



au service de l'Afrique  
serving Africa

## THE SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY 30 YEARS SERVING ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICA

# Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent

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

WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



# CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

## 1. CONTEXT

In its new ten-year (2021-2030) strategy, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory plans on consolidating its involvement in terms of information, communication and advocacy. In fact, the OSS will work on promoting knowledge and achievements, information and awareness on its areas of intervention.

What does that imply ?

The OSS will have to improve access to information, strengthen the involvement and commitment of the target audiences and make member countries and organizations take ownership of the actions it carries out, on issues related to natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and the fight against the adverse effects of climate change in Africa.

In 2022, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory will release a documentary book that describes the different ecosystems in Africa and how they are degraded, and that proposes possible answers to have them preserved and restored, based on past experiences and lessons learned.

2022 is also the year of celebration of the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, several episodes will light up the festivities over the year. Indeed, the OSS will take advantage of the World Environment Day and hold a four-day high-level International Conference with the aim of initiating debates and bringing real openings for action, on the topics pointed out in the documentary book. The celebration will also mark the OSS support to the United Nations decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

## 2. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The International Conference will give room for debates, exchanges and possibilities to consolidate partnerships on issues related to African ecosystems' management, protection, conservation and restoration. But before, an exhibition will be organized and will tell the story of the OSS over 30 years, a flashback that will have the teachings of the past highlighted, the experiences brought to light and the future better understood.

## 3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objective of the International Conference will be to discuss and provide high-level insights on :

- The degradation of ecosystems in Africa, in the Sahel and in the Maghreb as well as the anthropogenic and climate pressures on them ;
- The relation between the degradation of ecosystems and agro-ecosystems and migration and their socio-economic impacts ;
- The key role of Climate Change adaptation measures in restoring ecosystems.

## 4. EXPECTED RESULTS

**The Conference is expected to :**

- Promote the OSS achievements over 30 years ;
- Put special focus on ecosystems in Africa, based on the documentary book ;
- Propose avenues for action and partnerships, likely to protect the ecosystems in Africa, restore them and put a halt to their degradation ;
- Address water stress, a major issue in the management of ecosystems in Africa.

## 5. PROGRAM

**In order to achieve the expected results, the 3-day Conference will be organized as follows :**

### **Day 1**

- Opening of the exhibition « The Sahara and Sahel Observatory, 30 years serving Ecosystems in Africa » ;
- Cocktail buffet.

### **Day 2**

- High-level panel on the occasion of the release of the book on Ecosystems in Africa : *Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent* ;
- Thematic discussion panel : *Valuing ecosystem services*.

### **Day 3**

- Thematic discussion panels : *Adapting to climate change to better manage migration, Land restoration, Good governance of water resources to contend with water stress*.

## 6. METHODOLOGY

The Conference will be held face-to-face in Tunis,

French and English simultaneous translation will be provided, and

Live broadcast on the OSS digital platforms.

**JUNE 7, 2022 FROM 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.**  
**COCKTAIL BUFFET AND OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION**  
**« THE SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY,**  
**30 YEARS SERVING ECOSYSTEMS IN AFRICA »**

*Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent*

**June 8, 2022**

<b>08:00 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Participants reception</b>
<b>09:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra</b>, Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory - OSS  <b>Mr. Gilles Kleitz</b>, Executive Director of the French Development Agency – AFD  <b>Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadou</b>, Executive Secretary of the CILSS  <b>Mr. Taieb Baccouche</b>, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) – Morocco  <b>Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa</b>, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification, Niger  <b>Mrs. Leila Chikhaoui</b>, Minister of the Environment, Tunisia</p> <p><b>Press Conference</b></p>
<b>10:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee break and exhibition visit</b>
<b>10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	<p><i>Discussion panel : « Ecosystems, key tool for the development of the African continent »</i></p> <p><b>Presentation of the documentary book : Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra</b>, OSS Executive Secretary  <b>Video on Ecosystems in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Discussion panel</b>  <b>Chair : Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadou</b>, Executive Secretary of CILSS  <b>Moderator : Mr. Luc Gnacadja</b>, Former UNCCD Executive Secretary and Chairman of the OSS SOC  <b>Rapporteur : Mr. Mourad Briki</b>, Watch and Prospective Department Coordinator - OSS</p> <p><b>Panelists :</b>  <b>Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa</b>, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification, Niger  <b>Mr. Gilles Kleitz</b>, Executive Director of the AFD  <b>Mr. Ali BETY</b>, High Commissioner 3N Initiative, Niger  <b>Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif</b>, Former Executive Secretary of UNCBD and Vice-Chairman of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Youba Sokona</b>, IPCC Vice-Chairman  <b>Mr. François Gemenne</b>, President of Climate Voices, Belgium</p>
<b>1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>





