



## **REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

# **LAND DEGRADATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN WEST AFRICA**

## ***POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PREVENTING SECURITY CHALLENGES***

**18-19 May 2016  
in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

**Venue  
Hotel Bravia**  
Sect.4 District Zaca 01 bp 4843 Ouagadougou

**DRAFT**

## Context

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The interconnections between environmental degradation and migration entail a complex set of questions. Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) can be addressed both as cause and consequence of migratory flows. The depletion of land resources can lead populations to undertake mobility as an adaptation strategy to cope with environmental degradation and to alleviate poverty through livelihoods diversification. Vulnerable households have been using various strategies to overcome the additional challenges linked to the slow erosion of their livelihoods and habitat. On one hand, temporary and circular migration, the reception of internal and international remittances and family relocation are among the most common strategies that have been used in West Africa to adapt to climate change and variability. On the other hand, land abandonment and out-migration can lead to further isolation and marginalization of both vulnerable rural small-holders and migrants who relocate in areas of high environmental risk. If not timely and adequately addressed, mass migration can also contribute to worsening the pressure on natural resources in places of destination and intensify tensions or trigger conflicts. Concerns about environmental-induced migration are expressed in the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)<sup>1</sup>.

West Africa constitutes a case in point for both analyzing human mobility through the lens of slow-onset events and planning resilience strategies deploying land restoration initiatives and migration policies as a response to the changing environmental conditions. Broadly exposed to land degradation, the region features the highest intra-regional mobility worldwide; 76% of the migrants crossing national borders remained within the region in 2010. It is estimated that one West African out of three – about 100 million people – lives outside their village of birth. This high rate of mobility is allowed by the freedom of movement afforded to the citizens of the 15 member-states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which consistently contributed to the economic growth in the region. For example, it is estimated that in 2009, as much as USD 12.7 billion reached and transited through the ECOWAS region under the form of remittances; with internal remittances exceeding international ones in some countries.

Most of the ECOWAS country members have already adopted institutional frameworks, laws, regulations and action programs addressing DLDD and climate change, such as the National Action Plans to Combat Desertification (NAP/CCD) and the National Action Programmes for climate change Adaptation (NAPA). Nevertheless, the impacts of DLDD still need to be considered and mainstreamed into existing policies that relate to human mobility, including those associated with economic planning, rural-rural or rural-urban demographics and transhumance. In all 15 West African countries, it is urgent to promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM), which is still an underestimated solution for many on the region's most pressing challenges, including migration and climate change. Moreover, it is necessary to stress the link between these challenges and the potential for increased instability in the region. Countries affected by DLDD often face a significant level of threat caused by terrorism and violent extremism. This reinforces regional instability and accelerates migration pressure. In this context, cooperation with international partners to build resilience and prevent conflicts is paramount.

The Global Mechanism (GM) supports the country parties affected by DLDD to access and to mobilize financing to implement the United Nations Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and the first one with a dedicated division on Migration, Environment and Climate Change. The GM and IOM are jointly implementing the project: "West Africa: promoting sustainable land management in migration-prone areas through innovative financing mechanisms", funded by the Italian Development Cooperation. Within this framework, various studies have been conducted in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal about the links between migration, DLDD and SLM and about the innovative mechanisms to finance SLM in migration-prone areas in West Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 5, paragraph 4.

This regional workshop, organized in Ouagadougou in May 2016, is hosted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Government of Burkina Faso, with the support of the GM of the UNCCD, IOM and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS).

The main objective of the workshop is to identify strategies to address the challenges related to the nexus between climate change, DLDD and migration at national and regional level, as well as to highlight and analyze the policy implications for building resilience and preventing security challenges. The workshop will be the occasion to exchange and discuss among government officials from Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal, high-level representatives of the ECOWAS, experts and international partners around the following topics:

1. Analyzing how DLDD, climate change and migration are interlinked in West Africa,
2. Exploring how resilience-driven mobility as well as the availability and access to resources, institutional networks and social capital influence the demographics of the region,
3. Discussing potential innovative financing sources and mechanisms to promote SLM in migration-prone areas,
4. Acquiring a better knowledge on good practices and prospects for an improved involvement of migrants and diaspora in land rehabilitation and adaptation to climate change initiatives,
5. Paving the way for designing regional and national policies that comprehensively address root causes of migration driven by DLDD and promote opportunities for people on the move within the region,
6. Discussing how to strengthen regional and international cooperation to monitor new trends of migration and prevent security challenges,
7. Identifying ways and means to intensify the dialogue between ECOWAS, its Member States and its international partners, namely the European Union, on DLDD, climate change and migration.
8. Assessing how international partners such as the EU and NATO can contribute to project more stability in the region through capacity building and training.

