as key actors in the implementation of resilience policies. Participants debated how to integrate them into the declaration, with some advocating for explicit recognition of their role, others emphasizing their ability to self-organize, while emphasizing funding and capacity-building needs.
- Regarding the transformation of agricultural and food systems, it is necessary to support the transition to better sustainability while ensuring food security as well as climate and social justice.



Another structuring point of the discussions concerned the issues of financing, with a consensus on the need to facilitate direct access to climate and drought financing for civil society organizations and local authorities.

Finally, the discussions highlighted the importance of adopting a cross-cutting approach integrating agroecology, the fight against poverty, climate justice and participatory governance in order to more accurately reflect the complexity of territorial issues.

## c. Summary of productions

The group work carried out during this workshop brought out the following elements:

### Elements of characterization (state of play and findings)

- The CSO declaration is a major strategic lever for political influence within the UNCCD.
- Drought-related issues remain insufficiently addressed at the international level, as illustrated by the lack of agreement at COP 16.
- The most vulnerable territories face multidimensional challenges: access to water, poverty, land degradation, weak institutional capacities.
- Local actors such as CSOs and local authorities play a central role in drought resilience, but they remain under-recognised and underfunded.

### Points of Consensus

- It is necessary to integrate pastoralism as a political priority by valuing mobility.
- It is important to put drought and water management at the heart of the negotiations.
- Direct access to funding for local actors must be strengthened.
- It is relevant to promote agroecology as a structuring solution.

### Divergences between the participants

- At what level should local authorities be highlighted in the declaration? Are they central actors, or are they integrated into a larger whole?
- The formulation of messages must be balanced between global political discourse and anchoring in concrete local realities.
- Should the notion of agropastoralism be integrated or not when we talk about pastoralism?
- Some participants, particularly from the Maghreb, expressed doubts about the recommendations to stop support for intensive agriculture because of their countries' heavy dependence on cereal exports.

## d. Recommendations

Regarding the fourth theme relating to the development of the opening declaration of COP17, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Make pastoralism, mobility and agroecological systems central policy priorities for the adaptation and resilience of territories to drought.** The CSO declaration must clearly affirm the recognition of pastoralism, and if relevant, agro-pastoralism, as an essential strategy for adaptation to climate change. Agroecology must be promoted as a structuring framework for agricultural and climate policies, reconciling environmental sustainability, food security and social justice.
2. **Placing water security at the heart of the COP 17 political commitments.** States must be called upon to learn from the lack of agreement on drought at COP 16, and the declaration must demand that COP 17 lead to operational commitments in terms of drought prevention, management and response. The importance of water security as a central

pillar of territorial resilience should be highlighted, in relation to sustainable land management, poverty reduction and food security.

3. **Guarantee direct, strengthened and territorialized access to climate and drought finance for CSOs and local authorities within the framework of participatory and inclusive governance.** This measure is crucial if we want to support actions adapted to local realities and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable territories. The declaration must promote participatory and inclusive governance by fully recognising the role of local actors in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies. It is also essential to insist on the need to localize financing by strengthening the institutional capacities of territorial actors and by promoting accessible financial mechanisms adapted to local realities.

## 5. Statement on Drought

*Moderator: Mr. Amiya Prapan Chakra Borty, Director of the Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF), Bangladesh*

### a. Mrs. Manon Albagnac

*Programme Officer at CARL and Observer at the UNCCD IPS, France*

This scoping presentation aims first of all to return in more detail to the consideration of droughts within the UNCCD. Adopted in 1994, the UNCCD represents a multilateral commitment to "combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in severely affected countries, particularly in Africa".



COP 13 (Ordos, 2017) marked a turning point with the adoption of a decision on drought policies and the adoption of the 2018-2030 strategic framework with a strategic objective to "mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems". Drought is thus one of the major challenges addressed by the Convention, which recognises that this climatic phenomenon is "the most complex and serious of meteorological disasters and whose social, ecological and economic consequences are devastating".

Since 2017, the UNCCD has been advocating for a shift from a "crisis response" approach to drought preparedness and adaptation measures. Under the drought initiative, the UNCCD provides countries with guidelines for setting up drought monitoring and early warning systems. In addition, the UNCCD Global Mechanism supports countries in developing and adopting national drought plans and mobilizing financing for their implementation.

In terms of fundraising, the GM is working on a blended public-private fund for drought resilience. In addition, COP 16 welcomed the launch of the Riyadh Partnership for Drought Resilience. Finally, the GEF includes drought resilience among its funding priorities.

The presentation then returns to the challenges of the drought negotiations by highlighting the discussions held at COP 16 in Riyadh which were fed by the report of the IWG on drought. The debates were mainly focused on two options:

- **A binding protocol** that would allow for a broad and comprehensive legal approach to drought control. This instrument imposes obligations in terms of implementation, monitoring and mobilization of resources, including financial resources, on signatory States Parties.

- **A global framework** that sets out a global goal, targets and timelines for implementation. It is a non-binding policy instrument that would guide drought policies and initiatives.

Due to a lack of consensus, the negotiations could not be concluded and will resume at COP 17 in Mongolia.

Finally, the presentation highlights the role of civil society which, although it is unlikely to be heard on the debate "for or against the adoption of a protocol to deal with droughts" can make recommendations during its statements during the COP, during the open dialogue sessions and during the side events. These recommendations may relate to:

- Grassroots solutions to ensure resilience to drought;
- Priorities for financing drought preparedness;
- The safeguards and preconditions to be included in any comprehensive instrument.

## b. Discussions

The discussions with the participants provided an opportunity to review the key messages of civil society organizations on drought, more specifically those from CSO statements at COP 16 in Riyadh and those produced during the preparatory phase of D'a26.

In their statements at COP 16, CSOs called for:

- Transforming systems for resilience, including agri-food systems and water management;
- Recognize community-led drought resilience initiatives, including water management and pastoralism;
- Improve access to finance to enable local and indigenous communities to adapt to drought;
- Develop science-based and data-driven policies and approaches.

During the work resulting from the preparatory phase of D'a26, CSOs highlighted the importance of:

- Encourage the development of agroecology to transform and improve the resilience of the agri-food system;
- Improving and democratizing water management, taking into account the different needs and users;
- Supporting pastoralism as a resilient production system;
- Organize governance at the local territorial level.

## c. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around two themes:

- Developments in policy guidance on drought control;
- Financing priorities in the context of drought resilience.

Regarding the first theme, participants stressed that, as part of the development of knowledge, policy guidance, tools and approaches to combat droughts, the Convention must increase attention to agricultural droughts, which are the ones that cause the most victims, with farmers and rural communities on the front line.

Participants also stressed that the global acceleration of actions to combat droughts must make it possible to rethink the relationships between rural communities, land and water in the Convention and at the country level, as well as to evolve "water and agriculture" strategies and

policies to transform agroecosystems based on "water – soil – agriculture – territories" systemic reasoning.

Improved governance is also essential and governance frameworks that include local actors, farmers, pastoralists and vulnerable groups must be empowered at the territorial level to improve local planning, develop drought adaptation strategies that take into account local specificities and promote citizen engagement.

Regarding the second theme, the participants insisted on the fact that financial instruments aimed at improving the effectiveness of the fight against drought, at the national and global levels, must promote the transformation of agroecosystems by mobilizing the principles of agroecology. Funding must be diversified, accessible to the different actors involved in the fight against drought (farmers, researchers, CSOs, etc.) and meet different needs.

The adaptation programmes supported must also contribute to strengthening the capacities of States and regional stakeholders to collect, disseminate and popularise scientific data and local stakeholders' knowledge on droughts, particularly in terms of rainfall, hydrology and green water. The participants added that the flow of information must be improved between the decision-making and field levels, as well as the digitalization of information in order to be able to alert actors in real time.

## d. Recommendations

Regarding the fifth theme relating to the development of the COP 17 declaration on drought, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Adopt an operational framework focused on agricultural droughts and the water-soil-territory nexus.** Agricultural droughts must become a strategic priority in the UNCCD's guidelines based on a systemic approach linking water management, soil health, agriculture and land use planning.
2. **Institutionalize inclusive territorial governance of drought resilience.** The role of local authorities, producer organizations, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and CSOs should be strengthened in drought governance. Multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms could be promoted in order to better articulate national policies and realities on the ground. This approach would promote the implementation of responses adapted to the ecological, social and cultural specificities of the territories, thus strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of drought resilience policies.
3. **Promote accessible financial mechanisms oriented towards the agroecological transition.** Financing must be more accessible, flexible and directly mobilised by local actors in order to support resilience to drought. Financing instruments should set clear criteria for the agroecological transition and territorial capacity building. Funding priorities should include direct subsidies to support farmers in the agroecological transition, funding dedicated to sustainable water and soil management, support for applied research, technical training and the dissemination of innovations, and investments in climate and hydrological information systems accessible to territories.

## 6. Influence of the European Union's negotiators

Moderator: Mr. Patrice Burger, President of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France



## a. Mr Corentin Génin

*National Focal Point of Belgium for the UNCCD and GEF Focal Point for the European Union*



The European Union takes the floor and positions itself in all negotiations on multilateral environmental agreements by speaking with one voice for the 27 members it represents. This unification of the European position is a significant time saver for the COPs and the secretariat, but requires very heavy preparation.

The Working Group on International Environmental Issues, the WPIEI, brings together experts from the Council of the EU to prepare common positions. This body is managed by the Presidency-in-Office of the Council on a rotating basis among the 27 member countries every six months. Its main role is to consult on the items of the agenda and the whole dynamic, sometimes with the support of external experts, with a view to preparing the EU's positions for:

- Meetings of the COP Bureau and the Bureau of the CRIC;
- Reporting to EU Member States;
- Consultations by the UNCCD Secretariat on the budget, financial rules and future financing of the Convention;
- The work of the Inter-Agency Working Group (Drought/Tafa'ul + MTE + FSF process) and the meetings of the Working Group on Women.

In practice, a preparation process takes place in three main stages:

- Develop a division of tasks in order to distribute the workload;
- Appoint a leader, co-leads and other experts for each agenda item;
- Prepare draft positions and statements for plenary, present the statement, negotiate in contact groups and in bilateral and informal meetings.

The key messages shared by the European Union for the preparation of COPs and CRICs include the following:

- The limits of blended finance, with slow returns on investments and a risk of indebtedness;
- The need for greater policy coherence to better align financial flows, including at the national level;
- Strengthening the monitoring of GEF actions and work as well as collaboration with the GEF CSO Network;
- The importance of supporting the Working Group's call for Parties to develop a resource mobilization strategy, including the identification and reallocation of environmentally harmful subsidies.

## b. Mr. Andrew Morris

*Director of the British Society of Soil Sciences in the UK and representative of Western Europe and other groups on the UNCCD CSO Panel*



This second intervention aimed to share with participants the work of the panel of CSOs accredited to the UNCCD at the global level. The subjects of this work are based on five main themes:

- Impacts of drought: loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, degradation of soil health and decline in land productivity in the long term;
- Urgent needs: water security, climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem restoration;
- The main obstacles: weak coordination between sectors and institutions (water, agriculture and climate governance) and insufficient funding for drought preparedness;

- Financial mechanisms: accessible, flexible and long-term financing, benefiting local actors and supporting proactive and preventive resilience measures;
- The key policy messages: moving towards a systemic transition from reactive to proactive and preventive drought management.

These considerations have been broken down into key messages and emergencies according to the five major regions:

- **Africa:** Empower communities and integrate women, youth, indigenous peoples and pastoralists into water and land governance.
- **Asia:** Securing pastoralists' rights, strengthening rangeland management institutions, and promoting early warning systems adapted to local contexts.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Implementing participatory water management, integrating indigenous knowledge and promoting holistic territorial approaches.
- **Western Europe:** Developing urban water reuse, monitoring of land degradation and expansion of green spaces.
- **Central and Eastern Europe:** Reform water and land legislation, modernize municipal systems, and integrate participatory risk-informed planning.

## c. Discussions

The exchanges with the participants highlighted several limitations of the negotiations. Indeed, if the goal of increasing ambition is shared, it remains necessary to join forces on the blocking points.

Regarding coordination and alignment between the different actors, the complexity of internal processes and possible divergences between Member States imply that CSOs must make their positions and needs known before the definition of the EU's positions. In addition, as UNCCD COP session documents are released relatively late, it is particularly important to coordinate quickly as soon as they are released to formulate messages. Participants also highlighted the lack of sufficient participation of African parties in negotiations in other strategic spaces, including the GEF councils.

Regarding international governance and institutional synergies, a first blocking point concerns mistrust and misunderstandings between Parties, which has the consequence of slowing down progress and decision-making. In addition, the lack of input from the GEF CSO network on issues of allocation of funding windows is an additional impediment to the UNCCD's progress. Participants highlighted the value of further mobilizing the Joint Liaison group of the Rio Conventions and strengthening its mandate for action, as well as investing in more inclusive governance approaches, in particular through the whole of society approach.

