



Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water West African



**10 years of reflections,
proposals and actions**
for the benefit of communities
and natural resources!

**GREEN BOOK OF
CONVERGENCE**

ADVOCACY DOCUMENT



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OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Resulting from the Declaration of Land and Water, the same damage, the same fight by the CGLTE-OA (2014),

Our militant commitment and our solidarity are built on principles and convictions that unite us :

- 1.** The human rights to water and land are fundamental and essential for life. Everyone, men and women, adults and children, rich or poor, must be able to enjoy it.
- 2.** Water and land are not only vital natural resources, but also part of our common heritage, to be preserved by each community for the common good of our societies and the environment, now and for generations to come.
- 3.** Water and Earth are not commodities.
- 4.** The legal and constitutional mandate that we recognize of the State is that of representing the interests of the peoples. For this reason, the State has the duty to oppose any national policy or international treaty that threatens the human rights to water, land and territories.
- 5.** Land and water management policies must promote the achievement of social equity, gender equality, public health and environmental justice.
- 6.** The firm rejection of any form of foreign occupation or domination.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water-West Africa (CGLTE-OA), which has registered its 10th anniversary in 2025, is a movement of communities, peasants and citizens on the march to collectively defend the rights of urban, peri-urban and rural communities in Africa and particularly West Africa.

In West Africa, more than 70% of the population depends on family farming, which feeds more than 80% of the countries. Land, water, natural, cultivated and raised biodiversity, including peasant plant and animal seeds, forest and mining resources, are resources that shape our ecosystems and our social organizations, both spiritual and economic. These collective rights to be respected and protected condition the realization of our human



rights and dignity: the right to secure land, the right to healthy and balanced food, the right to seeds, the right to water and sanitation, the right to health, the right to culture, the right to housing, the right to decent work, etc.

The securing, management and control of resources by and for communities are vital factors for the development, in respect, of terroirs and countries based on peasant agroecology to achieve food sovereignty and, therefore, consolidate national sovereignty, social cohesion and peace.

West Africa is undergoing major demographic changes (456 million inhabitants in 2024, 796 million inhabitants



expected in 2050 and 1.5 billion by the end of the century) as well as political and socio-cultural with a strong affirmation around national sovereignty proudly carried by the Peoples with the recomposition of institutional dynamics induced by the emergence of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) which will have to, from now on, to count on the implementation of economic, social and cultural policies alongside the traditional institutions of ECOWAS and UEMOA.

In addition, the region is strongly affected by the effects of climate change, which are manifested by the advance of desertification and drought, on the one hand, which particularly affect the Sahel-Saharan zone, as well as floods, sea level rise and coastal erosion, on the other. West Africa is one of three regions threatened by the climate humanitarian catastrophe of the century, which could see up to 32 million migrants and/or internally displaced people by 2050. Current solutions are based on policies and practices that are disconnected from the reality of communities and oriented towards the capitalist transformation of African societies with a high dose of debt for countries. It is inconceivable that Africa is forced to indebted its populations in the fight against climate change, to which it contributes only 4%.

The answer to all these fundamental questions of a dignified existence should involve the transition to agriculture and food based on agroecology and food and energy sovereignty. The excessive extractivism that supports the satisfaction of energy and mineral resource needs is now exacerbated by the carbon credit market, which reflects a green colonialism in our countries. In addition, free trade agreements and illegitimate debts perpetuate economic and financial colonialism, while chemical and environmental colonialism kills more and more by poisoning our bodies, our lands, our waters, our cities and our future.



In 2026, 50% of the population of West Africa will live in urban areas and 50% in rural areas, 31% of which will be concentrated on the coast. These populations derive their income from family farming, especially women, who constitute 51% of the agricultural workforce, including a preponderant share of agri-food processing (80%), agricultural marketing (70%), and the sale of ready-to-eat products (90%).

Beyond the climatic scourge, the terrorist hydra extends its tentacles over all West African countries with the Sahelian zone as its epicenter. This asymmetric war is causing many victims and déplacés, and is severely disrupting their development, particularly in education, health, employment, infrastructure, agriculture and culture, thus compromising the future of countries with a young majority and 60% of which are under 25 years old.

In addition, West African populations continue their cross-border migration through cross-border trade, pastoralism and emigration, with the aim of diversifying livelihoods. About 70% of migration flows are temporary, seasonal migrations of workers, coming on the one hand from inland areas to coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and on the other hand from rural to urban areas, without depopulating the rural area where the population continues to grow.

3 - https://www.ifad.org/documents/d/new-ifad.org/agric_transformation_wca_f.pdf

4 - https://www.pafo-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Rapport_Femme_Rurales-PAFO_23.pdf

All in all, the interconnected global crises must make us think about a social and societal transformation by drawing inspiration from the past to transform the present and look to the future.

This brief reminder allows us to set part of the scene in which our reflections are inscribed, which are integrated into our proposals and actions based on awareness of the issues and challenges and which flesh out our Green Book.

II. OUR GENESIS

Faced with all these global challenges, several grass-roots social movements and civil society organizations, committed to the defense of land and water rights, met in Dakar in October 2014, within the framework of the African Social Forum, to fight and protest against the grabbing of all natural resources and against the systematic violations of inherent human rights. This led to the laying of the first milestones for a Global Convergence of Struggles for Land and Water through the Declaration "Rights to Land and Water, a Common Struggle" (the Dakar



Declaration, 2014) which contains the vision, values and principles as well as the aspirations of this Convergence. The sharing of ideas has led us to recognize that horizontal and vertical mutualization is a guarantee of solidarity essential to our struggles. Conscient.es and convaincu.es of this vision, the dialogue with movements and organizations from all over the world deepened during the World Social Forum in Tunis in March 2015.

The signatories of this declaration of organizational and thematic inter-networking have committed to continue the process of building this Convergence at the regional level, with the Declaration as a common base of principles and actions.

In this spirit, several networks and organizations from eleven (11) West African countries created the West African platform called the Global Convergence of Struggles for West African Land and Water (CGLTE-OA), in June 2015, at the International Training Center in Peasant Agroecology of Nyéléni (CIFAN) in Selingué, Mali, under the leadership of the Malian Convergence against Land Grabbing (CMAT), a driving force from the start, which has been able to rely on the alliances and networks already existing in the region to set this pan-African dynamic in motion.

III. OUR WILL

- **Engage** widely in an interactive popular awareness campaign among communities in West African countries against the grabbing of land, water and peasant seeds to face the interconnected challenges and issues related to natural resources, sovereignty, climate change, the loss of biodiversity and our knowledge and know-how, reflections of our cultures;
- **Mobilize** organizations and social movements in West Africa to build a strong and broad-based movement with interrelated themes in order to assert and secure the rights of communities and promote family farming built on self-managed land with peasant agroecology to achieve food sovereignty, an essential element of national sovereignty.
- **To commit** to social cohesion, peace, justice and social, economic, environmental and climate equity, putting women and young people at the heart of solidarity relations between urban and rural areas.
- **To call** on the local, national customary, political and administrative authorities and regional institutions (AES, ECOWAS, and UEMOA) to realize, in coherence with human rights, our demands and proposals by including

us as a mobilizing force and experiences in public policy processes, from their development to their application, monitoring and evaluation.

● **Support** tout.es militant.es and communities who defend common resources, living things and human rights, particularly related to land, water and peasant seeds, and denounce their criminalization.

IV. OUR HUMAN STRENGTH

The CGLTE-OA is made up of more than 400 organizations, including farmers, environmentalists, citizens, including young people, women who are farmers, breeders, pastoralists, fishermen, foresters, domestic helpers, market gardeners, représentant.es victims of land and

water grabbing in rural, peri-urban and urban areas, including déguerpis from working-class neighborhoods, members of associations, NGOs, academics, all committed for social and environmental justice. Today, 10 years later, there is a strong synergy within the CGLTE-OA with:

● An active regional coordination composed of 5 member organizations, including 2 English-speaking and 3 French-speaking: CMAT (Mali), COPAGEN (Côte d'Ivoire), SYNPA (Benin), SYLNORF (Sierra Leone) and ECASARD (Ghana). It is the steering body with a Spokesperson and periodically holds virtual meetings which are, depending on current events, extended to all country focal points.



- National platforms in each of the 16 West African countries with two focal points, one woman and one man.
- A scientific team composed of militant.es from Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali and Senegal in charge of developing the documents and other productions.
- A communication team made up of communication officers from different national platforms. Each National Platform has two communication officers (principal and alternate)
- Thematic groups: Land Group-Agroecology Peasant-Environment, Human Rights and Gender. .



V. OUR CARAVANS, a real advocacy tool:

The first action of the CGLTE-OA was the initiative of the West African Caravan for Land, Water and Peasant Seeds, which mobilized thousands of people in the sub-region in March 2016. It was followed by four other editions, led by local communities, and in particular women and young people, with a view to raising collective awareness of the issues and challenges of the struggles to be waged and sharing experiences.

