

WEST AFRICAN CARAVAN

The right to land, water and peasant agro-ecology: a common struggle!

4



GENERAL REPORT

March 2024

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ACRONYMES et SIGLES

ACCES	Association d'Actions Concertées pour l'Entraide et la Solidarité
ADDAD	Association pour la défense des Droits des Aides ménagère et Domestique
AGR	Activité Génératrice de revenus
AOF	Afrique Occidentale Française
APDER	Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Rural
APFR	Attestation de Possession Foncière Rurale
CDEPS	Centre départemental d'Education Populaire et Sportive
CDN	Contribution Déterminée Nationale
CEDEAO	Communauté Economiques des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest
CERFLA	Centre d'Etude, de Recherche et de Formation en langues Africaines
CGLTE-AO	Convergence Globale des Luites pour la Terre et l'Eau en Afrique de l'Ouest
CMAT	Convergence Malienne Contre les Accaparements de Terre
COFOVs	Commissions Foncières Villageoises
COP 28	Conférence des parties
DyTAEL	Dynamique pour une Transition Agro Ecologique Locale
ENDA PRONAT	Environnement Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs
ENO	Espace numérique ouvert
FAPD	Fédération des Agropasteurs de Diender
GES	Gaz à Effets de Serre
HEKS EPER	Entraide Protestante Suisse
OGM	Organique Génétiquement Modifies
OIT	Organisation Internationale du Travail
ONG	Organisation Non Gouvernementale
OSC	Organisation de la Société Civile
UA	Union Africaine
UE	Union Européenne
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine
UFSI	Union des Femmes du Secteur Informel
JT	Journal Télévisé

A. INTRODUCTION :

At the initiative of the Convergence Globale des Luites pour la Terre, l'Eau et les Semences Paysannes en Afrique de l'Ouest (CGLTE-AO), the fourth edition of the West African caravan "Droit à la Terre, à l'Eau et à l'Agroécologie Paysanne: une lutte commune!" was held from November 06 to December 01, 2023. The itinerary of this 4th edition was Burkina Faso as the launch country, and Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Gambia as the closing countries. It brought together almost 300 participants, including 90 women from farmers', pastoralists' and civil society organizations, social movements and NGOs from the CGLTE-AO country platforms: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Biseau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Liberia and other countries, notably Cameroon and Spain.

Added to this is the participation of the university community and the Alliance of West African kings, religious, customary and traditional leaders. The press will also be on hand to provide media coverage throughout the caravan. In fact, this fourth edition was part of the ongoing struggle for "Rights to land, water and peasant agro-ecology".

In 24 days, the majority of participants mobilized for the cause were young girls and boys. The caravaneers, made up of farmers, breeders, fishermen, processors of local products, traders, workers, craftsmen, [tradithérapeutes] tradipraticien.ne.s, pupils and students. s, researchers, executives, elected officials, traditional village and religious authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), social movements and local populations crossed five (05) countries through intense activities. The highest political and administrative authorities (Ministers, Directors of Administrative Services, Governors, Prefects, Sub-Prefects, Members of Parliament, Mayors), technical services, the Alliance of Traditional and Customary Chiefs, the press and other stakeholders also took part in the various activities.

Table 1 : Country itineraries and cities/locations of caravan stopovers

Country	Stopover cities	Number of stopovers per country
Burkina Faso	Bobo Dioulasso, Banfora	02
Cote d'Ivoire	Ferkessédougou, Korhogo, Watchap	03
Mali	Kadiana, Kolondiéba, Bamako, Kurukanfuga (Kangaba), Kayes, Falémé	06
Senegal	Tambacounda, Linguère, Kojolel, Saint Louis, NDiael	05
Gambia	Brikama, Sérékunda	02
Total		18

Review of Objectives

Placed under the sign of the **climate emergency**, this edition had for general objective to **Contribute to the reinforcement of the fight against the phenomena of climate change by the awakening of conscience and the promotion of the peasant Agroecology as alternative to the false solutions through an advocacy with the communities and the authorities in order to guarantee in particular the food sovereignty.**

Specifically, this involved :

- Raise awareness among communities, particularly women and young people in towns and villages along the itineraries, of the issues and challenges of the climate emergency and the need to change behavior by adapting to the context through actions that will help reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs);
- Promote peasant agroecology in local areas by identifying and sharing experiences, innovations and practices in West Africa, and advocate its systematic inclusion in public policies and local, national and sub-regional development plans;
- In the run-up to COP 28, advocate to the authorities of itinerant countries for the building of a common dynamic, with a view to demanding the revision of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in order to protect community lands from multinationals and their allies;
- Submit to the political and administrative authorities of itinerary countries, strategic advocacy documents including the Convergence Green Booklet, the Commitment of Customary Chiefs, the African Civil Society Declaration on the EU/AU Partnership and the Community Declaration on Climate resulting from the Tambour Climat national caravans, to ensure that the concerns of African peoples are effectively taken into account in policies and decision-making processes relating to natural resources.

This report describes the activities carried out during the caravan and covers:

- The progress of the caravan;
- Communication;
- Strengths and weaknesses (difficulties encountered/constraints);
- Recommendations;
- Conclusion;
- And annexes.

B. THE CARAVAN PROCESS :

Strategy and methodological approach:

A wide range of activities were carried out during the twenty-six (26) days of the caravan, including the launch in some countries, the official opening ceremony in Bobo Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, public conferences, testimonies from victims of land, water and peasant seed grabbing, peaceful marches, visits to experiments and fields, visits to agroecological school fields, visits to classified forests, handing over of caravaneers' declarations to the authorities, visits to the "green" and "green" sites, and so on. courtesy, exhibitions of local agro-ecological



products at stands, panels followed by exchanges and the presentation of the Green Booklet to the various local and national authorities of the itinerary countries: **Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal and Gambia.**

I. Burkina Faso stop :

1.1. Bobo-Dioulasso stopover:

Caravan launch :

The official launch ceremony of the caravan was carried out by the Governor's Representative, in the presence of partners, customary and traditional authorities, caravanners and local organizations, on November 06, 2023 at the Maison de la Culture in Bobo Dioulasso. It should be noted that the presidium was made up of the Governor's representative, Oxfam's interim country director, the representative of the CGLTE-OA spokesperson and the focal point of the Burkinabe convergence dynamic.

Several topics related to climate change were discussed by caravanners and farmers' organizations. Animations were provided by members of CSOs and technical structures. There were many exchanges of experience and constructive critical analyses of the dynamics in which we intervene.

The themes were grouped around communication panels with sub-themes. An introductory paper provided an overview of the themes. It focused on climate change, a major development challenge for our countries, and on the status of the National Determined Contribution (NDC) in Burkina Faso.



This was followed by three communication panels based on the themes and sub-themes below:

Theme 1: Climate change and land governance: what practical alternatives for secure access by young people and women to land, water and farmers' seeds?

- Rôle et place de la femme rurale dans la lutte contre les effets du changement climatique : expérience de la promotion de la production agroécologique au sein de l'Association pour la protection de l'environnement et le développement rural - APEDR ;
- The FNGN and the challenges of adapting production practices in the context of climate change in the northern region;
- The issue of household help in the face of climate change.

Theme 2: Promoting farmers' seeds in a context of security crisis:

- Farmers' seeds, an alternative for food sovereignty;

- The impact of the security crisis on peasant seed systems in Burkina Faso.

Theme 3: Agro-ecological policy and the role of customary chieftaincy:

- Burkina Faso's national agro-ecology development strategy and its 2023-2025 action plan;
- Adaptation to climate change in northern Burkina Faso (gender and climate);
- Role and place of customary chiefs in promoting agroecology and securing land tenure.

At the end of each panel, discussions followed by questions and answers were initiated. Experiences were shared on climate change resilience and land management.

In the first panel, speakers focused on key concepts related to climate change, its causes, manifestations and consequences, and ways of combating its effects. APEDR's experience showed that women are vulnerable to climate change. To this end, they prioritize their empowerment through actions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. They also added capacity building in advocacy, policy monitoring, sustainable land management, agroecology promotion and NTFP processing. The FNGN representative spoke of practices for reclaiming degraded soils, agro-ecological



practices for compost production, and so on. Household helpers are no exception to this vulnerability, hence their association, ADDAD, which works for their empowerment, defending their rights through advocacy and monitoring public policies on employment and working conditions for young girls.

The second panel dealt with the promotion of farmers' seeds in the context of the security crisis. A summary of the study on the impact of the security crisis on peasant seed systems in Burkina Faso, carried out by FIAN and COASP Burkina, showed that the security crisis poses a major threat to the safeguarding of peasant seeds and peasant seed systems, which are the foundation of food security. Finally, the national strategy for the development of agroecology in Burkina Faso and its action plan were presented.

The role and place of traditional chiefs in promoting agroecology and ensuring food security



were addressed in the third panel. The importance of traditional chiefs was underlined, as they



hold ancestral powers that they use to promote social cohesion and peace. Hence their role in facilitating and communicating between the different parties in the event of conflict, and in finding peaceful and lasting common ground.

The case of Mali on the inclusion of rural community land in the Agricultural Land Law translating 4 land tenure systems and the situation of securing peasant land in Niger were shared.

Findings and recommendations were formulated following the various presentations.



Local produce fair :

With the aim of promoting local consumption and peasant agro-ecology, an exhibition fair was held from November 6 to 7, 2023 in the Maison de la Culture enclosure, with some thirty exhibitors. The main products were agri-foods and handicrafts, notably traditional dress.



Agri-food products included shea butter, soumbala, pre-cooked local cereal flour and local juices. NTFPs were made up of oil extracted from forest products, leaves and powder from moringa, baobab and néré; soaps from balanite and neem oils. Handicrafts included kokodonda and Faso dafani, made from local cotton by local artisans.

The majority of exhibitors were women processors from Bobo Dioulasso and the surrounding area. This enabled local products to be showcased and promoted. Potential customers, especially caravanners from countries in the West African region, were put in touch with new contacts.

La parade :

A parade was organized on November 7, 2023. It began at Bobo-Dioulasso town hall. Around 400 people from some thirty organizations took part, the majority of them women from the Bobo, Dioula and Dozo communities, as well as local organizations.



It brought together



The aim of the march was to inform, alert and sensitize the general public to the issues of land grabbing, access to productive resources, climate change and alternatives. All along the approximately 5-kilometer route, marchers passed on key messages, including protection of the planet, the need to take action against climate change, access to water, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, etc...

The main stages of this march were marked by :

- The presentation of the green booklet to the Prefect of the city of Bobo-Dioulasso, who welcomed the caravaneers to the Cité Culturelle de Sia;
- The march itself was punctuated by slogans, key messages and songs about commitments to climate change and the convergence movement;
- The dedicated press conference of the CGLTE-OA regional coordination expressed the spirit, objectives and various stages of the 4th edition of the West African caravan,
- A plea was made to the Governor of Hauts-Bassins on women's access to land and the quest for climate justice. The parade ended at the Bobo-Dioulasso Governorate in the presence of political, customary and administrative authorities. Governor Mriama Konaté/Gnanou welcomed the caravaneers to the Governorate to hear the various pleas and share her message.



After the presentation of the various delegations from the countries present, the spokesman's representative, Ousmane Barké Diallo, unfolded the elements of the pleas concerning secure access to land for women and young people, the practice of agro-ecology as an alternative to climate change, and the challenges of land grabbing by multinationals.



The Governor rightly welcomed this advocacy strategy, noting that it is now a real concern for the national authorities. For, according to her, if nothing is done, the future is uncertain. That's



why, she said, the regulations governing real estate agencies are being revised, and the process of allocating plots of land has been suspended.

Site visits

On the evening of November 7, 2023, two guided tours were held to share experiences of climate resilience and agro-ecological practices:

- i) **The organic compost production company, "la solution".** A functional, semi-modern organic compost production unit



staffed mainly by women. The major innovation is the recycling of household waste using modern processing equipment. The compost is analyzed by Bunasol to determine its mineral composition. The 50kg bags of compost are produced at a unit cost of 12500 F CFA.

- ii) **The agro-ecological center:** operates in the fields of polyculture, fish farming, aquaculture, organic farming and breeding, including market gardening, agro-equipment and agri-food.



The center has set up an integrated production system based on a "livestock-agriculture and forestry" functional cycle. All waste is recycled for the benefit of the estate, reducing costs and enabling organic production.

1.2. Banfora Stopover :

The caravaneers were greeted at the entrance to Banfora by a strong team from the Munyu association, which dispatched its radio and television reporting teams for the occasion.

Homage to the late Doctor Dakuyo, pharmacist and traditional therapist:

The first action in Banfora was the tribute paid by caravanners to Dr Dakuyo, in his laboratory, who passed away in October 2023 shortly before the caravan. An emblematic figure in the sub-region through his modern phytosanitary treatments based on natural products. It was an opportunity for the caravaneers to offer their condolences and encourage the Doctor's daughter, who has taken over from him, to persevere in the path traced by her late father.



Advocacy meeting:

In addition to the political, customary and administrative authorities of Bobo-Dioulasso, advocacy was pursued in Banfora with local organizations, administrative, religious and customary authorities.



The caravaneers were given a warm welcome at the headquarters of the Munyu association, which was responsible for organizing the meeting. The aim was to present the organizations' approaches to climate resilience and to advocate ways of meeting the challenges. Munyu radio and television were mobilized to cover the event.

Munyu" means "patience, tolerance and self-sacrifice" in the Dioula language, hence the name Association Munyu des femmes de la Comoé (AFC/Munyu). Created in March 1992 and recognized on September 8, 1992, AFC/Munyu works to improve access to basic social services (water-hygiene-sanitation, food security, education, gender justice, etc.) and increase household income. It has over



La Fondatrice de Munyu

10,000 members in the provinces of Comoé, Léraba and Kénédougou. Its vision is of ***a society in which women are at the heart of all responses to development issues.***

The meeting ended with the Governor of the Cascades region welcoming the caravan to the Governorate. The green booklet and the pleas were handed over to the Authority, who promised to pass them on to the hierarchy, reassuring them that they would already be taken into account



in local policies. He also expressed his satisfaction at seeing the mobilization of farmers, young people, women and men to remind and question the authorities about their needs and current concerns. Finally, he expressed his appreciation of the spirit of communion between the different peoples of these

countries, who are breaking down the virtual borders that constitute a blockade to harmonious development.



