Regional Actions Against the Climate Change Shock: how OSS is Contributing?

Dr Youba SOKONA
Executive Secretary
Sahara and Sahel Observatory
Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations.

Mitigation measures are slow and sparse, global emissions are increasing.

Adaptation is now unavoidable but without mitigation it may become impossible.
Holistic is an imperative approach, concerted and differentiated actions are required to respond to climate shock.

- Least Developed Countries: More adaptation, Less mitigation
- Emerging Economies & EITs: Adaptation & mitigation
- Developed Countries: More mitigation, less adaptation

**Per capita GHG emissions (concentrations)**

- 550 PPMV
- 350 PPMV

**Annual per capita Income**

- $1200
- $7000

- Training
- Institutional support
- Information support
- R&D support

- Collaborative R&D Technology Partnership & Networking

- Technology facilitation and Partnerships
Adaptation to climate change:

- is a matter of survival in Africa
- is contextual, should be driven by local, national and regional agendas; no one size fits all
- is about development under uncertainty, where capacity to manage risk determines progress
- requires new types of institutions or innovative institutional arrangement
- requires greater investment in generating and managing data, information and knowledge
From spontaneous, reactive to proactive approach, adaptation planning should become a central – not marginal – activity.

Systematic surveillance (observation) is a prerequisite for planning.

Sequencing of strategic issues and policies is crucial (short – mid and long term).

Regional and Sub-regional organizations should foster scientific, technical, financial or political support.
OSS:
Stakes and challenges towards a proactive approach
High stakes in the circum-Sahara region

PEACE, STABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, SOLIDARITY, DEVELOPMENT

MAIN CHALLENGES FOR OSS

Development ➞ Sustainability ➞ environmental governance

1. LAND
2. WATER
3. CLIMATE

Conflicts
Resources degradation
Climate variability
Sustainable agriculture
Economic diversification
Migrations
Energy
Health
Integration

CIRCUM-SAHARA SPACE
RESOURCES
COMMUNITIES
FOCUS: transboundary groundwater resources

- Extensive coverage of our zone of action with three flagship initiatives
- Significant improvement in the knowledge of the region’s aquifers
- A range of studies and tools, including models, GIS and remote-sensing applications
- The establishment of the consultation mechanism on SASS—The first of its kind in Africa
- Impending formal establishment of a tripartite consultation mechanism on the Iullemeden Aquifer System (IAS)
FOCUS: providing a comprehensive and operational structure for effective environmental management: **DOSE®**

A comprehensive, three-pronged approach:

- **Long-term ecological monitoring**: from science to an integrated approach for development
- **Early Warning systems**: mitigation of the impacts of climate variability and natural disasters
- **Monitoring - Evaluation of action programmes**: support for policy, planning and implementation
Reliable data and information are essential for decision making and targeted actions. Perfect command of the process of production of useful environmental information involves:

- **Regional Development**
- **Harmonization**
- **Validation**
- **Diffusion**

Decision making and targeted actions are based on this process.
Use of local and earth observation systems

Long Term Ecological Monitoring Observatories Network (ROSELT/OSS)
Network of 30 certified observatories

Methodological Guidelines
Technical Documents
Ecosystem Evolution
Information Dissemination
Knowledge generation and management

A cross-cutting programme providing strategic thinking and scientific support to our actions on land and water governance under a changing climate

- Strategic watch and guidance through the identification and analysis of emerging environmental issues
- Contribution to empowering the Circum-Saharan region’s research community in responding to current and future challenges
- Knowledge management, including the dissemination of data, information and tools across the OSS networks

Adaptation
Regional action
Green Wall
- Insufficient resources which contrast with our widely recognised competence

- Continuity and long-term vision are compromised by short-term or project-related financial support

- Ability to attract, motivate and retain competent experts

- Cooperative work with other regional and/or sub-regional organizations
Four key imperatives for efficient actions

• **Scale**: Match need and responses to the scale of growing numbers of people and ecosystems in danger

• **Speed**: Waste no time because climate change is happening faster than predicted

• **Focus**: Manage risk, build the resilience by reducing vulnerability

• **Integration**: Consider at the same time risk reduction, adaptation, mitigation and human development goals
The process requires new impetus with adequate institutional infrastructure. Relevant capacities include:

- Technical
- Scientific
- Informative

Adequate resources and disaggregated information to target different groups (media, policy makers, private sector, etc.) are necessary.

Better efforts to raise awareness.