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE CGLTE-OA CARAVANS

Publi- shing	Dates	Theme	Countries crossed	Nb actor. Trices
1	March 2016	Rights to land, water and peasant seeds	Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal	10 000
2	November 2018	Rights to land, water and peasant agroecology	Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin	15 000
3	November 2021	Rights to land, water and peasant agroecology	Gambia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry -Sierra Leone	18 000
4	October 2023	Rights to land, water and peasant agroecology Communities COP	Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Senegal, Gambia	20 000
5	August 2026 10 years of caravans!	Caravan of Social Move- ments "On the way to the WSF"	3 converging caravans: Sahelian caravan Coastal caravan Central Africa Caravan	Strong mobilization around the 3 caravans to inaugurate the opening of the WSF Cotonou 2026-Benin

March 2026: Creation of the Global Convergence of Peasant Land, Water and Seed Struggles Central Africa (CGLTE-AC) and their first caravan, On the way to the WSF

VI. OUR REALITIES, OUR DEMANDS AND ACTIONS:

General context

Since 2020

- The 5 richest men in the world have doubled their fortunes while, at the same time, the combined wealth of 5 billion people has declined.
- The rich countries of the North hold 69% of the world's wealth and host 74% of the wealth of billionaires, while they are home to only 21% of the world's population.
- Africa's 4 richest billionaires have a fortune that exceeds the combined wealth of half of the continent's population, or 750 million people, reveals a new report by Oxfam. Africa is one of the most unequal regions in the world and has some of the highest poverty rates. (cf./Oxfam Africa inequalities)

Today, we see that the Sustainable Development Agendas and Goals (SDGs) will be far from being achieved by 2030. On the other hand, we are witnessing an interconnected multiplication of social, political, financial, economic, energy, ecological and climatic crises. All these crises generate conflicts and wars, evictions, migrations, family disorganization, loss of social reference points with the acceleration of the grabbing of our land, water, peasant seeds and local breeds and our natural resources. The corollary effects are the denigration of our knowledge, know-how and interpersonal skills accompanied by

a general degradation of living things both at the level of nature and humans. Increasingly exacerbated inequalities, generalized xenophobia and the violent rise of radicalism, imperialism and colonialism, all of this maintains social and ecological instability for the benefit of the few, to the detriment of the well-being of peoples and of living together in social cohesion and peace.

Today, climate change is at the heart of the issues and challenges and is intimately linked to the grabbing of all land and water for capitalism.

- 10% of the richest people on the planet are responsible for 2/3 of global warming since 1990
- 60% of billionaires' investments are in "high climate impact sectors" such as mining or oil and gas companies and 2/3 of companies are not in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of 1.5 C and 1/3 have decarbonization plans aligned with a +4 C world. Their investments are precipitating the world towards climate catastrophe.
- The world's 60 largest banks have committed \$7.9 trillion over eight years (between 2016 and 2023) to the fossil fuel industry. (see OXFAM 2025 report)

It is a sad irony that the countries that contribute the least to climate change are also those that suffer the most tragic repercussions : Africa accounts for 17% of the world's population and only 4% of GHG emissions.

International commitments through the COPs to support developing countries' adaptation to the climate crisis are dwindling year after year: in 2024, the 1.5o mark was exceeded, mainly due to the richest 0.1% who increased their share of emissions by 32%, which will cause \$44,000 billion in economic damage to low- and middle-income countries by 2050.

The achievement of national and food sovereignty requires system change by protecting our natural resources and our collective rights, by valuing our local and



7 - with more than 800 kg of CO₂/day, while that of the poorest half of humanity has decreased by 3% with an average of 2 kg of CO₂ /day

8 - <https://www.oxfamfrance.org/app/uploads/2025/10/Resume-VF-Rapport-inegalites-demissions-2025-Oxfam.pdf>

The global anti-climate lobbying present in many spaces, the environmental backlash:

- In the United States, large companies, especially oil and gas, spend an average of \$277,000 per year lobbying against climate action - In South Africa, industry players are working to weaken penalties for emitters that exceed their carbon budget and undermine the Climate Change Bill and the Carbon Tax Act.

- COP 29 in Azerbaijan: 1,773 lobbyists representing the coal, oil and gas sectors were able to access it, a larger contingent than each of the national delegations.

- At the COP30 climate conference in Belém (Brazil), several oil and gas powers led by Saudi Arabia demanded, in

vain, the removal of references to the IPCC in several UN texts, while the United States under Donald Trump withdrew its financial contribution of about \$2 million out of the ten dollars needed to operate this group of experts.

- No less than 1,570 new oil and gas extraction projects have been accounted for by Reclaim Finance since the Paris Agreement. Even France — the birthplace of the treaty that prides itself on embodying ambitious climate diplomacy — is actively supporting the multinational Total Energies, two-thirds of whose investments will still be devoted to hydrocarbons in 2030, particularly in Africa, the group's second geographic hub, behind Europe, particularly in Algeria, Angola, Libya, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda.

nutritious seed and food systems is the best way to act at the grassroots level with the holistic approach of peasant agroecology and its 7 pillars linked in the terroirs. A fundamental struggle of resistance and resilience, against the commodification of life and the world, for a social, solidarity and circular economy that provides jobs, an autonomous prosperity shared in peace and harmony with our ecosystems and our socio-cultural values.

Also, confronté.es to terrorism and given the global geopolitical situation, we africain.es duty to open up new avenues of reflection and action for well-being and respond to the growing demand for energy necessary for equitable economic development for shared prosperity, while following a sustainable path that protects our natural resources, improves our living environments for a future in peace and social cohesion.

We Africans can defend a sovereign, autonomous world free from the diktats of a society based on profit for a handful of carefree billionaires, and the organized devastation they cause. We, the communities and social movements of the CGLTE-OA, take our future into our own hands with dignity, solidarity, justice and collective commitment to a common vision of unequivocal social and environmental transformation.

Convinced of the need to carry a common vision and objectives, the CGLTE-OA refers to the Manifesto of Peasant Agroecology and its 7 related pillars, written and validated during the 10 years at CIFAN in Sélingué, Mali, celebrating the marriage between food sovereignty and peasant agroecology in October 2017 which states that: "Our ancestral local food systems and agro-ecosystems



have developed over millennia. They have taken the name of agroecology in the last 30 to 40 years. The divergences in the interpretations and applications of agroecology mean that today, we claim a Peasant Agroecology, synonymous with dignity, based on peasant knowledge,

39 years ago, on October 15, 1987, Thomas Sankara, a figure of decolonial ecology, was assassinated. In 1983, he made ecology a central part of his political programme. As soon as he came to power, he launched a reforestation project with the planting of ten million trees in fifteen months and instituted the custom of planting a tree on every major occasion. He created one of the first ministries of the environment on the African continent and led an agrarian reform to increase food sovereignty by preferring the use of natural fertilizers rather than imported chemicals, agricultural techniques adapted to the Sahelian climate and local consumption of products. A critic of the consumer society, Thomas Sankara advocated voluntary sobriety, and also linked environmental issues to a critique of the neocolonial system. Thus, he saw foreign aid and debt as tools of domination that perpetuated the economic dependence of African countries.

9 - The Nyéleni Center was created in 2007 to organize the first World Forum on Food Sovereignty, which had just been included in the Malian Agricultural Framework Law of 2006

know-how and interpersonal skills. Peasant Agroecology puts life at the heart of any intervention. Peasant Agroecology, through its philosophical, social, environmental and economic dimension, integrates all forms of ecological, organic and fair agriculture. It is inspired by the past, transforms the present to look to the future.

The 7 pillars of the Manifesto of Peasant Agroecology are a guide to act together and in a transversal way with a holistic approach. They are based on a coherent logic that is based on the fact that in order to act, we must first control land and water in order to protect biodiversity and agro-ecosystems in order to produce healthy and promote our culinary traditions by putting women and young people at heart, by encouraging collective organization and alliances to advocate together to influence our public policies.

The 7 linked pillars of the Peasant Agroecology Manifesto

Pillar 1: Ensuring that communities have land, water and other natural resources secure

Pillar 2: Valuing and safeguarding biodiversity, farmers' seeds and local breeds

Pillar 3: Encouraging practices in peasant agroecology: diversity, complementarity, adaptability

Pillar 4: Promote diverse, nutritional, and therapeutic local food systems.

Pillar 5: Support and enhance the place of women and young people.

Pillar 6: Strengthen synergies and alliances and collective organization.

Pillar 7: Acting at the institutional, legislative and regulatory level

Peasant Agroecology is the answer to the demand for protection, security and sustainability of the planet and humanity. Solidarity between peoples, between rural and urban populations, is an essential ingredient for its realization.