The five advocacy themes are

❖ **Women's secure access to rural land:**

Article 75 of Law O34-2009/AN on rural land tenure;

Article 3 of law n° 034-2012/AN on agrarian and land reorganization in Burkina Faso;

Noting that access to land causes enormous difficulties for women;

Noting that women are an essential link in the agro-sylvo-pastoral production, conservation and processing chain,

Noting that women's knowledge is essential to food and nutritional security,

We, the women producers of the Cascades, demand more rural land ownership certificates (APFR) for women and women's groups to boost agricultural production.

❖ **Women's access to and management of water resources:**

In view of the objectives of the national water policy adopted in 1998;

In view of the law on water management of February 8, 2001;

Having regard to law n°006-2013/AN on the environmental code in Burkina Faso;

Noting that agroecology is based on resilient practices through the promotion of farmers' seeds, biodiversity and optimal water management,

Noting that water is essential to the survival of all species;

Noting the difficulties in supplying water to our populations,

We, members of the convergence, call for the organization of an awareness-raising and training campaign for women on efficient water management.

❖ **Farmers' seeds**

Considering that seeds are the first element of the food system and production systems;

Considering the need to diversify farmers' seeds for their natural adaptation to climate change,

We, the members of the Cascades Global Convergence, call for the promotion of farmers' seeds selected from crops, using endogenous, highly resilient processes that research will support.

❖ **Advocacy message on agroecological practices**

Considering that agroecological practices preserve the health of ecosystems and rely on functional cycles adapted to local conditions.

Considering that the transmission of good practices and known agricultural knowledge is passed down from generation to generation in Africa, helping to preserve food sovereignty on the continent.

We, members of the convergence, advocate the promotion of agroecology among decision-makers and all players in the production chain for better agricultural governance.

We, the members of the Cascades Global Convergence, want agroecology to be the preferred practice in our region for harmonious, healthy and sustainable development.

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❖ **The message of advocacy for convergence**

Given that global convergence enables communities to share their concerns on issues linked to land, water and agroecology;

Given that it is an advocacy lever for West African producers;

Given that it aims to be a moderating and federating tool for players in sustainable agriculture;

We, the members of the Cascades Global Convergence, call on the authorities of West African countries in general, and Burkina Faso in particular, to facilitate and support the organization of the caravan.

These various advocacy messages were handed over to the governor of the Cascades region at the end of strong slogans.

II. Cote d'Ivoire Stop:

This stage was marked by two key stops, Ferkessédougou and Korhogo, with a field visit to Watchap.

2.1. Ferkessédougou Stopover :

The objective of the Ferkessédougou stopover was to examine the impacts of climate change on farming activities and methods of resilience, as well as the inadequacies of rural land governance. Through this theme, the Ivorian national convergence platform intends to strengthen its advocacy towards politicians by recommending that they :

- ✧ Reduce the vulnerability of populations to the impacts of climate change;
- ✧ Increase resilience to climate change through environmentally-friendly agricultural practices such as agroecology;
- ✧ Facilitate secure access to land for women and young people.

Activity progress :

The Ferkessédougou stopover was the caravaneers' first on Ivorian soil, and began with the arrival of participants on Thursday November 08, when they were welcomed at Place Alassane Dramane OUATTARA to the rhythm of traditional dances from the region.



The actual activities took place on Friday, November 09, 2023, and began with a peaceful march through the town under the slogans "**don't touch my land**", "**don't touch my water**" and "**don't touch my seeds....**", ending at the town's multi-purpose hall named after Soro Guillaume Kigbafori.

The march was followed by a panel discussion on two themes. Nearly 350 It mobilized some 350 people from the various caravan delegations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Mali, Togo, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. The event also saw the participation of the local community, including traditional chiefs, members of women's organizations, Watchap women and civil society associations from the region. In addition, the presence of :



- Representative of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Children,
- Secretary General of the Prefect of Ferkessédougou,
- Representative of the Regional Prefect;

Opening ceremony :

It was marked by speeches by Mr. YEO, President of the Ferkessédougou organizing committee, Ms. ZEI Pauline, National Focal Point of the CGLTE-AO Convergence, Mr. NAKANDE Alassane, Focal Point of the CGLTE-AO Convergence in Burkina Faso, who outlined the history of the Convergence and the achievements of the three editions of the caravan, Mr. Moussa COULIBALY, representing the Spokesman of the CGLTE-AO Convergence, the Head of Cabinet representing the Prefect of TCHOLOGO, and Mr. Moussa COULIBALY, representing the Spokesman of the CGLTE-AO Convergence. Moussa COULIBALY, representing the Spokesman of the CGLTE-AO Convergence, and the Head of Cabinet representing the Prefect of TCHOLOGO. These speeches were followed by a panel on two themes.



Theme 1: "Climate change and market garden production: issues, challenges and prospects". The first theme was presented by Mr. SIKELI Jean Paul, Executive Secretary of COPAGEN and member of the CGLTE-AO national platform. His presentation focused on two points: the ambivalent relationship between agriculture and climate change, and peasant resilience to climate change: peasant agroecology as a response to the climate crisis in agriculture.

Panel :

Theme 1: "Climate change and market garden production: issues, challenges and prospects".

The first theme was presented by Mr. SIKELI Jean Paul, Executive Secretary of COPAGEN and member of the CGLTE-AO national platform.

His presentation focused on two points: the ambivalent relationship between agriculture and climate change, and peasant resilience to climate change: peasant agroecology as a response to the climate crisis in agriculture.



On the first point, he demonstrated how so-called conventional agriculture is responsible for climate change. According to him, specifically industrial agriculture alone generates almost 35% of greenhouse gas emissions, the best known of which are CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide. Mr. SIKELI was keen to point out that not all forms of agriculture bear the same responsibility.

The development of industrial agriculture, with its intensive farming techniques and monocultures requiring massive use of pesticides and petrochemical fertilizers, releases large stocks of greenhouse gases and is therefore largely responsible for climate change. He then presented agriculture as a victim of climate change. In fact, climate change is causing wide variations in temperature, with major droughts sometimes followed by major rainy spells. This climate disruption will lead to a cascade of uncertainties for the farmer, due to the lack of control over crop cycles. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns have a direct impact on crop yields.



The second point concerned peasant resilience to climate change: peasant agroecology as a response to the climate crisis in agriculture. He invited the audience to embrace a more virtuous path that would rehabilitate the creative genius of the peasant while preserving the planet's unsubstitutable assets. The Executive Secretary advised the audience to make the bold, reasoned and promising choice of agro-ecology, so that the world's future is bright.

Theme 2: Access to land for women and young people

The second presentation was made by Mr. TRAORE, Head of Service at the Departmental Directorate of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Children. He highlighted the shortcomings of the 1998 land code, due to socio-cultural constraints that exclude certain categories of the population, including women, from access to land ownership, despite the fact that the rural land code recognizes women's right to access land. Article 1 of the code states that ***"only the State, public authorities and Ivorian individuals may own land"***. However, the recognition of customary law in the Ivorian rural land code, without the benefit of inventory, raises a number of questions about women's right to land.

Discussions during the panel focused on the need for public authorities to put in place legal mechanisms enabling women to have secure access to land, and to raise awareness of the need for agro-ecology practices that are more respectful of farmers' rights.

The panel ended with the reading of the declaration of the Ferkessédougou stopover, incorporating the recommendations made.



Visit to the communities of the village of Watchap :

With traditional dances and cultural songs, the caravanners were warmly welcomed to the village of Watchap, some 15 km from the town of Ferkessédougou, by the community through



a large-scale mobilization of women and young people.

The visit took place in two stages:

- A meeting with the community in the presence of the village chief and notabilities, who spoke of the negative impact of climate change on their society.
- A visit to the village women's collective field, covering around one hectare, which they use for market gardening, in particular growing vegetables (chillies, tomatoes, cabbage, etc.).

The visit provided an insight into the difficulties women face in their farming activities due to the lack of water. The village chief was congratulated for helping these women gain access to land. He praised the women's contribution to the development of his village and even the region, before welcoming the presence of nationals from 11 West African countries, a first for the village.



It provided an insight into the difficulties women face in their farming activities due to the lack of water. The village chief was congratulated for having contributed to these women's access to land. He praised the women's contribution to the development of his village and even the region, before acknowledging the presence of nationals from 11 West African countries, a first for the village.

The caravaneers took their leave of the brave women and the community of Watchap in fine rain, thus bringing to an end the first stop on their tour of the Tchologo region.

2.2. Escale de Korhogo :

Du Tchologo, les caravaniers font leur entrée dans la capitale de la région du Poron. A Korhogo, deuxième escale du pays, la caravane avait pour but d'échanger sur les conséquences de la migration des jeunes filles du fait des changements climatiques. L'objectif visé à travers le choix de ce thème était de demander aux autorités de trouver une alternative efficace à la migration des jeunes filles en milieu rural par la mise en place des méthodes résilientes face aux effets des changements.

Activities process :

The activities took place in three main phases in the courtyard of the Departmental Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development. The day included an opening ceremony, a conference, a documentary film screening, a sketch on peasant agroecology and a visit to the Waragnéné craft village. In addition to the caravanners, a number of important personalities were present:

- Mr Alain KOFFI, representative of the President of the Regional Council,
- Minister Fidèle SARASSORO, who is also Executive Secretary of the Côte d'Ivoire Security Council;
- Madame SANOGO, representing GUEU POWA MAX,
- TCHOLOGO Regional Director of Agriculture;
- Traditional chiefs;
- And above all, members of the region's women's organizations and civil society associations.

Delegates from Sierra-Leone and Liberia also joined the caravan at the Korhogo stopover.

Opening Ceremony :

The ceremony opened with a traditional dance from the region. This was followed by speeches by the region's farmers' organizations, Mr Issa COULIBALY, Chief of Korhogo Canton, Mr SINAN Ouattara, National Focal Point of the CGLTE-AO, Mr Nakandé Alassane, Focal Point of the CGLTE-AO Convergence in Burkina Faso, who outlined the history of the Convergence and the achievements of the three editions of the caravan, Mr Moussa COULIBALY, representing the Spokesman for the CGLTE-AO Global Convergence, the representative of the President of the Council of Ministers of Burkina Faso, Mr Moussa COULIBALY, representing the Spokesman for the CGLTE-AO Global Convergence, and the representative of the President

of the Republic. Moussa COULIBALY, representing the spokesman for the CGLTE-AO global convergence, and the representative of the President of the Regional Council.

In essence, they unanimously affirmed the existence of climate change and its impact on human activities, and the urgent need to find solutions.

These speeches were followed by a conference led by Madame SANOGO, representing the



Regional Director of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Conference :

Theme: Climate change and migration of young girls, what are the consequences?

In her introduction, Madame SANOGO defined climate change as long-term variations in temperature and weather conditions, which can be natural or man-made. According to the speaker, despite the efforts of the Ivorian government, global warming is a real brake on the generation of livelihoods and food security. She noted that it is human activities such as agriculture, especially industrial agriculture with its use of chemical fertilizers and deforestation, that are causing climate change.



As consequences, Ms. SANOGO cites the displacement of populations, the majority of whom are women, despite the fact that women represent an important family workforce. In terms of solutions, the speaker proposes the development of agricultural technology with irrigation and water management systems, and the empowerment of women through training in income-generating activities, as she believes that migration is not a better solution against the effects of climate change.

Discussions revolved around the need to make decision-makers more sensitive to the problems experienced by farmers in general and women specifically, by adopting courageous measures



to cope with the effects of climate change to enable them to live with dignity by contributing to our countries' food sovereignty.

Film documentaire:

This twenty-minute documentary film on climate change and the migration of young girls was produced by the Association pour la Défense des Droits des Aides ménagères et Domestiques Côte d'Ivoire (ADDAD). The scenes take place in the Ayenoua locality in the Aboisso department. The film highlights the difficulties faced by young migrant girls seeking employment in big cities. It was also an opportunity to draw the authorities' attention to the need to ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 189 on domestic workers.

Sketch on peasant agroécologie :

The sketch was performed by women from the informal sector in N'zianouan and Aboisso. The actresses pointed to the impact of climate change on agriculture, one of the sectors in which they operate. They proposed agroecology as a resilient solution to climate change.

It should be recalled that these women transform cassava into a highly appreciated local delicacy known as "placali".



Visit to the Waragnéné artisanal village

The caravan's activities in the Poro capital ended with a visit to the craft village of Waragnéné. This guided tour provided an insight into the process of transforming cotton into various items (loincloths, clothing, women's handbags and briefcases, etc....).



All in all, the Côte d'Ivoire stage ended on a high note, with all planned activities completed. Participants appreciated the themes addressed, which drew the authorities' attention to the scourge of climate change. It's now up to civil society leaders to adapt their strategies in line with what was presented, and to work together to improve the living conditions of local populations.

III. Mali stage :

This was marked by four (4) major stopovers: Kadiana, Kolondièba, Bamako, Kurukanfuga in Mandé, and finally Kayes.

3.1. Kadiana Stopover

The caravan entered Mali on November 11, 2023 via the town of Kadiana, an unscheduled stopover necessitated by the particular context of the celebration of Mali's Legitimacy Day.



For the occasion, the caravan was welcomed by the Prefect of Kolondièba in the presence of the sub-prefects, mayors and all the village chiefs of the Kolondièba cercle. They were gathered at the Mairie de Kadiana as part of Mali's Legitimacy Day. Also present was the Sub-Prefect of Debeté from Côte d'Ivoire.

