



SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY AND WORLD DESERTS FOUNDATION



Sahara and Sahel

Common challenges and opportunities of the region facing climate change

SIDE-EVENT

4 December 2015

3 - 4 PM

Blue zone

Room 6

Programme

Opening: Mrs Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of UNCCD

Speech of Mr Chérif Rahmani, President of the World Deserts Foundation

Presentation on the Sahara and Sahel region facing climate change:
Mr Khatim KHERRAZ, OSS Executive Secretary

Panel Discussion

Facilitation: Mr Ahmed Sekou Diallo, AFAD (NGO, Mali)

- Mr Hatem Ben Kadem, chief of staff, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Tunisia
- Mr Elvis Tangem, Manager Great Green Wall, African Union
- Mr Xavier Sticker, Ambassador delegate for the Environment, France (tbc)
- Ministry of Environment, Urban Safety and Sustainable Development, Niger (tbc)
- Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment, Algeria (tbc)
- Ministry of the Environment and Fishery, Chad (tbc)
- Ministry of Environment Protection and Forestry, Ethiopia (tbc)

Summary and conclusion



Banizoumbou, Niger, 2009



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The side event will be an opportunity for the World Deserts Foundation and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) to share their experiences in combating land degradation, protecting ecosystems, environmental monitoring and supporting communities and countries.

[Simultaneous translation French-English]

Common Challenges and opportunities of the Sahara and Sahel region facing climate change

The side event will discuss the common challenges and opportunities of the countries in the Sahara and Sahel region facing the impact of climate change. The impacts of climate change in combination with the expected effects of population growth affect the ecological equilibrium leading to the degradation of ecosystem services and to a decrease in the agricultural production and consequently harm the livelihoods depending on these resources.



Darou Khoudoss, Senegal, 2015

However, combating climate change and adapting communities to its impacts also represents an opportunity for the promotion and development of innovative sustainable land management approaches. These approaches can contribute to improved livelihoods and fighting poverty among dryland communities while at the same time increasing the sequestration of carbon. Financing of these development models is part and parcel of the new climate finance institutions.

An ecosystem approach which includes the prevention of degradation as well as the restoration and renovation of ecosystems is one important direction that needs to be urgently undertaken, given the considerable stocks of carbon found in Africa. These approaches are increasingly acknowledged by governments worldwide, notably through the adoption of the SDG# 15 relating to the necessity of achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

Questions for discussion

1. How to better evaluate/determine climate change-related risks and impacts in the region?
2. In terms of which aspects and to what extent is the Sahara and Sahel region vulnerable to climate change? What could be done to reduce “this vulnerability”?
3. What are the particular strengths of the region in facing climate change and how could successful adaptation experiences of communities and ecosystems to a variable climate and severe drought conditions be valorized?
4. How to promote investments in natural resources management techniques and approaches which could contribute to both improving the livelihoods of populations in drylands and increasing carbon sequestration?
5. How to ensure that carbon sequestration potential of ecosystems is taken into consideration in the monitoring and implementation of the INDCs in Africa?