We defend another agricultural and social model based on the development of Terroirs in Peasant Agroecology based on the 7 linked pillars: Terroir is historical and socio-cultural linked to ecosystems and to the knowledge, know-how, and interpersonal skills of communities. It is variable in its extent. The territory is an administrative



division linked more or less to geography, to political calculations, it is the opposite of the terroir, it has neither memory nor roots. The terroir is linked to the Earth, the soil, the climate. Its natural, cultivated and high biodiversity enriches the various ecosystems and contributes to the enhancement of local production. Today, the natural resources and agricultural, artisanal and spiritual knowledge that characterize a Terroir are threatened, degraded, polluted by climate change, speculation, extractivism, to the point of compromising a harmonious, healthy, equitable future development in peace and shared local prosperity in solidarity.

Let's reclaim our Terroirs for significant changes with a holistic approach consistent with peasant agroecology!: they are a formidable lever for societal transformation with large-scale economic, environmental, socio-cultural projects that respect rights, knowledge transmission, and traditional land management mechanisms. This option highlights women and young people around a collective dynamic and social cohesion with all actors from the local to the national level.

All these interconnected crises are an opportunity to think and act differently with a change that is essential for a social, economic, energy and environmental transformation to be developed in our Terroirs !

Thus, each pillar of the EAF developed in theme is characterized by:

PILLAR 1: ENSURING THE SECURITY OF LAND, WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

This is the fundamental pillar, without securing and managing land, water and other natural resources by and for communities, there can be no harmonious development in peace, no control over our agricultural, food, energy, economic and cultural choices.

Our reality

Our lands, our waters, our forests, are objects of greed, conflict and aggravation of land, social and economic inequalities as well as environmental and climatic injustices..

. Following the multiple crises of 2007 and 2008, the "playing field" of financiers has shifted from the stock market sphere to ground rent. Thus, in 2015, land and water grabbing reached 8 million hectares of food land according to COPAGEN in West Africa, for gigantic agro-industry projects focused on export and agrofuels, which are struggling to see the light of day on the one hand, and



on the other hand remain inaccessible to communities because they are blocked by long-term leases that are only speculative assets, while ensuring a financial rent for the increasingly present investment funds (Rabobank, BTG Pactual). Since then, global land prices have doubled and land inequality has worsened: 1% of farms now control 70% of the world's agricultural land. Conversely, farms of less than two hectares represent 84% of the total number of farms, but these cultivate only 12% of arable land and yet feed the majority of the population better protect the commons and agrosystems. According to recent references, land inequality directly threatens the livelihoods of some 2.5 billion small-scale agricultural

Beneath the seductive veneer of "sustainable development" hides a cleverly orchestrated predatory mechanism. From Singapore, Gagan Gupta, CEO of the OLAM group, is weaving an agro-industrial and logistics web in West and Central Africa. Behind the discourse of prosperity and modernization, there are practices of land grabbing, deforestation and the takeover of strategic agricultural sectors, vertical integration by transferring all the profits abroad. It operates in:

- Gabon: 24,000 hectares of forests, iron ore deposit and Libreville airport, Congo: Exploitation and trade of timber, port of Brazzaville;
- Côte d'Ivoire dominates cocoa processing by imposing prices;
- Nigeria rice distribution in Nigeria;
- Togo since 2020 controls the New Cotton Company of Togo (NSCT) and exploits the cotton growers, shareholders 25% of the capital as well as agricultural workers on 105,000 hectares grogneafrique.com/afrique-gagan-gupta-pdg-dolam-le-grand-predateur-des-terres-africaines/

producers, as well as those of the world's poorest 1.4 billion people, the majority of whom rely heavily on agriculture to survive, whether in rural or peri-urban areas.

Let's spot and chase away predators, let's act for our rights!

The grabbing of our forests or the grabbing of our food land to plant trees for carbon credits to supposedly fight against global warming are real threats. An open-air scam encouraged.

Today, forests, farmland and oceans are either devastated for industrial agriculture encouraged by free trade agreements or are being grabbed and commodified as carbon sinks as offsets for greenhouse gas emissions in the carbon credit market.

This "transfer of the right to pollute" allows polluters to continue polluting "with a false good conscience".

The carbon credit machine is already in motion sold as carbon agriculture or regenerative agriculture: between 2016 and 2024, more than 9 million hectares of land were seized for these projects, the vast majority of which are located in the Global South, and are often associated with scandals and harm to local communities,

12 - <https://viacampesina.org/fr/cest-officiel-carthagene-des-indes-accueillera-la-deuxieme-conference-internationale-sur-la-reforme-agraire-et-le-developpement-rural-icarrd20/>

13 - Carbon farming: a deception that is gaining ground

Let us be vigilant!

Indeed, the current regulatory vacuum in some countries allows buyers, most often investment funds, to design contracts that do not set a minimum price or ensure transparency. In fact, the paysan.ne finds itself without its food land, invaded by trees that do not bring it a single payment, generally low, losing all decision-making and cultivation/livestock power on its own land for decades", in particular by planting trees that will invade it. Are the Sovereign Carbon Initiatives set up by African states (Djibouti 2023, Gabon 2025, Liberia 2026) to make polluters bear the cost of the energy and environmental transition by favouring programmes with impacts on national territories "Let's be vigilant!".

Digital technologies at the heart of the investigations of multinationals to better monopolize our natural resources

Exploiting natural resources for commercial benefits requires multiple large-scale data, to "act" on greenhouse gas reduction and soil carbon sequestration via digital platforms with public agricultural data.

Another issue in relation to land grabbing and the plundering of our natural resources is extractivism, which

today is entering a new exponential expansion. Whether fossil fuels or highly coveted critical minerals - lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel, rare earths - are being aggressively driven with the rise of biotechnology, digitalization, renewable energies, etc. to the detriment of humanity and the planet, especially in the South and particularly Africa.

In this context of great power competition, the negative socio-economic and environmental impacts specific to the mining industry are deliberately ignored, with the aim

Le secteur minier constitue aussi une entrave à la mobilité pastorale. Outre les problèmes d'insécurité, de cloisonnement et d'accaparement des terres pastorales, les pasteurs subissent les impacts sanitaires et environnementaux de l'exploitation minière comme dans l'Egahazer au Niger exploitée pour l'uranium, par des sociétés internationales qui fonctionnent selon des logiques extraterritoriales*. Au Burkina Faso la zone pastorale de la vallée de la Nouaho, d'une superficie de 95 000 ha, a été créée pour assurer une sécurité foncière aux éleveurs. Mais elle est à présent accaparée par l'orpaillage, avec les trous creusés, la pollution des sols par l'utilisation des produits chimiques comme le cyanure et l'arsenic, la coupe abusive du bois

[/https://www.jean-jaures.org](https://www.jean-jaures.org)

of quickly securing resources that run counter to climate change mitigation and biodiversity and the protection of communities . (See box example with pastoralism)

Dredging in rivers is the source of the same causes and damage that impacts fishing communities and fisheries biodiversity (banks and waters) and their reproductive capacity by digging the riverbed and pollutes in particular with mercury.



It is time to enhance these treasures more sovereignly and within the framework of human and environmental rights, for the benefit of countries, communities and the environment, as in Mali's new mining code.

We demand

- New land laws not modelled on the colonial legacy, guaranteeing equitable and sustainable access to land through the recognition and securing of customary rights and collective uses used by more than 80% of the population and giving legal status to village, family, pastoral and fisheries lands as commons that cannot be privatized or to be "securitized"
- The implementation of local, national and regional strategies to fight against the new so-called green and blue colonization by mobilizing in our Terroirs for a holistic approach to peasant agroecology;
- New mining codes, allowing countries and local communities to negotiate fairer and more balanced contracts, requiring the processing of raw materials on site, and strengthening the control and regulation of gold panning, especially in terms of safety and environmental protection;

The promotion of equitable climate justice through the recognition of differentiated responsibilities "the polluter must pay and compensate the victim communities", the support for endogenous solutions adapted to local realities in terms of energy, agriculture and natural resource management through easier access to climate finance, technology transfer and increased local capacity building;

Strong rule of law and customary authorities assuming their role for the benefit of the communities of today and tomorrow;

We take action

At the CGLTE-OA level on advocacy and capacity building

- 2016-2018: Training of Convergence actors on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Governance in Mali (2016), Ghana (Oct. 2017), Guinea (Oct. 2017), Côte d'Ivoire (Dec. 2017), Niger (Feb. 2018), Nigeria (June 2018) and Togo (May 2018) for consideration in new legislation beneficial to communities' land rights;
- 2019 African Forum on the Role and Responsibilities of Women and Youth in Land Governance in relation to

Uses and Customs in Mali in December

- 2020, 5 workshops to follow up on recommendations for joint regional advocacy in Benin, Gambia, Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone;
- 2022 March: Alternative World Water Forum (FAME) in Senegal;
- 2022 October: Workshop of customary chiefs in Guinea-Bissau and meeting of the President of ECOWAS;
- 2022 November: The COP 27 Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Egypt;
- 2022 December: Workshop to set up a framework for consultation and planning of forest protection activities in the four countries;
- 2025: Training of paralegals on land in Guinea and Burkina Faso.