It was an opportunity for the caravaneers to get their messages across. In particular, they called



for an end to the monopolization of natural resources, including land, water and farmers' seeds; an end to environmental pollution; and the adoption of behaviors aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change. But also peace and security in the Sahel. Emphasis was placed on the abusive cutting of wood for charcoal and gold panning, phenomena which are on the increase in the cercle (prefecture) of Kolondièba. After welcoming

the caravaneers from thirteen (13) West African countries, the Prefect of Kolondièba hailed their struggle as noble.

The advocacy documents, including the CGLTE OA green booklet, were handed over to the Prefect of Kolondiéba, who in turn handed them to his guest of the day, the Sub-Prefect of Debeté (Côte d'Ivoire).



3.2. Kolondiéba Stopover

From Kadiana, the caravan arrived in the early hours of the morning in Kolondiéba, where it received a warm welcome. The activities proper got underway on November 12, 2023.



The activities planned and carried out in this locality included a conference on land governance, environmental preservation and women's access to land, and visits to the Champ collectif of the Convergence des femmes rurales pour la souveraineté alimentaire (COFERSA) de Kolondiéba on a site graciously donated by the administrative authorities in support of their activities, and to the gold-panning site.

Conference :

Theme: Land governance, gold panning, environmental preservation and women's access to land.

It was held in the presence of the Sub-Prefect of Kolondiéba. After listening to the women's testimonies on their vulnerability to the effects of climate change and their poor access to secure land, the caravan called for the application of land tenure laws, which are already well-developed and beneficial to women and other vulnerable groups. It was also an opportunity to share experiences with other caravaneers from other countries in the fight against climate



change and women's access to land. In addition, an overview of the achievements of the Agricultural Land Law was given, with emphasis on the effective consideration of community land and the effective involvement of communities in land management at village level through the establishment of village land commissions.



A visit to the COFERSA women's collective field :

The second activity of the Kolondièba stopover was a visit to the women's collective field of



the “Rural Women's Convergence for Food Sovereignty” (COFERSA). The two-hectare field was kindly donated by the customary and administrative authorities of Kolondièba. They grow vegetables, raise ruminants, poultry and fish. They also grow cereals. They use agroecological practices.

However, like the women of Watchap (Côte d'Ivoire), those of Kolondièba are confronted with water problems, even though the site is located on the edge of a marigot which dries up during the dry season. During the rainy season, however, they face a problem of access to the field due to rising water levels. For this reason in particular, they are calling for the construction of a bridge and efficient boreholes to ensure the sustainability of their activities.



A visit to the Konifulala gold-panning site:

The afternoon's activities were marked by a visit to a gold-panning site in Konifulala, a village some twenty kilometers from the town.



The aim of this excursion was to raise awareness among gold miners of the effects of their actions on the plant cover, the impact on the environment, on wildlife and on human beings. The awareness-raising session was led by Moussa M. Coulibaly, the caravan's mission leader.

He pointed out that the presence of the caravaneers on the site was in no way intended to stop the activity of the gold miners, who derive most of their subsistence resources from it, but



rather to make them truly aware of the consequences of gold mining on the environment (land, water table, flora, fauna), and on human life through the destruction and pollution of its resources. With a view to protecting animals and even human beings, and the environment in general, a number of proposals have been put forward to gold miners. These included taking steps to restore at least the areas impacted by their activities; using less toxic products; and using protective tools during gold panning activities.

The gold miners present at the site said they had understood and committed themselves to working towards the regeneration of the mined area and the closure of the site. This involves,

among other things, plugging the wells that have been dug, and ensuring that the chemicals used do not contaminate the resources of the human species to which they themselves belong.

Finally, the local gold miners welcomed the caravan's initiative to come and talk to them about their responsibilities in relation to gold mining, especially in their work zone. They encouraged the caravaneers to pursue such awareness-raising actions in the Kolondieba cercle, in Mali and in other West African countries.



3.3. Bamako Stopover:

Two major activities marked the Bamako stage, in particular the meeting of the alliance of customary and traditional chiefs and the general assembly of caravaneers for a mid-term assessment.

Meetin of Africain Kings/Queens, traditional and religious leaders

The Hôtel COLIBRIS in Bamako was the setting for a meeting of kings/queens, traditional and religious chiefs from West Africa on the theme of "the quest for climate justice, the role and responsibilities of African traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change". It took place from November 13 to 14, 2023, under the chairmanship of His Majesty Moussa Gourgoudou, King of Zinder (Niger), President of the Alliance of Traditional Chiefs and Customary Rulers of West Africa.

The meeting brought together over forty participants, including 16 traditional and religious leaders from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon and Chad. It also saw the participation of academics from Benin and Mali, and the representative of the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (CERAO) from Nigeria. Also present were the representative of the Episcopal Conference of Mali, the coordinator of the district chiefs of the District of Bamako and the heads of the caravaneers' country delegations.

The aim of the meeting was to contribute to strengthening the fight against climate change phenomena by raising awareness and promoting peasant agro-ecology as an alternative to false solutions, through advocacy with communities and authorities, in order to guarantee food sovereignty in particular.

Over the two days, activities included a variety of presentations followed by debates. These included the dynamics of the CGLTE-OA, communication on climate justice, updating the action plan of traditional chiefs and the drafting of a solemn declaration.

▪ Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was marked by a number of speeches. After setting the scene, the moderator announced the workshop program, praising the kings/queens and traditional chiefs



for having honored this very important meeting with their presence, in support of social movements fighting for community rights.

Mr. Seydou SANGARÉ, coordinator of the village chiefs of commune VI in the Bamako district, welcomed all the participants, especially the kings/queens and traditional chiefs from Mali's sister countries.



The President of CMAT, Mr. Soungalo KONE, emphasized the role played by young people in the struggle to regain African sovereignty in its broadest sense, while saluting the efforts made by the alliance of kings and traditional chiefs.

The voice of religious leaders was given to participants by Abbé Louis Diarra from Mali, who dwelt on the weight of different religious denominations in influencing policies and communities to raise awareness of climate change phenomena.

His Majesty Moussa Hadi Gourgoudou of Niger, Coordinator of the Alliance of Kings, Queens, Traditional and Customary Chiefs of Africa, opened the session by emphasizing that the CGLTE-OA's West African caravan is the only one capable of raising awareness of climate change across more than 30 countries. He invited all the kings to support the caravaneers with encouragement "even if it's a bottle of water", because, he said, the CGLTE-OA remains dedicated to the cause of communities living under the authority of traditional chiefs who place their trust in the CGLTE-OA.

▪ **Presentation of the dynamics of the CGLTE-OA**

In the context of climate change, Massa KONE, spokesperson for the CGLTE-OA, pointed out that, in the face of the aggression of Western culture, the fight cannot succeed without Africans returning to their traditional socio-cultural values, knowledge and know-how. Hence the vision of the CGLTE-OA to look to traditional legitimacies for the protection of natural resources. He

drew participants' attention to the manipulation of Africa's land, water and seeds by Western culture.

He also stressed that customary governance of natural resources is ensured by traditional chiefs, who are their guardians. Today, these resources are facing enormous problems, both climatic and man-made. Young people, speaking of the CGLTE-OA, remain the emissaries of traditional chiefs to protect natural resources.

Finally, he gave an overview of the Convergence's history, emphasizing the reasons for its creation. This presentation of the Convergence's dynamics brought participants to the same level of understanding of the CGLTE OA and, above all, of its fight for good land governance in Africa and the world.



The President of the Alliance of Traditional and Customary Chiefs, His Majesty Moussa Hadi GOURGOUDOU, thanked the caravaneers for raising awareness among traditional and administrative authorities in West Africa. He spoke of the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels threatening the coasts, the encroachment of the desert on the Sahel and demographic pressure. He also thanked the financial partners who have supported the activities of the CGLTE-OA, announcing that several other traditional chiefs are keen to join the Alliance.

▪ Presentation on climate justice :

The actual activities of the meeting began with a presentation by Beninese academic Dr. KOROGONE Méré Eloi, an environmental and land lawyer. It focused on *"The quest for climate justice, and the role and responsibilities of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change"*.

The presentation covered six points. Firstly, Dr. Eloi focused on **the legal context for defining the role and responsibilities of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in combating climate change phenomena**. He spoke of **legal pluralism**, in particular the cohabitation of national land rights



and legal endogeneity. According to him, national land rights are characterized by the exogeneity of the legal referents promoted (**Judeo-Christian legal culture**), **legal complexes** with regard to the colonial legal heritage, **legal prejudices** against legal endogeneity and **the desacralization of land** (land is a commodity, an **individualized property**), and the ascendancy of the economic over the social.

As for the prerequisites **for establishing the role and responsibilities of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change**, the lecturer developed two notions, namely (i) The defense of ecological interest: a prerequisite determinant of policies and reforms; anything that requires, on the part of all players, firm and precise commitments in the short, medium and long term, for the restoration of environments, their responsible management and their transfer to future generations. (ii) Ecological interest: a support for the generational transmission of land assets.

In relation to **Eléments for a perspective on the active participation of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change phenomena**, he referred to the search for socio-ecological coviability. This implies taking account of the ecological challenge, which translates into an awareness of the ecological emergency and an acceptance of responsibility for the regeneration of ecosystems and biotopes essential to human survival.



In terms of conditions for the legally-supervised participation of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change, Dr. Eloi calls for the co-construction of regulatory law. In his view, the debate on the re-reading of African land rights according to new paradigms is far from over, given the influence of the mercantilist vision of the law that is still strongly anchored in the minds of African legislators.

To **build the common law of socio-ecological coviability**, he advocates synergy between spaces of local legitimacy and spaces of state legality around standards of land-environmental regulation.

Finally, **as for the roles and responsibilities of Africa's traditional chiefs and kings in the fight against climate change phenomena**, for the Beninese doctor, traditional chiefs, kings and queens must :

- help communities to bring social arrangements out of legal orality, with a view to securing land-environment relations
- help legitimize state legality on the basis of social arrangements ;
- help establish local environmental agreements that respect legal endogeneity and the intentional management rights of public authorities (as local strategies for adapting to ecological crises and climate change);
- revitalize endogenous regulatory strategies to give concrete form to living law;
- raise community awareness of the stakes involved in land-environment management and their traditional authority systems.

Following Dr. KOROGONE's presentation, Mr. Nakandé from Burkina Faso and Mr. Malado DIALLO from Guinea gave testimonials on socio-cultural values. They also established the

difference between climate variability and climate change, not forgetting the anthropogenic factors behind these climatic phenomena in Africa, denouncing mining and forestry exploitation as the source of land grabbing in Africa. Hence, according to Mr. Diallo, *"It is the responsibility of Africans not to despoil our resources, but to adapt our laws to our socio-cultural realities"*.

Finally, it should be noted that Africa suffers from a climate injustice in that it pollutes very little but suffers the adverse effects of climate change more severely.

This was followed by a debate during which many speakers made contributions and clarifications.

▪ **Update on the Alliance of Traditional Leaders action plan.**

Following the presentation of the action plan by Moussa M. COULIBALY, communicator for the CGLTE-OA, the President of the Alliance was keen to point out that many activities had been carried out, while others had not been possible due to a lack of funds. He then thanked the spokesman and the entire Convergence for the efforts made to operationalize the alliance of traditional and customary chiefs.

The traditional and customary chiefs made the following amendments and observations:

- the alliance's membership of other chiefs' platforms;
- seeking partnerships to finance activities;
- continuing to broaden the alliance's social base to include other traditional chiefs, in particular queens, at the request of Her Majesty the Queen of Ghana;
- development of appropriate tools to raise awareness of rural sociology;
- the drafting of a memorandum to appeal to sub-regional state authorities;
- translation of the action plan into English.



However, with regard to the grievance of His Majesty the Queen of Ghana, the Sultan of Chad promised to make contact with a queen from Madagascar.

▪ **Engagement of traditional chiefs**

To draw up the declaration, a commission was set up comprising His Majesties the Kings and Queens of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Niger, the Reverend representative of CERAO, the representative of the academics, the representative of the Réseau des Communicateurs Traditionnels du Mali (RECOTRADE) and two representatives of the CGLTE OA. The draft proposed by the commission was validated after amendments by the participants (see Appendix - Solemn Declaration of the Alliance of Traditional Chiefs and Customaries of West and Central Africa (ACTC AOC), and of religious leaders on Climate Change).

Finally, the traditional chiefs all took part in the COP of Communities on November 15, 2023 in Kurukanfuga, where they read their Solemn Declaration on Climate Change.



The declaration was handed over to the authorities present at the event.

Mid-term General Assembly

In parallel with the meeting with traditional chiefs, the caravaners took a break from their two-country tour to recuperate. On November 14, they held a mid-term general meeting, at which



the focus was on achievements, shortcomings and prospects for improvement in terms of accommodation, catering and entertainment. It was decided to activate the environment, communication and health commissions to make the project more visible and practical.

3.4. Kurukanfuga Stopover (Kangaba, Mandé) :

Activities process :

As a counterpoint to COP 28 in Dubai, the CGLTE OA initiated the Cop des communautés, which was held on November 15, 2023 in Kurukanfuga as part of the 4th edition of the caravan to safeguard land, water and farmers' seeds.

The Communities' Cop was one of the flagship activities of the caravan, the aim of which was

to advocate through a major climate mobilization in Kurukanfuga in the Mandé region, with



the participation of communities, CSOs, social movements, local and national authorities, to share the CGLTE-AO's vision of the climate and recommendations for better political decision-making at local, national and international levels. More than 2,000 people took part in the Cop des communautés, including communities, caravanners from 11 countries, political and administrative authorities, traditional authorities, the press, technical services, etc.



A strong advocacy was made at the end of this Cop by the communities in the Mandé, with the vision of the CGLTE-AO on climate and recommendations for better political decisions on climate;

The international community was strongly challenged by two landmark declarations from the Alliance of Traditional Chiefs, Kings and Queens of West Africa and the CGLTE-AO. These



declarations were supported by the testimonies of community men and women on their experience of the harmful effects of climate change.

