



*Drynet and ReSaD international networks have teamed up via their common partner GCoZA Mali. This move will increase the audiences of both networks: by creating a stronger foundation for Drynet in the Sahel, and a greater visibility for ReSaD in the international arena.*

N°3- February 2012

## IN 2011, THE UNCCD ADDRESSED THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA; WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN PRACTICE?

Two United Nations Desertification events preceded the tenth Conference of Parties (COP 10) in 2011 – the ninth UNCCD review committee (CRIC 9) in February and the UN general assembly which held a meeting on desertification in September 2011.

At the COP 10 in Changwon, South Korea, from 10 to 21 October 2011, GTD and RESAD contributed to the civil society work of COP 10 in plenary statements, dialogue sessions between the parties and the daily review of the civil society organisations (CSO). This publication was a means for the GTD/RESAD/DRYNET networks to distribute postcards caricaturing some of the items on the official agenda of discussions; the ones on the divergence between the Global Mechanism and the Secretariat and the one on the PRAIS contributed to discussions in their own way.



With regard to civil society organisations, two major decisions are of note:

- Decision 5/COP 10 on revised procedures for SCO accreditation. Gratifying as the new narrower SCO accreditation procedures may be, vigilance must not be relaxed regarding opening to the private sector.
- Decision 14/COP 10 on the template and methodological directives for SCO reports. Though it is clear that this is a call for greater SCO contribution, there are a number of factors which hamper submission of these reports, such as the financial aspects, capacity to comply with the UNCCD template, the capacity to figure as stakeholders in the discussions with the Parties in the South and CSO mutual coordination in general. This issue also comes up in the call for networking. Lastly, one issue is still pending in the internal civil society dialogue – the project to structure it as a global alliance.

## Newsletter Contents

In Mali, GCOZA lays the foundations for RESAD and Drynet work.....	page 2
In Burkina, consultation between government and civil society strenghtens.....	page 2
In Niger, the CNCOD is still focused.....	page 3
In France, the GTD represented at the United Nations general assembly.....	page 3
Events Diary.....	page 4
People are talking!.....	page 4
Publications.....	page 4

## In Perspective

Discussions were once again monopolised by administrative questions on the workings of UNCCD itself instead of the combat it is supposed to lead. We can only hope that, like Rio+20, UNCCD will set itself some calculated objectives to rehabilitate land and improve living conditions for the populations in arid zones.



Mali

## IN MALI, THE GROUP FOR COORDINATION OF ARID ZONES LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR RESAD AND DRYNET WORK

In the framework of the Sahel Desertification Network and Drynet in Mali, the Mali Group for Coordination of Arid Zones (GCOZA Mali) has made a survey of the players involved in combating desertification. It was commissioned by GCOZA Mali and the CADP (Assistance Agency for Participatory Development) was selected to run it.

The purpose of the survey was to take stock of participation by civil society organisations in the political dialogue and implementation of policies which interfere with the combat against desertification.

The major outcomes were the need to encourage exchange on approaches and restrictions between players involved in combating desertification; muster more internal resources to combat desertification; think about how to simplify ways and means of funding for development partners to combat desertification; ensure players are informed about funding opportunities and underpin capacities for control of the ways and means of funding. An analysis of the players and their actions will be made to help guide the future action plan of the RESAD/Drynet network in Mali. The survey will be followed by training of the (30) players involved in small project organisation and management techniques, especially those designed to combat desertification.



Dr Adama Coulibaly, IER researcher in the NGO experimental field in Madina Kacolo, Nara Circle/Koulikoro Region



Ms Tembely, President of the Ya G Tu NGO in an experimental field of the project for a Sustainable agriculture system in a changing climate, Badiangara/Mopti Region

### Key information

The survey identified a number of players involved in the combat against desertification in Mali – grassroots community organisations (GCO), non-governmental organisations (NGO), technical services, umbrella organisations and funding partners. This is not an exhaustive list and work on identifying players could be continued in the years to come.