At the level of the national platforms and during the passage of caravans

Benin: Thanks to the advocacy of the CGLTE OA during

the 2018 Caravan and constant monitoring, the communities of Gbahouété and Womey have been given their rights by the Beninese government. Respectively, their land was grabbed by a then-member of parliament in 2011 and by the Marcos family, an area of 191 hectares.

Guinea: After the 2018 caravan, and the trainings on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines by the CGLTE-OA, land stakeholders, in particular civil society organizations, have carried out arduous work that has led, on the one hand, to the triggering of the land policy reform process, including Guinea.

Mali: The The caravan of March 31, 2016, mobilized in Bamako in front of the National Assembly to ask not to vote for the Agricultural Land Law (LFA) as it was, bore fruit, and finally on April 11, 2017 the Agricultural Land Law became a historic law for the land rights of communities because for the first time, a fourth land tenure regime was recognized, that of the Agricultural Land of the communities with a mechanism of security and management Including conflicts via land commissions village and fraction divisions.

Senegal: In 2024, the passage of the CGLTE-OA Caravan in the North of Senegal with strong media coverage in support of the NDIAEL Collective had the merit of

reviving the debate on private TV and radio sets followed by a halt to land exploitation. The village of Ndiael is the victim of the grabbing of 26,650 hectares of land, including pastures for the production of livestock feed for export under the trade name Fermes de la Teranga, by the Romanian businessman Franck TIMIS via his multinational African Agriculture Inc (Aagr) created in New York; The Senegalese platform of the CGLTE-OA has also contributed to the revision of the Agro Sylvopastoral Orientation Law (LOASP) for local, inclusive and responsible governance of natural resources in general and agricultural land in particular.

Our waters monopolized

Land and shoreline grabbing is always accompanied by water grabbing and vice versa

97.5% of the water on earth is made up of salt water and only 0.3% of the earth's water is fresh/drinking water that can be used by living things: humans, animals, plants: drinking water is vital, precious but it is becoming scarce and is increasingly polluted and unfit for consumption. Sustainable water management, based on fair, equitable and balanced local governance systems, must be central to the socio-economic and environmental development of the region.

The exponential use of AI is jeopardizing our water resources: in 2025, data centers consumed 4.5 trillion liters of water, enough to meet the needs of more than 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa and would reach 1.3 billion in 2030.

<https://news.un.org/fr/story/2026/06/1158934>



West Africa is relatively well endowed with water resources with more than a trillion cubic meters of fresh water renewed each year through the normal hydrological cycle

of the region (Niasse, 2005) and through many large transboundary aquifers with no or little recharge inherited from these ancient periods, in the Sahara and the Sahel.

- The Sahel has recorded a 20% reduction in water resources in half a century (WMO, 2023) resulting in prolonged periods of drought and rising temperatures, impacting ecosystems and humans.

Forests, especially primary forests, which are the jewels of biodiversity, play a major role in the water cycle thanks to their influence on evaporation and precipitation regimes, on the regulation of river flow and on groundwater recharge: about 75% of the world's accessible freshwater resources come from forest watersheds (Springgay, 2019)

- Climate change with rising temperatures is intensifying evaporation and modifying rainfall patterns multiplying floods with devastating floods, particularly in Nigeria, Niger, Senegal and Mali, causing massive population displacement and the destruction of infrastructure: in 2022, more than 2.5 million people were affected by floods in West Africa (UN, 2023) ;

- More than 100 million people in West Africa do not have access to safe drinking water (UNICEF, 2023), more than 70% of whom are in rural areas such as Niger and Burkina Faso;

- Industrial agriculture accounts for 70% of freshwater consumption in West Africa (FAO, 2023), limiting access to water for people and animals while only 6% of land is irrigated¹⁶.

Our small-scale fisheries in peril

West Africa has about 912,000 small-scale fishers who depend directly on the Fishing for their subsistence. Today the threat is great: 40% of the industrial and semi-industrial vessels identified plunder our fishery resources, leading to a growing mobility of fishermen on a sub-regional scale and persistent conflicts of use with the expanding industrial fishing of the oil and gas extraction industry, the devastating impact of climate change, all aggravated by the scourge of illegal fishing, undeclared and unregulated, which aggravates the fishing plundering that violates the rights and interests of small-scale fishermen.

Given the substantial importance of water and the potential existing in West Africa:

Given the substantial importance of water and the

potential existing in West Africa:

- Respect and unconditional enforcement :
- Articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted in 1966 stipulating that water is recognized not only as a finite natural resource and a public good
- The UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 28 July 2010 which recognizes drinking water and sanitation as a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and the right to the exercise of all human rights".
- Equitable local governance of water management and its protection, in particular against all forms of pollution and degradation, as a common good and against all forms of commodification and overexploitation (unsuitable and gigantic dams, data centers, extractivism with gold, sand, gravel, etc.)
- A dynamic of land and sea terroirs secured and managed by, for and with communities, in particular the collective lands/fisheries areas of communities, based on peasant agroecology, the protection of our lands, waters and all our natural, raised and cultivated resources and biodiversity, the knowledge, know-how and interpersonal

16 - <https://pointfocus.org/etat-de-leau-en-afrique-de-louest-une-ressource-devenue-hautement-strategique/>

skills of communities to achieve food and nutritious seed sovereignty. A healthy cultural reflection of our local food systems

- Adaptation by resilient to climate, demographic and geopolitical upheavals by investing in sustainable infrastructure with local, inclusive and equitable governance by adopting an integrated approach to terrestrial and marine ecosystems based on autonomy, solidarity and circular economy, renewable energy while improving living conditions without compromising the health of ecosystems in the long term

We take action

- After co-piloting the Climate Caravan in Africa, the CGLTE-OA took part in COP27, held in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022 to give voice to the African communities most affected by climate change. She particularly emphasized the need for climate justice that takes

into account the realities of rural populations, especially women and youth, who disproportionately suffer the effects of environmental degradation, natural resource scarcity and extreme weather events. It also promoted community-based initiatives to adapt to climate change and promote inclusive and sustainable governance of natural resources for the benefit of local communities.

- The fight against dredging in the Niger River led by the riverside communities who were supported with a community COP organized during the passage of the 4th edition of the climate-related caravan in 2023 in Mali and Senegal in Falémé.
- Support for small-scale fishing, the creation of a marine protected area, mangrove restoration and fishmongers: "What we want is to develop a regional advocacy strategy to defend small-scale fishing against the harmful effects of this destructive industrial fishing"¹⁷,

17 - <https://espacedev.net/2025/02/06/croisade-contre-la-peche-inn-plaidoyer-de-ladepa-pour-la-peche-artisanale/>

PILLAR 2: ENHANCING NATURAL, CULTIVATED AND EL-EVATED BIODIVERSITY:

We, African peasant communities, have a rich biodiversity, whether natural, cultivated or farmed, characterized in particular by our many varieties of peasant seeds and local breeds, adapted in harmony with our agro-ecosystems.

To ensure that all living species of bacteria, protozoa, algae, invertebrates, fungi, plants and animals have balanced agro-ecosystems by developing environmental conservation strategies that guarantee them and our genetic resources. .

Our reality:

West Africa is home to a great diversity of agro-ecosystems, which are essential for all living beings. Farmers' seed systems are the basis of our agri-food heritage and are the guarantors of our natural, cultivated biodiversity, raised in our fields, pastures, forests, rivers and marine areas. This seed sovereignty, a thousand-year-old legacy of our agricultural knowledge, is the basis for

achieving food sovereignty. Today, in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 80 to 95% of seeds are farmers' seeds selected and used each year by farmers. Farmers' seeds are varieties of plant or animal origin, local or exchanged, then adapted, selected, multiplied, preserved, disseminated (exchanged or sold) by farmers and promote their autonomy.

Our collective rights, our knowledge and know-how and our autonomy are constantly being challenged and threat-



ened by the progressive invasion of industrial and commercial seeds pushed by multinationals which influence national and regional laws resulting from international laws on the trade in seeds and also push our States to join organizations such as the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). by appropriating living things with our genetic resources and by accompanying the industrialization of agriculture,

including livestock and forestry, and its procession of deadly chemicals. This grabbing of our biodiversity and destruction of our agro-ecosystems is in the hands of agrochemical oligopolies such as BASF, Bayer, Corteva and Syngenta, which control 56% of the global seed market (Bayer alone controls 23%), as well as 61% of the pesticide market, which is destroying our health and that of our ecosystems.

