

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



Open Dialogue Session

The Open Dialog Session held yesterday September 11th, although with a limited attendance of Official Delegates, welcomed the presence of the Minister of Environment, Ms. Cristina Narbona, President of the COP. She stressed the need to integrate civil society in the decision-making processes. “There is a need to establish national mechanisms to ensure civil society participation”, pointed out the Minister, “therefore I encourage all parts to work together in this direction so that in the next conference of the Convention to Combat Desertification all signing countries and not only 60 can be accompanied in their delegations by their respective non-governmental organisations; and that we have at our disposal, through the decisions we make in this COP, mechanisms that improve the participation throughout the development of the Convention of both the NGOs

and civil society representatives”.

The President of the COP started her declaration by mentioning the support of Spain to the NGOs proposal about the creation of a working group between sessions that develops proposals to improve social participation within this Convention (see page 2).

The session started with the discussion about the importance of participation, and in order to show the serious participation limitations faced by NGOs, the representative of ENID Patrice Burguer covered for a few seconds his face with a white mask with a sealed mouth opening until he initiated his intervention. Some of the attendees smiled.

The NGOs would like to thank the President of the COP, Minister of Environment of the Government of Spain, Ms. Cristina Narbona and the facilitators their participation in the Open Dialog Session. □

Changement climatique et désertification

Thierno Bal Seck est membre de ENDA, ONG crée en 1972 qui a pour mission lutter contre la pauvreté en tenant en compte l’environnement et présente aux 5 continents.

On peut voir les impacts du changement climatique- nous dit Thierno- Impacts sur l’agriculture, le niveau de la mer augmente, inondations, impacts au niveau de la couverture végétale, perte de forêt, ce qui provoque à la fin la désertification. Donc, les deux phénomènes sont liés.

La solution de la désertification passe par la solution du changement climatique. *[p. 2]*

IN THIS ISSUE

Open Dialogue Session.....	1
Changement climatique et désertification.....	2
Draft decision on NGO participation...2	
Désertification & Gaspillage.....	2
Is there a real level of participation of NGOs in the committees?.....	3
Sabor dam project.....	3
Kyantobi Village: Strides to Achieve the MDGs.....	5
Environmental refugees.....	7
The international meeting of nomadic and transhumant shepherds.....	8

Draft decision on NGO participation

A proposal by the communities of NGOs present at COP8

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering:

- The article 5.d and 19.a and 19.c of the UNCCD

- The ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)

- The CRIC's president proposal for decision

- Suggestions by the CST bureau

Noting the great number of statements from the Parties regarding the importance of the participation of the Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs in all the UNCCD processes;

Taking into account the current discussions and proposals in the different meetings of this COP 8 regarding the issue of participation,

Decides:

1. To create an intersessional working group of representatives that will be in charge of examining mechanisms for optimization of Civil Society participation in the UNCCD, and the LCD in the Parties, offering to the next COP their recommendations and proposals for changes, taking into consideration the recommendations and proposals expressed by the Parties in the different bodies of the CCD, the Ten years Strategic Plan and the experiences and proposals of the subsidiaries bodies of the UNCCD;

2. This group should carry out, through face-to-face meetings and also through internet, wide processes to consult the Civil Society through their private entities and many entity networks of the countries parties with the aim of collecting suggestions regarding the improvement of the integration of those organizations in the LCD in the countries, sub-regions, regions and the UNCCD bodies;

3. This group will be composed by:

Two experts for each region, directly nominated by the accredited entities (NGOs) and the UNCCD;

Five Bureau representatives named among its own members, respecting regional balance.

4. This group should also gather and evaluate the civil society experiences and models of participation in the other multilateral environmental agreements and other UN conventions.

5. The External Relations Unity and Public Information, Liaison Office with the NGOs of the Secretariat of the CCD will promote during the next 30 days the necessary consultations in order to get, as soon as possible, the designation of the NGOs representatives.