Regarding the implementation and accountability of decisions, we can question the gap between the decisions adopted and the actual implementation of these decisions, and in particular the causes of this gap: capacities, funding, governance, monitoring?

Finally, with regard to financing, the participants believe that focusing negotiations solely on increasing financing is not very productive and that it would be relevant to better direct financing towards solutions that work as well as to better articulate blended finance with the land issue.

## d. Summary of productions

The group work made it possible to involve the participants on two themes:

- The steps needed to prepare for the COP 17 negotiations;
- The role of civil society and the alliances needed to influence decisions.

The preliminary steps to prepare for the COP 17 negotiations first involve defining a clear strategic narrative that will guide all positions and interventions by refocusing on the essentials and drawing on evidence and practical experience to maintain credibility and strengthen persuasiveness. To defend the strategy developed, it is then important to build alliances proactively.

Civil society plays a key role in this regard by enabling effective multilateral action. It connects global processes to local realities while bringing practical, real-world experience to negotiations. CSOs can help ensure that policies are rooted in real needs and are socially inclusive. Increased civil society engagement in the UNCCD also has three benefits:

- Inject new ideas and future perspectives;
- Raising ambitions where necessary;
- Support the implementation of decisions at the local level.

87

To do this, civil society actors need to set clear priorities, present realistic and concrete proposals, and provide national delegations with strong, evidence-based arguments. Finally, it should be stressed that the development of effective alliances requires intersectoral collaboration between Governments, civil society, the scientific community and the private sector.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the sixth theme relating to the influence of the European Union's negotiators within the UNCCD, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Anticipate and target the EU's decision-making process upstream to effectively influence its positions.** To this end, it is recommended to structure an active and anticipatory monitoring of European processes, in particular via the WPIEI, and to produce and transmit strategic messages upstream of the EU's internal arbitrations. It would also be useful to identify and target key actors in the European process such as lead agencies, thematic experts or the Council Presidency for direct dialogue.
2. **Build strategic multi-stakeholder alliances to influence European and international arbitrations.** Targeted alliances with EU Member States need to be developed and it is essential to strengthen synergies between civil society, the scientific community, public institutions and the private sector. It is also recommended to better connect key areas of influence, in particular those of the GEF, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, but also intergovernmental processes (CRIC, COP, etc.). Mistrust and misunderstandings between Parties could be reduced through the establishment of regular and structured forums for dialogue.
3. **Develop credible, evidence-based advocacy geared towards the effective implementation of decisions.** Advocacy must be based on local and scientific evidence, including concrete feedback and data demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed solutions. On this basis, realistic operational proposals that can be directly used in UNCCD decisions should be formulated. It is also important to promote a qualitative approach to financing, to encourage a reorientation towards effective solutions and a better articulation of blended finance with land and resilience issues. Finally, it is crucial to systematically question the deficit in the implementation of decisions in order to identify structural blockages and respond to them.

## 7. Influence of the negotiators of the Africa Group

Moderator: Ms. Wafa Essahli, Independent Consultant, Tunisia

This workshop aims to improve participants' knowledge of the mechanisms for the functioning of negotiations at the UNCCD COP level, to share the results of the previous COP 16 and finally to develop advocacy content for COP 17.

Specifically, it is a question of reflecting on how to strengthen the consideration of drought in the implementation of the UNCCD, given that the previous COP failed to reach decisions on drought, as well as on the role that civil society can play in strengthening the negotiations of the African Group.

## a. Mr. François Tapsoba

*Treasurer of the association La Route du Sel et de l'Espoir, Burkina Faso*

The Africa Group is composed of a president elected for two years as well as a bureau made up of five members representing the five sub-regions of the continent. It also has thematic coordinators per agenda item. The African Common Position is prepared at national and regional preparatory meetings held in advance of the COP and then validated at the coordination meetings during the COP.

In order to influence the negotiations, it is recommended that civil society organisations follow this roadmap:

### Before the COP, be part of official African processes:

- Follow the preparatory documents on the UNCCD website, read the documents to find out about the discussions;
- Participate in national and regional preparatory meetings;
- Define two to three priorities that can captivate the group;
- Identify allies among African delegates, including focal points.

### During the COP, occupy all official and informal spaces:

- Participate in the coordination meetings of the Africa group;
- Attend plenary sessions and authorized working groups (CSOs may share the role in monitoring negotiations and group meetings);
- Feed into common positions via policy briefs and precise formulations;
- Lead or participate in planned side-events that should demonstrate the successes of NGOs.

### After the COP:

- Analyze the decisions adopted and their implications;
- Plan the follow-up of commitments made by States;
- Strengthen the networks formed during the COP.

## b. Mr. Hamda Aloui

*Tunisia's National Focal Point for the UNCCD*

Held in December 2024 in Riyadh, COP 16 benefited from strong representation of major groups and increased involvement of the private sector. A total of 39 decisions were adopted in important themes such as land degradation, droughts, gender, land, sand and dust storms, and science and policy.

The next step is to develop intergovernmental policies at the local and national levels.

In view of COP 17, it is recommended to promote the coordination of:



- Improving collaborations at the national level;
- Strengthen coordination between the different national focal points.

To take into account drought issues, it is recommended to:

- Set measurable goals;
- Develop proactive and integrated national drought policies and plans for integrated risk management;
- Translate the recommendations of the National Drought Plan and other drought-related policy instruments into concrete programmes and projects;
- Make integrated water resources management and farmland health paramount issues.

## c. Discussions

The exchanges first of all made it possible to recall the different entry points available to civil society to negotiate at the COP, in particular the national focal points, scientific and technical correspondents, etc. By increasing the number of contacts with these people, civil society increases its chances of being able to convey messages: needs, successes, etc. CSOs need to be in a proactive position and not expect to be picked up. It is up to them to make their results and successes visible so that the focal points recognize the added value they can bring and then solicit them and involve them in the discussions.

The role of civil society is not to propose political solutions but to convey important messages that can enable the Africa working group to take decisions. Decision-makers must rely on the results of civil society and the academic world.

The discussions highlighted the need to enhance synergies between the three Rio Conventions by having working groups at the national level between the focal points of the three conventions and by setting up a single COP bringing together all the conventions, with more integrated indicators to promote more sustainable solutions. This need emerges from the observation that today there is a dispersion of resources and a lack of visibility.

Two major problems faced by CSOs were identified:

- Some NGOs are not free to talk to their focal points as they could suffer repercussions;
- Some African NGOs sometimes do not negotiate on the basis of the interests of the population but rather on the basis of the interests of their donors.

## d. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around two themes:

- Messages that can be elements of advocacy at the UNCCD;
- The role of African civil society in the UNCCD negotiations.

Regarding the first theme, participants highlighted the importance of adopting a comprehensive framework to move from crisis management to risk and resilience management. It is also a question of having a more integrated, anticipatory and financed system. This comprehensive framework would allow countries to integrate drought into their various national plans for development, climate change, agriculture, and land-use planning, and to equip themselves with the necessary tools and adequate financing to implement them.

The participants also highlighted the value of creating a network of research institutions on the African continent to develop solutions and facilitate the exchange of experiences around drought mitigation.

Regarding the second theme, the discussions recalled that the role of civil society representatives must be to act as intermediaries between the population and official delegations. In this sense, civil society must make it possible to promote local knowledge, to promote endogenous knowledge, to carry the voice of farmers, to report "good practices" to the negotiating group, but also to report decisions to the populations and to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the commitments made by States within the framework of the Convention. To fully play this role, it is recommended that civil society be more involved in the national processes of preparing COPs and implementing decisions.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the seventh theme relating to the influence of the negotiators of the African Group within the UNCCD, the work in sub-groups made it possible to emerge the following recommendations:

90

1. **Promote the adoption of a comprehensive framework for proactive drought management, funded and integrated into national policies.** This framework would be based on multi-stakeholder early warning systems, accessible to States and communities, on risk management and resilience mechanisms, including social protection for vulnerable populations, as well as on an integrated approach linking water, soil and agricultural systems management. It should promote the mandatory integration of drought into key national frameworks and be based on the establishment of international financial mechanisms dedicated to drought.
2. **Strengthen the integration of civil society in national and regional processes for the preparation of COPs.** CSO participation in preparatory meetings should be institutionalized and permanent dialogue frameworks should be put in place, including between national focal points, scientific and technical focal points, and CSOs. CSOs should also be encouraged to define 2-3 clear strategic priorities ahead of COPs and to produce reasoned advocacy notes.
3. **Position civil society as a strategic interface between local communities, scientific research and negotiators.** To this end, it is recommended to structure national mechanisms for the collection and promotion of local knowledge, to set up systems for feedback on experiences and good practices prior to the COPs, and to organize post-COP restitution spaces to inform the population of the decisions adopted and to ensure the follow-up of States' commitments.

## 8. Involvement of local and regional authorities in the UNCCD negotiations

*Moderator: Mr. Christophe Brossé, Director General of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*

### a. Discussions

This workshop differs slightly from the others in its structure and in its facilitation insofar as it did not begin with one or more presentations of framing and introduction to the theme but directly with an interactive discussion with the participants. This discussion made it possible to determine the current situation regarding the involvement of local and regional authorities in the UNCCD negotiations by drawing up a number of observations and then identifying the main issues.

The exchanges highlighted a significant gap between the role of local and regional governments and their actual involvement in the UNCCD's decision-making processes. Indeed, many decisions impacting territories are taken without consulting local authorities, even though they represent

key players in the implementation, on the one hand, of multi-stakeholder approaches that are essential today, and on the other hand, the implementation of long-term strategies at the local level. Article 3 of the Convention recommends the involvement of local and regional authorities, but this provision remains non-binding and it was only in 2014 that they were integrated into the processes.

Faced with this observation, the participants identified several issues:

- Strengthen the representation of local and regional authorities in the UNCCD bodies;
- Increase financial, technical and human resources to enable them to act;
- Recognize the central role of communities in land governance, integrated resource management (land and water), and combating desertification and drought.

## b. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around three themes:

- Key messages to encourage local authorities to participate in COP 17;
- The messages to be conveyed to local authorities at COP 17;
- The modalities of organizing advocacy.

Regarding the key messages to promote the mobilization of local authorities to participate in COP 17, several levers have been identified to:

### Facilitate participation:

- Cover travel costs;
- Setting up technical support on the codes, vocabulary or operation of the COP;
- Determine the potential role of States in this support.

### Enhancing the value of participation:

- Highlight local initiatives such as planning tools or concrete actions;
- To offer the territories an opportunity for international influence;
- To offer opportunities for the exchange of experience between elected officials.

### Strengthen understanding and legitimacy:

- Popularize the challenges of the COPs and their concrete impacts on the territories;
- Raise awareness that "if you don't carry your voice, no one will do it for you";
- Promote the emergence of a common message to strengthen the legitimacy of elected officials.

### Points of vigilance:

- Levels of decentralization vary by country;
- Participating does not guarantee to be heard;
- Need to clarify representation mechanisms, including the appointment of spokespersons.

Regarding the messages to be conveyed to local authorities during COP 17, the key messages identified relate to:

- Recognition of the role of communities as frontline actors in the face of desertification and drought;
- The recognition of the role of local authorities as essential actors at the crossroads of the visions of the territory and the national strategies of States;

- The affirmation of their territorial expertise;
- The request to strengthen the financial, technical and human resources of local authorities;
- The promotion of interterritorial, peer-to-peer cooperation and decentralised cooperation to share experiences and strengthen capacities for action.

Regarding the modalities of organizing advocacy, the participants propose several courses of action relating to:

## The structuring of networks:

- Identify and mobilize existing networks such as Mayors' Associations, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), United Cities France (CUF), etc. ;
- Strengthen their coordination and support them in their structuring.

92

## Articulation with the national levels:

- Develop exchanges with national focal points;
- Invite local authorities during the drafting of National Action Plans;
- Identify strategic allies in each country.

## Preparation before the COP:

- Organize national and international meetings;
- Invite United Cities and Local Governments to prepare a dedicated event.

## Broadening the mobilization:

- Rely on civil society to relay the messages of local authorities in official session at the COPs;
- Use existing spaces where civil society is already well represented.

## c. Recommendations

Concerning the eighth theme relating to the involvement of local and regional authorities in the UNCCD negotiations, the work in sub-groups led to the following recommendations:

1. **Institutionalize the place of local and regional authorities in the governance of the UNCCD.** It is a question of moving from a symbolic participation to a structured and influential participation of communities in decision-making processes by recognising politically and operationally the role of communities as frontline actors in the fight against desertification and drought. This includes the inclusion of communities in the development, monitoring and evaluation of National Action Plans and the recognition of their expertise in land governance, integrated natural resource management and the fight against desertification and drought.
2. **To set up a support system dedicated to the participation of local authorities in COP 17.** The effective participation of local authorities implies removing certain technical, financial and institutional obstacles. A mechanism to finance the participation of elected representatives and territorial technicians could be set up and preparatory support for negotiations could be developed for this purpose.
3. **Structuring international collective advocacy carried out by networks of local authorities.** Effective community engagement depends on their ability to speak with a coordinated and internationally visible voice. To do this, it is necessary to strengthen coordination between existing networks as well as to develop synergies with civil society and national focal points in order to relay the messages of local authorities in official



negotiation spaces. It would also be relevant to organise national and international consultations before the COPs in order to develop common advocacy messages, with, for example, the organisation of a "Mayors' Day" which would give strong political visibility to the territories.

