

eccc



*Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by groups attending the UNCCD COP 8 in Madrid, September 2007*



## What does this CST deliver?

The CST has been heavily criticized by the NGOs. The needs to restructure this organism are shared even by many of the delegations. The skepticism is increasing also among several countries, which even do question the sense of continuing financing an organism that does not solve the problems assigned to it. Many others point at the need to change its very functioning mechanism, taking it out of the frame of COP, to remove pressures and to reduce its bureaucratic overload. Furthermore, the NGOs criticize openly the fact that this organism usually works behind closed doors. NGOs also point to the fact that is of vital importance to translate the conclusions of the meetings into the local language. SO, it seems clear that the CST is not achieving its objectives at local level, not even today, seven years after the extensive evaluation carried out in the year 2000. In this way, it is not possible to know if the work realized is satisfactory or not. In other words, the work is certainly at question.

Hence, it is essential to create and develop an extensive basis of knowledge and

data that gathers the information that concerns the work carried out in this context during the last ten years. It is also necessary to bring to an end distributing information and articulating recommendations, and instead look for the ways in which it can be made viable applying the ones that have been formulated earlier. It is therefore of outmost importance that from now on that all means are concentrated upon transforming information into solutions.

During the COP Congress, the NGOs have increasingly been able to intervene successfully at the CST meetings, however, it could have been even more fruitful had the NGOs been given a formal position as negotiators. The results of the COP Congress will shed light on the question concerning whether the NGOs will be granted a mandate which in turn could give them the ability to play a key role in the process of application of the terrain and in relation to local communities. If this does not occur, the civil society participation during the meetings of the congress will become nothing but a waste of time and energy. □

## Priorités et solutions de la région africaine

Sina Maaiga est la présidente de Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement (AFAD-Mali). AFAD est née de la rencontre de quelques personnes convaincues que le développement durable au Mali est possible. Fortes de leurs expériences, de leurs succès et de leurs échecs, elles ont mis en commun au sein d'AFAD les acquis qui ont engendré une démarche de promotion des populations de base par la formation, l'appui, l'accompagnement, l'autonomisation et la responsabilisation des groupements qui les sollicitent.

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Depuis 1994, les membres de AFAD ont décidé d'agir dans tous les domaines qui permettent de juguler la pauvreté. Leur mission est aider les communautés de base à réaliser par elles mêmes leurs projets de développement.

Comme objectifs ils ont entre autres, soutenir l'émergence des organisations de la société civile crédibles, renforcer les capacités techniques et opérationnelles des conseils communaux et de cercle et assurer le respect des droits humains au sein des communautés partenaires. Un autre objectif est de créer et promouvoir des cadres d'échanges entre les partis prenants de la décentralisation.

Selon Sina, les priorités africaines à cette COP 8 sont 7 points. On va réviser chacun des points

### **1. Accord de partenariat économique (pays africains/ UE)**

Pour Sina, on part d'une situation d'inégalité, entre les pays en développement et les pays sous-développés. Le problème est que la UE regarde son bénéfice exclusivement, et il faut que la situation change. Il faut des vrais accords de coopération pour des produits sensibles comme le coton par exemple. Il faut absolument respecter les termes du plan stratégique et avoir un calendrier précis pour cette liste de produits sensibles. On demande un équilibre import/export.

### **2. Pastoralisme**

Le pastoralisme represent un moyen de vie en Afrique- nous dit Sina-. Il ne peut pas disparaitre. Il y a une grande quantité d'éleveurs, et oui, on sait que ça dégrade le sol mais beaucoup d'africains dépendent de cette activité.

Solution- Elaboration d'accords pastoraux, harmonisation des accords, gestion de l'eau, création de points d'eau. Surtout la gestion des espaces pastoraux et la création de voix d'élevage

### **3. Transfert de technologie**

Selon Sina, il faut adapter la technologie aux conditions locales. Faire des programmes de formation et d'éducation, surtout pour les femmes. Il faut focuser sur les programmes de sensibilisations des femmes.

### **4. Exploitation minière**

La minerie implique de nombreuses extractions, pétrole, charbon,.. Et ces extractions en Afrique suppose un dommage à l'environnement- dit Sina. Les études d'impact des exploitations ne s'appliquent pas, donc, la première chose est appliquer ces études. Il faut impliquer à tous les acteurs de la minerie -continue- t- elle. Il faut impliquer les communautés locales, le gouvernement, les entreprises.