<p><b>2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Thematic panel 1 : Valuing ecosystem services</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair :</b> Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Former Executive Secretary of UNCBD and Vice-Chairman of the OSS SOC  <b>Moderator :</b> Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra, Executive Secretary of the OSS  <b>Rapporteur :</b> Mrs. Karen Colin de Verdière, Head of the Agriculture - Water - Environment division, AFD</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Jo Mulongoy</b>, President of the Institute for enhanced livelihoods, member of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Didier Tidjani</b>, Teacher-Researcher, member of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Laurent Sedogo</b>, Executive Director of the Dreyer Foundation, member of the OSS SOC  <b>Mrs. Yamna Djellouli</b>, Teacher-Researcher at the University of Le Mans  <b>Mr. Emmanuel Fourmann</b>, French Development Agency</p>
<p><b>5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</b>      <b>Coffee break / Networking</b></p>	
<p><b>June 9, 2022</b></p>	
<p><b>9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Thematic panel 2 : Adaptation to Climate Change to better manage migration</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair :</b> Mr. Youba Sokona, IPCC Vice-Chairman  <b>Moderator :</b> Mrs. Khaoula Jaoui, Climate Department Coordinator – OSS  <b>Rapporteur :</b> Mr. Ghazi Gader, Natural Resources Management &amp; Climate Change Expert - OSS</p> <p><b>Panelists :</b></p> <p><b>Mr. François Gemenne</b>, President of Climate Voices, Belgium  <b>Mrs. Roukiattou Ouedraogo</b>, Communication Manager – SPONG, member of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Mounir Majdoub</b>, President of “Alternatives”, member of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Cheikh Mbow</b>, Director General of the Centre de Suivi Ecologique – CSE Dakar  <b>Mr. Callist Tindimugaya</b>, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department, Uganda</p>
<p><b>11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>      <b>Coffee break</b></p>	
<p><b>11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Thematic Panel 3 : Land Restoration</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair :</b> Mr. Antoine Cornet, Director of the Center for International Actions and achievements, Cari, member of the CSFD  <b>Moderator :</b> Mrs. Fatou Mar, Land Department Coordinator – OSS  <b>Rapporteur :</b> Mrs. Thiore Niang, Communication Manager, CSE - Dakar</p> <p><b>Panelists :</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Luc Gnacadja</b>, Former Executive Secretary of UNCCD, Chairman of the OSS SOC  <b>Mr. Jean Luc Chotte</b>, President of the French Scientific Committee for Desertification - CSFD FRANCE  <b>Mr. Philippe Ankers</b>, FAO Tunisia Representative, Coordinator of the Sub-Regional Office for North Africa  <b>Dr. Sakhoudia Thiam</b>, SNRM Expert, Head of the Research and Development Department - PAGGW  <b>Mr. Hédi Chebili</b>, Director General for the Environment and Quality of Life, Tunisia</p>
<p><b>1:30 p.m. –2:30 p.m.</b>      <b>Lunch</b></p>	



2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

**Chair : Mr. Mathieu Vasseur**, Regional Director of the AFD, Rabat

**Moderator : Mr. Abdel Kader Dodo**, Water Department Coordinator - OSS

**Rapporteur : Mr. Pape Ndiouga NDIAYE**, Communication and Knowledge Management Expert, ANBO-UNDP/GEF

**Panelists :**

**Mr. 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. Mokhtar Bzioui**, Expert with the World Water Council, member of the OSS SOC

**Mrs. Atika Ben Maid**, Water and Energy Projects Manager, AFD, Egypt

**Mr. Hamadi Habaieb**, Director General of the Water Planning and Balance Office, Tunisia

**Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulations Department, Uganda

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Coffee break**

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Recommendations and end of the working sessions**

