



Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2010  
External Shocks and  
Africa's Regional Organizations  
from Reaction to Prevention  
Hotel Voltaire, Potsdam 16-17 April 2010

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

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Executive Secretary  
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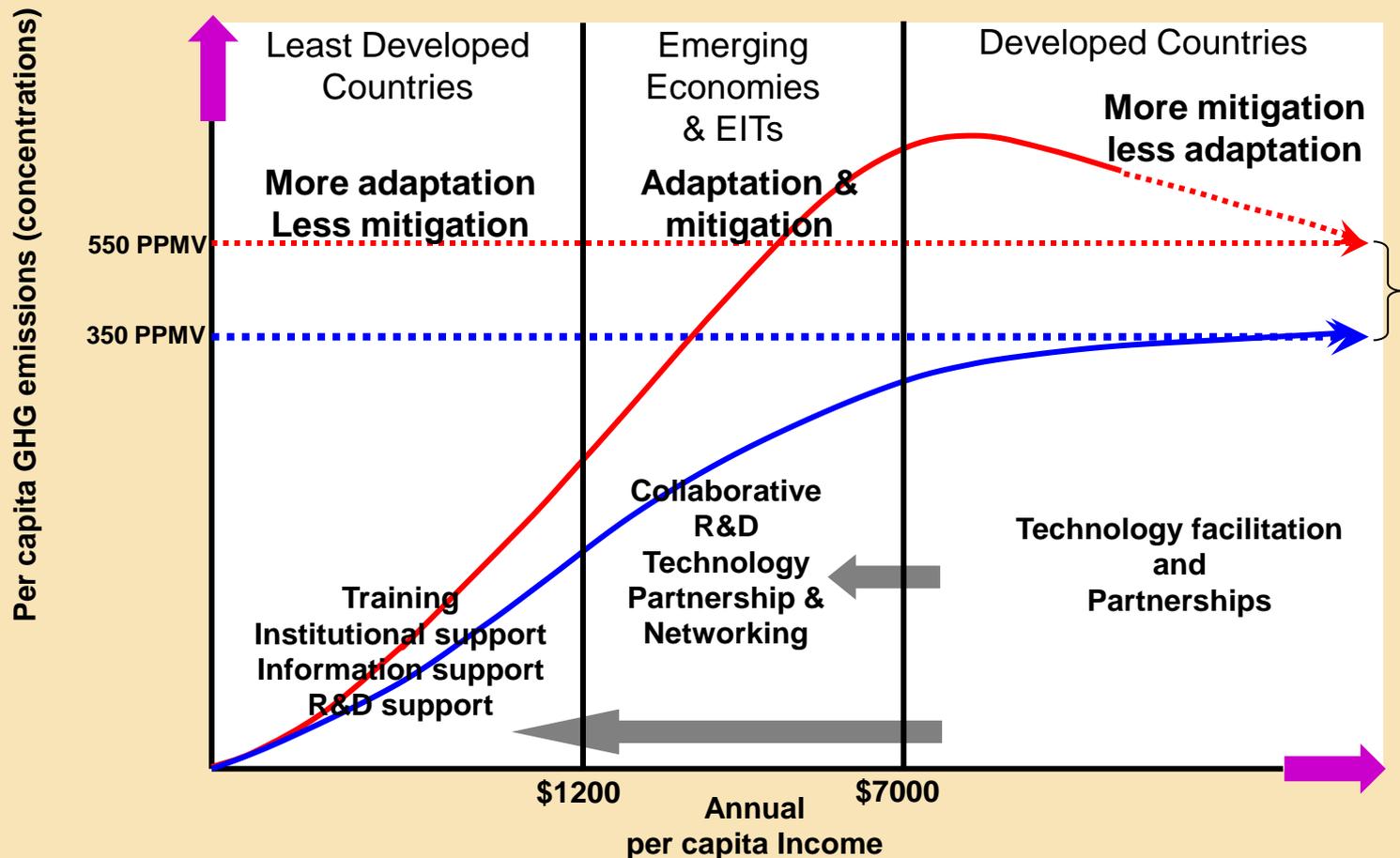


- **Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations.....**
- **Mitigation measures are slow and sparse, global emissions are increasing**
- **Adaptation is now unavoidable but without mitigation it may become impossible**