6. Urges the Parties to contribute to the intersessional working group and to write through the Executive Secretary, their opinions and observations regarding these issues.

7. Demand the Executive Secretariat to facilitate the financial and human means for the successful undertaking of these matters. □

Quelles sont les solutions pour éviter ces deux problèmes?

Dans le cas de l'Afrique, la solution pour lutter doit nécessairement résoudre le problème de la population. Il faut sensibiliser la population. Il faut mettre en place des solutions préventives ainsi que des curatives. On a besoin d'une lutte efficace. Toute solution apportée doit être d'accord avec la population.

Quels sont les impacts du changement climatique dans votre pays?

Plusieurs études d'impacts montrent l'augmentation du niveau de la mer, surtout l'affection des villages de côte. Certains villages sont menacés de disparition. On a un cas récent à Rufisque, situé à 23 Kms de Dakar, où l'avancement de la mer a détruit un cimetière. On a aussi plusieurs problèmes, niveau agriculture, niveau industrie, automobiles, réfrigérateurs.

Il y a-t-il des programmes spécifiques pour lutter contre le changement, contre la désertification?

Alors, au Sénégal on a les deux programmes, le PAN et le PANA (programme national adaptation changement climatique). Mais il faut une approche participative, identifier les actions, mettre en oeuvre ces programmes. Une fois que les solutions soient dégagées, il faudra prioriser les actions. □

Désertification & Gaspillage...

Combien de dizaines de kilos de papier quotidiennement dépensés par la COP8 pour des impressions dont seule une infime partie sera lue...

Combien de tonnes de documents préparatoires, plaquettes et présentations diverses que nous aurons tour à tour distribuées et collectées empliront nos corbeilles à l'heure du rangement ...

Combien d'énergie pour nous faire gretotter dans d'immenses salles (parfois vides)...

Combien de kilomètres de transport aérien et à quel coût en terme de gaz à effet de serre (50 kg équivalent carbone pour un vol domestique de 500 Km et 150 pour un vol

long courrier de 3000 Km) pour l'ensemble de nos voyages*...

Pas de culpabilisation, bien sûr, mais conscience claire de la lourde responsabilité que nous endossons en entrant dans le combat contre la désertification.

** A la conférence de Paris sur l'environnement (février 2007) pour "compenser" la consommation d'énergie fossile liée à leur voyage, les participants étaient invités à verser une contribution monétaire à des projets de terrain choisis. L'UNCCD pour ses rencontres ne pourrait-elle reprendre à son compte cette idée et proposer aux participants quelques projets de reboisement?*

Emmanuel Ball, Solidarité Tiers Monde - GTD

Is there a real level of participation of NGOs in the committees?

Azalia Aryan, of the Cuban Association of UN and RIOD in Cuba (Network of International Organizations in the fight against the Desertification) gives her point of view on the participation of NGOs in COP8.

In this convention 800 NGOs are registered participants (the majority African), of which only 70 organisations have been able to attend the conference in Madrid.

The lack of funding is evident and those NGOs affected most are from countries that need to make the most effort not to miss the COP.

At the end of the twentieth century civil society was recognized as heavily implicated in the problems that affect the planet. At the beginning of this Convention, NGOs were included as participants, with the status of "observers". For the first time, a group of organizations exists which accom-

panies national government officials. After 10 years we participated in the Plenary, in CRIC and the CST: "In reality we already have work to make sure that they listen, we already have things to do".

The CST has asked that their goals are compared with the base scientists, but Azalia thinks that "a priority should be to ensure that the scientists look for solutions for local realities".

On Thursday the 6th of September, the NGOs complained that within the annual national information presented by the countries, there is a lack of information regarding local communities. The official script of these reports only includes a summary dedicated to local communities, and within this they do not manage to gather all the information relative to local communities, as a fundamental agent involved in this convention. In



some countries the local communities do not participate in the development of this report. They should manage to allow local communities to a more equal involvement as contributors, as has been achieved in Cuba.