### **5. Reforestation**

Sina pense qu'une des priorité est recuperer le sol dégradé. Cette recuperation passe par impliquer la population. Il faut developper des expertises, tenir en compte des experiences locales, qu'aujourd'hui sont ignorées. A Mali-nous explique Sina- on a un plan de reforestation avec des especes de croissance rapide, surtout d'especes locales, mais la croissance est lente. Il faut soutenir la gestion forestière par les communautés locales.

### **6. Fond National de desertification**

Jusqu'à présent le Fond National de desertification n'a pas été operationnel à Mali, il n'a pas été mis en place. La même chose avec le Fond des femmes -nous dit Sina. Il faut rendre operationnel les deux Fonds à niveau national, impliquant tous les secteurs.

### **7. UNCCD**

Selon Sina, tous les organes que la Convention demande au pays, ont été mis en place. Ils ont élaboré le PAN. Tous les aspects que la convention demandait, ont été fait. On demande à cette COP, que d'une façon imperative les parties agissent. On va faire que les parties s'impliquent, fait que jusqu'à présent ils n'ont pas fait. □



## **The ineffectiveness of the NAPs**

*Emmanuel Seck, the Senegalese representative of the NGO ENDA-TM (Environnement ET Développement du Tiers-Clean).*

ENDA-TM has representation in all five continents and in Africa in particular. They work on sustainable development and environmental issues in countries in which maintaining the population and the agricultural market are the main objectives.

In 2000 Emmanuel Seck evaluated the implementation process of the recommendations of the Convention on the Fight against Desertification. In particular he looked at the Program of National Action (NAP) of countries affected by desertification.

One of the objectives of his evaluation was to identify how local issues had been dealt with in previous COPs. Local populations work through traditional knowledge, and the recommendations have to adapt to this fact. His findings were negative. The recommendations were not applied in most of the affected countries. From identifying the problem through to finding a solution and attempting to implement it, a series of obstacles were encountered that made it impossible to fix problems and be successful. □

# Contributions to include climate change issues in the national public policies

The Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development (FBOMS) has organized a working group on existing climate changes (GT Clima), that draws up proposals from the civil society perspective, in order to face up to the global warming challenge and climate change impacts. This GT aimed to formulate proposals that could guide the creation of global and sectorial public policies, as well as, to include them in the dynamic of society.

The proposals are based on the following principles:

1. Strengthening the control and promotion function of the State in connection with the objectives and responsibilities of each country towards its society and before the international community.

2. Guaranteeing that reductions of emissions will represent economic opportunities for the promotion of a fair and a sustainable socio-environmental development.

3. Changing the development pattern, the energetic matrix: focussing on the efficient use of energy, the sustainability of renewable sources, and the consolidation of environment friendly profiles of goods and services consumption.

4. Preventing environment degradation problems, which are aggravating causes of poverty as well.

The Principles of the Convention on

Climate Change (CCC, art. 5) are here observed. Some of them are:

1. Common but differentiated responsibilities for everyone;
2. Those who aggravate the problem to a greater extent must make a stronger effort to solve it;
3. Precautionary principle;
4. Search for a socio-environmental sustainability of development.

For the UNCCD the following principles must be taken into account:

1. Active involvement of civil society.
2. Combating poverty.
3. Achieving food safety.
4. Combating desertification processes.

Civil society must take into account the following recommendations:

1. Unconditional involvement of organized civil society.
2. Education and access to information.
3. Placing value on traditional cultures.

In order to attain an effective implementation of these proposals, it is important to guarantee the improvement and/or application and effectiveness of regulations currently in force, to introduce specific indicators, to monitor the financial institutions in relation to the projects that contribute to climate change, and to establish programmes and projects that pro-

mote changes in consumption patterns to reduce greenhouse gases emissions.

The sectorial point of view deals with subjects, such as:

1. Natural areas and biodiversity.
2. Demography, migrations and "climate change victims".
3. Energy and energetic efficiency.
4. Water.
5. Poverty and social exclusion eradication.
6. The town: local development and territorial planning.
7. Transport and mobility.
8. Agriculture, aquaculture and fishing

With regard to the PANs preparation, each country must prepare its own policy to adapt to climate change effects and mitigate them. We think it is important to consider these elements to make a proposal that covers all aspects in the sense of bringing both Conventions closer, looking for a synergy in its implementation.

Brazilian NGOs are preparing a translation of their proposal for the RIOD; this document of about 15 pages will be distributed before CC COP of Bali. □

*Silvia Picchioni, ASPAN*

*Silvio Sant'Ana, Fundación Esquel*

*GT Clima of FBOMS*

*Brasil*

## RIOD-ALC and Global Mechanism Celebrate Agreement

Day 7 at 2 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the NGOs, the Ten Year Strategic plan of the Network the International of NGOs on Desertification of Latin America and Caribbean El (RIOD-ALC) will be presented. The main objectives of the plan are to improve levels of internal communication and the technical and financial capacities of the RIOD-ALC. It also aims to improve management of its members and develop links with the relevant actors in the fight against the desertification.