Burkina-Faso

## IN BURKINA FASO, CONSULTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENS

The First National Government-NGO-Development Organisation Discussions were held on 24 and 25 November 2011.

There were 150 participants in different categories: government (ministers, regional governors, central, regional and provincial directors, etc.), local players (mayors, regional council presidents), civil society members (NGO heads, development organisations), technical and funding partners. Under the presidency of the Prime Minister and co-presidency of the Board Chairman of the NGO permanent secretariat and the Minister of Economy and Finance, the meeting took as its topic “*National development and discussion policies: contribution of NGOs to implementation of the accelerated growth and sustainable development strategy (SCADD)*”. The Prime Minister had first-hand discussions with the heads of 50 NGOs/Development Organisations on a range of issues concerning development, public civil society funding, the Burkina agricultural situation in 2011, public policies, etc.



Some of the participants in the Government-NGO discussions, Vebama, Tiao



Presidency of the discussions.  
L to R: M. Lucien, Minister of Economy and Finance, H.E Luc Adolph, Prime Minister and Rev. Moise NAPON, Chairman of the NGO permanent secretariat

### in Perspective

The main outcomes of these discussions included their formalisation and decentralisation (national, regional, provincial and local), the debate taken to the highest instances of State and the willingness of government to examine public civil society funding. The co-presidency confirmed the NGO permanent secretariat in its role as civil society leader and enhanced the value of the contribution.





Niger

## THE CNCOD STILL FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN NIGER

In the framework of the PANA national adaptation action programme, the CNCOD organised three workshops to strengthen the civil society capacities of eight regions in Niger. Following Tahoua, it is now the turn of Zinder to host the second in a series of training and awareness sessions run by the CNCOD on integration of climate change and adaptation into NGO and development organisation local development programmes. Some fifty civil society members heading NGOs received this training which, apart from climate change, addressed the issues of best practice based on the example of PRAIS, the UNCCD implementation system. The structures participating in this session were motivated by the need to be accredited by these conventions so as to be kept informed of progress in negotiations, and above all so that they could share their experiences of best practice with other NGOs in Africa and other continents, such as the CNCOD and RESAD, which hope to develop it nationally and in the Sahel.

The CNCOD organised another information and awareness meeting for civil society members regarding the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR); Niger is one of the selected beneficiary countries. The PPCR aims to pilot and demonstrate how climate risks can be included in basic development planning and implementation of climate change actions for the benefit of communities. The CNCOD took this opportunity to inform the players involved of this programme which offers funding arrangements to communities in Niger.



### *in Perspective*

The CNCOD intends to strengthen the capacities of member NGOs in the 3 RIO conventions to build synergy in talks and efficiency in action. It will be lobbying development partners and authorities to have NOGs/DOs and OCB fully involved in implementation of the conventions.

To this end, active CNCOD participation is expected in the World Water Forum in Marseille this March and RIO + 20 in Brazil next June.



France

## THE GTD REPRESENTED AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



On 20 September 2011, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held a high-level meeting on desertification which included “civil society participation”.

The CARI, selected by the UNCCD as one of two civil society representatives for this event, took the opportunity to make an active contribution via networks such as GTD (France), RADD (Maghreb oases), RESAD (Mali, Burkina, Niger) and DRYNET (Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America). The CARI could take part in this event because it has funding support from the French foreign ministry, the French government being a partner of the GTD in matters of desertification.

Opened by Ban Ki-moon, the meeting was attended by some forty heads of state and government and as many ministers. The CARI had 3 minutes to make its point on a tight agenda and only just had time to do so. It was the last to take the floor and about thirty others were left behind when time

ran out. Support for the UNCCD was stated loud and clear and the relationship between climate change and the combat against poverty was well supported. The little statement by Germany that “twenty years ago we got it wrong when we underestimated the problem of desertification and land degradation” indicates how much the international community’s attitude has changed.