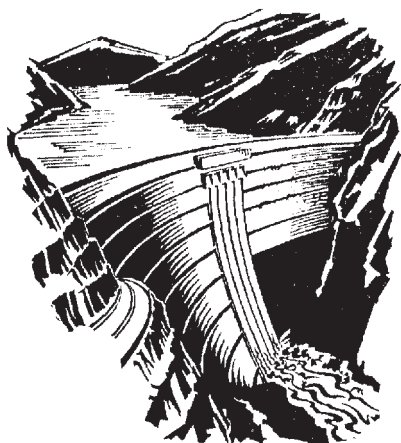
"The human being is the greatest predator on this ill planet, and NGOs will be those that will lead us better to a world". □

Sabor dam project

Portuguese NGOs are invited to participate in the informal EU council held in Lisbon on September 1, 2007, especially because water scarcity and droughts are a problem that affects significantly the Portuguese territory and water management is a priority issue.

Most of Portuguese NGOs working on sustainable development and nature conservation, give priority, as the Portuguese presidency, to water scarcity and droughts, since climate change and the occurrence of extreme events are a challenge for present and especially future water management.

Water distribution is expected to become more unbalanced along time and across different regions, especially at dry lands, requiring an adaptation of the wa-



ter uses to its spatial and temporal availability.

The sustainable water use and development will be achieved only if European countries, and Mediterranean countries, are strongly committed to reducing

water demand and improving water use efficiency.

However we are not really convinced that Member States and European institutions are truly engaged in promoting sustainable water management:

On one hand, European environmental legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive, established very encouraging objectives such as achieving good ecological status and provided very important tools to promote good water management, such as water pricing and shared management between countries with international river basins.

On the other hand, European funds, such as the Structural Funds and agriculture subsidies (including Rural Development), are used to increase irrigated areas

in regions with water scarcity problems and very low water use efficiency.

In our opinion, the discussion on water scarcity and droughts should be addressed through the Water Framework Directive, by ensuring a successful application of the existing mechanisms. It is hard to believe that some Member States will be able to deal with new legal instruments when they were not capable of applying the already existing ones.

The Iberian countries are also failing in the cooperative management of shared river basins since water transfers and big hydropower and irrigation schemes continue to be built without any concern for the ecological needs of the aquatic ecosystems or even the consumption needs of downstream users during drought periods. Furthermore, some southern countries seem to be very enthusiastic about increasing the production of biofuels, having water as the major productive factor.

The Portuguese Prime Minister stated publicly that the Sabor Dam is a symbol of the Portuguese environmental policy. Sabor dam would be located in a biologically diverse region protected under the European Ecological Network - Natura 2000, hence representing a clear violation of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Portuguese prime-minister justified his decision to approve the construction of the dam as the need to carry on large projects and avoid the political instability of changing decisions every time the government changes.

Aspects of the Sabor river

The European environmental policy also fails when projects like the Sabor Dam are supported by the Commission in a clear violation of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The EU decision to provide funding cannot be based on rhetoric about regional development or on false arguments as those related to water shortage in the region. This is a



hydroelectric dam which would only contribute about 0.6% to the Portuguese annual energy production. Another persistent false argument is the importance of the dam for Portugal to meet the European Union target of generating 39% of electricity from renewable sources. The dam will never be built before 2012 and its energy contribution is minor. Portugal's electricity sector is very inefficient, and that much could be done in the areas of increase energy efficiency, which could help Portugal meet the European targets in renewable energy and postpone building the dam. Demand-side management measures would ensure a more affordable and ecologically sustainable energy supply.

We think that the approval of the European institutions and the possible use of European funds to build this dam are completely unacceptable since they will support a clear infringement of the European legislation and represent a step back on the established biodiversity targets. Moreover, it was clearly shown by the civil society that the application of simple measures to improve energy efficiency would largely overcome the reduction of CO2 emissions provided by the dam.

