

Desertification and Climate Change

Institutional Responses and Regional Actions

Sahel landscape (source: SOS Sahel 2013)

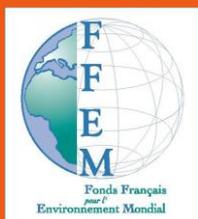
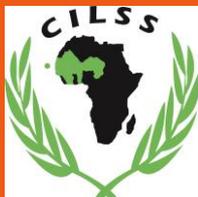
Summary

1. Institutional responses

- 1.1. AU
- 1.2. ACMEN
- 1.3. ECOWAS
- 1.4. UEMOA
- 1.5. CILSS

2. Examples of Implementation

- 2.1. PDDAA / Sustainable Land and Water Management Component
- 2.2. AIGGW
- 2.3. IREM/LCD



Synthesis

The struggle against desertification and the protection of their natural resources has been a recurring theme since the 1970s in the policy documents of the West African States marked by the droughts of the Sahel.

More recently, issues related to adaptation to climate change and its corollaries, how to adapt agriculture and maintain food security, have begun to be discussed even at the sub-regional level.

Thus, many political and/or economic regional groupings of countries have defined strategic programmes or adopted legal instruments that allow them to integrate environmental questions into their action plans.

It is not always easy to navigate the various programs and legal instruments. The regional and sub-regional institutions are many and often overlap thematically or geographically.

However difficult it may be to understand and to coordinate between these regional and sub-regional programmes, their very proliferation affirms the growing importance that the environment and its interdisciplinary nature has come to occupy since the Millennium Summit in 2000, where it was treated in isolation as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

However, going beyond mere words, regional and sub-regional institutions, as well as the Member States themselves, have already taken action and have since the early 2000s begun to implement huge field actions involving efforts against desertification and land degradation, sustainable land and water use, reforestation, etc.

We present only three field actions in this review but the list is much longer. This clearly demonstrates how the environment has become a cornerstone of sustainable development and a major concern of West African countries.

Introduction

The first section of this review presents policies and strategies on the environment and agriculture implemented on the African continent and in West Africa by a variety of institutions: the African Union (AU), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), and the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Some successful regional and sub-regional initiatives are subsequently presented:

- The component covering sustainable land and water management of the Detailed Programme for African Agriculture Development (PDDAA) steered by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD);
- The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI);
- The CILSS Regional Initiative and Global Environment for Combating Desertification in the Sahel (IREMLCD).

Translation: Peter Gaechter, SOS Sahel

Institutions and (sub-) regional policies

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

CILSS: Permanent Interstates Committee to Combat Drought in the Sahel

AMCEN: African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

ECOWAP: Agricultural Policy of ECOWAS

AIGGW: African Initiative for the Great Green Wall

NEPAD: New Partnership for African Development, supervised by the AU

OUA: Organisation of African Unity

PASR/AO2: Sub-regional action plan to combat desertification in West Africa and Chad (PASR/AO2)

APU: Agricultural Policy of the UEMOA

CPIE: Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment of ECOWAS

PDDAA: Detailed Programme for African Agriculture Development of NEPAD

NAIP: National Agriculture Investment Programmes

PREAU: ECOWAS Regional Water Policy

RAIP: Regional Agricultural Investment Programmes

AU: African Union (former OUA)

UEMOA: West African Monetary and Economic Union

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

1. Reduce extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development

1. Institutional responses

1.1. AU

Founded in 2002 and based on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the AU has adopted MDG nos. 10 and 12 which refer respectively to the promotion of a sustainable development and to the coordination and harmonization of regional development policies.

The AU commissioner in charge of rural development and agriculture also covers environmental questions, especially climate change, water and desertification, as well as natural resources.



Figure 1 - Logo of the African Union (Source: AU)

The AU also supervises the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) which steers the Detailed Program African Agriculture Development (PDDAA) which integrates the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

1.2. ACMEN

ACMEN was founded in 1985 with a mandate to end environmental degradation and to support efforts to satisfy the needs for food and energy of the continent's people.

Its secretariat is funded by the Africa regional bureau of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). ACMEN is eventually expected to become a Specialised Technical Committee of the AU Commission.

The 12th ordinary session of ACMEN in 2008 was largely dedicated to discussions on climate change: the adoption of an African position on the negotiations on a climate regime post-2012 and the definition of a global framework for African programmes on climate change.

In October 2013 at the 5th extraordinary session in Gaborone, ACMEN adopted the African position on climate negotiations, in time for the following month's 19th Conference of Parties in Warsaw (COP19). The principal demands were the creation of an international mechanism on losses and damages due to climate change, and increased efforts by developed countries in matters of financing as well as GHG emissions reduction.

1.3. ECOWAS



Figure 2 - The 15 Member States of ECOWAS (Source: ECOWAS)

By adopting supplementary act A/SA.4/12/08 in 2008, the participating Heads of State established ECOWAS Environmental Policy.

