



RÉSEAU ASSOCIATIF DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE DES OASIS

OASES ASSOCIATIONS NETWORK

In 2002, for the Global sustainable development Summit in Johannesburg, Raddo launched The voice of oases

THE VOICE OF OASES

They dominate zones of about **30 % of the grounds emerged** along the large arid scarf which links Africa to Asia; from the Sahara to Mongolia. They shelter about **150 million people** in areas where other forms of life spurt out with difficulty.

They are formed by a rigorous management of rare water and ground resources in a strong alliance with the date palm tree. Oases are ecosystems patiently worked out by the societies which inhabit them in arid areas, in the form of a very complex social, ecological and economical constructions. These actual processes are those of an optimization of the interactions between cultural references, engineering constraints, economical limits and ecological potential in regards to the climatic adversity of a hostile environment to forms of life. Within this framework, oases constitute verified and alive experiments of durable development as well as an incomparable resource of expertise. Similar to other achievements actually protected, oases form part of the inheritance of humanity.

Heavy threats weigh on oases on all levels. There exists actual important factors of degradation emerging from the effect of an inappropriate model of development and depending on:

- Climatic deterioration, especially the increase in the dryness and its effects on the availability of water, which is the foundation of the oasis;
- The inadequacy of demographic pressure and effective urbanization policies compared to the limited load capacity of the oasis's ecosystem;
- The disqualification of the oasis's operators and its people in economical exchanges. This disqualification does not simply apply to products, but also to its commercial distribution;
- The monopoly of the importers-exporters on the distribution of local products;
- The modification of the ways of life and consumption, especially consumption of products manufactured to the detriment of local alimentary and artisans' products;
- The absence of the evolution of right on land property, on water, on modes of exploitation. This leads to the parceling out and the introduction of strong inconsistencies into an organized complex system whose survival is linked to important constraints;
- The enclosure and the geographical remoteness of areas;
- The absence of serious consideration by public authorities of the specificity of oases, especially in research, agriculture, education, and continuous training.

All these evolutions lead to the havoc of vivid forces including both the loss of capital and the rural exodus of young people.

Supposing that they pay an unjust tribute to a mode of arbitrary development which condemns them, **oases refuse to wither away** and launch **an appeal to the world** for an effective implementation of durable development.

➤ Concerning the governance of oasis's associations, the Raddo asserts and proposes:

- Taking into account the specificity of the people of oases in all fields of public politics of development on local, national and international levels;
- The respect of local habits and customs by political decision makers;
- The implication and participation of associations in the decision-making process concerning the politics of development at the local, national and international level, as well as in the processes of decentralization;
- Enhancing an appropriate place for women by the reinforcement of capacities, the guarantee of rights and social promotion;
- The induction of national and international public politics of cooperation in favor of oases, especially policies encouraging the sustenance of agricultural income of its people;
- Rupture of their isolation by establishing organizations specifically dealing with the safeguard and the development of oases;
- Enhancing the contribution of scientific research for resolving specific problems such as the epidemic disease of the palm tree (bayoud).

➤ Concerning durable development of oases, associations assert and propose :

- The recognition of a particular management of the natural resources of oases: that of the palm tree as a protected species and a symbol of life in intra-desert zones and that of water with progressive costs taking into account the constraints related to the survival of the environment;
- Taking into specific account the role of associations in public grants for development;
- The immediate application of the Conventions on biodiversity, climatic change and the fight against desertification which concerns greatly associations of oases;
- The promotion of adapted tourism in oases based on the principles of durable development that respects the ecosystem and generates locale income;
- Setting-up local "21 Agendas" concerning oases;
- Establishing programs that transmit and encourage the awareness of public opinion about the culture of oases, especially in school's curriculum and in extra-curricular activities for young people;
- The promotion and establishment of adept and renewable sources of energy.

➤ **Oases's associations affirm their refusal of:**

- The uncontrollable degradation of oases, their trading as much as their idealization;
- The marginalisation of oases and their minimalist role in important projects and programs of development;
- Their unfavorable competitive role compared to industrial agro-alimentary implantation of proximity;
- The existence of mono-implantation projects incompatible with their environment;
- The desertion of oases.

➤ Moreover, associations members of the Raddo propose and assert :

- Setting up a **yearly universal day of oases** under the aegis of the United Nations