We cannot understand how a new specific strategy on water scarcity and

droughts can be understood as a solution for water problems when insufficient efforts are being made towards a sustainable water use. We believe that water scarcity can be prevented and drought effects mitigated by reducing water demand, improving water use efficiency and protecting groundwater as strategic reserves of good quality water. This can be done by promoting good land management measures and increasing groundwater recharge instead of using dams as a first option for water storage. Whilst we do not object to a better access of Member States to Solidarity Funds to minimize the economic impacts of severe droughts, it should be only under the condition that it is demonstrated that preventive measures were insufficient.

We believe that DG Environment and the national environment Ministers are the guardians of the environmental component of sustainable development and, therefore, cannot be overtaken by political and/or economic interests that do not have a strong demonstration of sustainability. □

Eugénio Sequeira
Head of National Board of Directors
of LPN – Liga para a Protecção
da Natureza, a Portuguese NGO

Kyantobi Village: Strides to Achieve the MDGs

Writing for a German Magazine, "Deutschland" (vol 4/2004), a famous British Biologist, Desmond Morris observed that "when disaster strikes and life suddenly becomes intolerable, people must innovate or die."

Africa 2000 Network in Uganda is working with Kyantobi village situated in Kabale district in South Western Uganda. A serious problem affecting the village is soil erosion and silting on the hill slopes where the residents of the village own plots for cultivation. Apollo Oworinawe, the Chairman of Kyantobi Agro forestry Farmers Association (KAFA), narrates their experiences:

"For many years, the rainy season brought misery to our village. The once fertile valley would be piled up with soil and debris brought downhill by the heavy storms. Kyantobi village would be flooded and the run off water would destroy our fields, houses and property. In 1998, after some particularly heavy rains, we the villagers of Kyantobi decided that enough was enough, something needed to be done. We formed a group. Initially, we were eight farmers but later others joined us and we started planting trees to protect our land. Now we have no regrets as you can see. The once abandoned land is now full of activities."

KAFA is one of the many groups that Africa 2000 Network- Uganda (A2N-Uganda) is supporting in a project known as Strengthening Farmers Associations for Poverty Eradication (SFAPE), which is being implemented in Kabale district. From an initial 8 members, (5 men and 3 women) the group now boasts of 67 (41 women, 26 men) registered members who are not only engaged

in tree planting to protect their steep landscape but are also engaged in sustainable agriculture for food security, income generation and environmental sustainability.

A2N-Uganda started work in the village in January 2002 and although KAFA was already involved in agro forestry, soil erosion continued to undermine their efforts. With support from A2N-Uganda however, the association members have been able to reverse this through sustainable agriculture practices by digging trenches along the hill slopes and through improved soil fertility management. The once abandoned slopes are now cultivated with beautiful gardens of improved varieties of Irish potatoes. The association initially received 4 bags of Irish potato seed from A2N-Uganda for food security, which has revolved among the members by each passing on seed from household to household after harvesting. This has greatly improved the food security among the households in Kyantobi.

In addition to production for consumption, the association members are now able to market excess produce. A2N-Uganda has recently connected the association to buyers from markets in the capital city of Kampala and collectively, they are able to sell 80 bags of Irish potatoes every week. One bag is produced at a cost of Ushs. 9,000 (US \$5) and fetches an average of Ushs. 30,000 (US \$18) in Owino market in Kampala. This is a breakthrough as far as poverty eradication efforts are concerned.

When KAFA started planting trees in the village to prevent landslides, they also agreed to raise tree seedlings in a community tree nursery. As-

sociation members worked in turns to ensure regular watering and weeding. This arrangement worked out quite well because the sharing of seedlings also depended on the individual time put in the community nursery work. The association also enacted by-laws to regulate the grazing of animals in an effort to control open grazing practices common in the village. Due to the great demand for tree seedlings and an increase in the number of association members, some of them have started individual tree nurseries. This has not only enabled them to satisfy their needs for seedlings but also to raise some for sale. One grafted avocado seedling fetches between Ushs. 2,000 and 2,500 (US \$1.18-1.47), while Calliandra, Alnus and Grevelia tree seedlings fetch Ushs. 300-500 (US Cents 18-29) per potted seedling. This has been a big boost to the farmer's meager incomes. Evelyne Tibemanya testifies that she earns between Ushs. 20,000 and 50,000 (US \$12-29) per month from the sale of seedlings from her tree nursery.

