

Inputs provided by: (Sahara and Sahel Observatory OSS)

1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure

In accordance with the international agreements on the environment and sustainable development, including Agenda 21, the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) the OSS works with its members to generate, manage and share useful and accurate data and information with a view to achieving progress toward good environmental governance in the Circum-Sahara. By forging partnerships, OSS seeks to induce synergies from the collective endeavor of African states at the national, sub-regional and regional levels for the conservation, protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

The organization's mission is to provide an adequate framework for effective North-South-South partnerships which enable member countries in the Circum-Sahara to tackle the region's pressing environmental issues and achieve sustainable development through good water and land governance under a changing climate.

2. Relevant operational framework(s)

The OSS Strategy 2020 is composed of the technical and scientific axis and the information axis. The information axis is implemented by the Knowledge Management Programme, which has the objective to transmit the knowledge generated by the Scientific and Technical Programme, to enhance the visibility and presence of OSS on the African and international scenes and to facilitate the mobilisation of strategic partnerships, and alliances with other institutions. The Scientific and Technical Axis is based on the two founding pillars of the OSS: the observation of the natural resources water and land, which in the Strategy 2020 are supplemented with the two cross-cutting themes climate and population. The Rational and Concerted Management of Natural Resources Programme under the Scientific and Technical Axis continues to work in those two main areas and systematically includes the cross-cutting themes climate and population in its projects.

3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

Assessing the impacts of climate change is an important part of the OSS 2020 Strategy, which consists of a Scientific and Technical Axis focused on concerted, rational management of natural resources with four major themes: Land, Water, Climate, Populations and a cross-cutting axis focused on the principle of knowledge sharing. Besides assisting the countries with the production of scientific and technical environmental information, the Strategy 2020 will try to develop decision support tools for the integration of this information in the decision-making process.

The general objective of the climate change component, with regards to adaptation is to manage activities of the Nairobi Work Programme and the Cancun Adaptation framework, in particular with regards to (Dec 1/CP.16 para 14 a, para b, para h, para i)

The following specific objectives fall under this objective :

Objective 1: Facilitate knowledge exchange on surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of climate change, including vulnerability analysis and planning of adaptation activities.

Objective 2 : Strive for a better understanding of the nature and causes of climate change of anthropic origin especially considering the disagreement between the projections for the 21st century, presented in the last IPCC report

Objective 3: Monitoring and Evaluation of the impact of climate change on socio-economic systems, and strengthening the capacity of technical services in the analysis of the sensibility (risk –hazard approach), the collection of data, the identification of indicators and the establishment of early warning systems.

Objective 4: Analyze the vulnerability of ecosystems and populations to climate change and different types of risks encountered, especially in the DNSEs and in the ROSELT/OSS observatories and build up the capacity of the resident populations, local NGOs and decentralized technical services working on vulnerability analysis, data collection, the monitoring of indicators and the functioning of warning and communication systems (OECD approach).

4. Geographic coverage

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) is an international organization based in Tunis, Tunisia. The OSS is following its mandate in the circum-Saharan region encompassing North Africa and the Sahel.

5. Key stakeholders

OSS has today twenty-two member countries in Northern, Eastern and Western Africa, five non-African countries, regional and international organizations and an African NGO. The organization's activities are funded by voluntary contributions and grants from members and partners.

6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms

The Sahara and Sahel observatory has four statutory bodies:

- The General Assembly is the supreme governing body. It convenes every four years and brings together the OSS members and partners to take stock of the organization's achievements, define its future orientations and adopt a forward programme outlining OSS activities for the four years to come.
- The Executive Board implements the resolutions of the General Assembly and reports on the organization's situation. It holds annual meetings to adopt the yearly activities programme and its corresponding budget, and to address aspects related to the organization's financial management.
- The Strategic Orientation Committee is an advisory body which provides strategic guidance to the Executive Secretariat in defining the orientations and the programmes structuring the organization's activities.
- The Executive Secretariat implements the Executive Board's decisions, ensures the organization's management and carries out the planned activities in accordance with the programme approved by the Board.

The resources of OSS consist of:

- voluntary contributions from its members;
- earmarked resources allocated to it for contractual activities;
- any resources of national or multinational origin;
- any other resources (donations, legacies, etc.) authorised by the Executive Board.