Thus, according to the testimonies, the destruction of watercourses, notably the River Niger, has heavy consequences not only on the populations of the countries it crosses, but also on water, fish and other aquatic populations.

The role and place of customary and religious chiefs in climate change issues were also mentioned.

The problem of migration caused by climate change was expressed through the displacement of household helpers in a skit. It emerged that the very difficult living conditions in rural areas



are also due to the effects of climate change, which pushes girls, against their parents' wishes, to come and face all kinds of treatment in town. Poverty in rural areas, caused by poor harvests due to drought, is the reason why girls and boys leave their villages for the towns and gold-mining sites.



The event received extensive media coverage in both the written and spoken press. The event was also covered by Mali's national television station (ORTM).

Before that, a team from the national platform of the CGLTE OA through CMAT was received by the Prime Minister of Mali, Dr Choguel Kokalla MAIGA. He congratulated and encouraged the CGLTE OA for this initiative. However, given the current situation in the country, it will be difficult for him to preside over the event, unless it is postponed.



3.5. Escale de Kayes :

At this stopover, the caravan lost a day of its program due to poor road conditions. In the end, this constraint meant that it was not possible to carry out all the activities planned for this stopover.

The march :

The journey to the rail capital of Kayes was essentially marked by a march that ended at the region's Governorate. During this peaceful march, caravanners chanted slogans relating to land



security, water and farmers' seeds, as well as the climate. The march was covered by the regional branch of national television, as well as the written and spoken press.

At the governorate, the march was received by the region's highest political and administrative authorities (elected politicians, technical services, heads of farmers' organizations, civil societies, etc.), headed by the governor.



After the welcome, the spokesman gave a brilliant presentation of the convergence, its composition, objectives, intervention strategies and membership. He then presented the caravan, especially this fourth edition, and explained why Kayes was chosen as the stopover town for the Mali leg. He then presented the different delegations of the caravan before giving an overview of the itinerary covered.

After receiving the advocacy documents, in particular the convergence green booklet, the



Governor of the Kayes region said: *"When we unite, we will be able to take advantage of our wealth, we will be able to take advantage of our land. Seeing you together here in Kayes this morning warms my heart. Your struggle, this noble struggle to preserve our land. Our primary wealth is the land, so it's time we stood up and woke up to protect our land. Our ancestors did it for us, and we must do it for future generations too. Seeing you in this fight is legitimate. In any case, I will make good use of the document I have just received (Green booklet) and my technical services will make good use of it".*

3.6. Visit to the Falémé River :

The last stop in the country, the caravaneers were able to observe the dangerous level of pollution in the Falémé River at Diboli, which separates Mali and Senegal.

The Falémé River, once used for market gardening and fishing, is now disappearing due to



human activity. The use of the dredging system by artisanal gold miners has not only changed the color of the water, which has become completely yellowish, but has also killed the river's fish. It is regrettable to say today that the water of this river is unfit for any other use due to its high level of pollution.

There is therefore an urgent need to step up awareness-raising campaigns and take important political decisions to save this resource, which is so important for so many reasons.

IV. Senegal Stop :

4.1. Tambacounda stopover :



The first stopover in Senegal was Tambacounda, where the caravan was hosted by the Senegalese National Platform. Activities kicked off with a local produce fair and themed "Espaces Jooko¹" panels on securing land tenure, securing production bases, adding value to local produce and climate change.

Activities process :

On Monday November 20, 2023, an exchange forum on land tenure, agro-ecology and sustainable management of natural resources was held at the Tambacounda departmental town hall. The forum was chaired by the Prefect of the Tambacounda department, and attended by authorities including the Sub-Prefects of the Tambacounda, Maka Koulibanta and Koussanar arrondissements, the representative of the President of the Departmental Council and the Mayors of the department's Communes, as well as members of the Dynamique pour une Transition Agro Ecologique Locale (DyTAEL) Tambacounda platform.

After the playing of the Senegalese National Anthem, followed by the Convergence Anthem, the Secretary General of the Tambacounda Departmental Council, speaking on behalf of its absent President, welcomed the caravan to Tambacounda. Continuing his speech, he encouraged and welcomed the caravaneers. Finally, he informed the audience that a platform called "DyTAEL" had been set up to scale up peasant agroecology. In his view, land has become a commodity. And this unpleasant situation is jeopardizing food sovereignty and security. That's why *"Africans need to take charge of their own destiny. Africa used to live on agriculture, fishing and hunting. All these riches are disappearing because of man's actions"*, he says.



This was followed by words of welcome from the spokesman for the 9 mayors of the department's communes present at the activities.

¹ Jooko is a Wolof word meaning connection, communication, relationship or interrelation. "Espaces Jooko" translates as a space dedicated to the work of social connection.

The Coordinator of DyTAEL Tambacounda confirmed the Secretary General's remarks. He reassured us that this project follows the same objectives as the West African caravan. He gave an overview of agroecological practices, with a focus on agroecological approaches and procedures for responsible land governance.

As for the spokesman for the CGLTE-OA, he began by thanking the authorities for their mobilization. He returned to the objective of the caravan, which is to inform and raise



awareness among stakeholders of their responsibilities in favor of the environment, and to call on political decision-makers to take into account the demands of social movements. It questions our responsibility to future generations. He invited participants to take responsibility for leaving a

better world for our children.

He thanked the authorities for their availability and commitment to the communities through the grassroots organizations, which he also thanked for the warm welcome extended to the caravanners and their commitment to the communities of Tambacounda.

Opening the works, the Prefect conveyed the courtesies of the regional authorities to the caravaneers. Acknowledging the relevance of the struggle to take into account the issues of land, water and farmers' seeds, he reassured them that the recommendations that would emerge from the forum would be taken into account. For him, this is the first time that Tambacounda is living to the rhythm of Africa through the passage of this caravan.



After the speeches, the "Jooko" exchanges held the day before by the caravanners, who were organized into 04 groups according to the following themes, followed:

- 1. Promoting local products for territorial development.** The rapporteur presented the problems encountered by the players, and the solutions and recommendations resulting from their work.
- 2. Securing land tenure for sustainable development:** this group addressed the relationship between land tenure and gender, as well as land tenure and youth, analyzing the laws and regulations governing land tenure before emphasizing the importance of protecting our land.
- 3. Role and impact of social movements for climate justice in West Africa.** Like the previous groups, this presentation focused on the urgent need for social movements to actively contribute to climate justice in West Africa through strong actions. These include advocacy, mobilizing stakeholders to promote peasant agroecological practices, etc.

4. Improving and securing the productive base: water and forests, using the following approach. At the outset, the rapporteur highlighted the problems identified by the group, which can be summed up as water pollution, poor land management, rampant urbanization and abusive tree-cutting. In response to these problems, they proposed the enforcement of water laws and the promotion of peasant agro-ecology. In terms of recommendations, he called on the local authorities to take action.

Thierno Sall of Enda PRONAT then returned to the subject of land governance in Senegal, peasant agroecology and the sustainable management of natural resources. He recalled the issues and challenges involved in securing land tenure.



DyTAEL Tamba was presented with a film on agroecological best practices and tools for dialogue and learning. This was followed by questions for clarification, contributions and recommendations.

It should be noted that the various presentations and reactions focused on Senegal's national estate law, with its share of land tenure insecurity due to several factors, despite the fact that it guarantees access to all.

It was concluded that agro-ecological farming practices are a solution for protecting and conserving land in a sustainable way. It also emerged that public agricultural policies and land policies are closely linked. Agroecology can be seen as an approach or a response to the issue of land security and responsible land governance.

Delivery of advocacy documents :

The Tambacounda stage ended with the presentation of the CGLTE-OA advocacy document to the Governor of the Tambacounda region. The caravaneers marched to the Governor's Office,



accompanied by the forces of law and order. The authorities thanked and encouraged the convergence, before promising to forward the document to the highest authority as soon as possible.



4.2. Linguère Stopover:

Welcom for caravan:

On November 22, 2023, the caravan was welcomed by grassroots community organizations (OCBs) whose aim is to reduce poverty and inequality in order to achieve sustainable development in their areas, with the support and guidance of CERFLA and HEKS EPER.



The Linguère stage is marked by two key activities: a march by the caravaneers and a panel discussion on the processing of local agro-pastoral products in the context of climate.

▪ **March by the caravaneers :**

March by the caravaneers:

After a parade through the streets of the department, the caravanners were welcomed by the administrative authorities.



▪ **Panel :**

It was held at ENO Linguère. The themes addressed were essentially based on :

- The challenge of pastoralism in the face of climate change (Sahel);
- Processing animal by-products as an alternative to the import bill.

The representative of the Mayor of Linguère expressed his delight at the choice of his town to host the Caravan, and the relevance of the theme. He pointed out that we are experiencing the same ecological problems, land grabs and other natural resources in all parts of Africa. Mr Ba from CERFLA and Mr Amadou GUEYE from HEKS EPER, representing the partners on the Senegalese platform of the CGLTE-OA, expressed their regret at the effects of climate change, which are having a major impact on mankind and biodiversity. They reassured the audience that raising community awareness of the harmful effects would be a priority for the partners. With the support of partners HEKS and CERFLA, they reviewed the achievements of the



pastoral code, which is currently before the National Assembly for revision, and hoped it would be ratified before the departure of President Macky SALL. They also returned to the pastoral vocation of the Ranch de Doli, now threatened by market gardeners.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the caravaners and the grassroots organizations that represent the voice of producers and breeders in particular.

They underlined the importance of this caravan, reiterated their commitment and thanked other partners such as ACCES, Enda PRONAT, FAPD, etc. who once again took part in this 4th edition of the West African caravan.

Massa Koné, spokesperson for the CGLTE-OA, went back over the background to the convergence and the choice of Linguère and the Sahel countries in general. This follows the realization of the danger threatening West Africa's sylvo-pastoral zone.

In his view, land predators, agribusiness and the effects of climate change are threats to Africa. Linguère was chosen as the site because of the struggles it has waged against land grabbing. On another note, the convergence spokesman also thanked them and highlighted the problems threatening agro-sylvo-pastoral activities and the issues at stake in the Sahel zone.

Speaking at the event, the Prefect of Linguère acknowledged that climate change is a reality for the African continent and for humanity as a whole. As proof, despite all the climate conferences and various actions, the evil remains. He called for muscular action to be taken if



the fight is to succeed. He affirms that equitable access to land is a factor in social peace. In

Senegal, he says, the State is committed to access to land, peasant agro-ecology and secure land tenure.

He reiterates the commitment of the authorities to support all these initiatives to help people live well. The Caravan's visit to Linguère was an opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other and support communities in their advocacy for land security and transhumance.

We were treated to presentations on the themes mentioned above.

Numerous problems were listed, such as product conservation, milk processing and by-products such as cheese.

Solutions proposed included modernization of the sector, and chemical-free production to cut costs.

With regard to climate variability: resilience and regeneration, the presentations focused on the consequences of this phenomenon before proposing solutions to deal with it, such as:

- ❖ The implementation of resilience strategies adapted to each area,
- ❖ Frequent maintenance of water sources,
- ❖ Frequent reforestation,
- ❖ Promoting the practice of peasant agroecology as a means of preserving land and the environment,
- ❖ Increased involvement of traditional authorities in land management.

The Linguère stopover was also a moment of communion and exchange with Amadou GUEYE of HEKS EPER and the caravaners from ENDA PRONAT, ACCES, CERFLA du Forum Social, USOFORAL, ADDAD-Sénégal, FAPD and others.

Delivery of advocacy documents :

This stage ended with the handover of the CGLTE-OA's advocacy documents to the Prefect by the caravaners in a peaceful march. The Prefect thanked and encouraged the participants, and promised to forward the document to the country's highest authority.



4.3. Kojolel Stopover :

Welcoming the caravan :

On November 23, 2023, after Linguère, the caravan went to Kojolel, a village located in the department of Linguère, Commune of Thiargny.

This is a pastoral area where milk collection and processing is the women's main activity. This activity contributes to the family income and meets the needs of their families and relatives.

The communities gave a warm welcome to the caravaners, and praised the efforts of Adama Lam Ka in organizing this stage.



Activities process :

To pay tribute to Adam Lam Ka's courage, determination and participation in the various editions of the Caravan, the CGLTE OA coordination decided to make her village Kojolel a stopover on the Caravan. This brave woman raises livestock and processes local milk. It should be remembered that this woman benefited from the support of the CGLTE OA as part of the



empowerment of women in the informal sector. Thanks to this support, she was identified by the authorities in her country, who helped her to set up a local milk production unit in her country. She is also supported by HEKS EPER and CERFLA.

The purpose of this stopover was to focus on the promotion of the CGLTE-OA gender group, in particular women in the informal sector. After welcoming the caravan, activities began with a visit to the women's milk collection center in the village. This was an opportunity for the caravanners to learn about the history of the center and its services. During the opening ceremony, the village chief said in his welcome address, ***"I'm delighted to welcome a delegation from 14 countries to my village for the first time,"*** thanks to the courage of Adam Lam Ka. Finally, he encouraged the caravaneers to continue this noble struggle.

The ceremony was followed by a skit presented by the Association pour la Défense des Droits des Aides Ménagères et Domestiques (ADDAD), before the launch of the women's forum, which was an opportunity to showcase their roles and the battles they wage within society. It was also an opportunity for them to make a solemn appeal to the authorities to respect the rights of household helpers and improve their working conditions. Their demands include the right to a decent wage, social protection, annual rest and the right to training.



West African Informal Sector Women's Forum

As part of the implementation of one of the recommendations of the 2018 caravan, the CGLTE OA has initiated an approach to support women in the informal sector to empower them in their sector of activity. As a reminder, from 2019 to 2023, 18 women's groups in the informal sector in 9 West African countries (Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal) are benefiting from technical and financial support from partners through the CGLTE OA. The Convergence's Regional Coordination thus decided to offer a space to these brave women from the informal sector to enable them to take stock of their progress through exchanges and experience-sharing, especially around the difficulties they face, with a view to formulating recommendations for the future.