The objectives of this policy were to “reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, ameliorate the quality of the living environment, conserve biological diversity, with a view to ensuring a healthy and productive environment; thereby improving the well-being of the ecosystem and the population of the sub region”.

This policy is in accordance with the Rio International Conventions and conforms to the ECOWAS Treaty. In addition to this environmental policy, ECOWAS has also adopted policies governing water, desertification and agriculture:

Water: The Regional Water Policy (PREAU) joins CILSS, the UEMOA, and ECOWAS. Also adopted in 2008, this attempts to direct ECOWAS and its Member States towards water management that reconciles economic development, social equity and the conservation of the environment (A/SA.5/12/08). Its strategic positions are in line with the scope of sustainable development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the African Water Vision 2025 for water, life and the environment defined in 2000 by ECOWAS.



Figure 3 – Well in the Sahel (Source: SOS Sahel, 2014)

Desertification: the Sub-regional action plan to combat desertification in West Africa and Chad (PASR/AO2) covers the period from 2011-2018 and coincides with the recommendations of Annex I Africa set out by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

Agriculture: In 2005, ECOWAS adopted its Regional Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP), which strives to contribute sustainably to meeting the food needs of the populations, to socio-economic development and the reduction of poverty of the Member States.

Its implementation relies on the Regional Agricultural Investment Program (RAIP) and the Investment Programmes at the National level (NAIP). RAIP groups the regional priorities. The NAIPs quantify the investments needed to achieve at least 6% growth in the agricultural sector, which is deemed the minimum necessary to reduce poverty by half by 2015.

In 2011 ECOWAS defined its agricultural vision 2020, in compliance with the PDDAA of NEPAD. This policy was the basis for the Cooperation Plan 2014-2019 between the West African regional integration institutions and the UN agencies. The second thematic area covered by this cooperation concerns agriculture, food security and climate change.

Finally it should be noted that the Intergovernmental Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is working together with ECOWAS to elaborate and implement a joint regional programme on the environment and climate change based on the results obtained through the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI).

PREMI's objective is to set into motion the ECOWAS Strategic Plan on climate change, specifically by backing the implementation of sub-regional policies and programmes. It also aims to set up concrete actions in the field and support action research on production and use of climate information.

1.4. UEMOA



Figure 4 – The 8 Member States of the UEMOA (Source: UEMOA)

In 2008, it adopted the Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment (CPIE) by Supplementary Act N° 01/2008/CCEG/UEMOA of January 17th. The CPIE reflects the direction set out in the UEMOA Treaty, especially in its Second Additional Protocol on sectoral policies which establishes the environment as a key area for the UEMOA.

In keeping with the scope of sustainable development, it refers specifically to the UNFCCC and to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Many programmes in areas such as water use in agriculture, bio-security, combating coastal erosion and the silting up of the Niger River, and support for parks in Member States are all examples of the implementation of CPIE.

In 2001, UEMOA adopted the Agricultural Policy of the UEMOA (APU). APU's goal is to reinforce food security and to develop markets for agricultural products while improving the adaptation of production systems.

1.5. CILSS



Figure 5 – The 13 member states of CILSS (Source: CILSS)

CILSS was founded in 1973 in response to the drought of the 1970s. It has 5 main missions:

- Support the definition and implementation of sectoral policies in the rural sector;
- Basic and ongoing training through its regional scientific and technical centre Agrhymet in Niamey;
- Information on food security by means of an early warning system;
- Building on thematic research into food security, natural resource management, links between the population and development (using the Sahel Institute, a CILSS branch in Bamako);
- Multi-country pilot projects.

CILSS is one of the most active sub-regional organisations in the fields of desertification, sustainable land management and climate change.

Actions on these subjects that range from applied research to its implementation in the field are supported by the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM).

An example of a local project backed by the

Regional Initiative and Global Environment for Combatting Desertification in the Sahel (IREMLCD)

→ Natural resource management in 15 villages in the departments of Tikaré and Rouko, Province of Bam (Burkina Faso)

Areas:

- Natural resource management
- Food security

Technical and financial partners:

- CILSS/IREM/LCD
- SOS SAHEL

Duration:

Beginning 2006 – end 2008

→ Results in terms of natural resources management:

- 14 000 trees planted
- 15 community land areas protected
- 70 ha of grassland planted

→ Results in terms of food security:

- 804 ha of degraded land treated by means of soil and water conservation, soil defence, and restoration techniques (SWC/SDR):
- 323 manure pits built
- 2 vegetable garden perimeters set up

Short Bibliography

CEDEAO, 2006. Decision A/DEC.24/01/06 on the Adoption of a CEDEAO/UEMOA Policy concerning Access to Energy Services of Rural and Peri-urban Populations.

CEDEAO, 2008: Supplementary Act A/SA.4/12/08 adopting ECOWAS Environment Policy.

CEDEAO, 2008: West African Water Resources Policy

CEDEAO, 2011: Strategic Programme for the Reduction of Vulnerability and the Adaptation to Climate Change in West Africa

ECOWAS, UEMOA, UNCCD, CILSS, 2011: Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in West Africa and Chad, second stage (PASR/AO 2).