At its 21st meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) accredited the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), which is hence eligible to submit applications for project or program funding.

The OSS accounts are audited by a certified auditor appointed by the Executive Board on the basis of bids for tender who are open to external auditors registered in an OSS country. He carries out his functions in keeping with the conditions laid down in the Financial Regulations.

Please provide information related to reporting, if any

OSS made a significant contribution to studies, at the international level, that led to the development of tools for evaluating national and regional efforts to fight desertification, in particular through the UNCCD. As of the adoption of the UNCCD in 1994, OSS, together with its sub-regional member countries and organisations, and its development partners, has been working on defining and identifying process indicators for CCD implementation, and impact indicators for desertification control actions, the goal being to conceptualise NAP/CCD and SRAP monitoring evaluation.

Since 1993 OSS is engaged in the establishment of the ROSELT monitoring network of ecological observatories in the Sahara and Sahel, which provides an overall monitoring and evaluation framework to contribute to a more structured understanding of land degradation, anthropic practices and climate change. Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia and Senegal have included ROSELT/OSS in the NAP/CCD. This entailed the identification and definition of indicators to measure progress in implementing national, sub-regional and regional action programmes to combat desertification.

OSS has been selected as a reference center for North Africa as part of a GEF/UNEP capacity building project focused on monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools to advance the implementation of the UNCCD ten-year strategy (2008-2018) and has assisted the North African member states in preparing their reports for the 4th reporting cycle.

By strengthening and capitalising past achievements of the UNCCD and by adapting them to the needs of the UNCBD and the UNFCCC, OSS aims to participate in the creation of global, integrated monitoring evaluation systems, adapted to the needs of the persons in charge of agricultural development and natural resources management programmes at the national and sub-regional levels.

7. Key activities / outputs to date

Water Programme

The work of the Water programme as part of the Rational and Concerted Management of Natural Resources Programme is focused on the monitoring and the management of groundwater resources and is promoting the concerted management of basins in the following three main areas

- The NWAS North-Western Sahara Aquifer System, which provides water resources for Algeria, Lybia and Tunisia
- The IAS-GICRESAIT Including the Est-Africa Lullemeden and the Tauédeni-Tauezrouft basins in Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria
- The “Shared Water Resources in the IGAD Sub-Region”.

The related programmes provide a framework for regional cooperation and support for its member states in:

- improving the knowledge base of scarcely renewable groundwater resources
- developing a basin awareness among the riparian states;
- concerted management of transboundary water resources
- dealing with the impacts of climate change and water uses.

Environment Programme

The work of the Environment programme as part of the Rational and Concerted Management of Natural Resources Programme is dedicated to the monitoring of natural resources with a focus on assessing land degradation and desertification in the circum Sahara. The approach of the programme consists in defining methodologies for biophysical and socio-economic data collection and processing, developing reliable, relevant and scalable decision-support tools, and building capacity within the national institutions in member countries.

The main area of work of the programme is concerned with the establishment, maintenance and further development of a monitoring network of ecological observatories in the Sahara and Sahel, which provides an overall monitoring and evaluation framework. Supplemented with the development of decision support tools and capacity building initiatives at national and local level for decision makers and other stakeholders, promoting a more solid understanding of land degradation, anthropic practices and climate change.

Ongoing Climate Change Projects

OSS is implementing several projects which include the systematic observation of, and data collection on the impacts of climate change.

- **ILWAC:** OSS assists Mali with the development of instruments and tools to improve sustainable land and water management practices and to face risks connected to climate change, through a project funded by the World Bank and entitled “Integrated Land and Water Management for Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change Mali” (ILWAC), which is structured around three components: 1. production of a land and water use and management map and the installation of a GIS; 2. risk analysis of climate change; 3. capacity building for key players on using and assimilating this information. The project is being implemented in two phases. The first component of the project was realized in the first phase (September 2011-July 2012) and the other two components are being implemented in the second phase (June 2013-December 2013).
- **Afromaison:** In partnership with IRA Medenine OSS is coordinating a case study in Oum Zessar, Tunisia, which focuses on climate change impacts and watershed management. This is one of five case studies which are implemented in the frame of the Afromaison project. AFROMAISON aims to propose concrete strategies for integrated natural resources management in Africa in order to adapt to

the consequences of climate change. AFROMAISON is funded by the 7th Framework Program of the European Union. It has a budget of 4 million euro and a runtime of 3 years (March 2011-2014).