It should be noted that the forum was marked by highly relevant exchanges of experience through the following interventions:



❖ **Madame Nezien, from Nisan Doni, Houndé, Burkina Faso.**

Her organization was initially supported by the Fédération Nationale des Groupements Naam (FNGN). According to her, support from Convergence has enabled them to strengthen their food processing activities and collect neem seeds for processing into organic soap. They also raise chickens and have acquired an incubator. In conclusion, she states that they have brought together over 300 women from several villages, including Lago and Rassouly. As a result, the desire to reach out to a wide audience has created a material and financial shortfall.

❖ **Yaro Biba from the N'zianouan informal sector of N'Zianouan, Côte d'Ivoire.**

They started out with small businesses along the tarmac. When convergence approached them, it first organized the women into a group before helping them to obtain a receipt for the declaration of their association. Within their association, Union of women in solidarity with the informal sector (UFSSI) de N'Zianouan, they then began growing corn and manioc. Although they are not spared the effects of climate change, they have strengthened their solidarity by granting loans to members. UFSSI also owns a farm with 900 chickens and an attieké and placali production unit.

Finally, they would like to acquire a vehicle to facilitate the sale of their goods both nationally and in other countries in the sub-region.

❖ **Madame Adam Lam Ka from Kojolel, Sénégal,**

Without funding, she started her dairy business. As with any start-up without funding, she encountered a number of difficulties over the years, but she never gave up. That's how she received her first funding from Convergence and then from the Ministry. This enabled her to set up a milk production unit in her village. Thanks to this dynamism, she is a member of several



networks, including Convergence. However, she has a problem selling her products because the village is so isolated. Lacking a vehicle, she uses carts to reach other localities.

Following the various presentations, there was a series of questions, including:

- Is cassava used to make attieké only?
- How many liters of milk are collected and produced by Madame Adam Lam Ka's structure?
- Apart from pasteurized milk, what other products does the association produce?

In response, the speakers offered the following clarifications:

- Cassava is used to make several things, notably placali, starch, etc., and its water is used as fertilizer, hydroalcoholic gel and its skin is used to make mushrooms;
- As for milk, it depends on the season, from 3 to 8 cans a day;
- Women also make oil from the milk.

Recommendations made at the forum include:

- Invite young people to get involved in the informal sector to ensure the next generation of farmers;
- Combat climate change through reforestation and the promotion of peasant agroecology.
- Use shea butter nut residues as an alternative to firewood for cooking;
- Build the capacities of women in the informal sector to enable them to specialize and ensure transparent management of their group or cooperative.
- Create a sub-regional federation of women in the informal sector.

In conclusion, the women from the informal sector agreed to meet in Gambia for the continuation of the forum. Finally, on behalf of the caravan, the spokesperson honored milk processor and fighter Madame Adam Lam Ka with an African loincloth.

All in all, the Kojolel stopover was an opportunity for the women to exchange ideas, share experiences and learn from each other. It was a moment of communion with the village community, and for some of the caravaneers it was their first contact with the Sahel.

4.4. Saint –Louis Stop :

In Senegal, in the mythical city of Saint Louis, the first capital of the AOF, caravan activities began on November 24, 2023.



Activities process :

The forum was held at the Lycée des jeunes filles Ameth FALL in Saint-Louis. It opened with a solemn performance of the West African Caravan anthem, followed by a brilliant exhibition by Niokhobaye, who recalled the genesis and history of global convergence and the caravan.

The themes were developed by AAR SUNU AALAM², a local platform working for environmental advocacy, climate change and coastal protection.

The forum themes for this stopover were:

- ***Impact of the advancing sea on terrestrial habitats,***
- ***Impact of climate change on oil and gas development.***

Exhibitors focused on the link between climate change and oil and gas development. They also focused on the impact of coastal erosion on coastal land in the city and its neighboring populations. They returned to the impact of climate change on the artisanal fishing sector and its socio-economic consequences on riverside communities, with the notorious consequence of juvenile migration.

They also highlighted the community-based solutions to be promoted in the area.

For them, the causes are multiple and of an anthropogenic nature, such as sediment deficit, surface runoff, sea sand extraction and anarchic land occupation.

To alleviate the above-mentioned causes, they proposed the following solutions: redevelopment of the area; protection of the Barbary Lagoon.



Mais également de mettre en exergue les approches de solutions communautaires à promouvoir



dans la zone.

² Preserve or protect our environment in Wolof



After the presentation by the members of "AAR SUNU AALAM", a debate was opened to the assembly, and solutions and recommendations were put forward to improve the living environment of this city, which was once the capital of French West Africa (AOF), and at the same time to lead ecological battles to tackle climate

change.

The forum's recommendations include

- Development of platforms to combat natural disasters;
- Restriction of hydrocarbon extraction (two villages have disappeared due to the advancing sea and another will disappear in the coming days);
- Clarification and appropriation of the clauses linking Saint Louis to Mauritania, while resolving the problem of fishing licenses between Mauritania and Saint Louis (Senegal);
- Political authorities to take into account the general interest and opinion of the population in all decisions relating to natural resources;
- Integration of illegal immigration as a theme for the next West African caravan;
- Destruction of all buildings in marigot nests to prevent flooding.



4.5. Ndiael Stopover:

History of the Ndiael reserve:

After Saint Louis, the caravan headed for Ndiael in the Dagana department, commune of Ngnith, Saint-Louis region, to meet with the community that had been the victim of land grabbing.

In addition to the caravaneers, the meeting brought together all the socio-professional and cultural categories of the locality (young women, customary and religious authorities, local elected representatives, people involved in the fight against land grabbing, the press, etc.).



Several presentations reviewed the situation of the reserve from the beginning of the problem to the present day. This stage was marked by a number of speeches and testimonies which enabled the caravan and the press to gain a clear understanding of the problem and to lend their support to the community which is the victim of injustice.

❖ **Intervention de Ardo SOW :**

Son of the locality and member of the convergence, he gave an overview of the history of the Ndiael reserve. According to him, *"the reserve extends over 4 communes and covers 32 villages,*



the majority of which are agro-pastoralists.

A 46,550-hectare reserve, initially classified since 1965, has been subject to significant modifications over the last few decades. In 2012, as the end of the presidential term approached, decisions were taken to declassify part of this reserve - 26,550 hectares - on the grounds of presumed public utility. However, with the arrival of a new regime, this decree was cancelled, followed by the repeal of the new regime's own decree, which had the effect of restricting the rights granted to the Italian company Tampieri for the exploitation of agrofuels. Over the years, this situation led to significant financial losses for the company, eventually leading to the sale of its activities to a Roman businessman. The latter, moreover, was involved in an oil scandal in Senegal, highlighting the complexities and challenges associated with the management of natural resources, including land. The communities, supported by civil society, persisted in their struggle, facing various obstacles such as intimidation and proven cases of corruption.

This resistance continues to this day, demonstrating the determination of the players to defend their rights despite the difficulties encountered”.

❖ **Adress by the village Chief**

For his part, the village chief welcomed the caravanners, before offering prayers for all, asking God to protect what belongs to us.

❖ **Adress by the Local Authority's Municipal Deputy Mayor**

Mr. Bayal Sow, First Municipal Deputy Mayor of the NGNITH local authority, offered greetings in the Fulani language. He called for the continuation of the struggle, which could be useful to all.



❖ **Adress by the President of the Collective for the defense of Ndial Lands**

Taking the floor, Mr. Goguir SOW recalled that he had been beaten up during a peaceful march. Continuing, he welcomed everyone, insisting that the struggle should be a common one. He concluded by thanking and congratulating Bayal Sow for his commitment. He also expressed his gratitude for the remarkable mobilization of the whole of West Africa through this great caravan, which had come to show its solidarity with their community.



❖ **Adress by Amadou ka, member of the Collectif of strugg**

He dwelt on the ups and downs of the struggle, highlighting the fact that the reserve already had villages installed when it was classified. However, as the reserve was mainly occupied by shepherds, the state at the time did not deem it necessary to move them. However, it was strictly forbidden to cultivate or construct permanent buildings in the area. This changed in 2012, when the Senegalese state decided to cede part of the reserve to foreigners. Today, the communities that have preserved this area feel like strangers in their own land. Despite this, they persist in their struggle, hoping one day to win this battle and restore justice.

❖ **Adress by the CGLTE OA spokesman, Massa KONE**



Comrade Massa Koné took his turn in thanking the mayor, the land chiefs and the caravaneers. He praised the tenacity of the Ndial community, explaining that the purpose of the caravaneers' presence here was to support the community of the Ndial reserve. For this reason, he invited the victim communities and the Senegalese national platform of the CGLTE OA to redouble their

efforts until the final victory, as was the case in other impacted localities such as Gbahouété in Benin, which won their battle after the passage of the second edition of the caravan.

Finally, he reiterated to the community the commitment of the caravan and the CGLTE OA to support this struggle for dignity, cultural identity and survival.



This will bring the Senegal leg of the caravan to a close, after an overnight stay in Kaolack before heading for Banjul, the capital of Gambia.

V. Gambia Stop :

Initially, the caravan was due to end in Mauritania. Following a number of technical and political difficulties, as well as the conclusions of the CGLTE OA Coordination meeting extended to include the focal points, it was decided to end in Gambia.

This last leg of the caravan was marked by two stopovers: Brikama and Serekunda, followed by a visit to fishermen on the seafront.

5.1. Brikama Stopover :



Parade :

The Brikama stopover took place at the local governorate. All the caravaneers on this last leg received a very warm welcome from the local population. As usual, the march set off from the town center to the governorate under the sound of a brass band, covering a distance of around 2 kilometers. Throughout the march, the caravan's banners were waved and slogans loudly chanted. The caravan was a success, according to the leaders, roi/reines and traditional chiefs, civil society leaders, local men and women and the Governor's representatives, as it coincided with a mission to the area by the country's highest authorities.

Activities process :

After the caravan's anthem, followed by the Gambian national anthem, the ceremony was marked by speeches from civil society leaders, the convergence spokesman and the Governor's representative.

In his speech, the Governor's representative congratulated the Convergence for holding this



caravan and for its visit to the Gambia. According to him, the caravan's themes fit in well with current events in the country in particular, and in Africa and the rest of the world in general. All countries are facing the sad reality of the effects of climate change. Rainfall is very disrupted, and this has a major impact on crops, fishing and other rural activities. He went on to praise and congratulate the caravan's integrated nature, as it is one of the

few organizations today to bring together all the countries of West Africa, especially the youth. This gives us great hope for the future of the continent.

After receiving the advocacy documents, the Governor's representative said that he would hand them over to the appropriate people, and that the country's authorities would do their utmost to take account of the various recommendations.

5.2. Sérekunda Stopover:

The Serekunda stopover on November 29, 2023, focused on the ADDAD forum and the continuation of the informal sector women's forum at the town's Friendship Hôtel.

Activities process :

ADDAD Forum on girls' migration

The ceremony featured speeches by the Gambia focal point, the head of ADDAD Gambia, the President of the ADDAD network, the Ministry of Gender and Child Protection, the Ministry of Labor, and the spokesperson. The theme of the forum was the real causes of the migration of household and domestic helpers, and the difficulties encountered by household and domestic helpers in carrying out their duties.

First of all, Sékou Janko, representing the convergence focal point in Gambia, welcomed the caravanners before expressing his delight at the choice of his country for the final stage of the



caravan. On the subject of household helpers, he bitterly noted the ill-treatment to which they were subjected.

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As for the President of Gambia's ADDAD, Madame Burry Tunkara pointed out that household helpers are paid very low wages in Gambia, as in other countries. Everyone must play their part in solving this problem.

On behalf of her peers, the President of the **West African ADDAD network** offered her encouragement to all the caravanners. According to her, the problem can be explained first and foremost by the fact that there is a shortage of able-bodied women in the villages from which



they set off in search of a new Eldorado on their way to town. There, they are sometimes treated like slaves. Then, being young and naive, they are marginalized in terms of respect for human rights. She then went on to outline the history of the ADDAD association, its objectives, its mission to protect and promote the rights of domestic helpers and its vision. She also highlighted the association's areas of

intervention, notably awareness-raising among housewives and village communities, capacity-building, advocacy, emergency case management and the return of victims to their families.

In his speech, the representative of the Ministry of Gender and Child Protection, Mr. Siaka Marong, pointed out that Gambia has a population of 2 million, in which women make up 51%



of the population, and 37% of these women are victims of violence. He suggested that the government should take responsibility for correcting these inequalities, as it is women who work mainly in the informal sector. He also recommends that the gender aspect be taken into account in the development of various projects/programs.

For her part, Madame Tabu Sam, representative of the Ministry of Labor, pledged to join the convergence and work on the issue of the rights of domestic helpers. ILO Convention 189, which has not yet been ratified, will be at the heart of exchanges between the Ministry and other government departments. Finally, she warmly congratulated the ADDADs on their fight, encouraging them to continue their advocacy work.