The execution of this Plan would ensure that the members of the RIOD-ALC are suitably prepared for the effective implementation of the Ten Year Strategic Plan of the CLD.

During this meeting, the MARCO AGREEMENT will endorse the Global Mechanism and the RIOD-ALC to ensure cooperation between the institutions with the purpose of supporting processes that strengthen the participation of the public organizations in the implementation of the CLD. □



# If the EU wanted, the problem of the Palestinian occupation would disappear

Abdel Tamimi, President of PHG and Meir Margalit, coordinator of ICAHD talks about desertification as a military weapon in an event organised in parallel with COP. Both are organizations that are counterpart of ACPP.

## Is this your first time at a COP on Desertification?

PHG- It is the second COP that we have attended, we also attended COP 7

ICAHD- It's the first time that I have attended the COP

## What are the problems of desertification in Palestine and Israel?

PHG- The problem that we have in Palestine is the Israeli occupation, it is a political problem. For agriculture, there is a water problem. A serious problem of water control exists on the part of Israel. 80% of water resources are controlled by the Israeli State. The way to make them give up some of this water control is through EU/the UN. These organisations need to put pressure on Israel.

ICAHD- The solution will come when Israel retreats from the occupied territories and the land is given back to the old landholders. There is no chance of an environmental solution without it happening through a political solution.

## Are there any environmental solutions that could occur outside the political problems?

PHG- From an environmental point of view there is no physical or economic possibilities without a political change

ICAHD- Israel must end the confiscation and expropriation of goods and land. It must give the Palestinian population land to cultivate and keep animals.

## Are there any concrete environmental programmes being carried out?

PHG- Although we have many partners that help us, the projects cannot be carried out in situ. For example, we have one for

rain collection, but only 5% of the water is used for irrigation.

ICAHD- Israel is a power in the Middle East. Its agriculture and environmental policies are very developed. But two parallel ecosystems exist in Israel: the Israeli and the Palestinian. The Israeli system is developed whereas the Palestinian does not exist. A balance between both ecosystems has to exist. This would help everyone in the Middle East, not only Israel; it would help the whole population.

## Is there a message that you would like to send to the listeners in the Conference?

PHG- We want to say that if the Israeli occupation persists, there will be no development in the Middle East. We must raise consciousness on this issue, to share information on the situation in Palestine within civil society.

ICAHD- Avoiding the degradation of the Earth, fighting against climate change, these are political fights. We must end the occupation, this is the first point. We see certain inactivity on behalf of the EU/the UN. If the EU wanted, if it was firm, it would finish this nightmare. But there are many pressures. One, pressure from America, another, much more hidden, is the self-reproach it feels for the Israeli population.

## Do you think that this COP can help to solve this conflict?

PHG- We believe that will serve to make the United Nations conscious of the Palestinian situation

ICAHD- We do not have high expectations but I think that each event, like this COP, has positive a cumulative effect. Each event separately does not carry weight, but altogether they can bring the change. □

*PHG (Palestine Hydrology Group) is a not-for-profit organization of the Palestinian government which works to promoting the role of women and civil society in the environmental handling of local water and its resources to assure transparency, good management of water resources and cleaning services to communities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. PHG also works to promote research on water in Palestine. They are trying to establish a network of local and international NGOs. They participate in promoting sustainability and the campaigns for fair allocation*

*of water resources at a local, regional and global level.*

*ICAHD is a not-violent action group established originally to be against and to resist the Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the occupied territories. They then extended their activities from the resistance to other areas - to avoid the expropriation, policies of the "confinement" and "separation" and the uprooting of fruit and olive trees by the Israeli government. As an action group, ICAHD includes members of many of the organizations of Israeli La Paz and the human rights. All their work in the occupied territories is closely coordinated with local Palestinian organizations. From their foundation, the ICAHD activities have extended to three related spheres: actions of resistance and protest in the occupied territories; efforts to bring the reality of the occupation to the Israeli society; and mobilizing the international community for a just peace.*



ECO is the voice of all the civil society representatives participating in COP8 in Madrid. They thank Ecologistas en Acción for the daily production of this bulletin.

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Please give your articles to [eco@ecologistasenaccion.org](mailto:eco@ecologistasenaccion.org)

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**ECOLOGISTAS**  
en acción

*The NGOs are meeting every day at 8:00 in the NGOs room (G035)*