



ECO NEWSLETTER

Your Daily COP15 Update

@UNCCD

Dear members of CSOs accredited to the UNCCD,

It is a pleasure to share with you this Eco-newsletter that provides daily news of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties ([COP15](#)) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification ([UNCCD](#)) taking place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

At COP15, we urge you all to seize the opportunity to contribute to the framing process and deliberations of the conference in order to strengthen the political impact of civil society. Our ambition is to help CSOs, indigenous peoples and local communities make their voices heard on all land issues, so continue to share your experiences and call for action from the front lines of the desertification crisis.

Follow the actions of civil society at COP15 on the website of the CSO panel (www.csopanel.org), and please don't forget to use the following hashtags for social media postings: [#UNCCDCSO](#) / [#UNCCDCOP15](#)
Instagram: [@UNCCD_CS0](#) / Twitter: [@UNCCDcso](#)

COP15 – DAY 9 (May 18)

CIRAD AND GIZ ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITIES THE CLASSIFIED FOREST OF BOSSEMATIE



On Tuesday, May 17, another COP15 side event called **"The place of village planters in the preservation of forests"** was held to showcase a case study of the classified forest of Bossematié, located a few kilometers from Abengourou, Cote D'Ivoire. The study involved the surrounding communities.

M. Assa KOFFI, President of the Association Sauvons la Foret classé de Bossematié described the current situation of the classified forest of his village.

The forest is attacked at more than 50%, its area which was 22,500 ha, exists today only in name. 500 ha of cocoa plantations present in the classified forest were destroyed by local residents with the help of SODEFOR. The animals are endangered like the elephant whose extinction has benefited from the complicity of some villagers.

To save this forest, the association has carried out several actions, the most striking of which are:

- Raising awareness among the occupants of the classified forest;
- The opening of the roads to allow water and forest; officers to crisscross in order to secure the premises;
- Media involvement and exchanges;

In conclusion, Mr. Koffi gave several recommendations:

- Practice reforestation;
- Foster active collaboration between communities; and government institutions;
- Look for partners to support their actions;

This initiative is supported by CIRAD and GIZ.

How to involve young people in the fight against desertification in Africa?

On Tuesday, May 18, a side event related to young people was also held on the sidelines of COP 15. The key topic addressed by the three speakers revolved around "Transnational Model of Youth Mobilization for the Fight against Desertification in Africa."

During his speech ODY Marc DUCLOS, Vice-President of the Green Heart Foundation, stressed that it would be interesting if the Great Green Wall initiative were integrated into school curricula. He backed up his remarks by saying that the involvement of youth will determine the outcome of the Great Green Wall.

Professor AMAN Angora, Representative of the University Felix Houphouët Boigny, and Lieutenant-Colonel Christiane ANZAN, Representative of the Ministry of Water and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire intervened on the reforestation project of the Great Green Wall. They both insisted the reforestation actions should be intensified and that no country should wait for the worst to happen for the implementation of reforestation initiative.

COP15: Second Open Dialogue Session on Agroecology: Civil Society Shows the Limits of Industrialization

In a statement on agroecology, Alpha Kane, an agricultural engineer working in the NGO Enda PRONAT stated the position of civil society:

"Nearly 70% of Africans depend on family food farming for food. The degradation of biodiversity, the effects of climate change, the increase in temperature, the decrease and irregularity of rainfall, the shifting of seasons, the decline in agricultural productivity are pushing farmers to turn to chemical inputs to improve their productivity and gain. Contrary to some misconceptions, the industrialization of agriculture promoted for decades does not make it possible to face it and seems, on the contrary, to show these limits and increase the vulnerability of agricultural systems."

He also recalled the role of agriculture in global warming: "agriculture is responsible for 24% of EGES (Methane, High Global Warming Power)"

For civil society there are solutions. These are:

- Engage communities to adopt better agricultural practices;
- Train farmers in good agroecological practices, on seed production and distribution, entrepreneurship opportunities in ecological and organic agriculture, (in Benin, Niger, Togo, Senegal, South Africa);

- Integration of trees in fields through assisted natural regeneration (Senegal);
- Development of an optimized intercropping system with two local woody species (Guiera senegalensis and Piliostigma reticulatum) in Senegal and Niger;
- Train producers on techniques for processing organic tomatoes into purees;
- Establishment of a network of trainers in agroecology;
- The use of biofertilizers to change the game;
- Enhance the role of women in agroecology and improve their land rights;
- Adopting eco-friendly systems to reuse with a focus on building women's capacity;

Agroecology has the following advantages:

- Agroecology reduces the negative impact of agricultural and food production on natural resources, and in particular on water resources;
- Soil cover, by crop residues or mulching, limits evaporation, erosion and keeps soils moist;
- Restoration of degraded soils, sequestration of carbon in the soil and improvement of nutrient and water availability (increased crop productivity).

TEMPERATURE



SENA ALOUKA

"I come from Togo and we are working with to implement a transition based on agricultural territories. Agroecology has proven to be a success in environmental conservation land use and also contribute to improving the well-being of communities. The community working on the food system did a study that found that agroecology surpasses other agricultural systems in nutrition and sustainable land use. In 2021, the members of this community endorsed a second recommendation on the agricultural and agroecology approach that also calls on member states to implement the policies and foundations related to this agroecology and in order to contribute to sustainable land use and strengthen food security. Mr President, we support our colleagues in civil society and we also ask for assistance in inventing policies with regard to smallholder farmers who produce food. Agroecology cannot be separated from cultural and biological diversity."