## 9. Pastoralism negotiations

*Moderator: Ms. Natasha Maru, Global Focal Point for Pasture and Pastoralists for International Land Coalition, India*

### a. Ms. Sarah Toumi

*Donor Relations Officer, UNCCD Global Mechanism*



93

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is currently carrying out the *Rangelands Flagship Initiative* which aims to highlight sustainable pasture management and support pastoralist communities. This initiative is part of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, declared by the UN at the initiative of Mongolia, which will host COP 17 in August 2026.

The objectives of the *Rangelands Flagship Initiative* are to:

- Strengthen international cooperation for pasture restoration;
- Secure large-scale financing for the sustainable management of these ecosystems;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing between scientists and pastoralist communities;
- Improving the livelihoods of the people who depend on these lands, while preserving biodiversity and climate resilience.

It is a five-year programme that aims to promote projects carried out in all regions of the world in connection with the sustainable management of pastures and the promotion of pastoralism. The UNCCD Global Mechanism is seeking to mobilize \$1 billion to fund this program, which will be discussed at COP 17.

### b. Mr. Amadou Adamou

*President of the MBOSCUA Association and Board Member of the International Land Coalition (ILC), Cameroon*



This second presentation highlighted the need for tangible data to influence public policies, particularly on the issue of pastoralism. As part of a project led by ILC in partnership with LANDex and Prindex, the provision of GIS data has enabled pastoralist communities to participate in dialogues on the issues of sustainable rangeland management and the preservation of the pastoral way of life.

The intervention highlights the need to strengthen and invest in data platforms to demonstrate that mobility is an essential element for the sustainable management of land and more generally of natural resources. It is therefore essential to legalize mobility as a means of subsistence and to involve pastoralist communities from the beginning of the decision-making process to set up legal frameworks.

### c. Ms. Sara Velander

*Land Manager for Ambition Loop, Chile*

The NGO Ambition Loop aims to act as a catalyst to turn political commitments into tangible actions. To this end, the NGO was invited in 2024 by the Saudi presidency of COP 16 to facilitate

the creation of an agenda for action within the UNCCD. The objective of this agenda is to mobilize and coordinate the contributions of non-governmental actors to support the objectives of the Convention, particularly those related to land restoration and resilience to drought.

In the run-up to the next COP scheduled for August 2026 in Mongolia, Ambition Loop intends to ensure that the issue of pastoral communities and pastures is at the heart of the decisions taken at COP 17. Indeed, this COP represents a pivotal moment for pastoralism, with several major challenges such as:

- To highlight sustainable pasture management and the crucial role of pastoralist communities in ecosystem resilience, food security and combating desertification, with more than one billion people directly dependent on these ecosystems for their livelihoods.
- Strengthen international commitments for rangeland restoration and conservation, building on local solutions and traditional knowledge, while improving market access for pastoralists and filling knowledge gaps on these ecosystems.
- Promote innovative partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society to finance and deploy concrete land restoration and climate change adaptation projects, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.

94

## d. Discussions

Discussion sessions organized at the end of each presentation allowed the speakers to provide additional information and to highlight certain important elements.

The workshop participants learned that a new edition of a Global Land Outlook on pastoralism is being developed and that the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Caucuses will be invited to propose their recommendations on the issue of pastoralism at COP 17. In order to convey a strong message on pastoralism at the next COP, the importance of organizing and structuring was highlighted by recalling the need to communicate with CSOs accredited to the UNCCD and to join the three Caucuses: Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Youth.

## e. Summary of productions

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively on four themes related to pastoralism:

- The restoration of rangelands and pastures;
- Land tenure security;
- Investments in sustainable pasture management;
- Decision-making processes on pastoralism issues.

On rangeland and rangeland restoration, participants highlighted the importance of adopting an ecosystem-based and participatory approach that prioritizes nature-based restoration practices, integrates local and indigenous knowledge, and improves connectivity between grazing areas through the creation of ecological corridors.

Land tenure security for rangelands should be based on the legal recognition and protection of customary land rights by promoting flexible and appropriate legal frameworks that would allow for the coexistence of customary and formal rights and thus avoid conflict and land grabbing. This formalization of customary land rights could be based on participatory mapping and community certification mechanisms, which would imply training local communities on the use of technological tools such as participatory GIS, but also more generally on land management and conflict mediation to enable them to secure their land.

For sustainable pasture management, participants stressed the need to mobilize innovative and long-term financing. To this end, several avenues have been identified, including the development of adapted climate financing (Green Climate Fund, 4 per 100 Initiative, etc.) and the simplification of access to it for local communities, but also the mobilization of private investors or the creation of funds dedicated to pastoralists (working capital, micro-credit schemes) to enable them to invest in sustainable practices.

Finally, concerning the decision-making processes on pastoralism issues, the importance of starting from the local as well as from the existing was highlighted to set up effective multi-level governance. Local governance platforms involving herders, farmers, local authorities and scientists should be strengthened and local data should be integrated into national policies through the establishment of participatory monitoring systems that would provide public policies with reliable and up-to-date data directly from the field. Participants also stressed that UNCCD negotiations should build on regional commitments and value local initiatives to avoid replicating ineffective top-down policies. Existing regional frameworks are of interest to this end, in particular the Nouakchott +10 Forum.

## f. Recommendations

Concerning the ninth theme relating to the negotiations on pastoralism, the work in sub-groups made it possible to bring out the following recommendations:

1. **To politically and legally recognize pastoralism as a sustainable land management solution and secure the rights of pastoralist communities.** This involves legally recognizing customary land rights and pastoral governance systems. Pastoral mobility needs to be integrated into national and regional legal frameworks as a practice that is essential for the sustainability of ecosystems. This work should be based on participatory mapping mechanisms, community certification and concerted land management to prevent conflicts and land grabbing.
2. **Promote investments in pasture restoration and community-led initiatives.** Rangelands must become a priority for climate, biodiversity and land restoration finance by supporting nature-based restoration approaches, the establishment of ecological corridors and projects led by local communities, including through the creation of more accessible financial mechanisms. Innovative partnerships between governments, the private sector, scientists and pastoralist organizations need to be developed, especially for long-term projects that generate environmental, social and economic benefits.
3. **Build multi-level governance based on local data, pastoral knowledge and existing regional frameworks.** The links between local dynamics and international decisions must be strengthened by developing multi-stakeholder governance platforms, producing and promoting data on the benefits of pastoralism, recognizing indigenous and pastoral knowledge and making the UNCCD negotiations a continuation of existing regional initiatives. These actions should make it possible to improve the coherence of policies, their adaptability to local realities and their application by States and communities.

## 10. Avoiding, reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural land and soils

*Moderator: Ms. Nora Berrahmouni, Deputy Director, Food and Agriculture Organization, Land and Water Division, Italy*

Land and soil degradation represents a major challenge by threatening food security, land degradation neutrality, biodiversity and resilience to climate change. At the heart of food systems,

farmland is under increasing pressure from unsustainable practices, overexploitation of natural resources and the impacts of climate change.

Adopted at the sixteenth COP, decision 19/COP.16 is a major milestone by addressing the issue of agricultural land in a dedicated manner for the first time.

## a. Mr. Patrick Smith

*Vice-President of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*



Land and water are the foundation of agricultural and food systems, and land degradation directly affects agricultural production, rural livelihoods, and territorial stability. It is also essential to highlight the growing interconnection between land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Faced with this observation, the Convention has evolved and calls, particularly since the adoption of the 2018-2030 strategy, for integrated and long-term approaches combining sustainable land management, resilience to drought and improved living conditions. The growing recognition of agroecology, conservation agriculture and nature-based solutions is a structuring lever for the transformation of agricultural and food systems.

## b. Ms. Nora Berrahmouni

*Deputy Director, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Italy*



This second presentation focuses on [decision 19/COP.16](#) and the status of the guidelines. The founding logic of this decision is based on the principle that prevention is preferable to reparation. The "avoid – reduce – reverse" hierarchy thus aims to:

- Limit the conversion of new agricultural land;
- To guarantee the sustainable use of land already under cultivation;
- Restore degraded land and soil.

The technical priorities expected in the directives include soil health, sustainable crop and livestock systems, integrated water management and responsible land governance.

## c. Ms. Anja Mütig

*Agroecology Advisor, GIZ, Germany*



This presentation aims to demonstrate the contribution of agroecology to land degradation neutrality. Agroecology represents a systemic approach integrating ecological, social, economic, technological and political dimensions. Based on its principles, it is possible to highlight the links between soil health, water retention, diversification of production systems, reduction of dependence on external inputs and resilience to climate change.

It remains important to emphasize that inclusive governance, the participation of local actors and the co-creation of knowledge between scientific knowledge and peasant practices are key conditions for success and scale-up.

## d. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and speakers confirmed a broad consensus on the relevance of the "avoid – reduce – reverse" hierarchy, although some pointed out that, in many



contexts, agricultural land is already highly degraded, which explains a concentration of contributions on reduction and restoration actions.

On cropland, discussions highlighted several conservation and diversification approaches, including reduced tillage, permanent soil cover, crop rotations and associations, agroforestry, composting, organic fertilization, biofertilizer use, and water and soil conservation techniques. On pastoral lands, sustainable rangeland management, in particular through controlled or rotational grazing and livestock mobility, has been identified as a central lever for regeneration.

Finally, the participants insisted on several enabling conditions, including land tenure security, participatory land use planning, coherence of public policies, access to training and extension, as well as the availability of appropriate financing mechanisms.

## e. Summary of productions

97

The group work carried out as part of this workshop allowed the participants to exchange and reflect collectively around two themes:

- Identification of practices to avoid, reduce or reverse the degradation of agricultural land and soils;
- Identification of the conditions necessary for their implementation and scale-up.

Regarding the first theme, the practices identified have been structured according to the hierarchy "avoid – reduce – reverse".

The contributions associated with avoidance mainly concern preventive actions aimed at limiting the appearance of new degradation processes through the anticipation, planning and governance of land uses. Practices include:

- Integrated and participatory land-use planning, including at landscape and watershed scales;
- Securing land and user rights as a basis for long-term sustainable management;
- Raising awareness among stakeholders and preventing risky practices;
- The protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems;
- Establishment of early warning systems, resilience mechanisms and livelihood diversification.

Reduction practices were the most frequently cited, reflecting the fact that much agricultural land is already affected by ongoing degradation processes. On cropland, the practices identified include:

- Conservation agriculture (reduced tillage, permanent soil cover, crop rotations and diversification);
- Agroecology and the transition from conventional farming systems;
- Agroforestry and crop-livestock integration;
- Reducing dependence on external inputs through the use of compost, manure, organic fertilizers and biofertilizers;
- Water and soil conservation techniques, such as terraces, half-moons, zaï and contour layouts.

For pastorallands, the contributions highlighted sustainable rangeland management, in particular controlled or rotational grazing, to limit overgrazing and reduce pressure on soils.

Finally, practices associated with reversing land degradation relate to restoration and regeneration approaches requiring targeted investments and longer-term actions. Elements identified include:

- Assisted natural regeneration;
- Soil restoration techniques (zaï, half-moons, stone barriers and other water and soil conservation structures);
- Regenerative hydrology and water collection and redistribution facilities;
- Regenerative management of pastoral rangelands, including livestock mobility;
- Advanced and multifunctional agroforestry systems.

Concerning the second theme, six categories of conditions necessary for the implementation and scaling up of practices emerged from the group work. These categories are as follows:

1. **Regulatory and legal frameworks:** laws, local regulations, contractual arrangements and monitoring mechanisms.
2. **Access to knowledge and capacity building:** training, extension services, awareness-raising and knowledge sharing.
3. **Governance and public policies:** intersectoral coherence, access to resources and land tenure security.
4. **Financing and investment:** accessible and transparent financial mechanisms, redirection of subsidies and stimulation of sustainable investments.
5. **Synergies and coordination among actors:** strengthening cooperation between institutions, civil society, local communities and the private sector.
6. **Integrated Land Use Planning:** Participatory Approaches at the Territorial Level.

Participants agreed that a combination of technical solutions, strong institutional frameworks, enhanced access to knowledge and effective coordination among actors is essential to produce sustainable impacts in the management and restoration of agricultural land and soils.