Similarly, in the wake of this biotechnology, GMOs are normalized by hiding their reality under a new name, the new genomic techniques (NTG), including in particular the Crispr-Cas molecular scissors which make it possible to alter or modify the genome of a living species without the insertion of foreign DNA, are then considered equivalent to plants resulting from conventional selection (sic) without risk assessment, without labeling and without traceability. These mutant plants are massively

Only three companies dominate the poultry genetics market: Tyson Foods (USA, listed on the stock exchange), EW Group (Germany, privately held) and Hendrix Genetics (Netherlands, private). Together, they supply more than 120 countries with breeds selected through licensing and distribution agreements, or through their own farms. GRAIN

consumed on a daily basis. The FAO database lists more than 3,400 varieties worldwide.

The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) into plant breeding to "learn the language of plant DNA" accelerates their capacity to cause harm to hypothesize about the future performance of different genetic sequences and how to modify them.

Intellectual property rights systems that promote the interests of the seed industry in particular, our agricultural and natural diversity is plagued by the grabbing of varieties or

"We are in an economy of promise, which bets everything on technology, which wants to do agroecology through robotics, genomics, digital technology... Research on NGTs is taking up tens of millions of euros that could be used for a real systemic agroecological transition... A transition based on peasant agroecology and on local seeds obtained without patentable technology would be a valid alternative, technically different, but just as scientific.

Isabelle Goldringer, agronomist and geneticist at INRAE.

genes via plant variety certificates and patents promoted by the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)

The choice of species and varieties adapted to local conditions, capable of resisting the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in the practice of peasant agroecology cannot be delegated to multinationals, because acquiring adequate and reproducible genetic material is indeed the sovereignty of communities and peoples. The genetic vitality of our biodiversity is in the hands of farmers for balanced agro-ecosystems, healthy and nutritious food, and natural care based on traditional knowledge.

We need all our natural, cultivated and farmed biodiversity to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow! Water, land and farmers' seeds are the challenges of tomorrow: multinationals and financiers know this and are taking ownership of it! Let's take back control of our agriculture and food!

We demand

● The preservation, recognition and legal promotion of peasant seed systems in national and regional regulatory frameworks and public policies (Article 9 of the ITPGR-FA, Article 19 of the UNDROP, Article 8 of CBD, etc.) with mechanisms to protect the collective rights of peasants

who manage peasant seed systems with an agriculture that respects the living, peasant agroecology

● The enhancement of our natural, cultivated and elevated biodiversity from the local to the national and regional.

● The rejection of the development of commercial varieties in order to privatize them since it is done on the basis of our own varieties and genes that have been collected from our fields, livestock and communities by public and private research.

● Firm opposition to the privatization of living things, whether through industrial and intellectual property rights, whether on races or varieties, on genes, or on digital information on associated traits

● Refuse all seeds that are not peasant, even if they are tested!

● Fighting against the introduction of modern biotechnologies destructive of our agricultural and food systems such as GMOs, NGTs and other uncontrolled biotechnologies, by rejecting them are only false solutions.

We take action

- Preservation and multiplication of the rich diversity of peasant seeds/local breeds,
- Enhancement of their nutritional, therapeutic and cultural values
- Advocating for the recognition, promotion and protection of peasant seed systems and peasant rights in national, regional and international policy and legal frameworks
- Promotion of spaces for exchange and peasant innovations: Fairs for peasant seeds and peasant agroecology
- Establishment of community spaces for peasant agroecology: Living boxes of peasant seeds, nurseries of local species as a mechanism for dynamic management of diversity for food and care
- Raising awareness against the introduction of GMOs, maize and cowpeas, in particular by the West African Committee for Farmers' Seeds (COASP)
- Case of the fight against GMO mosquitoes : Since 2012, the project called Target Malaria for Africa, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through

research institutes, among others, concerns 4 countries, namely Mali, Uganda, Ghana and Burkina Faso. The national platforms of the CGLTE-OA have mobilized in Burkina Faso and Mali around national coalitions against the advent of GMO mosquitoes to fight malaria, another false biotechnological solution.

- Victory in Benin against the patenting of living organisms and the protection of our peasant seeds: thanks to the awareness-raising and lobbying work done by civil society organizations through the National Platform of the CGLTE-OA of Benin from 2018 to 2019, the National Assembly did not vote for Benin's accession to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).



PILLAR 3: ENCOURAGING PRACTICES IN PEASANT AGROECOLOGY: DIVERSITY, COMPLEMENTARITY, ADAPTABILITY:

Based on the knowledge, know-how, interpersonal skills and future skills of farmers and communities, Peasant Agroecology is a set of practices implemented and collective intelligence to protect our ecosystems and productions for living, healthy and attractive terroirs

In recent decades, our relationship with nature has been shattered by the penetration of capital into agriculture and digitalization, "concerned with increasing the intensity



and productivity of work" transforming our practices and generating "a rupture of the symbiotic unity between humanity and nature". This disconnection dehumanizes us, alienates us, and makes us completely dependent, destructive, and sick.

Six sectors essential to agriculture, including commercial seeds, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, agricultural machinery, veterinary pharmaceuticals and animal genetics, are now concentrated worldwide in the hands of 10 companies, 4 of which hold more than 40% of the market

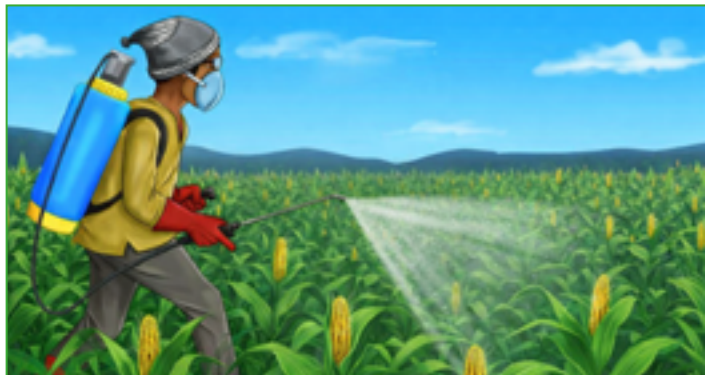
Stop chemical colonization with pesticides, phosphate and nitrogen fertilizers

The use of agrochemicals has been promoted since the 1970s by the FAO, the World Bank in particular, and the number of pesticides sold and authorized in West Africa continues to grow. In 2022, the Sahelian Committee for Pesticides, for a common approval, authorized 538.61% more than in 2015 and 28 times more than in 1995 and more than Europe with 453 authorized and less than the Côte d'Ivoire even 1300, which like other coastal countries is one of the hubs of the illegal trade in pesticides, imported into the Sahel by highly organized trafficking networks.

In addition, according to the NGO PAN Africa, nearly 60% of pesticides sold in Africa are classified as dangerous by the WHO (World Health Organization). Since 2006,

18 - More serious than an ecological crisis, a capitalist ecocide according to Alain Bihr | The Club

19 - <https://grain.org/fr/article/7285-top-10-des-geants-de-l-agrobusiness-la-concentration-des-entreprises-dans-l-alimentation-et-l-agriculture-en-2025>



African governments have spent an average of 30% of their national agricultural budgets on chemical fertilizer subsidies.

The pesticide sector includes herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, which are different types of phytosanitary products targeting "weeds", insects and fungi respectively, all



of which are part of the living and balanced nature of our agro-ecosystems. Pesticides, of which almost all GMOs are designed to be tolerant to certain pesticides, or even to produce them themselves – and NGTs (.....) – are part of the harmful arsenal of industrial agriculture known as the Green Revolution or AGRA.

While studies evaluate the damage of pesticide molecules such as neonicotinoids that kill bees, the cocktail effects are underestimated or not evaluated: all

From the moment legislators vote laws that poison us, how can we cure cancer? Everything I had read, all my intuitions, all the discussions I had, everything crystallized. Cancer is progressing in all categories of the population, among young people and children. It's an epidemic. This information upset me. And the second piece of information that upset me was to learn that those who manufacture pesticides also manufacture cancer treatments.

Claire Breteau Cancer Anger

pesticides are harmful, there are no good pesticides or bad or biopesticides, just more toxic and a little less toxic! The suffix cide means to kill!

Industrial agriculture feeds only 30% of the world's population, but it grabs 3/4 of agricultural land, depleting soils and compromising their fertility in the long term.

Chemical fertilizers, the famous NPK cocktail (nitrogen, phosphate and potash), derived from gas and oil, are derived from extractive and chemical industrial processes. They poison our lands and waters and are the root cause of many cancers, and they are responsible for more global greenhouse gas emissions than air transport.