# Holistic is an imperative

**Holistic approach, concerted and differentiated actions are required to respond to climate shock**





### **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**



## Key messages (2)

**From spontaneous, reactive to proactive approach, adaptation planning should become a central – not marginal – activity**

**Systematic surveillance (observation) is a prerequisite for planning**

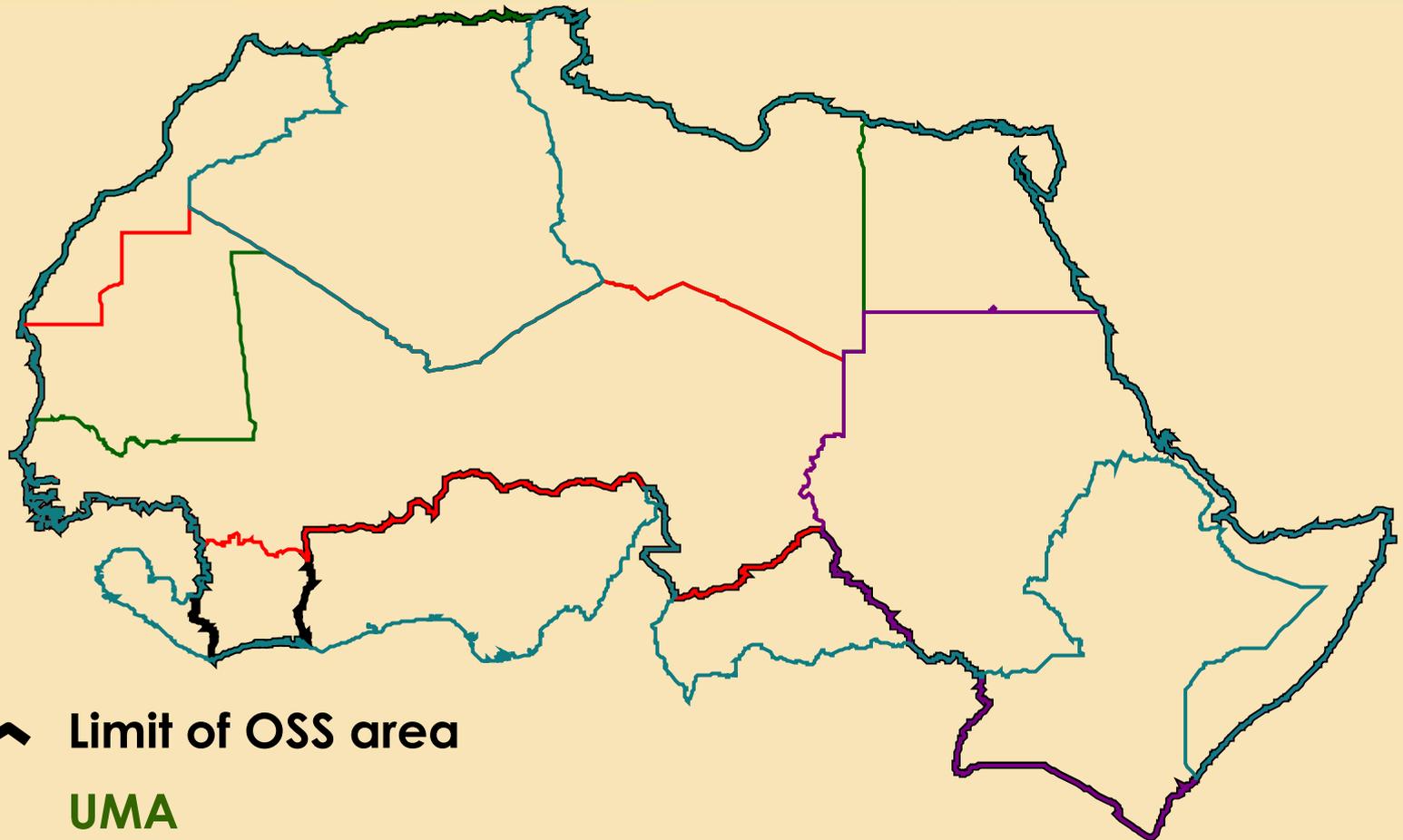
**Sequencing of strategic issues and policies is crucial (short – mid and long term)**