## f. Recommendations

Concerning the tenth theme relating to the avoidance, reduction and reversal of the degradation of agricultural land and soil, the work in sub-groups led to the emergence of the following recommendations:

1. **Make the management and restoration of agricultural land and soil a priority in public policies and territorial planning.** The "avoid – reduce – reverse" hierarchy should be systematically integrated into agricultural, land and environmental policies by paying greater attention to avoidance actions that are still insufficiently developed.
2. **Scale up agroecological practices and sustainable land management practices by adapting them to local contexts.** Agroecology, conservation agriculture and sustainable rangeland management must be recognised as central levers for reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural land and soils. To this end, it is essential to support the transition to diversified and resilient agricultural systems by encouraging the development of nature-based solutions and local techniques for soil restoration and water conservation.
3. **Create strong enabling conditions for the implementation and financing of agricultural land and soil restoration.** Technical solutions cannot be scaled up without the right institutional and financial frameworks. It is therefore necessary to invest in training, extension, knowledge sharing and local capacity building, to put in place accessible, transparent and coherent financing mechanisms, to strengthen intersectoral coherence between agricultural, climate, land and environmental policies, and finally to develop multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms to ensure inclusive and effective governance of agricultural land and soils.

## 11. Media questioning around COP 17

*Moderator: Ms. Nadia Khammari, Communication Analyst at the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia*

The recommendations resulting from the preparatory phase and then the Desertif'actions Summit must not remain confined to specialized circles but must imperatively be promoted in the media space in order to influence political agendas and decision-making processes. The challenge is not only to produce content, but to really understand the mechanisms of information circulation: what messages will be taken up, by which relays, in what formats and under what conditions?

### a. Mr. Babacar Sene

*Journalist for the Agropasteur Newspaper, Senegal*

This first intervention made it possible to make a lucid diagnosis of the still marginal place of desertification issues in the media landscape. These themes are often absent from the editorial line, except in times of crisis or during major international events, which limits their understanding over time.



99

It seems necessary to transform the way these subjects are dealt with because overly technical or institutional approaches struggle to capture attention, while stories rooted in local realities, supported by concrete testimonies, make these issues more accessible and engaging. Collaborations between journalists, researchers and field actors are essential to produce content that is both rigorous and impactful. It is also important to remember that the media cannot fully play their role without adequate support, as access to reliable information, available interlocutors and actionable content is an essential condition for improving the quality and regularity of media coverage.

### b. Mr. Jean-Michel Renault

*Cartoonist, press cartoonist and comic book author*

This second intervention aims to highlight the role of visual formats in the transmission of messages. Indeed, in a context of information saturation, the image is a particularly powerful lever for simplifying complex content and strengthening its memorization.



Press cartoons in particular make it possible to translate scientific or political issues into messages that are accessible, immediately understandable and often more impactful than traditional textual formats. This approach is identified as a strategic tool to broaden the audience and reach audiences less familiar with technical issues.

### c. Discussions

The exchanges between participants and speakers made it possible to bring out a shared vision of the conditions necessary for effective media mobilization.

A first point, which is truly central, concerns anticipation. The media impact is not built during the COP but well beforehand. Insufficient preparation leads to lost opportunities, limited coverage, and unstructured messaging. Conversely, rigorous preparation makes it possible to anticipate the needs of journalists, to structure content and to align messages with media calendars.

A second structuring element concerns coordination between the actors. The discussions highlighted that communication cannot be left to the media alone, but that it must be carried out collectively by all stakeholders: CSOs, institutions, experts and communicators. This coordination is essential to avoid the dispersion of messages and to ensure their consistency.

A final point concerns the need to adapt messages to different audiences. It is not only a question of disseminating information, but of making it understandable and relevant according to the target audiences. This means diversifying formats and paying particular attention to simplicity, clarity and concrete anchoring of content.

## d. Summary of productions

The group work confirmed several shared observations, in particular the low visibility of desertification issues outside of international events, the lack of specialized journalists and the difficulty of translating technical content into accessible messages.

A strong consensus has also emerged around the need to build a continuous media strategy, structured over time and supported by simple, concrete content adapted to different audiences. Participants also agreed on the importance of visual formats, digital and stories from the field as levers for impact.

On the other hand, divergences emerged on the modalities of implementation, particularly with regard to the role of social networks, the use of influencers and the degree of centralization of media coordination.

## e. Recommendations

Concerning the eleventh theme relating to the questioning of the media around COP 17, the work in sub-groups made it possible to bring out the following recommendations:

1. **Before the COP: Anticipate, structure and install the issues in the media space.** The preparatory phase must make it possible to build a coherent and proactive media strategy to establish the challenges of COP 17 in the public debate in the long term. This involves the development of a structured communication plan, the identification and mobilization of strategic media relays upstream as well as the production of educational and accessible content and its dissemination on various channels to raise public awareness and maintain a continuous communication dynamic.
2. **During the COP: To strengthen the visibility of messages and facilitate the work of the media.** Communication must be responsive and capable of producing and then broadcasting content in real time. The use of visual and engaging formats would make the messages more accessible and impactful. It is also important to create favourable conditions for the work of journalists by setting up a dedicated "Press Corner" space, identifying contacts and promoting quick access to reliable information. Consistent messaging and valuing a diversity of voices are also key to strengthening the credibility, authenticity, and impact of advocacy.
3. **After the COP: Follow up on commitments and ensure long-term mobilization.** Communication must be maintained to extend the visibility of recommendations and the results obtained. Particular attention must be paid to the follow-up of commitments to strengthen the credibility of advocacy and maintain media pressure. The development of sustainable partnerships with the media, the production of in-depth content and the implementation of thematic campaigns would make it possible to make the issues related to desertification a long-term one. Finally, it is important to gradually improve communication strategies and their effectiveness by capitalizing on past experiences.





# Plenary: On the road to the COP and actions ahead

## Facilitator: Mr. Lazare Dambatia Tagnabou

UNCCD Focal Point, Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Burkina Faso



101

*"Ladies and gentlemen, dear participants,*

*Let me begin this session on a personal note, but deeply symbolic. As you can see, I am dressed today in Faso Danfani, this traditional fabric of Burkina Faso, handwoven with patience, know-how and respect for local resources. This choice of clothing is not insignificant. He alone embodies the values we share here: the development of local resources, the resilience of communities, and the close link between culture, economy and the environment.*

*Faso Danfani is the result of an artisanal process that favours short circuits, limits the ecological footprint and supports traditional knowledge. In this, it perfectly illustrates the principles of agroecology that we promote: producing locally, in a sustainable way, in harmony with nature and territories.*

*In the same way that this fabric is woven thread by thread, our fight against desertification is built action by action, commitment by commitment. It requires patience, coherence and rootedness in local realities.*

*Thus, wearing this garment today is to affirm that the solutions to environmental challenges, particularly land degradation, are also to be found in our cultures, in our endogenous practices, and in our ability to value and adapt them.*

*I therefore invite us to draw inspiration from this logic: to strengthen what comes from our territories, to innovate without denying our roots, and to weave together sustainable responses to desertification.*

*Thank you. »*

## a. Mr. Andrew Morris

Director of the British Society of Soil Sciences in the UK and representative of Western Europe and other groups on the UNCCD CSO Panel



**This first intervention aims to present the results of the consultation on the resilience of territories to drought organized by the panel of CSOs of the UNCCD ahead of the Desertif'actions Summit.**

The CSO Panel facilitates coordination, communication and collaboration among CSOs accredited to the UNCCD. It is composed of 5 representatives from the regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Western Europe and other groups. The five members of the CSO panel are elected by accredited CSOs after each COP, for two-year terms.

The main results of this consultation are as follows:

- **Consequences of drought:** loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, degradation of soil health and loss of land productivity in the long term.



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- **Urgent needs:** water security, climate-resilient livelihoods, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Main obstacles:** weak coordination between sectors and institutions (water management, agriculture and climate governance), insufficient funding for drought preparedness.
- **Financial mechanisms:** need for accessible, flexible and long-term financing that reaches local actors and supports proactive and preventive resilience measures.
- **Key policy messages:** a systemic shift from a reactive response to proactive and preventive drought management.

The priority policy recommendations by region of the world are as follows:

- **Africa:** Empower communities and integrate women, youth, indigenous peoples and pastoralists into water and land governance.
- **Asia:** Ensuring pastoralists' rights, strengthening grazing institutions and promoting locally appropriate early warning systems.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** implementing participatory water management, integrating indigenous knowledge and promoting holistic territorial approaches.
- **Western Europe:** Promoting urban water reuse, monitoring land degradation and expanding green spaces.
- **Central and Eastern Europe:** Reforming water and land legislation, modernizing municipal systems and integrating participatory risk-informed planning.

102

## b. Mr. Youssef Brahim

*President of the association La Route du Sel et de l'Espoir, France*

**This second intervention aims to present the results of the group work organized on day 2 of the Desertif'actions Summit.** This work focused on the sharing of experiences and the identification of recommendations to strengthen the resilience of territories to drought.



The groups were divided into eleven themes covering the main levers of territorial resilience, integrating both the ecological (cultivated biodiversity, trees and forests), economic (circular economy, employment), technical and scientific (innovative irrigation, resilience measurement) and social and institutional (human rights, role of women, youth, skills building, multi-stakeholder collaboration) dimensions. This systemic approach made it possible to deepen the exchanges between participants, to address resilience not only as a capacity to adapt to droughts, but also as a process of sustainable transformation of territories, articulating resource management, social inclusion and governance.

The results of the work are organized into five main themes:

- i. Sustainable production systems and natural resource management;
- ii. Territorial economy and jobs for resilience;
- iii. Governance, Rights and Cooperation;
- iv. Capacities, knowledge and resilience measurement;
- v. Social inclusion.

### Sustainable production systems and natural resource management

The cross-cutting recommendations on this first theme are as follows:

- Promote solutions adapted to local contexts, combining technical innovations and the enhancement of traditional knowledge.
- Secure access to land and natural resources through recognized community governance.

| Agroecology / Cultivated biodiversity                                                                             | Trees / Forests                                                                                           | Innovative irrigation techniques                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengthen mechanisms for economic development and market access for agroecological production.                   | Officially recognize community governance of agroforestry rangelands, distinct from state forest control. | To develop simple, affordable and scalable irrigation technologies adapted to arid regions. |
| Advocate for public policies that promote agroecology, access to farmers' seeds and agricultural diversification. | Recognize diversified agroforestry as a pillar of soil regeneration.                                      | Implement participatory approaches for capacity building and local ownership.               |
|                                                                                                                   | Introduce a payment for ecosystem services (PES) conditional on diversification.                          |                                                                                             |

## Territorial economy and jobs for resilience

The cross-cutting recommendations on this second theme are as follows:

- Support local circular economy initiatives through an enabling regulatory framework and capacity building of local authorities.
- Adopt an integrated approach that values endogenous know-how and creates conditions conducive to sustainable and inclusive jobs.

| Circular economy                                                                                                     | Creation of attractive jobs                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Establish a regulatory framework and technical support to facilitate local recovery circuits, waste management, etc. | Adopt an integrated approach based on: the development of know-how, the development of value chains and technical skills, the security of resources, and the awareness of inclusive, sustainable and economically viable sectors. |
| Strengthen the capacity of local authorities and community networks.                                                 | Promote sustainable jobs by combining market analysis, endogenous knowledge, new technologies and adapted organizational methods.                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                      | Promote the involvement of local communities (women, youth) in governance.                                                                                                                                                        |

## Governance, rights and cooperation

The cross-cutting recommendations on this third theme are as follows:

- Formalize transparent and precise multi-stakeholder collaboration frameworks from the outset of projects.
- Strengthen the localisation of aid and the flexibility of funding to better integrate human rights in crisis contexts.

| Multi-stakeholder collaboration | Human rights |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
|---------------------------------|--------------|

Formalize partnerships via detailed and precise agreements (roles, objectives, temporalities).

Build on existing networks or create iterative networking processes.

Establish a national human rights-based drought prevention framework.

Ensure greater flexibility for donors in multi-risk contexts and coordinate humanitarian and development actors to define clear mandates, ensuring that funding is earmarked

Ensure the protection of displaced persons and environmental migrants by recognising their right to migrate, while strengthening the localisation of aid and promoting inclusion, social justice and solidarity.

## Resilience, knowledge and measures

The cross-cutting recommendations on this fourth theme are as follows:

- Diversify capacity-building models by integrating andragogical approaches and sensitive tools (such as art, emotion).
- Develop shared, adaptive and less complex resilience indicators, integrating local knowledge and the temporal dimension.

| Capacity building                                                                               | Measuring resilience                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Promote an andragogical approach (adult education) and diversify educational tools (art, etc.). | Use adaptive, simplified multi-criteria tools that are consistent with local knowledge. |
| Strengthen the interface between local authorities and farmers' organizations.                  | Develop shared indicators integrating the temporal dimension (ephemeral/sustainable).   |

## Social inclusion

The cross-cutting recommendations on the latter theme are as follows:

- Strengthen women's political and economic advocacy through dedicated funding and specific negotiation spaces.
- Facilitate young people's access to finance and decision-making by promoting the social and solidarity economy.

| Women's Roles                                                                                          | Youth roles                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strengthen political advocacy and women's participation in decision-making bodies, as a specific group | Promote the social and solidarity economy and facilitate young people's access to loans and investment funds. |
| Increase international funding dedicated to women and co-construct actions with them.                  | Involve young people in decision-making through local, national and international frameworks.                 |
| Structuring organizational support and pooling good practices between women's cooperatives.            |                                                                                                               |



Based on all the recommendations identified in the context of the different themes, it is possible to summarize them as follows:

- Local governance must be strengthened, in particular through the recognition of community rights and the establishment of multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanisms.
- The development of appropriate financing is essential. Donors must be more flexible and dedicated funding for women and young people must be encouraged.
- Integrated approaches are particularly important and an effort must be made to promote endogenous knowledge as well as the development of andragogical approaches and shared resilience indicators.
- The inclusion of all actors must be strengthened, in particular the effective participation of women and young people in decision-making bodies.