Following these introductory speeches, the forum continued with a panel discussion led in turn by the various ADDAD country managers. They gave their point of view based on their country's experience and the association's operations:

- **ADDAD Burkina Faso** : Samira Ouédraogo explained how they work, welcoming girls, raising awareness and providing training. However, in their view, domestic helpers suffer a great deal of violence, including rape by their bosses' sons.
- **ADDAD Benin** : Akuete Michelle denounced the houses /placement services for girls who are housekeepers. These services exploit the girls by paying them meager wages. In other words, these services live off the sweat of these poor girls.
- **ADDAD Togo** : Amidou Rafiyatou reported that in Togo, they provide awareness-raising and training in sewing, hairdressing and liquid soap for household helpers.
She then shared a practical case of rape of a household helper. After the case was resolved, a partnership was formed with the Ministry of Justice.
- **ADDAD Côte d'Ivoire**: Samata Ouédraogo explained their working method, which consists of raising awareness among employers and household helps.They also provide training and professional integration for household helps.
- **ADDAD Senegal** : Mareme Gueye explains that in Senegal, they are involved in awareness-raising, capacity-building and training. However, they face a number of difficulties, including lack of rest, verbal abuse, etc.
- **ADDAD Guinea**: Grovogui Koto Juliette points out that they raise girls' awareness of the nobility of their work, not forgetting advocacy for the application of the law resulting from ILO Convention 189.
- **ADDAD Gambia**: Burry Tunkara reports that male domestic workers also suffer violence. A janitor was attacked by a dog and died. Girls are often raped and wages are not always paid.
- **ADDAD Mauritania**: Ramata Moussa Korera says that in her country, they raise awareness among domestic helpers. Then she complains that girls are victims but don't speak out.
- **ADDAD Mali** : Fanta Diallo talked about the awareness-raising they do for parents to prevent them from sending children under 15 to the city. In Mali, they work on the reintegration and schooling of girls, and the management of conflicts between children and parents. They also provide psychological assistance.

❖ **Recommandations**

The various panelists and participants made the following recommendations:

- Organize advocacy activities aimed at the authorities;
- Reinforce the capacities of household helpers with regard to their rights;
- Advocate for the formalization of household helpers' work;
- Organize an awareness-raising session for employers and household helpers;
- Build alliances with religious and political authorities and youth organizations;
- Increase advocacy for the ratification and application of ILO Convention 189;

- Organize an awareness-raising session for parents to keep girls in school;
- Set up a system to return children under 15 to their parents.

Questions and answers

Questions included:

- Are there any men among ADDAD's members?
- Are there any household helpers in the ADDAD association?
- Does ADDAD accept 8-year-olds as household help?

In response to these questions, Massa Koné, spokesman for the CGLTE OA and founder of the ADDAD association, explained that having a household helper is normal for society. However, their work must be recognized by the authorities, who must acknowledge their function and pass laws concerning them. As for the President, she pointed out that she herself had been a household helper and that the association was made up of household helpers. However, as part of the complementary nature of the association, there are also male domestic helpers.

At the end of the panel, Massa Koné closed the meeting by inviting ADDAD to continue its fight.

Informal sector Women's Forum :

On November 30, 2023, as announced in Kojolel, Senegal, the second part of the informal sector women's forum was held in Serekunda, Gambia. It included a sketch and a panel discussion with recommendations, and the closing of the forum.



The items on the agenda of this forum were the presentation of a sketch, the moderation of a panel and the formulation of recommendations.

The sketch presented highlighted the difficulties faced by women, particularly in the informal sector. It also showed that their activities are impacted by climate change. Finally, the actresses in the sketch pinned their hopes on convergence to boost their activities.

The skit was followed by opening remarks from the convergence spokesman. He reminded the



audience of the importance of women and the need to give them the space and place they deserve. That's how they'll be able to demonstrate their know-how.



This was followed by a panel discussion on "How to set up a women's network in the informal sector", moderated by :

- Burkina Faso : Ms Lompo Youmanli ;
- Côte d'Ivoire : Ms Coulibaly Madjouma ;
- Mali : Ms Bassira Goita ;
- Niger : Ms Kindo Hadidia ;
- Senegal : Ms Adama Lam Kâ ;
- Guinea : Ms Fatoumata Kindy Keita ;
- Gambia: Ms Susan Gibba.

The discussions culminated in the following recommendations:

- Set up a provisional board or commission;
- Work to expand the Union des Femmes du Secteur Informel (UFSI) at country level before moving on to coordination;
- Map women in the informal sector by country;
- Introduce membership cards;
- Set up a WhatsApp platform under the name UFSI (Union des Femmes du Secteur Informel);
- Create a UFSI Facebook page;
- Set up a mechanism for member visits;
- Appoint a spokesperson for women in the informal sector;
- Hold monthly, quarterly and/or biannual zoom meetings;
- Set up an informal sector committee and a commercial sector committee;
- Organize tasting days;
- Set up inter-country networks to facilitate the transaction of goods processed by women;
- Create an integrated management center in each country and internationally;
- Work with women in the informal sector, not those who speak on behalf of their structures and for their visibility;
- Strengthen the capacities of women in the informal sector in certain areas, notably management, compost production (organic manure) to avoid the use of fertilizers or chemical inputs, communication, etc.

These various recommendations will be the subject of in-depth analysis and synthesis, before being implemented in future stages.

A visit to the fishermen's site by the sea :

Following the forum for women from the informal sector, on the afternoon of November 29, 2023, the caravaneers paid a visit to the women fishmongers of Tanji. The visit enabled the caravaneers to appreciate the difficulties faced by fishermen and fish retailers. The fishing industry suffers from enormous difficulties of various kinds. According to testimonies, the scarcity of fish is due to water pollution but also to the disruption of the water cycle, the intervention of foreign fishermen from other continents, the effect of climate change on aquatic populations, particularly fish and fishery resources such as crabs. All these actions have had a major impact on the players in the fish value chain.

Major awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns aimed at the highest authorities are needed to protect the waters for the benefit of local populations.

Closing ceremonies:

The fourth edition of the West African Caravan: Right to Land, Water and Farmers' Seeds: A Common Struggle! ended with a closing ceremony on November 30, 2023 at the Friendship Hotel in Serrekunda, Gambia.



The ceremony featured speeches by the representative of the Gambia Convergence national platform, the ADDAD representative, women from the informal sector, the representative of traditional chiefs and the representative of the Convergence spokesperson, and the reading of the final declaration in English and French.

Mr. Alieu Sow, representing Gambia, expressed his satisfaction on behalf of the various authorities, and congratulated the caravaneers on their work and the coordination for the choice of their country.



The sub-regional president of ADDAD, Madame Sitan Fofana, was the second speaker. She thanked the CGLTE OA and all the caravaneers for the space given to household helpers to express their sufferings all along the five (05) itinerary countries. According to her, this will enable the public, and the authorities in particular, to become better acquainted with the

working conditions and mistreatment faced by domestic helpers. In conclusion, she launched an urgent appeal to all and sundry in the following terms. Together against climate change and together against violence against domestic helpers.

Madame Kindo Kadidja from Niger spoke on behalf of women from the informal sector. She



began by thanking her peers for the honor of speaking on their behalf. She also thanked the organizers of the various stages, not forgetting the spokesperson and all the caravaneers. For her, the caravan is a school where experiences are shared, first and foremost between caravanners, and also with the communities encountered. In conclusion, Mrs Kindo invited her sisters to take back to their respective countries what they had learned during the caravan.

On behalf of the traditional chiefs, Mr. Sékou Janko began his speech by thanking them. He then denounced the felling of trees with the support of certain authorities. He invited all stakeholders to get involved in protecting the environment to reduce the effects of climate change. Before concluding his remarks, he wished everyone and the convergence long life.

Reading of the final declaration finale in english :

The English version of the four-page declaration was read out by Mr. Patrice Mansaré of Guinea and Ms. Fortune Anyamesem of Ghana.

In the declaration, the CGLTE OA commits to, among other things:

- Strengthen synergies between actors and organizations involved in the struggle for land, water, farmers' seeds, pastoralism, artisanal fishing and forestry, in order to develop a common vision for global change in our countries;



- Work to strengthen political dialogue and social cohesion for lasting peace,
- Demand the revision of article 06 of the Paris Agreement on carbon credits;
- Etc.

In addition, recommendations were made to the authorities of the countries and to ECOWAS.

Adress by the Representative of the convergence spokesman :

At the start of his remarks, Moussa Coulibaly called for a minute's silence for the comrades in the struggle who had been called back to God.

After paying tribute to the comrades, he thanked the convergence spokesman for his determination. He congratulated Gambia on the work it had accomplished in such a short time to host the caravan. At the end of his thanks, he gave an overview of the activities carried out from the launch to Gambia. He recalled the highlights and also the difficulties encountered at each stage.



He went on to emphasize the caravan's objective, which is not a health walk, but a series of awareness-raising, exchange and advocacy meetings. Our activities alongside the communities affected have enabled us to win legal battles and recover land that had been taken. They have also helped women in the informal sector. He also thanked the caravan's key players who work behind the scenes, notably the medical team, drivers and communications team, not forgetting the technical and financial partners who believed in the project. With that, the curtain came down on the 2023 edition, and we look forward to another one.



C. COMMUNICATION :

The communications strategy put in place by the communications committee covered actions before, during and after the caravan.

c1. Actions before the caravan:

- Holding of weekly online meetings (number) of the committee;
- Elaboration and distribution of two communiqués, one on the announcement and the other on the postponement of the Caravan on the website, the various Facebook pages, the X account and on the various whatsapp groups;
- Updating the website for the 4th edition of the caravan;
- A digital campaign featuring 11 visuals with key messages. This was done according to a schedule spread out over a period of one month before the caravan on the various Facebook pages, the X account and on the various Whatsapp groups;
- Design and validation of communication media mock-ups (banners, kakemonos, participant kits, etc.) and their production;
- Dividing the commission into working groups, each of which will be responsible for different aspects of communication during the caravan (social networks, press articles, photos and videos, press relations, etc.);
- Radio broadcasts to Bobo Dioulasso in Burkina Faso and Kolondieba in Mali to announce the event;

c2. Actions during the caravan:

- Organization of media coverage of the caravan by the national and international press in the itinerary countries: National and private television channels in most countries covered the opening ceremonies and certain key activities at the caravan stops. The written press and radio stations also covered the event;
- The Caravane Ouest Africaine website www.caravaneterreeau.info was animated by the publication of some thirty articles on stopover activities throughout the caravan. Most of these articles were also published on the CGLTE OA website www.africaconvergence.net ;
- The production of short films per stopover along the caravan's itinerary and their broadcast on the YouTube channel, Facebook page and whatsapp groups;
- Coverage of the event by TM1, a television channel accessible on the Canal+ bouquet, through the production and broadcasting of five (05) newscasts of the caravan, one for each country on the itinerary.

c3. actions after the caravan:

- The continuation of the animation of the website and social networks through the dissemination of recommendations and the final declaration of the caravan;
- The production of a document and a film to capitalize on the current caravan.

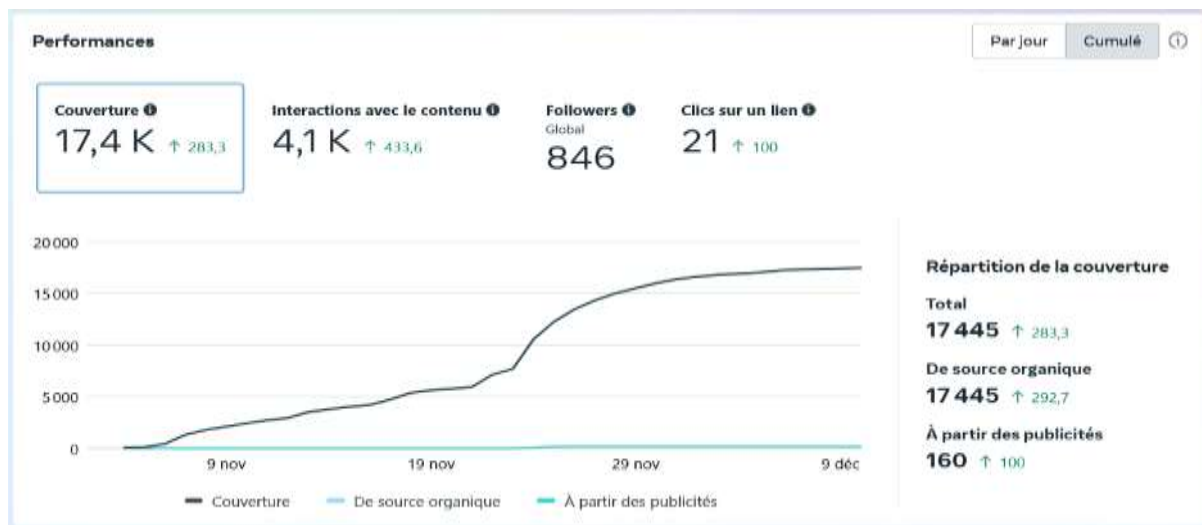
c4. Analysis of the impact of some tools (facebook, x, site web, YouTube):

The analysis of tools covers the period from November 04 to December 10, 2023

► Facebook Page

The Facebook page @caravaneterreeau highlights :

- 70 posts including direct



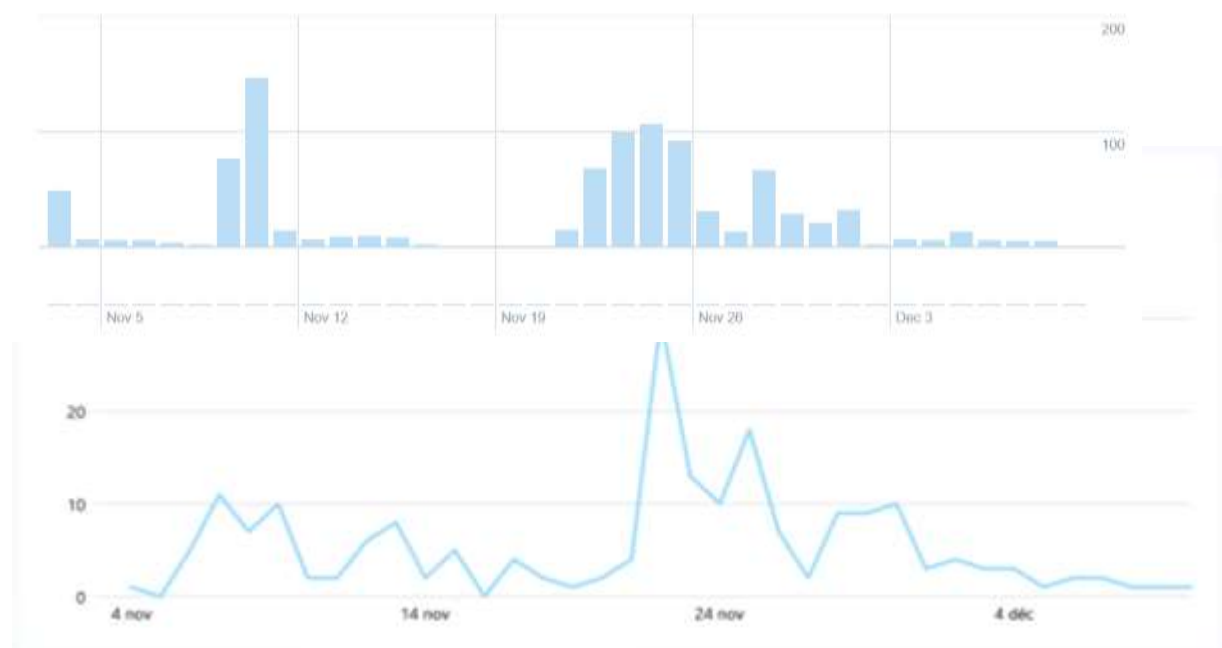
- 17, 445 covers
- 4100 likes
- 197 new followers

► Account x

With regard to account x, the results are as follows:

- 20 tweets
- 969 impressions
- 4.7% engagement rate

Vos posts ont obtenu **969 impressions** sur cette période de **37 jours**.