Let's fight against the degradation of our land and water. Let's enrich our soils with our solid and liquid composts, our crop associations and rotations, our Zaï and half-moons, our stone bunds and bunds, our natural treatments and biological diversity... for balanced agro-ecosystems



Stop deforestation/desertification

Agribusiness fuelled by agrochemicals and machinery is still pursuing its imperialist and colonial economic expansion to develop and maintain the system with food waste, cash crops, junk food, supported by free trade agreements that amplify the need for fossil fuels. With this context, deforestation is constantly increasing to support this agricultural and capitalist productivism, accelerating climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the imbalance of our ecosystems, impoverishing, exploiting agricultural workers, expelling or even murdering communities, to

The OCP Group (Office Chérifien des Phosphates) of Morocco, leader in the phosphate industry very rich in cadmium at the center of a health scandal currently used, also uses digital tools to develop its fertilizer sales, particularly in West Africa in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal with its Udongo application, which has so far registered 215,000 farmers to implement fertilization strategies by carrying out a digital soil map with the World Bank.



make way for impoverished land and water bodies exposed to cholera, typhoid and malaria, because the bacteria are transported directly into the water, without any plant filters: Ghana loses about 24,800 hectares of forest every year.

According to the FAO, the desert moves at an annual rate of 5 km in the semi-arid areas of West Africa. 38% of Niger's total area is affected by desertification, which affects about 27 million inhabitants. The country records no less than 1.5 billion dollars in losses per year as a result of the consequences of drought and the advance of the desert.

Deforestation in Ghana, Niger and Nigeria is worsening the water crisis in the region, threatening the health and livelihoods of more than 120 million people: for every 1,000 hectares of forest destroyed in Niger and Nigeria, nearly 10 hectares of surface water disappear, further exposing communities to disease, food insecurity and dehydration. In Niger, where 99.5% of fresh water is already unfit for consumption, deforestation has worsened sedimentation and pollution.

<https://fr.mongabay.com/2025/11/en-afrique-de-louest-les-forets-tombent-leau-disparait/>

Let's strengthen agroforestry and protect our forests!

Stop plastics!

With regional plastic consumption expected to reach 12 million tons in 2026 and already 6.9 million tons of plastic waste were recorded in 2018 for the 17 coastal countries of West Africa, including 4.7 million tons per year in Nigeria alone, nearly a third of the continental total, 5 million plastic bags every day before throwing them in the streets of Dakar and elsewhere in the world.

These microplastics insidiously infiltrate the food chain and drinking water, amplify flooding and threaten our health, our environment, our agriculture, livestock and fisheries



Let's ban single-use plastics (bags) in our daily lives and during ceremonies!

The agro-petrochemical industries are killing us — killing life in general, they are a minority and are enriching themselves on our backs while compromising

Land and livestock are our only riches. When plastic waste is burned in the fields, no plants can grow and no seeds can germinate. Our cows, goats, and sheep eat the plastic that litters the streets and die from it. Ndiouck Mbaye, President of Rural Women of Senegal.

food sovereignty, climate change and polluting our soil, water, air and health.

"It is now recognized that ecosystem restoration is, more than ever, essential to conflict resolution and peacebuilding while being a tool for strengthening access to resources, managing climate-related security risks, reducing recruitment by terrorist groups and alleviating migratory pressure." The terrifying collapse of biodiversity earthworms, bumblebees, springtails, soil micro-organisms... are affected in 70% of cases, compromising soil fertility and the natural regulation of ecosystems. threatens our chances of survival in the near future, particularly in terms of pollinators for our crops.



When international fertilizer prices soar, it is usually in Africa that they reach their most extreme levels. During the last price spike in 2021, fertilizer companies raised their prices in Africa to levels higher than international markets, and kept them at that level until 2023, when prices fell elsewhere. The situation could be worse this time around, given African countries' dependence on fertilizers from the Persian Gulf.

<https://grain.org/e/7377>

We demand

- The implementation of all the practices of peasant agroecology in its holistic approach at the level of terrestrial and marine terroirs by banning synthetic chemicals first, not only on our land but at the level of the village, the commune, the terroir with multi-stakeholder Terroir Collectives in peasant agroecology.
- Financial and human support for collective initiatives on a relevant scale, in order to implement the holistic approach of peasant agroecology and its different practices
- Support for the transmission of knowledge, particularly intergenerational, collective learning, awareness of the issues and challenges around community spaces in Agroecology Peasant self-managed in situ

- Ending subsidies for chemical fertilizers and support for organic fertilizers
- Enforce laws against plastic and replace it with our local biodegradable materials
- Support in capitalizing on and disseminating our experiences of peasant agroecology
- The full and complete integration of the communities and the CGLTE-OA in the development and implementation of projects, particularly around the Great Green Wall

We act to

- Transmission of knowledge and know-how and collective application of all practices at the level of the field, the village, the commune, the terroir: organic fertilization of the soil, natural treatments for both plants and animals, association and rotation of crops and pastures, agroforestry and livestock, aromatic and therapeutic plants, peasant seeds and local breeds, Mulching and natural fertilisers, zaï and half moons, bunds and stone barriers, gravity irrigation and water recovery, reforestation, restoration of degraded land, adapted mechanisation and innovation, respect for the biological cycle and integration of the waste cycle, economical water management...
- Know-how and know-how with awareness and campaigns against:
 - agricultural and mining synthetic chemicals;

21 - Barbut and Alexander, 2016; UNEP, 2019; UN, 2020a

22 - <https://lessoulevementsdelaterre.org/blog/mise-a-larret-basf-par-plus-de-500-paysannes-malades-et-soutiens>

- the management of plastic waste during our meetings and events with a strong awareness in the villages;
- Community management of village forests in water supply.
- In December 2022, the CGLTE-OA organized a regional workshop in Kolda (Senegal) dedicated to the protection of transboundary forests. It has made it possible to establish a consultation framework and develop a regional action plan to promote sustainable forest management, strengthen the involvement of local communities and improve transboundary coordination in the face of deforestation, illegal exploitation of resources, bushfires and the effects of climate change.

PILLAR 4: PROMOTE DIVERSE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC, IN HARMONY WITH OUR CULTURAL IDENTITIES.

Our local food systems are the first guarantors of our food sovereignty of a social, local and circular economy, of our jobs, of our socio-cultural identities. They participate in the fight against global warming and promote our natural, cultivated and elevated biodiversity.

The industrial food system represents the entire industry

encompassing food and non-food agricultural production. It is actively supported by unequal so-called "free trade" contracts and agreements, and also through major "public-private partnerships" and global initiatives decided at various meetings such as Davos, the G7, etc. dictated by those who have arrogated to themselves the role of decision-makers of the planet, themselves under the thumb of multinationals and financiers and in the name of food security.

The predatory expansion of the industrial food system leads to the conversion of subsistence agricultural land into monoculture, in particular GMO maize and soybeans, to feed livestock and/or into intensive and concentration farms with their harmful processions of biotechnologies and poisons. The weight of the agri-food industry regulates the entire chain and is at the root of price volatility.

This dehumanized agri-food system profoundly disconnects us from our relationship with food and their modes of production, processing and marketing by distorting their very constitution, with increasingly ultra-processed foods, a new food colonization in progress to the detriment of our diversified and nutritious local dishes.

Agribusiness based on cash crops and exports

"West Africa is the world leader in cocoa, cashew nuts, shea and cotton. These productions are targeted at ... to



stimulate the industrial revolution of the agri-food industry to connect the farm to the factory and the factory to the port," said the President of EBID .

Pastoralism is an integral part of the cultural, social,

Take a good look at the labels!

The long list of unhealthy ingredients in ultra-processed products such as cookies, sodas, sugary cereals, nuggets, crisps, flavored yogurts, energy drinks, Maggi cubes make us sick and are distinguished by the following terms:

- Sugar varieties: fructose, high-fructose corn syrup, "fruit juice concentrates", reverse sugar, maltodextrin, dextrose, lactose
- Modified, hydrogenated or interesterified oils
- Proteins: Hydrolyzed, Soy Protein Isolate, Gluten, Casein, Whey Protein
- Flavour enhancers, colourings, emulsifiers, emulsifying salts, sweeteners, thickeners, foaming agents, antifoaming agents, bulking agents, carbonates, gelling agents and glazing agents are also part of cosmetic additives.

Interdits
0105-0105-0105-0121-0123-0125-0125-0130-0150-0210-01952
Très dangereux
0313-0390-0303-0317
Dangereux
0102-0180-0190-0302-0307-0319-0350-0180 0208-0220-0222-0223-0224-0228-0239-0242 0400-0404-0407-0405-0404-0409 0503-0502-0503-0505-0506-0507
Trouble Gastriques
0338-0339-0340-0340-0343-0450-0408-0402-0405-0405-0406
Maladie cutanées
0194-0160-0231-0232-0239-0301-0302-0320-0302-0394-0308
Troubles Intestinaux
0504-0620-0627-0628-0629-0630-0631-0632-0633-0634-0635
Tension artérielle
0154-0250-0252
Dangereux pour enfants
0229
Suspçonneux
0304-0322-0401-0371-0373-0240-0477

environmental and economic landscape of the Sahel and West Africa.