## c. Ms. Sopiko Babalashvili

Young Professionals Association for Agricultural Development and member of the UNCCD CSO Panel, Georgia



105

**This last intervention aims to present the results of the group work organized on day 3 of the Desertif'actions Summit.** This work focused on the production of advocacy content aimed at several targets, decisions and agenda times before and during UNCCD COP 17.

The eleven themes of the working groups of day 3 can be grouped together according to a logic of progression.



## Strategic Vision

The results of the group work related to the alignment of the strategic vision are as follows:

| New UNCCD strategy (post-2030)                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The UNCCD should be inclusive and encourage adoption and adaptation at the national level. |

To improve the representation of civil society in decision-making and negotiation spaces.

Reformulate, simplify or merge certain objectives in order to clarify their meaning.

Encourage a bottom-up approach in the development of the new strategy.

## Substantive content

The results of the group work related to the substantive content are as follows:

| Avoiding, reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural land and soils                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Pastoralism negotiations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Drought negotiations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>It is essential to focus on prevention rather than restoration, as it is more cost-effective, faster to implement and less technically complex.</p> <p>Ensure policy coherence across sectors: Restoration efforts must not be undermined by parallel activities that degrade land. It is essential to strengthen alignment between environmental and agricultural policies and to foster dialogue between ministries at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Strengthen the generation and dissemination of knowledge on land and soil conditions, and use this information to inform land use planning at the national and local levels.</p> | <p>Pasture restoration should focus on the balance between people, vegetation and livestock, and allow for natural pasture regeneration where possible, ensuring landscape integrity and vegetation diversity.</p> <p>Mobility rights are a form of land rights for pastoralists.</p> <p>A civil society group should be set up alongside the UNCCD flagship initiative on rangelands to ensure accountability.</p> | <p>In developing knowledge, guidelines, tools and approaches to combat drought, the Convention needs to give greater importance to agricultural droughts, which claim the greatest number of lives.</p> <p>Policy and financial instruments to improve the effectiveness of drought management at the national and global levels must promote the transformation of agroecosystems by applying the principles of agroecology and placing the soil-water-agriculture nexus at the heart of these ambitions.</p> <p>Governance frameworks involving local stakeholders, farmers and herders, as well as vulnerable groups, need to be strengthened at the local level to develop drought adaptation strategies that take into account local specificities.</p> |

106

## Influence of negotiation dynamics

The results of the group work related to the influence of negotiation dynamics are as follows:

| Influence of EU negotiators | Influence of the negotiators of the Africa Group | Involvement of local and regional authorities in the UNCCD negotiations |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Prioritise early participation and involvement in decision-making in order to influence future developments.</p> <p>Continue policy dialogues between civil society and the EU to define respective advocacy strategies.</p> <p>Provide evidence on issues in policy development areas.</p> | <p>Adopt a global framework for moving from drought crisis management to risk and resilience management: build a more integrated, anticipatory and well-resourced system.</p> <p>Support African negotiators and lessons learned on drought, agroecology and other negotiating issues.</p> <p>Civil society should be involved in national processes for the preparation of the COP and in the implementation of UNCCD decisions.</p> | <p>Ensure that local authorities are recognized as frontline actors in the fight against desertification, as they have in-depth knowledge and expertise of their territories.</p> <p>Provide local authorities with adequate financial, human and technological resources to effectively combat desertification, land degradation and droughts.</p> <p>Propose UCLG coordination of the Mayors' Day at COP17.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Key spaces for civil society and visibility at COP 17

The outcomes of the group work related to key spaces for civil society and visibility at COP 17 are as follows:

| CSO statement at the opening of COP17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Open Dialogue Sessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Media mobilization around COP17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>On the occasion of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, pastoral and agro-pastoral issues should be integrated into the CSOs' opening statement, including by recognizing mobility as a key adaptation strategy for pastoralists.</p> <p>CSOs should focus on the issue of drought in order to advance work on this decision.</p> <p>Parties should be encouraged to facilitate, increase and localize direct access to climate and drought-related finance for CSOs and local authorities.</p> | <p>Rethink strategies to ensure the security of pastoralism and the equitable use of natural resources among all groups.</p> <p>Strengthen alliances between pastoralist organizations across countries to advance joint advocacy.</p> <p>Drought resilience strategies must be scientifically sound, culturally and socially acceptable, in line with traditional knowledge and inclusive for all.</p> <p>Actively engage with National Focal Points before and during COP17.</p> | <p>Produce accessible, analytical and synthetic content (articles, reports, interviews).</p> <p>Translating scientific data into content that is accessible and understandable to the general public.</p> <p>To highlight the concrete impacts of desertification through testimonies collected in the field.</p> <p>Mobilize a network of specialized journalists, opinion leaders and content creators.</p> |







## Closing ceremony of the Desertif'actions Summit 2026

### COP 17, what steps for a paradigm shift?

#### Facilitator: Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra

*Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia*

The Summit was attended by more than 350 participants of 50 different nationalities. It is the result of a co-organization led by CARI, OSS and UNCCD with the support of ACCD and WWF North Africa.



109

This event highlighted that civil society and local authorities have reached a level of maturity that allows them to play a fundamental and central role in the implementation of the UNCCD. As far as civil society is concerned, we are clearly aware of how far we have come, moving from a phase of contestation/protest to a phase where its ideas are listened to, understood and taken into account because it puts forward concrete and well-developed proposals and elements of content. Its structuring is also a point to be underlined by allowing civil society to influence international negotiations.

Participants gained a better understanding of the decision-making processes at COPs as well as the importance of the five-representative panel of civil society organizations. However, it is questionable whether this panel is sufficient to make the voice of civil society heard.

The particularity of the UNCCD is that it has a dual objective by aiming at the restoration of degraded land and the improvement of the living conditions of the population. Citizens can therefore be seen as the objectives of this convention and must therefore be involved in it.

#### a. Mrs. Fanna Abdou Gado

*Young Volunteers for the Environment (JVE), Niger*

It is important to build international advocacy based on what is being done on the ground. By acting and being proactive, civil society must represent and carry the voice of those who suffer daily from the realities of desertification and drought.



#### b. Mr. Julian Burgos

*Climate Resilience Officer, NGO People in Need, Czech Republic*

The consultation process carried out before and during the Desertif'actions 26 event is particularly inspiring to collect ideas and suggestions from a wide variety of actors from different backgrounds and territories.

The Czech Republic is also affected by droughts. Yet, some governments in Eastern and Central Europe remain climate sceptics and are likely to endanger civil society action.



#### c. Mr. Khijaba Ykhanbai

*Director of the JASIL Association, Mongolia*



This Summit was really important in allowing participants to exchange strategies and plans to fight desertification and strengthen the resilience of territories. The results of these fruitful discussions on the notion of resilience, solutions to combat desertification and the transition from a reactive to a proactive approach will be presented at COP 17 in August in Mongolia.

## d. Ms. Awatef Mabrouk

*Sociologist of Rural Development, Tunisia*

Désertif'actions 2026 differentiates itself from the COPs by being more sincere in relation to policies, by promoting deeper exchanges and by expressing a marked desire for change. It is important to remain hopeful, to remain realistic, to be rigorous and to encourage openness.



110

## e. Mr. Hamda Alaoui

*UNCCD National Focal Point, Tunisia*

As a representative of the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and focal point of the UNCCD, Mr. Alaoui was attentive to the proposals made by civil society at the Summit. In conjunction with the Africa Group and the other national focal points of the continent, he will carry this strong message: it is essential to strengthen the presence of civil society at the COPs.



## f. Mrs. Yomna Réba

*Head of the Higher Institutes of Technological Studies (ISET), Tunisia*

It is very honored that the ISET of Djerba has been chosen to host this sixth edition of the Désertif'actions Summit. Institutes of Technology are institutions of higher learning that specialize in applied research that provide sustainable solutions to the major challenges of our time.

## g. Mr. Patrice Burger

*President of the Centre for International Actions and Achievements (CARI), France*

All the discussions that emerged from this event will make it possible to continue the process already begun during the preparatory workshops until the next COP. These preparatory workshops, which are unfunded and carried out on a voluntary basis, also prove a strong willingness and a real interest on the part of civil society to work on these issues and to be heard and involved in the negotiations.



Regarding the promotion of the Summit, all the presentations will be published on the internet, a global report will be produced, and a feedback webinar will be organized on June 17, 2026 on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification. One or two position papers will also be prepared ahead of COP 17.

## Dryland Village – General Public Day

On the fourth day of the Desertif'actions Summit, a day for the general public was organized at the ISET in Djerba, structured around several activities and highlights.

### Exhibition space

Installed on the outskirts of the institute, this space allowed the public to discover 25 stands of Tunisian crafts, national and international organizations and associations present at D'A (ACDD, WWF North Africa, OSS, IRD, etc.), development projects and public and private institutions.

A typical Tunisian catering offer was also offered to the public, including the setting up of a large Berber tent where it was possible to discover traditional tools while tasting tea prepared from aromatic plants from southern Tunisia.

### Workshops and participatory debates

Several workshops and participatory debates were organised in the afternoon, allowing the public to discover the initiatives carried out by different organisations and networks.

Celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, the Institute of Arid Regions (IRA) of Medenine organized a workshop to share, through testimonies and exchanges with the participants, its main achievements and successes as well as to present the main lines of its vision and strategic orientations for the coming decades.

The SHANTI association moderated a round table on the theme of the role of Social and Solidarity Economy entities in adapting to climate change and strengthening resilience to drought, highlighting the contribution of these entities to the construction of a more inclusive and sustainable society. Concrete initiatives were presented and participants were invited to reflect collectively on possible synergies between the SSE sector, local communities, institutions and other actors in the territory.

The multi-stakeholder network [MEDAE](#), set up in the framework of the [NATAE](#) project, organized a participatory debate on agroecology with the participation of members of the Tunisian Network for Agroecological Transition (RTTA).



## National petanque competition

This competition brought together more than 350 candidates, with participants of all ages: minimes, cadets, juniors and seniors. At the same time, a second amateur competition was organized for the participants of the Desertif'actions Summit.

## Tree planting

The participants of Désertif'actions were invited to take part in the planting of about thirty olive trees of local variety (chemlali) as well as a dozen local palm trees from the island of Djerba.

112



## Folk music

In the afternoon, a folk music troupe toured the village of the arid lands to introduce the traditional Djerbian music to the public present.

## Closing concert

The day, and with it the sixth edition of the Desertif'actions Summit, ended with the organization of a concert at the municipal theater of Midoun. Coming directly from Tozeur, the Sidi Bouali Sufi troupe performed traditional songs, music and dances for two hours punctuated by interludes aimed at discovering, through tales and poetry, the story of several emblematic characters of the oasis of Nafta.





2026 **Désertif'actions**



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contre la désertification



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## Appendices

### Appendix 1 : Program for the 2026 Désertif'actions Summit

#### **Wednesday, March 25 – Droughts: Findings and Challenges**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Opening Plenary Session: Désertif'actions 2026, a Unique Moment in a World in Crisis

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Introductory Plenary Session: Droughts Around the World, the Evolution of Their Impacts, and Their Political Consideration

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Plenary Session: Measures for Drought Preparedness, Management, and Recovery

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Tour and discussions at the exhibition areas

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Welcome reception and cocktail dinner

#### **Thursday, March 26 – Improving Regional Resilience**

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Plenary Session: The Preparatory Process and Lessons Learned

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Plenary Session: Financial Resilience in a World in Crisis—What Reasons for Hope?

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Group sessions: Sharing experiences and recommendations to strengthen regional resilience to drought

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Side events

#### **Friday, March 27 – On the Way to COP17**

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Plenary: UNCCD Negotiations, Obstacles, and a Possible Path Forward

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Group Work: Recommendations and Roadmap Leading Up to COP17

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Plenary: On the Way to COP and Future Actions

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM: Plenary: COP17—What Steps Are Needed for a Paradigm Shift?