**Regional and Sub-regional organizations should foster scientific, technical, financial or political support**



**OSS:**

**Stakes and challenges  
towards a proactive  
approach**



~ Limit of OSS area

UMA

CILSS

IGAD

CENSAD

# High stakes in the circum-Saharan region



**PEACE, STABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, SOLIDARITY, DEVELOPMENT**



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

## MAIN CHALLENGES FOR OSS

Development ➡ Sustainability ➡ environmental governance

**1. LAND**

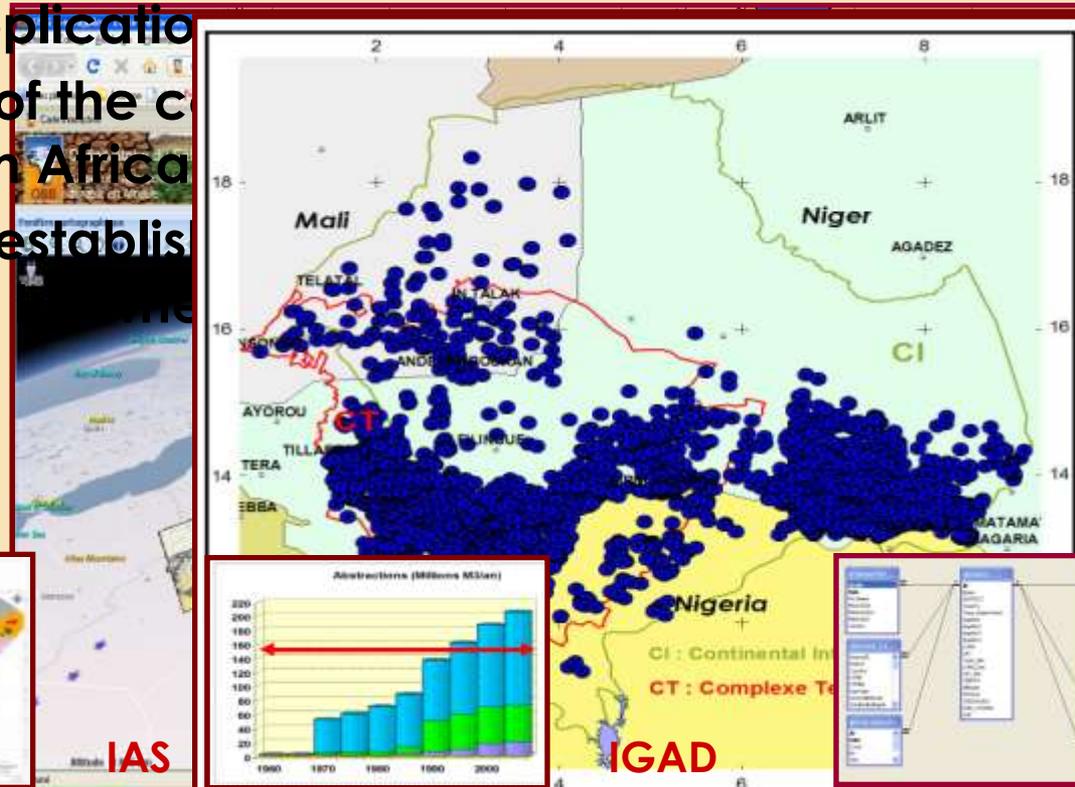
**2. WATER**

**3. CLIMATE**



## 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 continental groundwater observatory  
The first of its kind in Africa
- Impending formal establishment of a transboundary mechanism on the Nile



NWSAS

IAS

IGAD



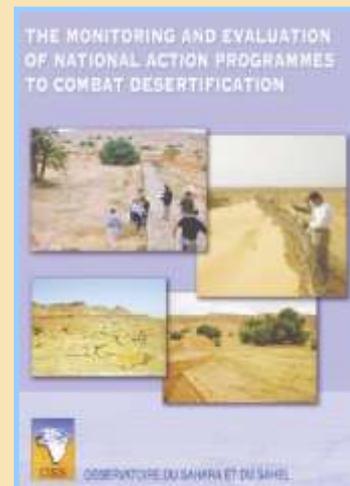
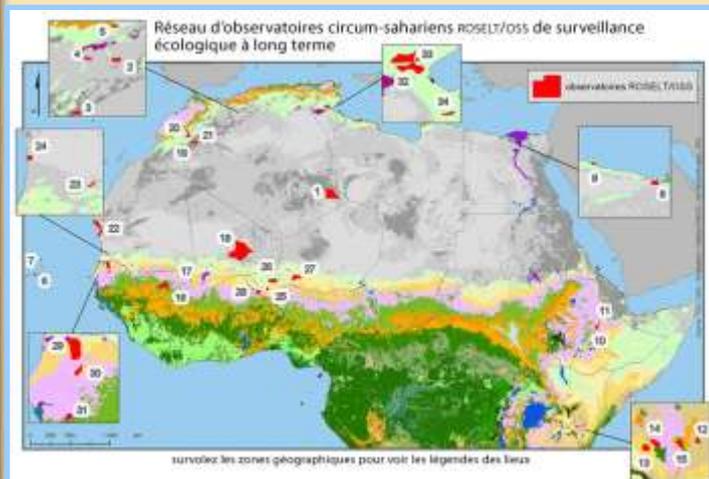
**FOCUS: providing a comprehensive and operational structure for effective environmental management: DOSE®**