Engagements

Affichage de 37 jours avec fréquence quotidienne

Taux d'engagement

7.4%

0.0% taux d'engagement

Dec 9



► Website: caravaneterreeau.info

Of the thirty or so articles published, statistics show 2,242 visits, with an average of 87 visits per day. This represents a minimum of 82 visits and a maximum of 137 visits per day.

► YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@convergenceglobaledeslutte

With 15 videos published, statistical analysis shows that these had almost 1,400 views over the period, with 24 new subscribers.

Finally, we can conclude that the communication gamble was won during this caravan, even if not all the planned activities could be carried out, due in part to the harsh realities on the ground.



D. STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES :

Strengths :

In terms of strengths we can cite among others:

- The inclusive participation of all social strata, including the marginalized;
- The opportunity given to victims of injustice to express themselves;
- The match between themes and local realities, with debates and recommendations;
- The creation of spaces to encourage dialogue between the various parties involved in resource management, with a view to responsible management of natural resources;

- The majority of participants were young, and 42.38% were men and women;
- Over 95% of programmed activities were carried out, in particular with grassroots communities in their locality,
- Strong mobilization of land-grabbing communities and local authorities;
- The commitment of religious leaders and traditional chiefs of victimized rural communities to organize their populations and demand their violated rights for social justice,
- The commitment of administrative and political authorities to support peasant agro-ecology initiatives and the fight against climate change;
- Cohesion between caravanners from start to finish, despite cultural and linguistic diversity;
- Good media coverage of the event by local, national and international media, as well as social networks;
- Accompanying the caravan with a medical team.

Difficulties :

As in previous editions, the caravan encountered a number of difficulties, including the following:

Road conditions:

The state of the roads in some countries was a factor that impacted on certain activities. It was also a factor in cases of caravanner illness. Bus breakdowns had an impact on certain activities.

Mobilization of resources :

One of the major difficulties was the lack of financial resources for both route and non-route countries.

Road harassment at certain borders, despite the fact that we are in the ECOWAS zone.

Accommodation

Accommodation capacity in some places was low in relation to the number of caravanners. So much so that mattresses, tents and even buckets were purchased.

Absence and low speed of connexion

In some stopover towns in the countries crossed, the lack and/or low speed of the internet connection had an impact on the work of the communications commission.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS :

The recommendations were formulated at two levels: those of the itinerary countries, and those affecting the entire 4th edition of this caravan.

e.1. recommendations by country :

e.1.1. Burkina Faso :

- Support women's and youth organizations to strengthen advocacy for increased quotas for the allocation of rural land ownership certificates (APFR) in local decision-making bodies;
- Strengthen the capacities of women and young people in civic awareness and efficient water management;
- Promote endogenously selected, highly resilient farmers' seeds by developing action research between farmers and researchers, with appropriate funding for co-innovation processes.

e.1.2. Cote d'Ivoire :

- Advocate for women's access to land;
- Support the women of Watchap with a view to their empowerment, on the one hand by seeking solutions to the lack of water for their agricultural production (drilling, irrigation, etc.) and on the other hand by strengthening their capacity in peasant agroecology in order to encourage them to abandon the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides;
- Strengthen the processing capacity of agricultural products to increase added value and improve the living conditions of local women producers in Korhogo.

e.1.3. Mali :

- Organize a campaign to raise awareness among gold miners and charcoal burners in the Kolondièba area of the need to adopt mechanisms to protect the environment;
- Advocate with national authorities for the enhancement of the mythical site of Kurukanfuga through the construction of an education center to teach the history of the Mandé and the promotion of the Mandé Charter, which advocates inclusive and shared governance;
- Initiate awareness-raising sessions for local communities on protecting the River Niger from dredging and the use of chemical waste in river beds;
- Advocate the adoption of a seed policy in Mali.

e.1.4. Senegal :

- Strengthen farmers' seed capital by increasing the number of farmers' seed fairs, making them accessible to farming communities for a sound agro-ecological transition capable of contributing to the reduction of global warming;

- Allocate space to livestock farmers for fodder crops, to help them cope with climate change and avoid the frequent conflicts between farmers and livestock farmers;
- Continue community awareness-raising campaigns on the environment to protect the island of Saint Louis, and advocate a halt to the granting of fishing licenses to multinationals, which are impoverishing our seas and reducing our fishermen to conveyor-boats for migrants;
- Strengthen citizen mobilization through awareness-raising and advocacy to halt the large-scale and escalating land grabbing phenomenon in the NDIAEL locality in northern Senegal.

e.1.5. Gambia :

- Promote national policies to secure land and the farmers' seed system, with particular emphasis on the impacts of climate change;
- Promote dynamic agroecology initiatives at community level;
- Organize a local national Caravan on the CGLTE OA themes of land, water, seeds, climate change and peasant agroecology.

e.2. General recommendations of the caravan :

- ✧ **Collective actions:** engage in collective actions to strengthen the capacity of local farmers and combat climate change. Such as reforestation actions, training sessions on organic fertilizer and natural pesticide production practices, etc.
- ✧ **Communication and advocacy lobbying:**
 - Continue to lobby the various COP parties to adopt peasant agro-ecology as an effective solution to climate change;
 - Continue lobbying for the revision of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, with a view to preserving the status of land as a common good and not as a currency for the purchase of carbon credits.
- ✧ **Building alliances**
 - Facilitation of the establishment of the West African platform of women in the informal sector.
 - Further strengthening of the alliance of African kings, traditional and customary chiefs.
- ✧ **Evaluation and follow-up:** after four editions, it is important to :
 - Follow-up on actions undertaken to ensure the sustainability of projects launched during the caravan;
 - Undertake an external evaluation in the countries where the caravan has taken place, to draw lessons and identify difficulties encountered, and harvest the effects, good practices and innovations of the different editions of the caravan for communities and decision-makers. Also to shed light on the level of change in practices and

attitudes of communal decision-makers and political and administrative authorities towards communities brought about by the various caravans.

F. CONCLUSION :

The 4th edition of the West African caravan "The Right to Land, Water and Farmers' Seeds: A Common Struggle" achieved its major objectives, although the security situation in the Sahel and the low level of resource mobilization were not very evident. With the exception of Mauritania, which was replaced by Gambia as the final destination, the caravan was able to complete its itinerary with 17 stopovers. All in all, the caravan was a good opportunity for exchange and sharing, for discovery, and for gaining a better understanding of the issues linked to land, water, farmers' seeds, climate and natural resource management in general in all Sahelian countries. It was also an opportunity for the caravan's participants to share ideas and experiences through forums (and panels). The solutions and recommendations put forward at the end of these meetings must be taken into account by politicians to ensure the harmonious development of the Sahel.

The caravan was a real school for young caravanners. It was also an opportunity for a good number of caravanners to position themselves in the face of the challenges of climate change in the countries of the Sahel. The caravan was able to exchange views with political, administrative and traditional authorities. Advocacy documents, notably the green booklet, were handed over to the various authorities. The caravan was able to underscore the very good attitude and commitment of the authorities and communities to achieving the convergence objectives.

Unfortunately, given the short time available and the poor state of the roads, some of the planned activities were not carried out at the Mali and Senegal stages.

In view of the above, the caravanners are demanding, among other things

- An end to the phenomenon of natural resource grabbing and the effective involvement of local populations in the development of land and agricultural policies;
- Ratification of ILO (International Labour Organization) Convention 189 on the protection of the rights of domestic workers;

At ECOWAS, we recommend:

- ✚ The implementation of mechanisms to better protect the land heritage of local communities and the recognition of customary rights in land laws;
- ✚ Harmonization of fisheries policies at sub-regional level for better governance of fisheries resources;
- ✚ Promotion of peasant agroecology for better protection of biodiversity and an alternative to climate change;
- ✚ Take urgent measures to return land to communities that have been victims of agricultural and grazing land grabbing, particularly those in Ndiael,

- ✚ Take appropriate measures to stop the abusive exploitation of Africa's forests;
- ✚ Harmonization of mining codes at sub-regional level, raising the States' share to a minimum of 35%, and ensuring the application of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR);
- ✚ Implement the ECOWAS Protocol on the free movement of people and goods, and set up follow-up mechanisms to ensure that it is properly applied at border level;
- ✚ The granting of consultative status to the CGLTE-AO and the adoption of the joint advocacy document for the emphasis of women and young people on land in state policies.

G. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the customary, administrative and political authorities of the five countries we visited, for having facilitated and secured the caravan's passage and the holding of activities at the various stopovers.

Our encouragement to the communities who are victims of human rights violations, whom we met and listened to attentively, and our hope that our exchanges will enable them to organize themselves to better defend their rights.

Our sincere thanks to all the allies of the CGLTE-OA in the organization of this caravan, in particular the religious denominations and the alliance of customary chiefs of West Africa.

Our congratulations to the brave caravaneers for their militancy. Despite the difficulties and cultural differences, they held on in solidarity and fraternity for almost four weeks, and made it to the end of the journey. Well done to you all!

Finally, on behalf of the CGLTE OA, all the caravaneers and the rural communities of the itinerary countries of the fourth edition of the Caravan, we would like to thank all our partners for their technical and financial support, without which the Caravan would not have been such a success. We are grateful for this support, which is tangible proof of your commitment to greater social justice in the world, and more particularly in West Africa.

Partners :

CCFD Terre Solidaire, FIAN, FJS, Graasroot International, Hek Eper, PPLM, SOS Faim Luxembourg, 11Hours Project, Oxfam, TAPSA, CIDSE, RECAO, TM1.

H. ANNEXES :

A1. Declaration of the 4th edition of the West African Caravan



FINAL DECLARATION

As part of the 4th Edition of the West African Caravan of the CGLTE-OA on climate change with a focus on environmental, agricultural and economic challenges, we, the social movements of West Africa, travelled from 06 November to 01 December 2023 through Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and The Gambia, covering almost 3,000 km in 27 days to meet rural communities and political authorities. This will be achieved through conferences, debates, peaceful marches, meetings with administrative and political authorities and traditional chiefs, exchanges of experience and visits to communities that are victims of land, water, forest and farmer seed grabbing, with the aim of contributing to the definition of policies based on the principles of farmer agro-ecology and good governance of natural resources to meet the challenge of food sovereignty in the face of climate issues and other crises that are not sparing the West African region.

Comprising farmers' organisations, religious authorities, traditional and customary chiefs, fishermen, herders, rural communities, human rights defenders, academics and other civil society organisations from 15 West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Guided by the ancestral principles and ideals of the Mandén Charter, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Peasant Declaration, the FAO guidelines on good land governance and ILO Convention 189 on the protection of the rights of domestic workers;

Recognising the importance of land, water and farmers' seeds for humanity and biodiversity, and the need to conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns.

Noting that capitalism and neoliberalism, the spearhead of colonialism, are the main causes of climate change³, the disastrous consequences of which are being felt on the African continent, which contributes only 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Aware that without securing and controlling our common heritage : Land, Water and Farmers' Seeds by and for communities, including women and young people; there will be no sustainable development that meets the issues and challenges linked to global warming, food sovereignty, economic, energy and environmental shocks, peace and social cohesion... .

Recognising the urgent need to pay more attention to the issues of water, land and seeds in the farming world, in order to reduce inequalities, open up prospects for young people and women, promote the sustainable development of land, generate decent jobs, and optimally address the causes of rural urban exodus and irregular migration.

Noting the harmful effects of climate change: degradation of arable land, flooding, forest fires, rising sea levels, advancing desert, etc;

Concerned about the lack of funding and good support policies for farmers in the face of the investment needs required to help achieve the 169 targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2035;

Aware of the inadequacy of funding for African countries to tackle climate change and the colossal indebtedness to the World Bank;

Noting that African socio-economic development is threatened by the climate crisis: 13.5 million people in the Sahel could fall into poverty as a result of climate change-related shocks by 2050 if urgent climate adaptation measures are not taken⁴;

Determined to combat industrial agriculture, which favours multinationals at the expense of farming communities through land, water and seed grabbing, and which is backed by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the so-called carbon sequestration process;

Aware of the decisive role that women in the informal sector and domestic workers play in the economy and in stabilising many households; paradoxically, they face many difficulties in carrying out their duties, in particular low income, violence, etc;

Noting the weak application of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons and Goods within the ECOWAS zone, adopted in 1975, and the follow-up mechanisms for its improved applicability at border level;

Concerned about the low level of ratification of ILO Convention 189 on the protection of the rights of domestic workers;

We commit ourselves to

³ Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (6th Report 2022 Part II)

⁴ According to the new World Bank report entitled G5 Sahel Region: National Report on Climate and Development

- Strengthen synergies between actors and organisations involved in the fight for land, water, farmers' seeds, pastoralism, small-scale fishing and forestry in order to develop a common vision for global change in our countries;
- Work to strengthen political dialogue and social cohesion for lasting peace,
- Demand the revision of Article 06 of the Paris Agreement on carbon credits;
- Fight for inclusive and equitable governance of cross-border natural resources;
- Combat all forms of grabbing of natural resources, including land, water and farmers' seeds, and support communities that are victims of this injustice;
- Accompany and support projects and programmes to secure, preserve and protect communities' legitimate land rights;
- Support secure access for women and young people to land and natural resources in order to empower them.