It is practiced by more than 20 million people and contributes to nearly 15% of the GDP of Sahelian countries. In West Africa, it contributes up to 60% of the meat and dairy supply consumed and plays a key role in feeding animal products to markets in Sahelian cities and major metropolises on the Gulf of Guinea coast (FAO 2022).

However, its existence is threatened by climate change, the promotion of intensive livestock farming with embryo and antibiotic transfers in particular, causing the loss of biodiversity and the ability to adapt to local conditions, as well as the rapid growth of the population which demands more and more meat products, has changed the structures of pastoral areas

In addition, restrictions on the movement of animals and people are becoming more frequent due to security concerns, government-imposed restrictions on



With a lot of marketing — in 2024, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Mondelez spent \$13.2 billion on advertising (€11.4 billion), four times the budget of the World Health Organization — these products are gradually "supplanting" traditional diets and are found in all our available and cheap shopkeepers!

transhumance, the capture of transhumance routes and the increase in illicit cross-border activities.

Small-scale fisheries, whether maritime or continental, are a vital force for millions of people across Africa.

Fish, as a source of protein and essential nutrients, plays a key role in the human diet in West Africa. But local fish are no longer available because of the industrialization of animal feed: to make a kilo of fishmeal, more than 5 kg of small pelagics are needed, which means that fish has

Côte d'Ivoire has entered a phase of cocoa recession. "Culture is becoming more difficult, more of a source of problems than of wealth. Farmers are getting poorer, especially since the world market, in constant currency, has been in decline for forty years and there is too much cocoa in the world." In March 2026, the price of cocoa was at 1200 FCFA per kilo, a misery: for several weeks, more than 100,000 tons of cocoa have been left on the quays of the port of Abidjan, for lack of international buyers. And for the past 5 months, the 600,000 or so cocoa producers have not been able to sell their harvest. According to the FAO, more than 90% of profit margins go to chocolate makers and distributors. Falling cocoa prices: in Côte d'Ivoire, producers in distress

become extremely rare and expensive on local markets," destroying artisanal fishing and their trade by women.

With a growing population and the growing desire of agri-food companies to set up shop, it is urgent to organize collectively to promote our local, healthy and diversified food systems and achieve food sovereignty! Will the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) be an opportunity for us or for the agri-food industry which most often transforms us into a workforce that can be exploited at will, pollutes with these processes and rejects and will always have the last word on the purchase prices of our



productions?

The food system is being hijacked by agribusiness and continues to foster the interconnected crises that affect us first.

Let us relocate and value our healthy, nutritious food systems that reflect our socio-cultural identities and rituals to achieve food sovereignty that includes food security and not the other way around. Let's multiply our local, national, interregional markets and say no to the establishment of large supermarkets!

We demand

● Reducing loss and waste in our food and agricultural systems;

- The establishment of local markets with our Peasant Agroecology productions and their enhancement based on their healthy, tasty, nutritional, therapeutic quality...;
- Support for the development of autonomous infrastructure and equipment related to renewable energies and alternative financing institutions and mechanisms;
- the adaptation of production, processing and marketing standards to local and peasant realities in order to re-localize food systems, based on participatory guarantee systems;
- The development of autonomy by synergizing the knowledge and know-how of craftsmen and farmers to innovate in tools adapted to needs and inexpensive. to



develop autonomy;

- The creation and support of social dynamics, the transmission of knowledge, particularly intergenerational in the terroirs to retain young people in a fulfilling and collective living environment with a fair income;
- Exposing unhealthy foods such as ultra-processed foods and our dependence on imported products that destroy our local food systems through campaigns;
- Raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of rural communities, particularly peasants, in terms of production and processing, as opposed to dependent agricultural models, while promoting local consumption for food sovereignty in Africa and in the world.

We take action



24 - Established in 2018 and operational from 2021, is a significant initiative to merge 54 African states into a single market comprising more than 1.3 billion people and a collective GDP exceeding \$3.4 trillion.

- The CGLTE-OA promotes local dishes in its activities both in events, activities and during caravans;
- Support for the promotion of AEP products in fairs, markets, events;
- Raises awareness even in the villages about the issues and challenges around local food systems by denouncing ultra-processed products.

Valuing our nutritious and diversified food systems at the heart of our terroirs in peasant agroecology is a socio-cultural struggle against the commodification of the world and the living, for our health and that of our environment, for local economic dynamics of solidarity and circular.

PILLAR 5: SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE PLACE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. .

Women, with their knowledge, values, vision and leadership, Baobabs of Africa they are the key to valuing communities in their Terroirs in Peasant Agroecology as young people are the force to contribute to social and agroecological transformation, today and for tomorrow

Despite numerous international, continental and national texts in favour of women's rights, the actions taken are few, hampered by patriarchy, religion, habits and customs and gerontocracy, especially for rural women and particularly young girls. Development actions are often contradictory, and progress in one area does not necessarily lead to progress in others.

The dichotomy of gendered social roles undergoes more or less profound changes over time, often at the pace of crises. Women make up more than 60% of the agricultural workforce in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in weeding and weeding, produce 60 to 80% of the continent's food production and invest 80% to 90% in the processing, storage and transport of food, queens of tontines, they contribute enormously to the care and schooling of children and also contribute to the family's food expenses. Securing and facilitating secure access to land with inclusive and equitable local governance is a vital issue for rural communities and especially for women and youth around collective fields and units in the production, processing or marketing of food.

As holders of local and traditional knowledge in practices, seed conservation and natural resource management, they also play a crucial role in transmitting it to future generations. This is why their contribution is essential to design and implement coherent and effective strategies to meet the challenges and issues of today and tomorrow in

their territories and beyond with the 7 pillars of peasant agroecology.

The second lever is the youth, which constitutes 75% of our populations and as active people entering the labour market each year in sub-Saharan Africa, they will increase from 17 million to 25 million by 2025, i.e. an active population of 330 million. Two-thirds (about 200 million) will be in rural areas.

We demand

- The equal and equitable distribution of land, decision-making, access to social services, rights, status, remuneration...
- the security and equipment of women and young people to organize collectively in order to develop their autonomy in the terroirs with peasant agroecology around collective fields and processing/marketing units
- the creation and support of social and economic dynamics in the terroirs to retain young people with dignity in a fulfilling living environment with a fair income
- Training, awareness-raising; Collective learning, leadership and the transmission of knowledge and know-how, interpersonal skills and know-how within communities must be the driving force behind the development of women and young people

We take action



From 2017 to 2026:

● Support for women's groups in the informal sector in 11 West African countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Benin, Togo. Through various capacity building sessions and the provision of equipment for production and processing in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea have triggered a real dynamic of collective work and empowerment.

● Support via the national platforms of the CGLTE-OA to the extension of the Association for the Defense of the Rights of Domestic Helpers (ADDAD) in West Africa, particularly during forums and caravans to promote the profession of domestic help.

● The establishment of the gender commission has strengthened the involvement of women in the CGLTE-OA. This has made it possible to identify and support women's groups in their activities and secure access to collective land in different countries. From these first steps, a strong turn has been taken to promote the empowerment of women, giving impetus to a necessary synergy. The first Union of Women in the Informal Sector (UFSI) was created in March 2022 in Mali and has boosted minds at the regional level. Thus, during the 4th edition of the CGLTE-OA caravan in November 2023, UFSI, organized - with a slogan that already punctuated the entire caravan "UFSI Baobabs of Africa" - many activities and a women's forum at the Linguère stage in Dakar, country of breeders and processors of local milk and its derivatives: It was a



real space for dialogue, sharing of experiences, lobbying, questioning and advocacy with the communities and authorities of the different countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Gambia) to talk about women's rights, their role, responsibility and involvement in the management of natural resources to make it a reality with inclusive land governance by promoting the terroirs in peasant agroecology and public speaking, female leadership, on networking techniques. It is around the first Regional Forum of the UFSI - from October 20 to 24, 2024 in Sélingué - Mali at CIFAN with the theme "Organizing within the CGLTE-OA to better become autonomous!", that the Unions of Women in the Informal Sector (UFSI) have developed and validated a charter and an action plan.

PILLAR 6: STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES, ALLIANCES AND COLLECTIVE ORGANIZATION

It is essential to create synergies at all levels, from local to international, to create collective intelligence in order to bring about a real societal transformation together by concretizing alliances and organizing collectively around common strategies.