Six years down the road, the tree culture has helped to improve the firewood situation, provided stakes for climbing beans and has motivated the farmers in Kyantobi to start rearing animals due to the availability of fodder. They have also learnt how to manage mature trees planted on their plot boundaries for timber and poles.

Other activities the association members are involved in include: backyard gardening, zero grazing, piggery, improved goat rearing and fish farming. These initiatives have received support from both the local government and other Non-Governmental Organisations.

The Government of Uganda's Plan for Modernization of Agriculture supported the setting up of a piggery demonstration project and also provided a dairy Boar goat for cross breeding. Evelyne Tibemanya, a farmers trainer hosts a fishpond, which was supported by the Kabale District Local Government. All these activities have boosted household incomes. It is estimated that incomes in the village have increased from Ush. 15,000 (US \$ 8.80) per household per month in 1998 to Ush. 45,000 (US \$ 29) per household per month which puts them above the poverty line of US\$ 1 per day. This is a fundamental change in the lives of the Kyantobi community if this income level is sustained.

In October 2003, A2N-Uganda organised training in HIV/ AIDS prevention and its integration in their development plans. Bikwasi Tomasi, a resident of the village became interested and is now a guidance and counseling volunteer after acquiring the skills from a District HIV AIDS training programme. She is the brain behind the newly formed group, "Kyantobi Tweyambe" whose aim is to assist orphans and victims of the scourge.

A2N-Uganda also conducted training in environmental sanitation to avert the spread of malaria, the biggest killer disease in the area and because some of the residents could not afford to buy mosquito nets from the open market, the Kabale Local Government Administration has agreed to avail the community mosquito nets at the nearest health centre at a subsidized price of Ush. 6,000 (US \$3.50) each. Information materials in the local language (Rukiga) on malaria and water borne diseases were availed to the village in their community library set up with support from A2N-Uganda

and in partnership with Marie Stopes who specialize in providing health care services. The village community has also been provided with information on environmental health and family life.

A2N-Uganda's interventions in Kyantobi were at the request of the Ministry of Local Government and as part of the planning process, training was conducted in gender sensitisation in order to make the planning process gender responsive. Mrs. Zonobia Ngabirano testifies:

"For the first time in my life, I walked into the local council meeting and found that the planning meeting had been delayed due to the absence of women. The meeting started after three quarters of the women in the village had arrived. We were allowed to provide information about our children and their health status. We were also consulted on proposed sites for tapped water in the village."

In order to make money from smallholder farming, 800 apples and pear seedlings valued at Ushs. 3,800,000 (US \$2,235) were given to 37 farmers on cost sharing basis by the Ministry of Local Government under the PDM project and in order to ensure that the association's income generating activities are successful, A2N-Uganda carried out training in farming as a business, group dynamics, leadership skills, record keeping and in marketing. These interventions have made Kyantobi a "model village". Those who wish to visit the village have to pay a fee of Ushs.10,000 (US \$6.90) which is paid to the village "guides".

In order to reduce the high prevalence of respiratory diseases especially among mothers and children from smoke inhaled during cooking, A2N-Uganda trained the community in the construction of fuel wood stoves.

There are 44 households with a total of 205 people in Kyantobi village and 50% of these already have improved stoves. The improved stoves also help to reduce the amount of biomass used in cooking which contributes to a better environment.

In order to further reduce their fuel wood demand, KAFA is soliciting funding to build a large biogas plant which they hope to locate centrally so that it can be used and managed by different households that will contribute animal waste to feed the community bio-digester. This and many other projects in Kyantobi village confirm the common adage that "necessity is the mother of invention".