### *Excerpt from the speech by Patrice Burger – CARI*

“By the end of today in New York, we the inhabitants of this planet will have lost nearly 4200 hectares of good land to erosion, 16 million tonnes of earth through our bad farming practices, and 83000 hectares of new desert will have been created. Under the combined effects of land degradation and population growth, the cultivable area per inhabitant in the world has shrunk from 2 to 0.4 hectares in the 110 years from 1900 to 2010. What terre patrie, what home, what heimat can those who follow us expect?”

## Events Diary



### An Arid Lands and Oases area at the World Water Forum –12 to 17 March 2012

The CARI, with its partners in the North and South, will be offering an Arid Lands and Oases area, a congenial venue for decision-makers and other players in oases and dry lands to present their thinking, analyses and best practice for development. In a setting of desert tents, there will be screenings, exhibitions, documentation, educational events, conference/debate and a nomad area.

> Programme available at: [www.cariassociation.org](http://www.cariassociation.org)

### New accreditation procedures for civil society organisations at the UNCCD

Deadline: 30 March 2012

Following the 5/COP 10 decision, civil society organisations with Conference of Parties accreditation must submit to the secretariat written confirmation of their need to remain accredited and a statement that no change has been made to their status, legal identity, management organs, composition and other requirements which could prevent recognition of their right to attend Convention meetings in an observatory capacity.

> For further information: [www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

### Sustainable Land Management Programme

Following 2011 devoted to defining and setting up the programme's monitoring tools and establishing the procedures of the Regional Programme for Sustainable Land Management and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Sahel and West Africa (RPSLM), funded by the European Union, the French Fund for the World Environment (FFEM) and the Centre for International Development Research (CRDI) are issuing a call for projects in early 2012.

> For further information: [www.cills.bf](http://www.cills.bf)

## People are talking!

### The Great Green Wall consults civil society

After the design stage of the Great Green Wall (GGW), the African Union Commission through the GGW Pan-African Agency, with the support of the European Union and the FAO plans to start the implementation phase of the initiative and give it every chance of success. To this end, from 13 to 15 December 2011, Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, hosted a technical meeting of experts whose main objective was to give the project coordination unit practical directions for formulating a unified regional strategy to implement the Great Green Wall. The questions addressed in these interactive meetings covered the points of view, concepts, visions, strategies, methodology, approaches and action plans of those involved (governments, civil society, local authorities, technical and financial partners, etc.). RESAD and Drynet took part in this consultation and mooted in particular for serious involvement by civil society members and beneficiaries in all the steps of the process (from inception to follow-up assessment). The experts were agreed on this issue which they consider one of the conditions for successful implementation.

... To be continued

## Publications



### Partager l'eau et ses bénéfices : les leçons de six grands barrages en Afrique de l'Ouest

Sharing water and its benefits: the lessons of six great dams in West Africa

The UICN/IIED consortium in the framework of the Global Water Initiative (GWI) has published a review of how the mutual benefits of the six dams in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal are experienced by the local populations: genuine gains; share of the numerous positive results of water use amongst those involved.

For further information: [www.csf-desertification.org](http://www.csf-desertification.org)



### Plaidoyer et lutte contre la désertification

Appeals to combat desertification

Drafted in the context of Desertification Workgroup actions, this document is for all those planning to make appeals: basic arguments for combating desertification, ways and means of running an appeal campaign; CARI experience in the GTD, ENID, RESAD and Drynet networks of monitoring the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) process.

File downloadable at: [www.gtidesertification.org](http://www.gtidesertification.org)

## Members



Sahel Desertification Network

Rue du courreau - 34380 Viols le Fort  
Tél. : 00 33 (0)4 67 55 61 18 - Fax : 00 33 (0)4 67 55 74 37  
[resad@cariassociation.org](mailto:resad@cariassociation.org)  
[www.cariassociation.org/resad](http://www.cariassociation.org/resad)

## Partners