**DOSE**

**A comprehensive, three-pronged approach:**

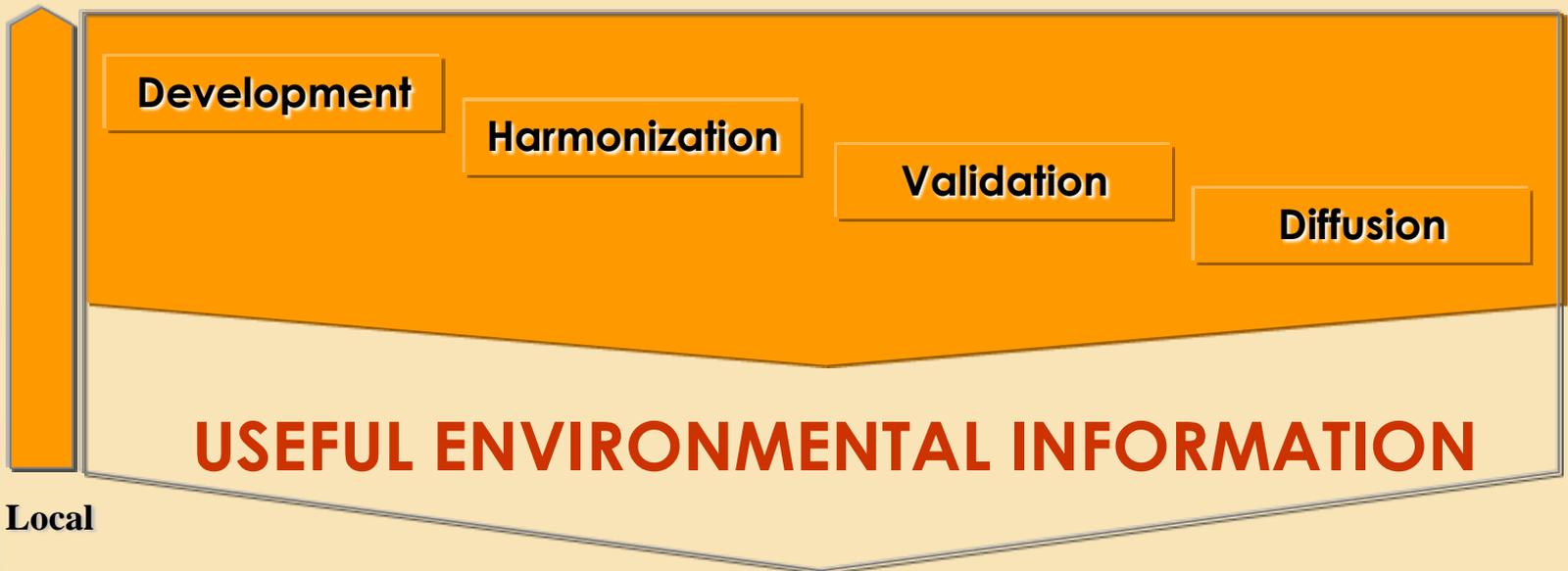
- **Long-term ecological monitoring : from science to an integrated approach for development**
- **Early Warning systems : mitigation of the impacts of climate variability and natural disasters**
- **Monitoring -Evaluation of action programmes : support for policy, planning and implementation**