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM: Gala evening with the award ceremony for the international press cartoon contest

#### **Saturday, March 28 – Arid Lands Village**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Village and nonprofit booths, conferences, musical performances

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Concert at the Midoun Theater

## Appendix 2 : List of participants

| NAMES             | FIRST NAMES     | COUNTRIES   | ORGANISATIONS                         | POSITIONS                                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABAAB             | ALI             | Tunisie     | ACL                                   | Secrétaire général                                                      |
| ABARCHI           | HAROUNA         | Niger       | A2N                                   | Pastoraliste, président                                                 |
| ABASSE            | AMADOU TOUGIANI | Niger       | HIMMA                                 |                                                                         |
| ABDEDDAYEM        | AHMED           | Tunisie     | NAKHLA                                |                                                                         |
| ABDELKADER        | ARYEM           | Tunisie     |                                       |                                                                         |
| ABDELKADER        | CHADA           | Tunisie     | Etudiante                             |                                                                         |
| ABDELKADER        | HATEM           | Tunisie     | ACDD                                  |                                                                         |
| ABDOU GADO        | FANNA           | Niger       | JVE                                   |                                                                         |
| ABDOULKARIM BELLO | ABINA           | Tunisie     | OSS                                   | Directeur du Terre et Biodiversité                                      |
| ABDULLAHI         | UAMAR           | Nigeria     | RICOWAS Nigeria                       | Coordinateur                                                            |
| ADAMOU            | AMADOU          | Cameroun    | Mboscuda                              | PRESIDENT NATIONAL                                                      |
| AFEF              | NASRI           | Tunisie     | Comité régional de solidarité sociale |                                                                         |
| AFKIR             | MHAMED          | Maroc       | ECI Arghen                            | Vice-Président aux relations internationales                            |
| AHAMADA           | IBRAHIMA        | Les Comores | PFSS-RRC                              |                                                                         |
| AHLEM             | MASMOIDI        | Tunisie     | GIZ                                   |                                                                         |
| AHMED             | MAOULIDA SOILIH | Les Comores | PFSS-RRC                              | Responsable des Activités Communautaires et Gestion des Risques en Eaux |
| AHMED DEKLE       | AHMED SALEM     | Mauritanie  | Région de Nouakchott                  | Elu                                                                     |

|               |                     |              |                                        |                                                                                   |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AKPLO         | ANTOINETTE          | Mali         | REFEDE MALI                            |                                                                                   |
| ALAOUI        | HAMDA               | Tunisie      | Ministère de l'environnement (Tunisie) | Point Focal UNCCD                                                                 |
| ALASSAN       | KPEZIWEZOU          | Togo         | RéNAAT                                 | Président                                                                         |
| ALBAGNAC      | MANON               | France       | CARI                                   | Chargée de programme                                                              |
| ALHADJ ALI    | ABDELKERIM MEDIDEUR | Tchad        | AAJSD Agro Business                    | Président                                                                         |
| AL-SHEIKH ALI | YASSER ALI          | Yemen        | RYCAD                                  |                                                                                   |
| AMADOU        | YOUSSEF             | Tunisie      | OSS                                    | Coordinateur de projets                                                           |
| AMWATA        | DOROTHY             | Kenya        | Murang'a University of Technology      | Professeure Universitaire                                                         |
| AOUTACKSA     | ABRAHAM             | Cameroun     | GIZ                                    | Conseiller technique agroécologie et chaîne de valeur                             |
| ASSAWER       | HEDHILI             | Tunisie      | CTAMA                                  |                                                                                   |
| AYADI         | SAWSEN              | Tunisie      | INAT                                   | Maître de conférence d'enseignement supérieur agricole                            |
| AYATT         | TAYCIR              | Tunisie      | ACDD                                   |                                                                                   |
| AYATT         | RAKIA               | Tunisie      | Shanti                                 |                                                                                   |
| BABA SY       | LAMINE              | Tunisie      | OSS                                    | Directeur du département Eau                                                      |
| BABALASHVILI  | SOPIKO              | Géorgie      | CENN                                   |                                                                                   |
| BACCOUCH      | MEHDI               | Tunisie      | Shanti                                 |                                                                                   |
| BACHIRI       | NAJIB               | Maroc        | Homme & Environnement                  | Président                                                                         |
| BAHIRE        | JEAN JACQUES        | Burkina Faso | MAERAH                                 | Responsable du Suivi-évaluation de la Coordination National Grande Muraille Verte |
| BARBANA       | FATEN               | Tunisie      | ASOC                                   |                                                                                   |



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|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| BAROUDI          | MED           | Tunisie      | ADKJ                                                              |                                         |
| BAUDRAN          | CÉDRIC        | France       | CARI                                                              | Secrétaire adjoint                      |
| BAYOULI          | MOHAMED       | Tunisie      | Djerba insolite                                                   |                                         |
| BEC              | CHRISTEL      | France       | IRD                                                               | Responsable diffusion                   |
| BEL HADJ SLIMANE | SOUMEIA       | Tunisie      | GIZ                                                               | Directrice de projet                    |
| BELEMGNEGRE      | ABDOUL RAZACK | Burkina Faso | RBIA                                                              | Secrétaire aux au relations extérieures |
| BELHAMRA         | AZIZ          | Tunisie      | OSS                                                               | Chef de Division climat                 |
| BELKHODJA        | HENDA         | Tunisie      | OSS                                                               | Assistante administrative               |
| BELMECHERI       | SOUAD         | Algérie      | El Argoub                                                         | ANIMATRICE LL LAGHOUAT                  |
| BEN KHATRA       | NABIL         | Tunisie      | OSS                                                               | Secrétaire Exécutif                     |
| BEN YAHIA        | KHAOUTER      | Tunisie      | INGREF                                                            |                                         |
| BENABDALLAH      | AMÎN          | Tunisie      | RTTA                                                              | Coordination                            |
| BENAOUN          | ILYES         | Tunisie      | ACDD                                                              |                                         |
| BENAZET          | CÉCILE        | France       | CARI                                                              | Chargée de communication                |
| BENLATIEF        | SALMA         | Tunisie      | BACIKAT                                                           |                                         |
| BENMOUSSA        | HAIFA         | Tunisie      | INAT                                                              | Post-doc                                |
| BENNANI          | LEILA         | Tunisie      | OSS                                                               | Chargée de Communication                |
| BENNANI          | LEILA         | Tunisie      | ATNPE KORBA                                                       |                                         |
| BENOIT           | GUILLAUME     | France       | PFE                                                               |                                         |
| BENSALEM         | TAREK         | Tunisie      | Représentant de la Direction régionale de l'Environnement à Gabès |                                         |
| BENSMIDA         | ELJIA         | Tunisie      | BACIKAT                                                           |                                         |
| BERRAHMOUNI      | NORA          | Italie       | FAO                                                               |                                         |

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|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| BERTHÉ      | OUSMANE     | Mali          | REFEDE MALI                                         |                                                      |
| BESA        | ALFRED      | Tunisie       | ADSWAC                                              | ADSWAC Project Director                              |
| BIMBA       | ROBERT      | Liberia       | RICOWAS Liberia                                     | Coordinateur                                         |
| BINHAFI     | FERNANDO    | Guinée Bissao | APICA                                               | Direteur Executif                                    |
| BONKOUNGOU  | SAYOUBA     | Burkina Faso  | CNABIO                                              | President                                            |
| BOUABID     | NACER       | Tunisie       | Ex ASSIDJE - Dos Unesco                             |                                                      |
| BOUAICHA    | ALI         | Tunisie       | EX CRDA                                             |                                                      |
| BOUAJILA    | MED         | Tunisie       | Association de développement de TAMELLIST TATAOUINE |                                                      |
| BOUARGOUB   | MOHAMMED    | Tunisie       | APIA Medenine                                       |                                                      |
| BOUBAKRI    | ANOIR       | Tunisie       | GDA Gren Desert-Sagui-Menzel Habib                  |                                                      |
| BOUCHADDAKH | TAHA        | Tunisie       | Djerba Développement et Solidarité                  |                                                      |
| BOUKCHINA   | RACHID      | Tunisie       | ISSTE Gabès                                         |                                                      |
| BRAHIMI     | YOUSSEF     | France        | La ROSE                                             | Président                                            |
| BRAS        | ANNE CECILE | France        | RFI                                                 |                                                      |
| BRIK        | MOHAMMED    | Algérie       | El Argoub                                           | Président                                            |
| BRIKI       | MOURAD      | Tunisie       | OSS                                                 | Directeur département Veille et Com / 1er Conseiller |
| BRINI       | DHAOU       | Tunisie       | ISSET                                               |                                                      |
| BROSSÉ      | CHRISTOPHE  | France        | CARI                                                | Directeur CARI                                       |
| BURGER      | PATRICE     | France        | CARI                                                |                                                      |
| BURGOS      | JULIAN      |               |                                                     |                                                      |
| CAUSSÉ      | KARINE      | France        | Partenariat français pour l'eau                     | Programme Officer   Water, Biodiversité,             |

|                   |                    |           |                                               |                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                   |                    |           |                                               | NbS and Agroecology                            |
| CESARO            | JEAN-DANIEL        | France    | CIRAD                                         | Chercheur                                      |
| CHAABANI          | JALEL              | Tunisie   | Shanti                                        |                                                |
| CHATTOUTI         | SOUAD              | Tunisie   | AEDS                                          |                                                |
| CHE THÖNER        | VICTORINE SIRRI    | Allemagne | IUCN                                          | Senior Programme Officer                       |
| CHELBI            | IMEN               | Tunisie   | Ferme "El Rochen" ZARZIS                      |                                                |
| CHEMIN            | CAROLE             | France    | pS-Eau                                        |                                                |
| CHENEVAL          | JEAN BAPTISTE      | France    | CIRAD                                         |                                                |
| CHERNI            | HAZEM              | Tunisie   | Les amis de Capte                             |                                                |
| CHIAPPINI CARPENA | PIETRO             | Italie    | Tree Aid                                      | Head of Programme Quality and Advocacy         |
| CHILEWA           | HUMPHREY SHADRACK  | Tanzanie  | RECODA                                        |                                                |
| CHIMEWAH          | ADENIKE ONOO NAOMI | Cameroun  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | Head of Service of Soil Mapping and Management |
| CHNITER           | MONGI              | Tunisie   | CRDA Tataouine                                |                                                |
| CHOTTE            | JEAN-LUC           | France    | CSFD                                          | Président CSFD                                 |
| CIMBARO           | NICOLAS            | France    | Conseil départemental de l'Aude               | responsable des relations internationales      |
| COLOVRAY          | LUNA               | France    | Université Paris Cité                         | Doctorante                                     |
| COMPTOUR          | MARION             | France    | CARI                                          | Chargée de projet                              |
| COOPMAN           | PIERRE             | Belgique  | Humundi                                       | Responsable des publications et des podcasts   |
| CORNET            | ANTOINE            | France    | CARI                                          | Administrateur                                 |
| COSTA             | ROMAIN             | France    | IRD                                           | Editeur                                        |

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| CRESPO SUAREZ | SARA          | Bolivie       | PROBIOMA                                                                           |                                                                                                                 |
| DADI          | BECHIR        | Tunisie       | ACDD                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| DAGHARI       | LASSAAD       | Tunisie       | Food quality                                                                       |                                                                                                                 |
| DBOUBA        | MOHAMED       | Tunisie       | Université Gabes                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| DERKIMBA      | ADELINE       | France        | CARI                                                                               | Directrice des programmes                                                                                       |
| DHAOUADI      | KILANI        | Tunisie       | Association de la protection des ksour et sauvegarde du patrimoine à Béni Khadèche |                                                                                                                 |
| DIA           | IBRAHIM       | Sénégal       | IED Afrique                                                                        | 0                                                                                                               |
| DIALLO        | HAMET         | Sénégal       | GRET                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| DIAWARA       | SOULEYMANE    | Guinée        | RICOWAS Guinée                                                                     | Coordinateur                                                                                                    |
| DIBY ABOLEY   | GRACE         | Cote d'Ivoire | Fresque de la Désertification                                                      | Administratrice - référente Côte d'Ivoire                                                                       |
| DIETSCH       | LAURENT       | France        | TERO                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| DIONI         | AICHA         | Burkina Faso  | Autre Terre                                                                        | Chargée de Suivi-évaluation et Communication                                                                    |
| DIOUF         | LOUIS-ETIENNE | Sénégal       | Agrisud International                                                              | Représentant Pays                                                                                               |
| DOGHRI        | EZZEDDINE     | Tunisie       | JEKTIS Boughrara                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| DORSOUMA      | ALHAMANDO U   | Tchad         | African Development Bank                                                           | Directeur intérimaire et chef de division, au département du changement climatique et croissance verte à la BAD |
| DUFUMIER      | MARC          | France        | CARI                                                                               | Administrateur                                                                                                  |
| DUTAILLY      | PHILLIPINE    | France        | MEAE                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| EL CADI       | KHAWLA        | Tunisie       | ASSIDJE                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |



