



THE SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

30 YEARS SERVING ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICA

Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 8 - 9, 2022 – RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL – TUNIS

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Presentation of the Conference

This international meeting will give room for discussions, exchanges, experience sharing and the exploration of possible initiatives to halt the degradation of ecosystems in Africa and to put forward points to consider for their preservation and restoration.

The presentations of the high-level panelists, from different backgrounds, will make it possible to go over real experiences carried out in different regions of Africa and elsewhere.

Since environmental issues are interrelated, going into ecosystems means dealing with specific topics such as ecosystem services, the links between climate change and migration, land restoration and water stress.

The participants and speakers will take the high-level discussion panel to exchange on the state of ecosystems in Africa, before debating on the aforementioned topics during the 4 thematic panels.

The post-conference recommendations shall open prospects for pooling efforts, creating synergies, consolidating partnerships and thinking of innovative actions and initiatives.

The composition of the panels

- **The Chairperson** : will have to deliver a keynote speech and bring context to the panel.
- **The Moderator** : will make sure to properly lead the talks, maintain balance and equitable sharing between the different speeches, and the respect of the given time.
- **The Rapporteur** : will take note of the main recommendations, have them summarized and read. He/She will be supported by the OSS team of rapporteurs.
- **The Panelists** : will first have to make presentations on the topics they choose and, then, answer questions from the moderators and the audience.

How to make the presentations

The panelists will be free to make oral, PPT or video presentations. However, they will have to share their choice of presentation with the OSS team beforehand so that all logistics are prepared on time. A PPT presentation template, herein attached, is sent to the panelists.

Program of the Conference

Discussion panel : « Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent »

Date and time : June 08, 2022, from 10 :30 a.m. to 1 :00 p.m.

Duration : 2h30

- **Chair** : **Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadou**, Executive Secretary of CILSS
- **Moderator** : **Mr. Luc Gnacadja**, Former UNCCD Executive Secretary and Chairman of the OSS SOC
- **Rapporteur** : **Mr. Mourad Briki**, OSS Watch and Prospective Department Coordinator

Panelists :

- **Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa**, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification, Niger (TBC)
- **Mr. Gilles Kleitz**, AFD Executive Director in charge of Sustainable Development Solutions
- **Mr. Ali Bety**, High Commissioner 3N Initiative
- **Mr. Ahmed Djoghla**f, Former UNCBD Executive Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the OSS SOC
- **Mr. Youba Sokona**, IPCC Vice-Chairman
- **Mr. François Gemenne**, President of Climate Voices, Belgium

Foreword :

Africa's diverse and rich ecosystems provide services that are essential to sustaining life. Their management is now at the heart of political issues. Their economic, social and environmental value have come to the forefront of the collective consciousness.

Today, providing the different audiences with knowledge sharing tools has become more than necessary and would allow them to adopt well-considered decisions and actions for the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems at the local, national and regional levels.

Questions to ask :

1. Natural ecosystems in Africa ! What are the potentials, issues and challenges ?
2. Do we have to lose them and watch them get degraded ?
3. How do we take well-thought decisions and actions for their conservation and restoration ?
4. How do we contribute to placing their exploitation, management and restoration on top of International concerns ?
5. How do we protect, through their restoration, the economic, social and environmental interests of an entire continent ?

Program :

- Presentation of the documentary book (10mn)
- Keynote Speech of the Chairperson (10mn)
- Speeches of the panelists (8mn each)
- Q&A session with the panel, animated by the moderator : One question to each panelist (10mn each)
- Summary and recommendations (10mn)

Thematic panel 1 : Valuing ecosystem services

Date and time : June 08, 2022, from 2 :30 p.m. to 5 :00 p.m.

Duration : 2h30

- **Chair : Mr. Ahmed Djoghla**f, Former UNCBD Executive Secretary, Vice-Chairman of the OSS SOC
- **Moderator : Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra**, OSS Executive Secretary
- **Rapporteur : Mrs. Karen Colin de Verdière**, Head of the Agriculture - Water - Environment division, French Development Agency - AFD

Panelists :

- **Mr. Jo Mulongoy**, President of the Institute for enhanced livelihoods, Member of the OSS

SOC

- **Mr. Didier Tidjani**, Teacher-Researcher, Member of the OSS SOC
- **Mr. Laurent Sedogo**, Executive Director of the DREYER Foundation, Member of the OSS SOC
- **Mrs. Yamna Djellouli**, Teacher-Researcher at the University of Le Mans
- **Mr. Emmanuel Fourmann**, French Development Agency

Foreword :

Ecosystems are highly important in the life of the populations. Indeed, they provide food, hydrate, heal and protect. The many services they deliver need to be valued and highlighted so that we all better understand the usefulness of ecosystems and engage in advocacy and awareness-raising processes with a view to having them protected and preserved.