Most importantly however, Kyantobi village has made great strides in eradicating poverty and food insecurity and in achieving gender equality and women empowerment as well as improving the health conditions of the community in addition to ensuring better environment all of which are Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in order to address the MDG of ensuring that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling, A2N-Uganda is promoting awareness among the village leaders to enforce this.

A2N-Uganda's challenge is to replicate Kyantobi's success story. This will involve using PDM as a mobilization tool. The big challenge ahead is that for this model to be replicated, the village leaders must be committed and willing to learn. The Kyantobi village leadership is commended for doing what many leaders have failed to do: pull their community out of the poverty trap. □

*By Africa 2000 Network Uganda
A member of the Sustainable
Land Management NGO
Network in Uganda*

Environmental refugees

A new legal concept of “refugee” is urgently needed that includes new social realities like environmental deterioration. The international legal order believes that the concept of the “environmental refugee” is essential to fill a legal void and provide judicial protection to the increasing numbers of people displaced for environmental reasons. The Spanish government and the European Union systematically fail to fulfil the commitments of Geneva Convention on the Statute for Refugees in their migratory policies that violate human rights. Thousands of immigrants die every year on migratory routes due to the restrictive policies of the EU and the ever increasing military presence at the borders.

The dynamics of the economic growth and the global market have led to impoverishment and the disintegration of whole societies as well as the massive migration of more than 150 million people. It is estimated that at present, there are more than 22 million refugees and 30 million displaced people within the borders of Europe. In addition, it is estimated that in 2010 the number of environmental refugees globally will reach 50 million, and more than half of those will be in Africa.

The migrations generated by environmental problems are numerous and complex. However, it is possible to say that desertification is the most important cause of forced migration for millions of people, due to the inability to produce food, the loss of biodiversity and water scarcity. By 2020 roughly 135 million people will be forced to leave their homes due to desertification and of these 60 million will be in Sub-Saharan Africa. Climate change will increase forced displacement of populations. According to Greenpeace

there will be 200 million environmental refugees due to climate change in next the 30 years.

The consequences of migration are as follows: the affected areas undergo a significant decrease in the active population which creates a situation of vulnerability in areas of extreme poverty in urban zones. There is a systematic violation of human rights and a lack of access to basic public services.

Thirteen years after the First Symposium on International Desertification and Migration in Almería, we stated that governments and the United Nations had not taken the necessary measures to avoid the tens of thousands of people dying each year due forced expulsion from environmental degradation.

Desertification means the loss of sustainability, unequal access to resources and the imbalanced intergenerational distribution of health. Multilateral bodies tend to centre on the failures of the market economy and the analysis of the environmental valuation of the goods and services that contribute to soil moisture losses. However, they do not consider action plans and the responsibilities of state public policies, companies and multilateral bodies themselves.

The states and private companies are causing the destruction of vegetation, soil erosion, water scarcity and problems associated with the over-exploitation of natural resources and modification of the natural environment.

1. Example: One of the fundamental reasons for which there are more than 3,000 million people in the world living in misery is third world debt. This problem is forcing countries to overexploit natural resources since the

exportation of these resources is one of the only ways they can gain enough money to repay the debt. Mining and deforestation considerably deteriorate soil and water sources and only benefit the importing countries.

2. Example: Globally, from 2000-2005, 7.3 million hectares of forests have disappeared every year due to deforestation. This is equal to 20,000 hectares per day. Government policies and the substitution of natural forests for industrial plantation – palm oil, eucalyptus, pine, as well as the extension of the agricultural areas for monoculture crops for export, are amongst the main causes of deforestation.

3. Example: The neo-liberal model powers a vicious cycle in rural areas: soil overexploitation, degradation, greater production demand, increased poverty, nutritional insecurity, migration. Agricultural expansion occurs at the expense of natural habitat. Partial deforestation in tropical zones can affect whole regions with drought and have consequences for the whole tropical forest. A loss the rainforests will produce 120 billion tonnes of CO₂, causing the extinction of many species of flora and fauna, altering precipitation in large parts of the Northern Hemisphere and risking global food availability.