We urge our authorities to take concrete steps to:

- Support all proposals for laws, regulations and public policies in favour of communities to secure their collective rights, particularly to natural fisheries and water resources;
- Protect land, water and farmers' seeds, our common property in particular, from commodification;
- Ban dredging, the use of toxic products and all forms of exploitation and production in watercourses, especially the Niger and Senegal rivers;
- Start an energy transition based on the sustainable use of autonomous, economical, renewable and circular energies without greenwashing, fossil fuels or nuclear power;
- Return land to communities that have been the victims of land grabbing, in particular NDiael in Senegal, Ingall and Aderbissinatt in Niger and Sanamadougou in Mali;
- Ensure equitable representation and meaningful engagement of women and young people, including girls, in all their diversity, in all processes related to climate change;
- Unreservedly denounce Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, whose approaches primarily benefit financiers and the private sector and contribute to reinforcing the commodification of natural resources, including land, water and forest grabbing, to the detriment of communities and nations;
- Ratify ILO (International Labour Organisation) Convention 189 on the protection of the rights of domestic workers and give them special status in the labour codes of the various countries;
- Apply the free and informed consent advocated by the UN before approving any project related to land, water and natural resources, as part of a thorough

environmental, social and economic impact assessment and a gender-sensitive feasibility study;

At ECOWAS, we recommend

- The establishment of mechanisms for better protection of the land heritage of local communities and the recognition of customary rights in land policies embodied in laws;
- Harmonization of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries policies at regional level to improve inclusive and equitable governance;
- The promotion of farmer agro-ecology for better protection of biodiversity and an alternative to climate change;
- Take appropriate measures to stop the abusive exploitation of forests and the hunting of wildlife in Africa;
- Setting up a joint mechanism to eradicate terrorism in the Sahel in order to secure and protect goods and people in West Africa;
- Strengthening mechanisms for the protection and development of livestock in West Africa by encouraging countries to introduce consensual pastoral codes in order to avoid frequent conflicts between tribes and villages.
- The adoption of appropriate measures to stop the plundering of fisheries resources by multinationals, leading fishermen to become couriers for potential African candidates for irregular migration;
- The effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons and Goods and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that it is applied more effectively at border level;
- The granting of consultative status to the CGLTE-AO in the areas of Land, Water and Farmers' Seeds, in the process of drawing up and implementing development policies, particularly those relating to natural resources, and in the monitoring of these policies;
- Taking into account the joint advocacy document for responsible and equitable governance in West Africa, securing the rights of communities including women and young people, submitted to the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria;

Yes to an ECOWAS of the peoples respecting the sovereignty of States, taking into account women and young people for controlled food sovereignty and concerted climate justice!

Signed in Serrekunda, Gambia, on 30th November 2023.

A2. Déclaration of the Communauties' COP



We, community and social movements, representatives of the 16 West African platforms of the Global Convergence of Struggles for Land, Water and Peasant Seeds (CGLTE-OA), following the mobilization of the 33 African countries of the COP 27 Climate Caravan, the Alliance of Traditional and Customary Chiefs, Religious Leaders, Civil Society Organizations, Women and Youth, are mobilized at the COP of Communities during the 4th edition of the CGLTE-OA caravan.

We are mobilized at the COP of communities during the 4th edition of the CGLTE-OA caravan under the theme "Climate change: one of Africa's environmental, agricultural and economic challenges" to...:

- Make our voice heard by local, national, regional and international authorities, particularly in the run-up to the next COP 28 climate conference.
- Demonstrate our commitment to African social and climate justice, based on respect for national sovereignty
- Propose solutions adapted to our cultures, our knowledge and our ecosystems, in the image of the KurukanFuga Charter drawn up in 1236 for living together in peace, with participative, equitable governance in which women were represented. This historic charter already laid the foundations for the cultural values of "understanding, concord, love, freedom, fraternity and respect for the land".

We observe that:

1. **Capitalism and neoliberalism** based on colonialism are the main causes of climate change⁵. That's why Africa, which contributes only 4% of total global greenhouse gas emissions - the lowest percentage of any region - has the right to call for climate and social justice.

⁵ Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (Sixth Report 2022 Part II)

2. **Without securing and controlling our common heritage: land, water and farmers' seeds by and for communities**, without their active participation in decision-making and leadership, particularly the participation of women and young people, we cannot act and have a development that responds to the issues and challenges linked to global warming, food sovereignty, economic, energy and environmental choices, peace and social cohesion... .
3. **African farming communities**, which ensure the food sovereignty of their countries and where women provide more than 80% of food needs, **have been deprived of their ability to respond to the impacts of climate change**, with the multiplication of heat waves, droughts, forest fires, floods... negatively affecting living spaces: land, water, forests, pastures and natural, cultivated and bred biodiversity.
4. **The cost of inaction is exponential and far outweighs the cost of action** in all sectors affected by climate change. Damage and harm remain largely underestimated on the continent. They do not target the real needs of the region's countries and their communities, slowing down their adaptation and placing an additional burden on their already strained budgets. As a result, their debt levels become unsustainable.
5. **Africa's socio-economic development is threatened by the climate crisis: 13.5 million people in the Sahel could fall into poverty due to climate change-related shocks by 2050** if urgent climate adaptation measures are not taken⁶. Polluting countries are increasingly turning to loans to "help" West African countries cope with the consequences of climate change: between 2013 and 2019, these increased by 610% (from \$243 million to \$1.72 billion) compared with 79% for grants. This will further increase their so-called debt.
6. **Pollution offsetting mechanisms, such as carbon credits and greenwashing in the name of a so-called green economy**, unscrupulously commodify and sanctify our land, water and natural resources, giving the planet's biggest polluters the opportunity to continue monopolizing and polluting our natural resources with impunity.

Let's change our behavior at every level !

Given the urgency of climate action, we demand that our Heads of State, governments and regional and international institutions :

- i. **Support all proposed laws, regulations and public policies, and implement them with communities at the heart**, to secure their collective rights.
- ii. **Break the system of globalized agriculture, by supporting the virtuous cycle of local production, processing and consumption. Regional integration, within a collective dynamic of peasant agro-ecological terroirs**, is the agricultural, environmental, economic and cultural solution based on autonomy, for social, food and climate justice while respecting human rights.
- iii. **Protect water, our common good, by :**
 - **Safeguarding our rivers, streams and waterholes, the umbilical cord between our countries, by prohibiting their pollution and destruction, notably through dredging and other gigantic, often useless and destructive projects.**

⁶ According to the new World Bank report entitled G5 Sahel Region: National Report on Climate and Development

- **Preserving our watersheds and, as a priority,** our natural forests, by halting deforestation and reforestation with exotic species and industrial rents that kill soils and biodiversity while excluding communities.
 - **By rejecting chemicals in legislation, in our agricultural systems and in mining activities, which irreversibly pollute our soils and water tables, threatening the drinkability of our water and our health.**
- iv. **Set in motion a virtuous energy transition based** on truly sustainable use of autonomous, economical, renewable and circular energies...without greenwashing, fossil fuels or nuclear power;
 - v. **Ensure equitable representation and meaningful involvement of women and young people,** including girls, in all their diversity, in all processes linked to climate change, including land governance at all scales, in particular by **creating an inclusive committee region by region**, to assess and support alternatives such as peasant agroecology, solidarity and circular economy ;
 - vi. **To apply the free and informed consent advocated by the UN** before approving any project related to land, water and natural resources, including extractive resources, in particular within the framework of an in-depth environmental, social and economic impact assessment with a gender perspective;
 - vii. **Seriously denounce Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**, whose approaches primarily benefit financiers and the private sector, and contribute to reinforcing the commodification of natural resources, including land, water and forest grabbing, to the detriment of communities and nations.

The climate is everyone's business!

This Declaration of the COP of the CGLTE-OA communities is intrinsically linked to the Solemn Declaration of the Alliance of Traditional and Customary Chiefs of West and Central Africa and Religious Leaders, drawn up at their meeting on November 13 and 14 as part of the caravan.

Rights to land, water, seeds and peasant agroecology: a common struggle!

Signed in Kurukanfuga, Mali on November 15, 2023

A3. Solemn Declaration of the Alliance of Traditional Chiefs and Customaries of West and Central Africa (ACTC AOC), and Religious Leaders on Climate Change



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA ALLIANCE OF TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOM CHIEFS (ACTC AOC)



Solemn Declaration of the Alliance of Traditional Chiefs and Customaries of West and Central Africa (ACTC AOC), and Religious Leaders on Climate Change

As we meet in Bamako, Mali, on November 13, 14 and 15, 2023, as part of the 4th West African Caravan on the central theme: "**Climate change, one of Africa's environmental, agricultural and economic challenges**", we, traditional chiefs (kings, queens, sultans, canton chiefs, etc.), customary chiefs from West and Central Africa, and religious leaders from 13 West and Central African countries, make this joint solemn declaration.

Our voice is that of Mother Earth, with her crackling sound due to global warming, and also that of our communities, who sigh and groan over the planet they inhabit. Indeed, in addition to the consequences of global warming due to climate variations, global warming and the alteration of atmospheric composition, our peoples are suffering from massive land grabs, helplessly witnessing the pollution of rivers and water sources, and succumbing to production systems that modify seeds and contribute to the destruction of agro-sylvopastoral and halieutic lands and ecosystems essential to their survival.

Not satisfied with just surviving on this exhausted planet, increasingly plagued by health crises that are difficult to control, we still have time to argue and wage war against each other instead of working to stabilize our countries. Harmony between peoples is essential if we are to preserve our common heritage, manage our resources properly, restore order to our relationship with nature, enhance the value of our cultures and rebuild our social coexistence on this land that the Creator has entrusted to us and that our ancestors have bequeathed to us so that it may nourish us and have something left for our children and future generations.

If we, the traditional, customary and religious authorities, have made the trip to Bamako, it's to take part in the struggle of the Convergence Globale des Luttes pour la Terre, l'Eau et les Semences Paysannes (CGLTE-OA) on the occasion of the fourth edition of the Caravane Ouest Africaine. It is also to express our determination to fight against the effects of climate change throughout Africa. It's a joint struggle with all our partners who are committed to denouncing false solutions and promoting fair and sustainable solutions that guarantee food sovereignty and respect legal endogeneity, i.e. the local practices, customs and habitus of our African kingdoms and traditions.

Aware of the effects of climate change on the lives of rural populations, and of our social mission, which has been somewhat weakened, we, Kings, Queens, Sultans, Chiefs of Canton, customary and religious chiefs :

- ✓ We are committed to expanding our Alliance, making contributions to the drafting or revision of legal texts relating to land and the environment, and increasing our capacity

to alert and advocate for climate justice with local, national, regional and continental decision-making bodies.

- ✓ We promise to accompany and support projects and programs aimed at securing, preserving and protecting the legitimate land rights of communities, in particular through information, awareness-raising and mobilization actions aimed not only at decolonizing mentalities, but also at building resilience and changing the lifestyles of insatiable consumers of natural resources.
- ✓ In the same vein, we will become more involved in the implementation of peasant agro-ecological land development.
- ✓ As guarantors of social stability, we will spare no effort to defend the victims of climatic injustice, and maintain a permanent dialogue between the different components of the population for the prevention and settlement of conflicts over natural resources, in order to preserve respect for the land and establish social cohesion, all of which can guarantee development and peace.

Our right to survive on our land is at stake, because **"Our Land is Our Life"**.

In thanking the CGLTE-OA and its partners, we appeal to all men, women and young people of good will. Because of our human interdependence, the climate problem we face is linked to the survival and dignity of human life and the rights of the most fragile populations, especially women and children. **Let us not relativize it, and let us join hands to walk like the West African Caravan and work for a significant impact of our behavioral changes.**

May God and the spirits of our ancestors bless us and grant us peace, well-being and prosperity !

Bamako, November 15, 2023

In the name of the Alliance of Traditional,
Customary and Religious Chiefs of Africa

His Majesty Moussa Hadi GOURGOUDOU

King of Zinder (Niger), President of the Alliance

A4. List of authorities who have received convergence advocacy documents

The table below lists the authorities who have received the convergence advocacy documents, notably the Green Booklet, the capitalization document from the 2nd caravan, the joint advocacy document for responsible, inclusive and equitable land governance in West Africa, securing the rights of communities (including women and young people), as well as the progress and final declarations.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Authority title</i>	<i>Localities</i>
<i>Burkina Faso</i>		
1	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Bobo Dioulasso</i>
2	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Banfora</i>
3	<i>Prefect</i>	<i>Bobo Dioulasso</i>
<i>Cote d'Ivoire</i>		
1		<i>Ferkessédougou</i>
2		<i>Korhogo</i>
<i>Mali</i>		
1	<i>Prefect de Kolondiéba</i>	<i>Kolondiéba</i>
2	<i>Prefect de Kangaba</i>	<i>Kangaba</i>
3	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Kayes</i>
<i>Senegal</i>		
1	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Tambacounda</i>
2	<i>Prefect</i>	<i>Tambacounda</i>
3	<i>Prefect</i>	<i>Linguère</i>
<i>Gambia</i>		
1	<i>Governor</i>	<i>Brikama</i>