## Perfect command of process of production of

Regional



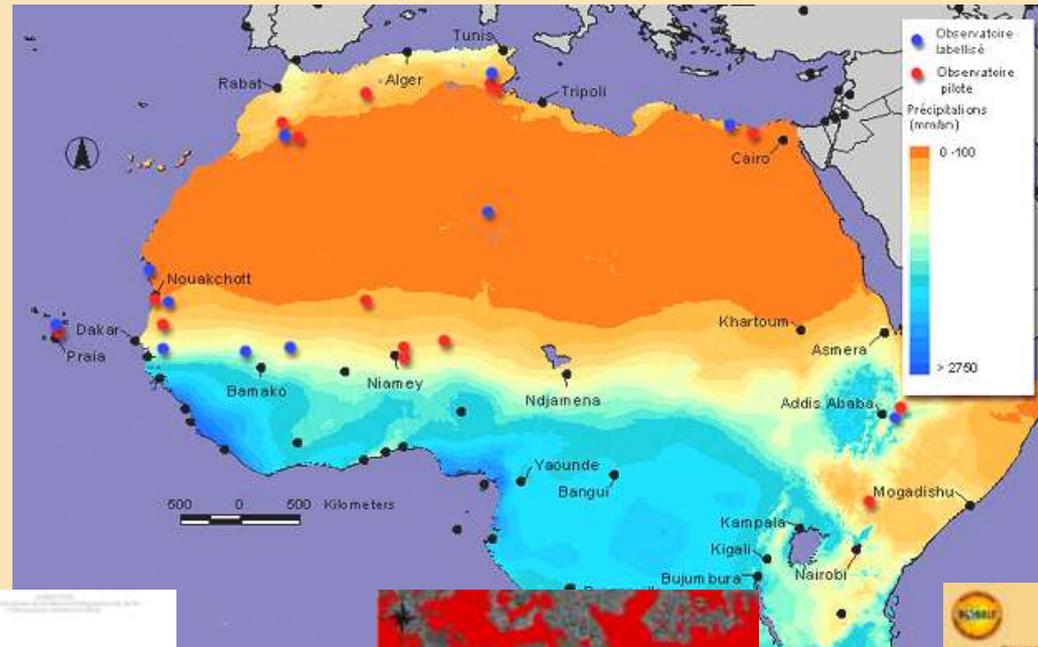
Local

**Decision making and Targeted Actions**

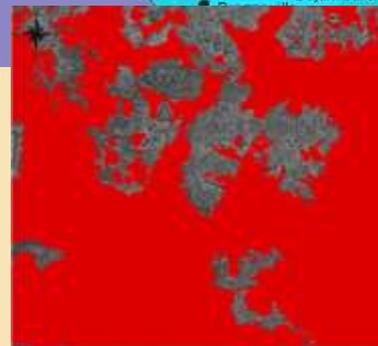
# Use of local and earth observation systems



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



Methodological Guidelines  
Technical Documents



Ecosystem Evolution



Information Dissemination



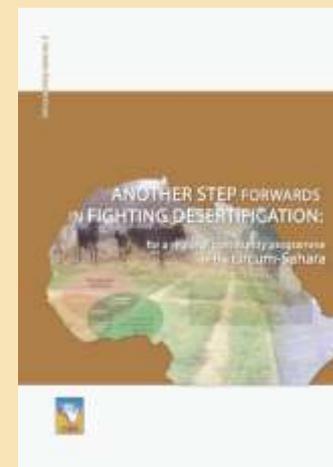
# Knowledge generation and management

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

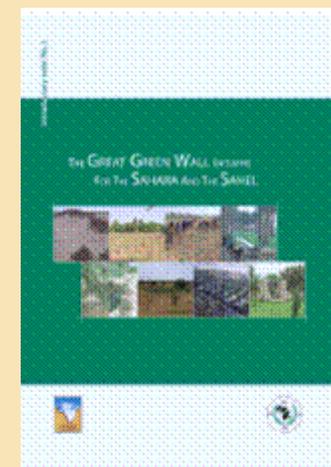
- Strategic watch and guidance through the identification and analysis of emerging environmental issues
- Contribution to empowering the Circum-Saharan region's research community in responding to current and future challenges
- Knowledge management, including the dissemination of data, information and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

- Technical
- Scientific
- Informative

**Adequate Resources**

**Disaggregated Information to Target  
Different Groups (Media, Policy Makers,  
Private Sector, etc.)**

**Better Efforts to Raise Awareness**