Questions to ask :

1. What actions do we have to promote to strengthen and upgrade the involvement of local populations in the preservation of ecosystems ?
2. What is the best way to really assess the ecosystem ecological functions and services ? Are there any assessment and monitoring tools ?
3. What are the sustainability challenges of Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting ?
4. What are the teachings from the ecosystem service quantifying experiments ? What are the challenges ahead of the African countries in the post 2020 biodiversity agenda context ?
5. How to alert decision-makers on the need to value ecosystem services ? What are the tools ?

Program :

- Keynote Speech of the Chairperson (10mn)
- The moderator bringing context to the panel and presenting the speakers (10mn)
- Speeches of the panelists (8mn each)
- Q&A session with the panel, animated by the moderator : One question to each panelist (10mn each)
- Q&A session with the audience
- Summary and recommendations (10mn)

Thematic panel 2 : Adaptation to Climate Change to better manage migration

Date and time : June 09, 2022, from 9 :00 a.m. to 11 :00 a.m.

Duration : 2h

- **Chair : Mr. Youba Sokona**, IPCC Vice-Chairman
- **Moderator : Mrs. Khaoula Jaoui**, OSS Climate Department Coordinator
- **Rapporteur : Mr. Ghazi Gader**, Natural Resources Management & Climate Change Expert - OSS

Panelists :

- **Mr. François Gemenne**, President of Climate Voices, Belgium
- **Mrs. Roukiattou Ouedraogo**, Communication Manager SPONG and OSS SOC Member
- **Mr. Mounir Majdoub**, President of "Alternatives", OSS SOC Member
- **Mr. Cheikh Mbow**, Director General of the Centre de Suivi Ecologique – CSE Dakar , Senegal
- **Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department, Uganda



Foreword :

Climate change is exacerbating the challenges related to food insecurity, economic fragility and environmental degradation, many territories then become unlivable or risky and people have no other choice but to move. Planning ahead is a crucial step to limit the harmful effects of climate change and to stabilize populations by preserving the ecosystems in which they live and by protecting them from the destructive impacts.

Questions to ask :

1. Countries can expect to see climate-driven emigration and immigration hotspots. What would be the implications for future development planning ?
2. Is it possible to halt climate-driven migration movements ? What would be the tools to better control these movements ?
3. Any ideas on how to stop Internal climate-driven migration from being a crisis situation ?
4. Can migration be a climate change adaptation strategy ? How ?
5. Which of the local, national or regional approaches would be the most effective to manage migration movements ?
6. Are the current financial mechanisms strong enough and well adapted to the needs of countries to deal with the migration impacts ?
7. What are the teachings from climate change adaptation projects focusing on food security ?
8. Speaking of climate migration, what is the CC contribution in the migration phenomenon as regards the level of economic development of our countries (agriculture, infrastructure, ...) ?
9. Despite the alarming IPCC forecasts, we must think of how to keep Africa a livable land of hospitality ?

Program :

- Keynote Speech of the Chairperson (10mn)
- The moderator bringing context to the panel and presenting the speakers (10mn)
- Speeches of the panelists (8mn each)
- Q&A session with the panel, animated by the moderator: One question to each panelist (10mn each)
- Interactive Q&A session with the audience
- Summary and recommendations (10mn)

Thematic Panel 3 : Land Restoration

Date and time : June 9, 2022, from 11 :30 a.m. to 1 :30 p.m.