- **REPSAHEL:** The REPSahel project (Amélioration de la resilience des population sahariennes aux mutations environnementale) is a three year (2012-2015) project in the 7 Sahel Countries of West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad) funded by DDC Swiss. The project is pursuing the goal to improve the resilience of the population to environmental changes, in particular the impact of climate change. It is composed of four project components: 1. supporting the development and maintenance of environmental monitoring systems; 2. developing and implementing an information sharing system and a communication strategy; 3. strengthening the capacity of the local population; 4. strengthening the capacity of political decision makers.
- **SASS:** In the context of the third phase of the project «Système Aquifère du Sahara Septentrional» SASS III, OSS collaborates with Global Watership Programme Mediterranean GWPMed with the aim to integrate the consideration of the impact of climate changes on the monitored water resources.
- **MENADELP:** The MENA Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods knowledge sharing and coordination Project, is a four year project funded by the World Bank. The project has the objective to strengthen cooperation among the selected organizations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, who are involved in the implementation of national MENA-DELP projects in areas of sustainable management of desert ecosystems.

Concluded Climate Change Projects

OSS has some experience with the implementation of Climate Change Projects.

- **MOU with IPCC Technical Support Unit:** In April 2008 OSS and IPCC's Technical Support Unit signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly organize a regional outreach workshop for research coordinators from Africa to disseminate the findings of the IPCC fourth Assessment Report. The Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA)/IDRC project and the IPCC Technical Support Unit organised a regional outreach on 29-30 April 2008 in Marrakech, Morocco which hosted 90 researchers and scientists from the whole circum-Shara zone.
- **MECCA :**The IDRC & DFID-funded Project "Monitoring and Evaluation Climate Change Adaptation" (MECCA) has been implemented by UNECA, AGRHYMET, OSS and IUCN in the context of the "Climate Change Adaptation in Africa" Initiative (CCAA) with the aim to experiment a multi-faceted approach for strengthening capacity of regional and sub-regional organisations in monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation in preparation to widely support national planning and policy making and to reduce vulnerability at local levels. The project had the following four specific objectives: 1. Assist in the harmonization of the Monitoring and Evaluation approaches to climate change adaptation; 2. Test M&E methodologies on climate change adaptation through case studies; 3. Develop, test and improve training materials on M&E methods; and 4. Develop a strategy for outreach, to strengthen capacity in M&E of climate change adaptation. OSS coordinated the testing of the M&E Toolkit through case studies carried out in Burkina Faso/Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Kenya and also developed a general methodological guide for supporting M&E in climate change adaptation projects, and a specific one for applying the aforementioned M&E toolkit.
- **AMCEN:** At its 13th session the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment AMCEN decided to work out a global framework that included data on levels of progress in climate change programmes in Africa. The AMCEN Secretariat selected OSS to prepare background and reference documents for this framework at the regional level for North and West Africa and with preparing the Africa regional synthesis also covering the other subregions (East and Southern Africa). OSS' work was validated by AMCEN (2010) and provided substance for the preparation of a framework that would enable Africa to better define its position on the international stage.
- **ACCA :** The "Advancing Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation" Project (ACCA) executed by UNITAR and implemented by OSS in collaboration with the IRA (Institut des Régions Arides en Tunisie) analyzed the climate change impact on natural resources while evaluating the vulnerability and adaptation of local populations to changes in long-term ecological monitoring observatories of ROSELT in Jeffara in South Tunisia and in Torodi-Tondikandia-Diantchandou in West.
- **SMAS :** The "implementation of an early-warning and monitoring drought system" project (SMAS), was financed by the European Commission, within the framework of its LIFE-third countries program and has been implemented from March 2006 to March 2009 in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia by a

team of multidisciplinary experts and involving of meteorological, research, agriculture and remote-sensing institutions, who established an early warning system against against environmental degradation, due to drought. This early-warning system is focused on the production and dissemination of the natural resources vulnerability indicators, compared with the climate and anthropic pressures to which they are submitted.

8. Any additional information and contact details

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