UEMOA, 2008: Supplementary Act N° 01/2008/CCEG/UEMOA adopting the Common Policy for the Improvement of the Environment.

IUCN (2012). Study on Regional Environmental Policies in West Africa, volume 1: Principal Document (in French). Author: Issa Martin BIKIENGA.

www.caadp.net/francais/pillar-1.php

www.grandemurailleverte.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=129&lang=fr

<http://www.oecd.org/fr/csao/perspectivesouest-africaines/47427488.pdf>

http://www.cilss.bf/fondsitalie/iremld/bilan_fr.pdf

Authors:

Jean-Michel Kuela, SOS Sahel

jean-michel.kuela@sossahel.org

Salifou Ouedraogo, SOS Sahel

salifou.ouedraogo@sossahel.org

Olivier Bouyer, SalvaTerra

o.bouyer@salvaterra.fr



www.salvaterra.fr



www.sossahel.org

2. Examples of implementation

2.1. PDDA / “Sustainable management of land and water” component

The objective of the first pillar of the Detailed Programme for African Agriculture Development, PDDAA is to increase land areas farmed sustainably and outfitted with reliable water management systems. Several initiatives of this kind may be highlighted:

- **TerrAfrica**: this initiative has mobilized 1 billion US\$ to support the national sustainable land and water management programmes with help from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The national programs are in the process of being defined and funds are being allocated;
- **Conservation agriculture**: this joint NEPAD-FAO (2008-2010) program of 4 million US\$ has allowed 23,700 rural families in southern Africa to adopt conservation agriculture. Farmers from Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have been trained to employ appropriate technologies such as seed planters, zaï cropping, etc. and they have received improved seeds.

2.2. AGGWI

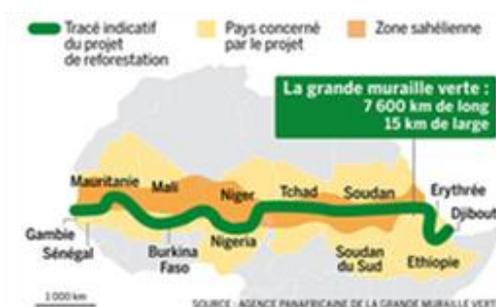


Figure 6 – African initiative of the Great Green Wall (Source: Panafrikan Agency of the GGW, 2014)

The African Great Green Wall Initiative (AGGWI) was launched in 2007 by Sahel and Sahara States to confront the problems of climate change and other man-made impacts (overgrazing, slash and burn agriculture, brush fires, etc.) which accentuate climate change, as well as desertification and land degradation.

Actions to implement the Great Green Wall are multiplying:

- The regional programme for sustainable land management and adaptation to climate change in the Sahel and West Africa (PRGDT): 13 million € for 2011-2015 (EU, FFEM, CILSS and the International Development Research Centre IDRC);

- The Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the GGW (SAWAP) and the Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services” (BRICKS) program: 1.1 billion US\$ from 2013 through 2018 (GEF, World Bank) ;

The tripartite programme Africa-Brazil-France to combat desertification in Africa: 2012-2015 (Interinstitutional Agency for Development Research AIRD, Panafrikan Agency of the GGW and Brazil’s National Council of Technological and Scientific Development CNPq). This program aims (i) to give a structure to an Africa-Brazil-France scientific community to back desertification research, (ii) to strengthen scientific knowledge and capacities on arid and semi-arid regions, (iii) to strengthen ties between scientists, governments, the business community, civil society and affected communities.

2.3. IREM/LCD

The Regional Initiative on global environment and combat against desertification in the Sahel (IREM-LCD) from 2002 to 2007 by CILSS with financing from the French government.

The program aimed to finance micro-projects to combat desertification carried out by village associations, peasant organisations, NGOs etc. and was thus one of the tools that contributed to the implementation of CILSS Member States’ national action plans to combat desertification.

36 projects in 9 Member States were carried out between 2002 and 2007.

Some of the techniques promoted in these micro-projects are shown below:

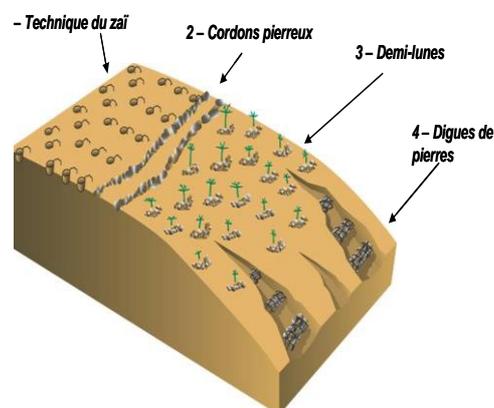


Figure 7 – Example of soil and water conservation and restoration techniques (SWR/SDR) of IREM/LCD (Source: SOS Sahel, 2014)