We demand

- Means to strengthen our participation in any relevant event, from local to international, to constantly strengthen our capacities

- The importance of developing and supporting Peasant Agroecology from terroir to terroir in public policies by setting up Terroir Collectives in drinking water supply to have synergy and impact on a relevant scale, to link urban and rural, especially markets with healthy food

- The multiplication of community drinking water supply spaces to amplify capacity building and learning, the permanent transmission of knowledge and collective organization where the human being is at the center and not the machines, the foundations of the sustainability of Peasant Agroecology

- Expanding and strengthening networks around Peasant Agroecology from the local to the regional, including customary and administrative authorities

- The expansion of our peasant and citizen movement to institutes, universities, public research organizations to serve the interests of the populations by co-constructing research and teaching programs with all the knowledge of peasants at the heart

We take action

- The process of setting up the Alliance of Traditional and Customary Chiefs of Africa (ACTCA), first in West Africa in 2021, then in West and Central Africa in 2023, began in 2019 during the African Forum organized in Mali, on "The roles and responsibilities of women and youth in land governance according to habits and customs" with

the development of regional advocacy. This synergy aims to support the CGLTE-OA in its struggle and its progressive values with rural communities and its advocacy with national and international authorities and institutions, in particular on the local and inclusive governance of natural resources.

- Involvement of the CGLTE-OA National Platforms in national and regional land and agroecological platforms such as the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa/3AO since its creation in 2018

- Since 2015 World Social Forums in Tunis, Montreal, Mexico City, Kathmandu and 2026 leaders of the WSF 2026 in Cotonou, Benin

- Since 2016 COP 21,22,23,27,30 and organization of a

COP of communities in November 2023 in Mali when the caravan passes

- 2016 :

- Review of the 5 years of CFS Land Governance Guidelines at FAO

- Nyéléni Europe Forum in Romania

- Exchange meeting with the ESCR Working Group of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia

- 2017 :

- 10 years of Nyéléni, from Food Sovereignty to the Manifesto of Peasant Agroecology and its 7 pillars linked to CIFAN Mali.



- Meeting with the ECOWAS Rural Commission in Abuja, Nigeria in February 2017 as part of Zero Hunger and the DGF to advocate for secure access to land for women and youth.
- 2023 Participation Core Group African Civil Society for 5th AU-EU Ministerial Agriculture Conference.
- Since 2024, very busy because of the organization of the WSF Cotonou under the leadership of the CGLTE-OA and the organization of the WSF 2026 Cotonou 1 process in Benin in July
- First Regional Forum of the Union of Women in the Informal Sector (UFSI) in October in Mali
- 2025 :
- Participation in the West African Social Forum in Dakar;
- Organization of the WSF 2026 Cotonou 2 process in Benin (July);
- Meeting of social movements in France (August);
- Participation in the Nyéléni Forum in Sri Lanka (September);
- Participation in COP 30 in Belem, Brazil (November);
- Participation in the WSF of the Montreal Intersections;
- Participation in the alternative BRICS summit in Rio.
- 2026

- Participation in the Alternative Forum to the WEF in Davos, Switzerland
- Participation in CIRADR+20 in Colombia
- Participation in the CRID European Meeting
- Participation in the WEEK in Berlin
- The CGLTE-OA is also very involved at the international level, including in some boards of directors: WSF IC, HIC , FMAT, CSM and FAO Land Observatory, CIDSE/ Land and Life Platform, SOLIRESP.

PILLAR 7: ACT AT THE INSTITUTIONAL, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY LEVELS:

What is done for us without us and against us! Let us always be ready to be indignant!

The extreme power of the food and agrochemical industry linked to the industrialization, the increasing concentration and commodification of land, water, seeds, an extractive and dehumanized agriculture based on the patenting of life, machinery and digitization, polluting processing and marketing, based on dumping, unequal free trade and which modify food and our diets calls for urgent attention and measures to be taken by the the role of politicians and society.

Networks of civil society actors are particularly active in terms of awareness-raising, sharing of experiences and advocacy to defend the interests of peasant communities, in particular their access to natural and productive resources, and to promote the integration of agroecology, particularly peasant agroecology, into public policies and in coherence with all the texts in force, associated with a global vision related to sovereignty food and national food.

We must raise our demands even louder and louder in public policies and build more synergy and collective intelligence in a common vision today and for future generations.

Peasant Agroecology is the answer to the demand for protection, security and sustainability of the planet and humanity. Solidarity between peoples, between rural and

urban populations, is an essential ingredient for its realization. And this requires public policies that are co-constructed and implemented with us!

We demand

- That States equip themselves with the means to apply texts that are beneficial to communities, the environment, the climate, biodiversity, as stipulated in many national, continental and international texts, the Rio Conventions, the PDSEC, the African Peoples' Charter, the Beijing Agreements, the land tenure guidelines, etc. ;
- That States and other local, national and regional institutions promote peasant agroecology and its development in the terroirs in order to move towards a real dignified ecological agricultural alternative, respectful of human and cultural rights and values, health, natural



resources and shared prosperity with an economy based on sovereignty, particularly food implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP);

- To have our proposals recognized and implemented, at relevant scales with communities at the heart to have impacts, as defined in this document, by our States and local authorities, customary and traditional authorities, national regional institutions (ESA, ECOWAS, UEMOA), continental (AU) and international, donors and other organizations working in the field;

- Include Peasant Agroecology and its 7 related pillars in public policies and development plans in the various ministries concerned: rural and agricultural development, health, nutrition, education, human rights, environment, research, etc. to take real action on the climate, biodiversity, governance, our food systems, our rights;

- Refuse any agreement or treaty that would jeopardize our economies and our identities;

- Ensure that the 10% of Maputo is truly oriented to support Family Farming based on Peasant Agroecology for Food Sovereignty while protecting our local economies in regional integration;

- Call on States to invest in the purchase of our products in Agroecology Peasant (collective catering, food stock, etc.);

- Preserve and multiply green belts in peasant agroecology that guarantee a healthy diet and environment to feed urban dwellers and fight against global warming and biodiversity loss;

- Ban synthetic chemicals by first refusing imports and their use in cash crops where they are promoted by our governments via projects and programs that are often lobbied by agrochemical multinationals;

- Apply environmental and social measures in all activities related to extractivism (mining, quarrying, etc.);

- Protect human rights defenders and community leaders, who are criminalized;

- The end of all forms of marginalization, exclusion and social injustice, the promotion of inter-community dialogue and solidarity, as well as the enhancement of our cultures to consolidate peace, social cohesion and living together, are guarantees of the harmonious development of peoples in Africa and in the world.

We take action

- Numerous trainings and mobilizations, particularly during the caravans on the necessary recognition of the legitimate land rights of communities, with a focus on women and young people, which have resulted in land laws that are beneficial to the land rights of communities (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Togo, etc.);

- The creation of the Alliance of Traditional and

25 - The Nyéléni Center was born in 2007 to host the first world forum on food sovereignty which had just been enshrined in the Agricultural Orientation Law of Mali in 2006 under pressure from farmers' organizations, it is now called the International Training Center in Peasant Agroecology of Nyéléni (CIFAN).

26 - Habitat International Coalition

Customary Chiefs of West and Central Africa (ACTCA) has made it possible to strengthen collaboration between the CGLTE-OA, traditional authorities and national and regional institutions for the promotion of inclusive, equitable and sustainable development at the service of communities through joint actions: the delivery of the Green Book, the joint advocacy document with ECOWAS and the advocacy on climate change during the Climate Caravan and COP 27 is a perfect illustration of this strategic collaboration. In December 2022, the CGLTE-OA organized a regional workshop in Guinea-Bissau which made it possible to develop the ACTCA action plan on the one hand and on the other hand an audience was held with the President, Umaru Sissoco Embalo, then in office of ECOWAS allowing ACTCA and CGLTE-OA to present their vision, their concerns and their capacities to act for the rights and development of communities in social cohesion and peace;

- Our Green Book is presented and disseminated from the local to the international level during our activities and in particular during the caravans with communities, associations, universities and state representatives and local authorities, and also during the organization of counter-summits, community forums;

- The members of the CGLTE-OA carry out a permanent plea to make its analyses and arguments understood while acting on the ground to include its proposals in public policies from the local to the international and to

support the development of terroirs with the holistic approach of peasant agroecology and its 7 related pillars;

- Mobilization, accompaniment and support when rights defenders are criminalized, as for spokesman Massa Koné.

« We're not tired, we'll go all the way »





In memory of

To the comrades in struggle who fell on the field of honor!

Your unwavering commitment to land governance,
community rights and social justice will inspire us and future generations.



**Maman KHADIJA
Balimah KONE**

COPAGEN
Ivory Coast



**Gordi
Hammadou**

Yakarkara Plateform
Niger



**Gbely
Severin**

SAFRI
Ivory Coast



**Stéphane
Permatier**

OXFAM
France



**Thierno
SALL**

ENDA Pronat
Senegal



Land and Water Same Damage, Same Struggle!

GREEN BOOK OF CONVERGENCE

Advocacy document for the improvement and observance of policies and legislation regarding land, water, and peasant seeds.