



Convergence Globale des luttes pour la terre et l'eau - Ouest Africaine (CGLTE OA)

COMMUNIQUE :

4th edition of the West African Caravan, Right to Land, Water and Agroecology Peasant: a common struggle - here we are!

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Following three (03) editions of the West African caravan respectively in 2016, 2018 and 2021, with tangible and innovative results in terms of community awareness and advocacy with the authorities of the itinerary countries, **the Regional Coordination of the CGLTE OA is organizing the 4th edition**. It will be launched in **Burkina Faso** and will continue through **Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal** to end in **Mauritania** around the central theme "**climate change, one of the environmental, social, economic and agricultural challenges in Africa**".

The event will be held from October to November 2023 and is part of the process of the previous regional caravans of 2016, 2018, 2021, and the national caravans Drum Climate Communities of 2022 in 33 African countries.

A true advocacy space, the caravan constitutes a synergy of actions of communities against land grabbing in general and natural resources in West Africa. It aims to contribute to a social transformation in West Africa through the mobilization of grassroots communities in order to challenge decision makers for a responsible and inclusive governance of land.

Thus, over the course of three weeks, 300 caravaneers from at least 15 countries will crisscross the five itinerary countries through stopovers of activities per country on the way. These stopovers will be interspersed with popular conferences, debates on themes, marches, film screenings and exchange meetings with grassroots communities, parliamentarians, elected officials, administrative and customary authorities.

Emphasis will be placed on raising awareness at the community level on environmental, social, economic and agricultural behavioral changes for a better living together through strategies for the protection of land, water, farmers' seeds, and forests, which are also common goods. In addition, a plea will be made to the West African authorities for inclusive and participatory policies in favor of the fight against climate change and access to water.

The climate is everyone's business, not just the governments'!

As long as we do not change our approach to climate change, the continent will suffer from it year after year, which will result in increasing poverty. More than 13.5 million people in the Sahel¹ are in a precarious situation or displaced because of the climate. Such a situation compromises the stability and development of our countries. While the African continent is responsible for only 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This risk increases with the grabbing of millions of hectares of land for false carbon solutions or so-called aid with its cohort of deadly loans ...

But we have no plan "B". We only have a plan "A", in our hands, we Africans and especially the communities, it is our land, our water, our peasant seeds.

Let us commit ourselves to undertake responsible acts in harmony with nature, in peace and social cohesion with peasant agroecology.

Bamako, April 29, 2023

¹ New World Bank report entitled G5 Sahel Region: National Report on Climate and Development