

Information Note

OSS activities on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change

The contributions of OSS on Adaptation issues relate essentially on :

- 1) **Review of literature:** in 2006, OSS conducted a study on "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the circumsaharian zone". This study is realized in order to establish the state of art on this question, and to identify the main issues related to desertification in its members countries concerns. On the basis of this bibliographic review, a concept note was elaborated and axed on the linkages between Adaptation and fight against desertification.
- 2) This preliminary work, supported by Germanic cooperation (GTZ) served to OSS to organize a successful **side event** during the 5th session of the Committee of Review and Implementation of the UNCCD (CRIC), on 16th march 2007 in Buenos Aires (Argentina). This side event allowed to discuss the main strategic and operational actions adaptation and sustainable land management, for the development of arid et semi-arid zones of Africa.
- 3) **Data collection and observations:** considering the growth need of data and information for development planning and natural resources management, OSS is working during the years on data collection regarding environmental monitoring, useful for decision making. In this field, through a project called ROSELT/OSS (ie Long Term Observation and Ecological monitoring Network), some data on biophysical and socioeconomic aspects are collected in the 11 observatories of Northern, Western and Eastern Africa. Currently, OSS implements a project of reinforcing local adaptation capacities in these observatories. The pilot stage of this project concerns observatories of Niger and Tunisia. This project aims to identify the local adaptation measures and strategies and how to implement them. Another project with the partnership of Algerian Spatial Agency focuses on the use of data generated by the Algerian satellite (Alsat-1) to monitor and evaluate natural resources in the observatories of Mali, Niger and Mauritania. Through this project, the spatio maps will be realized. All of the work of OSS on data collection is guided by the concept work in the framework of it programme "Observation and Environmental monitoring Device" (commonly called DOSE).
- 4) **Project Development :** in view to implement concrete actions regarding adaptation and on the basis of the needs expressed by the circumsaharian countries, OSS developed the following projects and is searching funds for their implementation :
 - a. *Vulnerability and adaptation to drought* in Niger, Mali and Mauritania
 - b. *Adaptation and Land Sustainable management* in Northern and Western Africa
 - c. *Governance and Adaptation* to Environmental Mutations in Africa
 - d. *Climate Change Adaptation and Capacity Building* in Northern and Western Africa
 - e. *Early Warning to Drought* in Northern Africa.
- 5) Furthermore, OSS contributed as a central partner to the **process of Global Climatic Observing System (GSCOS)** became Clim'Dev initiative.

Perspectives of work

- 6) In the framework of it 2007 programme, OSS plans to organize an **international meeting on adaptation**, with the participation of all its members and its key partners of South and North. The objective of this workshop is to analyse vulnerability and adaptation issues regarding to development concerns, in order to identity the common interest areas of its members countries.

- 7) OSS with the partnership of some research centres and African universities is working to conduct some academic studies on evaluation of ecological and socioeconomic vulnerabilities to climatic variability and climate change in four countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Tunisia. It's also preparing two studies related the two sub regions : "Evaluation vulnerability in Northern Africa" and "Reducing vulnerability to climate change in Western Africa". Through these research projects, OSS looks for launching a wide research-development programme on adaptation on the circumsaharan space, involving the main research institutes and experts of climate change, and viewing to establish a best knowledge management in the zone.
- 8) In the next years, OSS wants to initiate and implement a capacity building programme on vulnerability and adaptation, on the basis of the work made until now and on development needs of its members countries.