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|---------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| EL OUMRI      | TOURIA              | Maroc    | ASTICUDE                                | Experte genre et Environnement         |
| ELIUD         | LETUNGAA            | Tanzanie | MVIWAARUSHA                             |                                        |
| ELJEROU       | CHRIFA              | Tunisie  | Association femmes chercheuses Medenine |                                        |
| ELLANI        | LOTFI               | Tunisie  | Tataouine Demain                        |                                        |
| EMADELDIN     | ADLY ABDELAZIZ NANA | Egypte   | RAED                                    |                                        |
| ENJALBERT     | JÉRÔME              | France   | CARI                                    | Chargé de programme                    |
| ETOUZANI      | LOUBNA              | Maroc    |                                         | Membre                                 |
| FOUGHALI      | HAMDA               | Tunisie  | OSS                                     | Chef de Division veille                |
| FOURNIER      | FRÉDÉRIQUE          | Canada   | Mission Inclusion                       | Chargée de projets, Justice climatique |
| FRAGASZY      | STEPHEN             | USA      | IWMI                                    | Project Lead                           |
| GAUDIN        | MORGANE             | France   | CARI                                    | Chargée de projet                      |
| GENIN         | CORENTIN            | Belgique | SPF AE                                  | PF UNCCD                               |
| GENOLA        | LUCIANO             | France   | Université Paris Cité                   | Doctorant                              |
| GHANDOUR      | MOHAMED             | Tunisie  | ACDD                                    | Vice président                         |
| GHARBI        | WALID               | Tunisie  | INGC                                    | ingénieur                              |
| GHEDHOU       | SLAHEDDINE          | Tunisie  | DGACTA                                  |                                        |
| GRAMI         | BACEM               | Tunisie  | PNUD                                    |                                        |
| GUESMI        | NESRINE             | Tunisie  |                                         |                                        |
| GUESMI        | IMEN                | Tunisie  | ACDD                                    |                                        |
| GUESMI        | SALAH               | Tunisie  | Ville de Solimon                        |                                        |
| GUINDO TRAORE | LALLA AICHA         | Mali     | ADCE Mali                               |                                        |
| HALILOU       | MOUSSA              | Niger    | CNCOD                                   |                                        |

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|-----------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| HALOUI          | MOHAMED MEDHI | Tunisie | ONTT                           |                                      |
| HAMADA          | NABIL         | Tunisie | OSS                            | Directeur Administratif et Financier |
| HAMMOUDA        | NAWFAL        | Tunisie | ASZHST                         |                                      |
| HAMROUNI        | MARWA         | Tunisie |                                |                                      |
| HAMROUNI        | ABDELBASSET   | Tunisie | ACDD                           |                                      |
| HANNACHI        | MOHAMED ALI   | Tunisie | INGC                           | technicien                           |
| HAOUARI         | WIEM          | Tunisie | Soilhence                      |                                      |
| HAOUAS          | DALILA        | Tunisie | AgroEcologie KEF               |                                      |
| HAROUNA MAHAMAN | INOUSSA       | Niger   | Association des municipalités  |                                      |
| HARROUCHI       | FAOUZI        | Tunisie | DGACTA                         |                                      |
| HASNAOUI        | FOUAD         | Tunisie | Institut SylvoPastoral Tabarka |                                      |
| HENTATI         | HAFEDH        | Tunisie | FTED sfax                      |                                      |
| HOUJJI          | WAHIBA        | Tunisie | IRD                            |                                      |
| HUBERT          | CAMILLE       | France  | HAMAP Humanitaire              | Cheffe de projet                     |
| IDRISS          | HASSEN        | Tunisie |                                |                                      |
| ISMAEL          | ALLAHI BIZO   | Niger   | AJEEC                          | President National                   |
| JAAFAR          | RACHID        | Tunisie | ACDD                           |                                      |
| JALKH           | RITA          | France  | IAMM                           |                                      |
| JALLOULI        | SALMA         | Tunisie | INAT                           | Post-doc                             |
| JAMII           | AMMAR         | Tunisie | CRDA Medenine                  |                                      |
| JARRADI         | SLIM          | Tunisie | WWF-NA                         |                                      |
| JARRAHI         | TAREK         | Tunisie | INGC                           | Directeur général                    |

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| JERIDI            | ALISSA          | France           | CARI                                                                    | Chargé de projet                                                              |
| JROUD             | HAFEDH          | Tunisie          | AGDOR<br>NAFATA/SHANTI                                                  |                                                                               |
| KABA              | FATIMATA        | sénégal          | ENDA ENERGIE                                                            | Chargée de<br>Mission Gestion<br>des ressources<br>naturelles                 |
| KABORE            | BARNABÉ         | Burkina<br>Faso  | Eaux et Forêts                                                          | DG Eaux et<br>Forêts                                                          |
| KALIDOU           | BA              | Sénégal          | EGAB                                                                    | Président                                                                     |
| KENADID           | BADAL           | Ethiopia         | Somali Regional State                                                   | Natural Resource<br>Development,<br>Protection and<br>Utilization<br>Director |
| KHAMASSI          | FATEN           | Tunisie          | INAT                                                                    |                                                                               |
| KHAMMARI          | NADIA           | Tunisie          | OSS                                                                     | Analyste<br>Communication                                                     |
| KHIAR<br>MENHOUDJ | HALIMA SAMIA    | France           | Association<br>Humanitaire de<br>Développement de la<br>Vallée du Souss | bénévole                                                                      |
| KHIARI            | HABIBA          |                  | UNCCD                                                                   |                                                                               |
| KHIJABA           | YKHANBAI        | Mongolie         | JASIL                                                                   | Director                                                                      |
| KHLIF             | MANEL           | Tunisie          | ArdhiPilot                                                              |                                                                               |
| KHORCHANI         | MED<br>ABDELHAK | Tunisie          | Cotugrain                                                               | Chef<br>Département<br>Grandes cultures                                       |
| KHOUI             | WEDYENE         | Tunisie          | INAT                                                                    | Project Manager                                                               |
| KNAPNOUGEL        | ANNE LOUISE     | France           | Métropole de<br>Montpellier                                             | Chargé de projet<br>de coopération                                            |
| KOBBI             | MAYSSA          | France           | Le Jardin en may                                                        |                                                                               |
| KONE              | LACINA          |                  |                                                                         | SE du WAP                                                                     |
| KOUAME            | HERMANN         | Cote<br>d'Ivoire | CHL                                                                     | Directeur                                                                     |
| KOUDOUYOU         | RASMATA         | Burkina<br>Faso  | Sol Vert                                                                | Présidente                                                                    |
| KOUKI             | KAOUTHER        | Tunisie          | APIA Medenine                                                           |                                                                               |

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|--------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KOUSSANI     | WAFI               | Tunisie  | ESIAT                                                                             | Maitre-<br>Assistante<br>d'enseignement<br>supérieur<br>agricole  |
| KSIXI        | ZINELABIDINE       | Tunisie  | Direction régionale de<br>l'Environnement à<br>Tataouine                          |                                                                   |
| LA PLACA     | MARTA              | France   | Caritas France                                                                    | Chargée de<br>plaidoyer<br>international<br>justice<br>climatique |
| LAHMAR-THERY | DELPHINE           | France   | Fresque de la<br>Désertification                                                  | Présidente                                                        |
| LAIMICH      | INES               | Tunisie  | GDA DERGUINE<br>NEFTA                                                             |                                                                   |
| LANDOULSI    | IMEN               | Tunisie  | IRD                                                                               | coop'EAU<br>PROJECT<br>MANAGER                                    |
| LANNES       | MAEVA              | France   | Chambre<br>d'agriculture Aude                                                     | Animatrice<br>territoriale                                        |
| LEMANN       | TATENDA            | Suisse   | WOCAT / Center for<br>Development and<br>Environment (CDE),<br>University of Bern | WOCAT<br>Executive Team                                           |
| LEMOUCHI     | SOUHIL             | France   | IRD                                                                               | Chargé de<br>communication<br>pour la région<br>méditerranée      |
| LOPES        | NAMIR              |          | ADPP                                                                              | Coordinateur<br>National du<br>projet APICA                       |
| LOUHICHI     | MOEZ               | Tunisie  | IRA                                                                               |                                                                   |
| LOUHICHI     | RADHIA             | Tunisie  | Réseau enfant et Terre                                                            |                                                                   |
| MAATI        | MED                | Tunisie  | Direction régionale de<br>l'Environnement à<br>Medenine                           |                                                                   |
| MABROUK      | AWATEF             |          |                                                                                   |                                                                   |
| MADOUYOU     | IBRAHIM            | Niger    | ADAPT WAP                                                                         | Coordinateur<br>national projet<br>Adapt-WAP                      |
| MALLÉ        | HALIMATA           | Mali     | REFEDE                                                                            | Chargée de<br>projet                                              |
| MANEI        | CAROLYNE<br>NAANYU | Kenya    | PELUM                                                                             | Directrice des<br>programmes                                      |
| MARCELLE     | TIFFANY            | Barbades | CYEN                                                                              |                                                                   |



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|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MARZOUGUI   | SARRA     | Tunisie    | INGC                                               | ingénieur                                                                                         |
| MASON       | STEFANO   | France     | AVSF                                               | Chargé de programme                                                                               |
| MAYIANI     | SAINO     | Kenya      | Government                                         | Deputy Director Multilateral Environmental Agreements                                             |
| MBODJ       | ABSA      | Sénégal    | Enda Pronat                                        | Secrétariat DyTAES                                                                                |
| MEDDEB      | SAHAR     | Tunisie    | ATP                                                | Coordinatrice de projets                                                                          |
| MEFTAH      | BELHASSEN | Tunisie    | Oxygene Ghannouch e                                |                                                                                                   |
| MELIANE     | IMEN      | Tunisie    | IUCN                                               |                                                                                                   |
| MERDASSI    | RABEB     | Tunisie    | ADES                                               |                                                                                                   |
| MIMOUNI     | MUSTAPHA  | Tunisie    | OSS                                                | Directeur du département SIG- Télédétection & IT                                                  |
| MISAK       | RAAFAT    | Egypte     | Desert Research Centre                             | Professeur émérite, Desert Research Centre (DRC), Membre du Comité scientifique et technologique. |
| MOHAMADOU   | ABBO      | Cameroun   | SAILD                                              |                                                                                                   |
| MOHAMED ALI | DRIDI     | Tunisie    | Ministère de l'environnement                       |                                                                                                   |
| MÖHLER      | KARIN     | Belgique   | APEFE                                              | Responsable géographique Burkina Faso                                                             |
| MOREL       | DOMINIQUE | Belgique   | Humundi                                            | Responsable thématique Agroécologie; Suivi programme Senegal                                      |
| MORRIS      | ANDREW    | Angleterre | BSSS                                               |                                                                                                   |
| MOULAI      | ADEL      | Algérie    | El Argoub                                          |                                                                                                   |
| MOURABIT    | RACHID    | France     | Humanitaire de développement de la Vallée du Souss |                                                                                                   |

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|-----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MUELLER         | JULIA ISABEL | Allemagne      | GIZ                          | Specialist for Communication and Knowledge Management                |
| MUGIMBA         | NANCY        | Ouganda        | ESAFF Uganda                 |                                                                      |
| MÜTING-VAN LOON | ANJA         | Allemagne      | GIZ                          | Advisor                                                              |
| MWANGI          | WANGU        | Kenya          | Ambition Loop                | Programmes Lead                                                      |
| NABI            | MATHIEU      | Burkina Faso   | APIL                         |                                                                      |
| NAKASAGGA       | JULIET       | Ouganda        | NBI                          |                                                                      |
| NASR            | NOUREDDINE   | Tunisie        | EX IRA FAO                   |                                                                      |
| NATASHA         | MARU         | Inde           | International Land Coalition | Global Focal Point - Rangelands and Pastoralists                     |
| NDIAYE          | NDEYE YANDE  | Sénégal        | IPAR                         |                                                                      |
| NDOUR           | MATY         | Sénégal        | APAF                         | Chargée des fonctions support (suivi-évaluation et recherche action) |
| NEDHIF          | AMNA         | Tunisie        | APIA Medenine                |                                                                      |
| NEFFATI         | MOHAMED      | Tunisie        | EX IRA                       |                                                                      |
| NEMER           | RABIAA       | Tunisie        | ATAE                         |                                                                      |
| NINO            | JULIE        | France         | CARI                         | Responsable admin fi                                                 |
| NOEL            | VALÉRIE      | France         | Indépendant                  |                                                                      |
| OETTLE          | NOEL         | Afrique du Sud | Drynet                       | Coordinator                                                          |
| ORIGONI         | VALENTINA    | France         | SIF                          | Directrice Plaidoyer et relations Institutionnelles                  |
| ORSINI          | ANTOINE      | France         | AERMC                        |                                                                      |
| OTARU OKOEDION  | ELLEN        | Tanzanie       | JET                          | Présidente                                                           |