Duration : 2h

- **Chair : Mr. Antoine Cornet**, Director of the Center for International Actions and Achievements - CARI, CSFD member
- **Moderator : Mrs. Fatou Mar**, OSS Land Department Coordinator
- **Rapporteur : Mrs. Thioro Niang**, Communication Manager, CSE – Dakar

Panelists :

- **Mr. Luc Gnacadja**, Former UNCCD Executive Secretary and Chairman of the OSS SOC
- **Mr. Jean Luc Chotte**, President of the French Scientific Committee on Desertification - CSFD
- **Mr. Philippe Ankers**, FAO Tunisia Representative, Coordinator of the Sub-Regional Office for North Africa
- **Dr. Sakhoudia Thiam**, SNRM Expert, Head of the Research and Development Department - PAGGW
- **Mr. Hédi Chebili**, General Director for the Environment and Quality of Life, Tunisia



Foreword :

According to the United Nations, « Healthy ecosystems are the only way we can improve the living conditions of the populations, combat climate change and halt the loss of biodiversity ». Land, primary and indispensable pillar for human life and a core element of this ambition, undergoes pressure from all sides. Overexploitation, degradation and unsustainable practices leading to considerable losses, changes in natural habitats and ecosystems, and a drastic reduction in ecological services. With 70% of the natural resources and 70% of employment in rural areas (IPBES, 2018), the international community agrees more than ever on the pressing need of its preservation and restoration.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and initiatives such as Desertif'Actions mark the international community commitment for a prompt and effective action.

Questions to ask :

1. What are the major opportunities and challenges related to land restoration ?
2. How to translate land restoration international commitments into real actions ? What would be the key elements of success for these actions ?
3. How can 100 million hectares of land be restored by 2030 ? What can be the solutions to achieve such an objective and what can be the contribution of initiatives like the Great Green Wall ?
4. How can we promote and upgrade technical and traditional knowledge of land management and preservation ?
5. How do we mobilize the necessary financial resources ? By the way, how much is restoration ?
6. To what extent can agroecology provide relevant solutions ? Are they reproducible in other countries ?

Program :

- Keynote Speech of the Chairperson (10mn)
- The moderator bringing context to the panel and presenting the speakers (10mn)
- Speeches of the panelists (8mn each)
- Q&A session with the panel, animated by the moderator: One question to each panelist (10mn each)
- Q&A session with the audience
- Summary and recommendations (10mn)

Thematic panel 4 : Good governance of water resources to contend with water stress

Date and time : June 9, 2022, from 2 :30 p.m. to 4 :30 p.m.

Duration : 2h

- **Chair : Mr. Mathieu Vasseur**, Regional Director of the French Development Agency, Rabat
- **Moderator : Mr. Abdelkader Dodo**, OSS Water Department Coordinator
- **Rapporteur : Mr. Pape Ndiouga NDIAYE**, Communication and Knowledge Management Expert, ANBO-UNDP/GEF

Panelists :

- **M. Jean François Donzier**, Honorary Secretary General of the International Network of Basin Organizations – INBO, Member of the OSS SOC
- **Mr. Khatim Kherraz**, Former OSS Executive Secretary
- **Mr. Sylvester Anthony Matemu**, President of the ANBO (TBC)

- **Mr. Mokhtar Bzioui**, Expert with the World Water Council, Member of the OSS SOC
- **Mrs. Atika Ben Maid**, Water and Energy Projects Manager, French Development Agency, Egypt
- **Mr. Hamadi Habaieb**, General Director of the Water Planning and Balance Office, Tunisia
- **Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department, Uganda

Foreword :

A large portion of the African continent is particularly affected by water scarcity. Water stress has increased significantly due to the impacts of climate change. A well-thought governance of the water resources, working on the information and awareness-raising and the use of unconventional water, such as the reuse of treated wastewater or the desalination of seawater would represent alternatives for a sustainable drinking water supply.

Questions to ask :

1. What are the impacts of climate change on water resources in the Northern part of Africa and its limited water availability, and in other regions and their water availability but limited access ? What predictions for the future ?
2. Can appropriate practices and more rational exploitation of water resources put a halt to desertification and land degradation ?
3. What role can scientific bodies have in terms of knowledge management and sharing with decision-makers at country level ?
4. How do we encourage countries sharing the same aquifer systems to develop their transboundary management framework to meet the challenges and reduce water stress ?
5. To what extent can the use of unconventional water be a medium-term solution ?
6. What are the expertise and information exchange mechanisms that can be promoted between African countries ?

Program :

- Keynote Speech of the Chairperson (10mn)
- The moderator bringing context to the panel and presenting the speakers (10mn)
- Speeches of the panelists (8mn each)
- Q&A session with the panel animated by the moderator : One question to each panelist (10mn each)
- Q&A session with the audience
- Summary and recommendations (10mn)

Reading the recommendations

The team of rapporteurs will have all recommendations summarized and read before the closing session. These recommendations shall open prospects for actions and partnerships.