## Programme

**Wednesday, 18 May 2016**

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08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening remarks

**Monique Barbut**, Executive Secretary, UNCCD (video message)

**Dina Ionesco**, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, International Organization for Migration

**Andrea Ostheimer de Sosa**, Director, Africa Department, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

**Gennaro Gentile**, Director, Italian Cooperation Office in Burkina Faso, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Italy  
Ambassador and Head of the European Delegation to Burkina Faso (tbc)  
ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Industry, Customs and Free Movement  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Burkina Faso

10:00 Photo and coffee-break

10:30 **Session 1 – Analysing the links between Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD), climate change and migration in West Africa: Causes, consequences and trends of environmental migration in West Africa**

*Moderation*

**Ibra Sounkarou Ndiaye**, Director of Planning and Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment, Senegal

**Hiroute Selassie**, Un Special Envoy for the Sahel (tbc)

Special Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Coordinator of the Humanitarian Unit, Niger

**Nicholas Hanley**, Acting Director for Global and Regional Challenges, DG Environment, European Commission

**Dominic Kniveton**, Professor of Climate Science and Society, Sussex Centre for Migration Research, University of Sussex

Discussion

12:30 Lunch

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14:30      **Session 2 – Promoting investments in sustainable land management (SLM) and adaptation to climate change to build resilience in migration-prone areas in West Africa: Institutional and political framework, good practices and perspectives**

*Moderation*

West African Economic and Monetary Union (tbc)

**Dr. Johnson Boanuh**, Director, ECOWAS Environment

**Sory Kaba**, Director General for the Senegalese Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Senegalese Abroad

**Serge Poda**, Head of Research and Statistics, Central Bank of West African States, Burkina Faso

**Papa Sow**, University of Bonn and WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use)

Discussion

16:00      Coffee-break

16:30      **Session 3a – Enhancing regional and international cooperation to address increased vulnerability and insecurity caused by Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD): Impacts of DLDD, failed adaptation to climate change and migration on the security of the sub-region**

*Moderation*

**Zalia Boubacar**, Advisor, Executive Secretariat of the National Council of Environment for a Sustainable Development, Prime Minister Office, Niger

**M. Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, UN Special Representative for West Africa, UNOWA (tbc)

**Angel Losada Fernandez**, Special Representative for the Sahel, European Union

**Sibri Michel Ouedraogo**, Permanent Secretary for the Burkinabe Abroad

**Roger-Mark de Souza**, Director, Population, Environmental Security and Resilience, Wilson Centre

**Thursday, 19 May 2016**

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- 9:00      **Session 3b– Enhancing regional and international cooperation to address increased vulnerability and insecurity caused by Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD): Impacts of DLDD, failed adaptation to climate change and migration on the security of the sub-region**
- NATO representative**, cabinet of the NATO Secretary General  
**Michael Gahler**, Member of the European Parliament  
**Susan Martin**, Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University  
**Hartmut Behrend**, Project Leader for Adaptation to Climate Change, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- 10:30      Coffee break
- 10:45      Session 4 – Summary and policy recommendations**
- Facilitator*  
Rep of the Ministry of Environment, Burkina Faso
- Tony Luka Elumelu**, ECOWAS Head of Division Free Movement and Migration  
**Bernard Koffi**, ECOWAS Principal Programme Officer for Environment  
**Andrea Ostheimer de Sosa**, Director, Africa Department, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)  
**GM/IOM**, Project Coordination
- 12:30      Lunch
- 14:00      **Closing session: The way forward**  
**Richard Danziger**, IOM Regional Coordinator  
**Camilla Nordheim-Larsen**, Programme Manager, GM-UNCCD  
**Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel**, Professor of Public and International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, Coordinating Lead Author in the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
**Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Coordinator for Sustainable Development, Directorate General for Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Italy  
**H.E. Tchambakou Ayassor**, ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger  
Minister of Environment of Burkina Faso

**List of participants (to be completed)**