The indiscriminate substitution of the great expanses of forests with monocultures can create a change in the climate on a regional scale. It can alter the index of reflection of light from the sun (Albedo) and the rate of evapotranspiration from vegetation. It damages the organic matter in soil and results in a reduction in the rate of infiltration of water, with a higher rate of run-off thereby causing erosion. Replenishment of groundwater stores is reduced

so there is less water held in the continental ecosystems and they have a reduced capacity for water storage.

4. Example: In fact, the water cycle has been profoundly altered. More than half of the 192 most important rivers in the world have been dammed. This has been financed largely by public money or the World Bank.

The classic scheme of development - the "green revolution" that works through intensifying agriculture and industrializing of cities as they absorb the rural exodus caused by industrial agriculture - has demonstrated its inability to solve the world-wide social and environmental problems. For that reason it is urgent that we promote a politic that recognizes the right to eat as basic a human right. We demand real internal agricultural reform that guarantees farmers the right to the land, defends and recovers territory for indigenous populations, provides fishing communities with access and control over fishing zones and their ecosystems, that recognizes the access

and control of land for migratory grazing, the right to dignified work with just pay, workers rights for all workers, a future for the young people in rural areas, a revitalized interdependence between producers and consumers, the survival of communities, economic and social justice, ecological sustainability and equal rights for women and men respected by local authorities and the government.

Only in this way can we conserve and thus rehabilitate our rural surroundings, fishing zones, the traditional landscapes and foods. We want sustainable Earth management; of the land, the water, the seeds, the cattle and biodiversity.

We demand a timescaled commitment by the Spanish Government to adopt effective, participative and transparent measures: to legally protect environmental refugees and extend the definition of refugee; to recover the areas affected by desertification and to apply policies that prevent their advance; to establish judicial, civil or

penal responsibilities to combat desertification; the creation of a compensation fund for the damages produced by ecological debt acquired by the Spanish government, public institutions and private companies; to execute the policies necessary to abolish third world debt as well as to promote pertinent legislative and prescribed actions to combat climate change; adopt objective obligatory reductions of greenhouse gases by 80% in 2050. □

Tom Kucharz

Ecologistas en Acción,

Campaña Quien Debe a Quien

The international meeting of nomadic and transhumant shepherds

As a result of the Encuentro Mundial de Pastores Nomadas y Trashuman-tes, the international meeting of nomadic and transhumant shepherds, on Tuesday 11 September a representation of this event will hand over their proposals to the COP 8, where their ideas to preserve and protect the seasonal migration of livestock are explained. The lack of mobility among shepherds, who in recent years have suffered a reduction in their capability to travel with their flocks, is one of the key points in this document. Also, they address their reduced access to water, which is mainly used for ag-

riculture and consume. On the other hand, since the new generations are not interested in shepherding, recognition of this profession is necessary as well as its inclusion in the national protected areas.

In summary, an effort must be done to preserve this thousand-year-old tradition which in our current society is threatened by economic and cultural factors. Nowadays only a delegation will try to protect this practise by means of a document that political leaders, too busy in their debates about budgets, probably will not have time enough to consider. □



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.

The editorial team welcomes concise articles for publication in ECO.

Please give your articles to eco@ecologistasenaccion.org

Funding for the production of ECO has been provided by the UNCCD Secretariat.

The editorial team reserves the right to edit articles for clarity and length.

We would like to thank all the journalists, the translators and the association De Amicitia for their collaboration in this bulletin.

Members of the Editorial Board:

Teresita Tellería - Pronaturaleza, Cuba

Emmanuel Seck - ENDA- TM, Senegal

Khadija Razavi - CENESTA, Iran

Daniëlle de Man - ENID

Eva Izquierdo- Ecologistas en Acción

Samuel Martín-Sosa - Ecologistas en Acción



ecologistasenaccion.org/desertificacion

ECOLOGISTAS
en acción