|                     |                |               |                               |                                    |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| OUANDJAGABO U       | ISSOUF         | Burkina Faso  | Gamowigna                     | Secrétaire général                 |
| OUEDRAOGO           | DANIEL DÉSIÉ   | Burkina Faso  | Tree Aid                      | Directeur Pays/Burkina Faso        |
| OUEDRAOGO           | OMER           | Burkina Faso  | RC2D                          |                                    |
| OUEDRAOGO           | ABDOULAYE      | Burkina Faso  | APIL - SPONG                  | Coordonnateur APIL et PCA du SPONG |
| OUEDRAOGO           | YACOUBA        | Burkina Faso  | APEFE                         | Administrateur de programmes       |
| OUEDRAOGO           | RICHARD        | Burkina Faso  | SPONG                         | Chargé de projet environnement     |
| OUEDRAOGO           | LÉA GUETAYAOBA | Burkina Faso  | Autre Terre                   | Cheffe de projet                   |
| OUESSARD            | MOHAMED        | Tunisie       | IRA                           |                                    |
| OVET                | LÉA            | France        | Fresque de la Désertification | Administratrice                    |
| PARELLADA           | ANA            | Argentine     | FARN                          | Biodiversity Officer               |
| PASSAU N'DAFA       | ANTONIO        | Guinée Bissao | GPC                           | Directeur Général                  |
| PORCHERON           | FRANÇOIS       | France        | RFI                           |                                    |
| PRAPAN CHAKRA BORTY | AMIYA          | Bangladesh    | DYDF                          | Chief Executive Officer            |
| PRYSTHON            | WALTER         | France        | Caritas France                | Chargé de projets internationaux   |
| RAHMANI             | ABDELKRIM      | Tunisie       | GDA ELMDOU GABES              |                                    |
| RAJHI               | MOHAMED        | Tunisie       | TerraSens                     |                                    |
| RAMNUTH             | MÉLANIE        | France        | Experts Solidaires            | Chargée de projet                  |
| REGALLA             | AISSA          | Guinée Bissao | APICA                         | Directeur Général                  |
| RENAULT             | JEAN-MICHEL    | France        | Dessinateur                   | dessinateur de presse              |
| REQUIER             | MÉLANIE        | France        | IAMM                          |                                    |
| RHOMARI             | YAHYA          | Maroc         |                               | Vice-président                     |
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| SAVADOGO | ARSÈNE                  | Burkina Faso | Bioprotect                              |                                                                       |
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| SCHMITZ  | EVA                     | Pays Bas     | Both Ends                               |                                                                       |
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| SOUIDI         | NABIHA            | Tunisie      | ACDD                     |                                                                      |
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| SUGARI         | ISSA              | Ghana        | RICOWAS Ghana            | Coordinateur                                                         |
| SY             | ABDULAYE          | Sénégal      | RICOWAS Sénégal          | Coordinateur                                                         |
| TAGNABOU       | DAMBATIA LAZARE   | Burkina Faso | MAERAH                   | Point Focal UNCCD                                                    |
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| TAMINI         | PHILIPPE          | Burkina Faso | ADAPT WAP                | Coordinateur national projet Adapt-WAP                               |
| TANGARA        | KADIATOU          | Mali         | COSY-MALI                | Coordinatrice                                                        |
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| TILAHUN        | SEBLE             | Ethiopia     | GIZ                      | Rural Development Advisor                                            |
| TONDE          | ERIC              | Burkina Faso | RBIA                     | Membre                                                               |
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| TRAORE                      | DAOUDA   | Burkina<br>Faso | Réseau Climat et<br>Développement<br>Durable (RC2D) | Coordonnateur<br>National                                        |
| TRAORE                      | KALIFA   | Mali            |                                                     |                                                                  |
| TRAORE                      | KARIM    | Mali            |                                                     |                                                                  |
| TRUX                        | ANNEKE   | Allemagne       | GIZ                                                 | Proogramm<br>Manager                                             |
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| VALENTI                     | LUIGI    | italie          | La Belle Saison                                     | Agriculteur                                                      |
| VELANDER                    | SARA     | Suède           | Ambition Loop                                       | Land Manager                                                     |
| VEVERT                      | YASMINE  | France          | Université Paris V                                  | Etudiante                                                        |
| WIESENHÜTTER                | JULIANE  | Allemagne       | GIZ                                                 | Project lead                                                     |
| WOHLERT                     | JESPER   | Hollande        | HPP                                                 | Directeur<br>Humana People<br>to People (HPP)                    |
| YARGA                       | OUHANGLA | Burkina<br>Faso | ASSOCIATION BASE<br>FANDIMA                         | Directeur<br>Général                                             |
| YAYA                        | BEBE     | Cameroun        | COOP-CA CROPSEC                                     | Responsable<br>Régional<br>Insertion                             |
| YULCHIBOEV                  | MUZAFFAR | Ouzbekista<br>n | Dessinateur                                         |                                                                  |
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| ZEMOUCHI                    | SAMIR    | Algérie         | CISP                                                | Représentant<br>pays                                             |
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| ZIDI                        | TAKWA    | Tunisie         |                                                     |                                                                  |
| ZOUARI                      | INES     | Tunisie         | INAT                                                | Maître-<br>assistante<br>d'enseignement<br>supérieur<br>agricole |

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| MUDAWI       | HAMED     | Arabie Saoudite | AGFUND                       |                              |
| BOURKHIS     | ADEL      |                 |                              |                              |
| AHAORADA     | IBRAHIMA  | Les Comores     | PFFS                         | Ministère protection sociale |
| ABO RAYAB    | SAMY      |                 | DRC                          |                              |
| ALLAM        | MARIAM    |                 | Africa Adaptation Initiative |                              |
| AWESSOU      | BERANGER  | Bénin           | DGEFC                        |                              |
| BARLEMONT    | JORDAN    | France          | MEAE                         |                              |
| BONNET       | BERNARD   | France          | IRAM                         |                              |
| BLAISE       | LILIA     | France          |                              |                              |
| BOUHALI      | KAIS      | Tunisie         | BIAT                         |                              |
| FAROUK       | SELLAMI   |                 | GIZ                          |                              |
| ABASSI       | MOHAMED   |                 | PUBLICITA                    |                              |
| NABOLTAME    | YOUSSEF   |                 | AIAD                         |                              |
| PALLOCCA     | FRANCESCO | Italie          | AICS                         |                              |
| KEDISS       | HAMZA     |                 |                              |                              |
| MESSAI LARRI | AWATEF    |                 |                              |                              |
| LEMIRE       | JOSEE     | Canada          | Mission inclusion            |                              |
| MASMOULI     | MOUTAA    | Tunisie         | BIAT                         |                              |
| KAUNGA       | VIVIAN    | Kenya           | Impact Kenya                 |                              |
| MASMOUDI     | AHLEN     | Tunisie         | GIZ Tunisie                  |                              |
| CHAMEKIT     | Sami      |                 | CIF                          |                              |
| CHATTOUTI    | SOUAD     | Tunisie         | Ville de Solimon             |                              |

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| OSMAN        | HUMMEDA         |                  |                       |  |
| GRIVA        | AHMED           | Tunisie          | CRSS Gabès            |  |
| KOUASSI      | YAO<br>NICODEME | Côte<br>d'Ivoire | Ambasse côte d'ivoire |  |
| HIRCHE       | AZZIZ           |                  | USTHB                 |  |
| OUNIFI       | FATIMA          |                  | Shanti                |  |
| SOURDI HAYET |                 |                  | ACDD                  |  |
| NEJI         | INES            |                  |                       |  |
| ABDELKARIM   | BASSETTA        |                  |                       |  |
| BARNAT       | MOHAMED         |                  |                       |  |
| ABASSI       | NESRINE         |                  | GDA                   |  |
| AMRANI       | MOHAMED         |                  | FAO                   |  |
| BEN ABOLA    | AFEF            |                  | FAO                   |  |
| BERNASCONI   | LUCA            | Italie           | AICS                  |  |
| BEN HOUSSEM  | MEHREZ          | Tunisie          |                       |  |
| BOUHARI      | Adamou          | Mauritanie       | PNUE                  |  |

## Appendix 3 : Abbreviations

|                    |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AAJSD</b>       | Association for the Assistance of Young People in Difficult Situations                                               |
| <b>ACDD</b>        | Association for Citizenship and Sustainable Development                                                              |
| <b>ACT</b>         | Agroecology Criteria Tool                                                                                            |
| <b>AFD</b>         | French Development Agency                                                                                            |
| <b>AfDB</b>        | African Development Bank                                                                                             |
| <b>AICS</b>        | Italian Agency for Development Cooperation                                                                           |
| <b>APEDR</b>       | Association for the Protection of the Environment and Rural Development                                              |
| <b>APIA</b>        | Tunisian Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency                                                                    |
| <b>APIL</b>        | Association for the Promotion of Local Initiatives                                                                   |
| <b>CARI</b>        | Center for International Actions and Achievements                                                                    |
| <b>CBD</b>         | Convention on Biological Diversity                                                                                   |
| <b>CIHEAM-IAMM</b> | International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier |
| <b>CIRAD</b>       | International Center for Agricultural Research in Development                                                        |
| <b>COP</b>         | Conference of Parties                                                                                                |
| <b>CORAF</b>       | West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development                                           |
| <b>CRIC</b>        | Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention                                                     |
| <b>CSFD</b>        | French Scientific Committee on Desertification                                                                       |
| <b>CSO</b>         | Civil Society Organization                                                                                           |
| <b>CTAMA</b>       | Tunisian Agricultural Mutual Insurance Fund                                                                          |
| <b>D'A</b>         | Désertif'actions                                                                                                     |
| <b>DYDF</b>        | Dhrubotara Youth Development Foundation                                                                              |
| <b>ESAFF</b>       | Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum                                                               |
| <b>FAO</b>         | Food and Agriculture Organization                                                                                    |
| <b>GAGGA</b>       | Global Alliance for Green and Gender-Based Action                                                                    |
| <b>GDA</b>         | Agricultural Development Group                                                                                       |

|                |                                                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GDP</b>     | Gross Domestic Product                                            |
| <b>GEF</b>     | Global Environment Facility                                       |
| <b>GIS</b>     | Geographic Information System                                     |
| <b>GIZ</b>     | German Agency for International Development Cooperation           |
| <b>GTD</b>     | Desertification Working Group                                     |
| <b>HRBA</b>    | Human Rights-Based Approach                                       |
| <b>IDP</b>     | Internally Displaced Person                                       |
| <b>IER</b>     | Institute of Rural Economy                                        |
| <b>ILC</b>     | International Land Coalition                                      |
| <b>INAT</b>    | National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia                           |
| <b>INGC</b>    | National Institute of Field Crops                                 |
| <b>IRA</b>     | Institute of Arid Regions                                         |
| <b>IRAM</b>    | Institute for Research and Applications of Development Methods    |
| <b>IRD</b>     | French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development    |
| <b>ISSET</b>   | Higher Institute of Technological Studies                         |
| <b>IWG FCS</b> | Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework |
| <b>IUCN</b>    | International Union for the Conservation of Nature                |
| <b>IWGI</b>    | Indigenous Women and Girl Initiative                              |
| <b>IWMI</b>    | International Water Management Institute                          |
| <b>IYRP</b>    | International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists                 |
| <b>MEDAE</b>   | Mediterranean multi-actor network on AgroEcology                  |
| <b>NATAE</b>   | North African Transition to Agroecology                           |
| <b>NGO</b>     | Non Governmental Organization                                     |
| <b>NTFP</b>    | Non-Timber Forest Product                                         |
| <b>OSS</b>     | Sahara and Sahel Observatory                                      |
| <b>PELUM</b>   | Participatory Ecological Land Use Management                      |
| <b>PES</b>     | Payment for Ecosystem Services                                    |





|               |                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PGS</b>    | Participatory Guarantee System                                  |
| <b>PLAC</b>   | Local Climate Action Plan                                       |
| <b>PTGE</b>   | Territorial Project for Water Management                        |
| <b>RFI</b>    | Radio France International                                      |
| <b>RIPAT</b>  | Rural Initiatives for Participatory Agricultural Transformation |
| <b>RNBWS</b>  | Resilient Nature-Based Solutions to Water                       |
| <b>RTTA</b>   | Tunisian Network for Agroecological Transition                  |
| <b>SDG</b>    | Sustainable Development Goal                                    |
| <b>SIF</b>    | Secours Islamique France                                        |
| <b>SPI</b>    | Science-Policy Interface                                        |
| <b>SPONG</b>  | Permanent Secretariat of NGOs                                   |
| <b>SSE</b>    | Social and Solidarity Economy                                   |
| <b>TAPE</b>   | Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation                  |
| <b>ToT</b>    | Train the Trainer                                               |
| <b>UNCCD</b>  | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification             |
| <b>UNFCCC</b> | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change           |
| <b>WOCAT</b>  | World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies      |
| <b>WPIEI</b>  | Working Party on International Environment Issues               |
| <b>WWF</b>    | World Wildlife Fund                                             |

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As climate crises, desertification, and land degradation intensify around the world, it is also important to acknowledge the media coverage the Summit received, which reflects the urgency of taking action, particularly through information and awareness-raising efforts.

136



Focused on the challenges of regional resilience in the face of climate crises, this sixth edition of Désertif'actions was particularly enriching and well-received by participants due to the relevance and practicality of the various presentations, the diversity of the speakers, and the inclusion of more informal activities such as the “Arid Lands Village,” the exhibition spaces, and the press illustration contest.





# Désertif'actions

For resilient territories in the face of  
Droughts: let's act now!

Co-organized by



Nations Unies  
Convention sur la lutte  
contre la désertification



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