

SUSTAINABLE OASES INITIATIVE



For the recognition, the Preservation and the solidary
development of Oasis as resilience models to Climate
Change

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANDZOA	National Agency for Oases and Argan tree Zones Development
BAD	African Development Bank
BID	Islamic Development Bank
WB .	World Bank.
CURRY	Actions and International Realizations Center
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
AFESD	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFEM	French Facility for Global Environment
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
INDH	National Initiative for the Human Development
SOI	Sustainable Oases Initiative
MAB	Man and biosphere
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
RADDO	Associative Network for Oases Sustainable Development
GIAHS	Global ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems
UICN	International Union for the Preservation of the Nature
UNESCO	United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture

SUMMARY

Nowadays, climate change effects are increasingly threatening oases agroecosystems. Impacts such as: depletion of the limited water resources available, soil and water qualities degradation and increase of both water and wind soil erosion are leading to biodiversity losses. Dangerous downturn in agricultural activity and disintegration of oases' communities are noticed in many oases. This situation is getting worse, from one place to another, due to an uncontrolled ongoing soil sealing by urbanization. Therefore, the oases system should be managed in a sustainable way through the integration of three dimensions: economic, environmental and social.

To **safeguard, protect and develop** oases ecosystems, well known for their rich and unique biodiversity, landscape, cultural and civilizational background, the "**Sustainable Oases Initiative (SOI)**" is being launched by the government of Morocco during the COP22 held in Marrakech from November 7 to 18th 2016. The aim is that oases, all over the world, can keep existing as a cradle of dryland civilizations and fulfil their multiple economic, social and environmental roles.

The "**Sustainable Oases**" initiative aims at:

- better recognition of the oases ecosystems and their unique vulnerable nature,
- implementation of concrete actions to protect the oases heritage; mainly, their biodiversity and livelihood;
- valorization of the economic potentialities of oases within a sustainable development vision and strategy.

INTRODUCTION

Oases, being extensively cultivated agroecosystems and living places, have played meaningful roles as transit stops, passage and freight forwarders in desert spaces where the water balance is widely in deficit. During most of the year, insolation is intense, winds are frequent and drying and low levels of pluviometry do not compensate for the important evaporation.

Oases areas are spread in North Africa, in the South Sahara, in the Near and Middle East region, in Asia, in America and Australia. In fact, there are several types of oases: those in hot zones with or without palm date trees, those in high altitude and those in continental zones with cold winters (Central Asia and China) and intermediate gradients.

The life in oases, the last ramparts against desertification, depends mainly on water availability. The future, development, extension and social organization of these spaces are based not only on the relative abundance of water but also on a voluntary, committed and united human organizations to maintain ecological balances allowing the continuity of life in these fragile and vulnerable areas.

Oases are therefore systems where the concept of sustainability should be applied through the integration of economic, environmental and social dimensions. The economic activities of oases population are based on the exploitation of the available natural resources according to customs and rules that they have mutually developed and adopted throughout time. Any break of the balance of this system leads to fatal consequences on its existence. A number of driving forces have negatively influenced this balance, mainly an overexploitation of natural resources, massive soil sealing by construction on cropland, and impacts of climate change (more frequent droughts and floodings) are leading to a fast growing desertification.

Thus, the initiative is a key response to climate change and will contribute to achieve several objectives of sustainable development.

After a reminder of the general context in which this Initiative is conceived and applied. This document summarizes data linked to the Initiative, in terms of:

- Stakes, challenges and goals;
- Strategic axes;
- Measures of implementation.



Figure 1 : The Oasis Sustainable initiative contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals

I. WORLD, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

The Sustainable Oases Initiative is an opportunity to take in the national, regional and international context which is marked by an increasing awareness of the challenges of sustainable development and climate change. This context includes :

- The Statement of the United Nations conference on sustainable development RIO+20 (in June, 2012): “the future we want «in particular articles including food safety, nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- The Paris Agreement (COP21), in particular its article 7, where the parties officially recognize the need of protecting the most vulnerable ecosystems, approach issues of climate change by taking adapted actions that respect the specificities of every ecosystem and call up for a strong international cooperation in favour of the most vulnerable zones to climate change, such as oases.
- Taking into account the issues of oases conservation and sustainable development by the international organizations such as the FAO, the UNEP, UICN and the UNESCO and development partners such as IFAD, GEF, FFEM , World Bank,... etc.
- The growing mobilization of national and international civil society organizations, for the protection and better use of natural, economic, social and cultural heritage, and the promotion of oases’ sustainable development such as in the case of North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, where Actions and International Realizations Center (CARI) and the associative Network for oases sustainable development (RADD0) are very active.

Morocco, one of the “Sustainable Oases Initiative” holders, has made of the protection and development of oases one of its public policy priorities at both public institutions and civil society levels. Major actions in favour of oases include:

- Integrated programs and sectorial projects dedicated to oases development as those realized within the framework of the Green Morocco Plan, particularly program agreements established between the Government and the interprofessional organizations for the integrated development of date palm value chain;
- The creation of the National Agency for Oases and Argan Tree Zones Development (ANDZOA) with an assignment of integrated and sustainable development of its working areas;
- The creation of Social and Economic Development Agency for Southern Provinces of Morocco;
- The implementation of programs of partnership with international institutions such as the Oases Biosphere Reserve of Southern Morocco with the MAB relevant to UNESCO or the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) with the FAO;
- The actions led by the organizations of the civil society in the various parts of the Moroccan oases zones in partnership with public institutions (ANDZOA, National Human Development Initiative (INDH), sectoral development programs ...), regional and international organizations or within the framework of their own programs.

II. Stakes, challenges and objectives

1. Stakes and challenges

The population in dry areas, concentrated in the oases, is estimated at two billion inhabitants, about 28 % of the world population. They cover about 40 % of the globe among which 66 % in Africa. Hence, they occupy an important space of earth's surface, which offers a great agricultural potential. The date palm oases cover about a million hectares and sustain approximately ten millions people living around. It is therefore; a very major stake to be taken into consideration.

The other challenge is the particular agricultural production potential that oases receive as local products. Such an agricultural activity that contributes to the food security is based on the efficient ancestral use of the available water resources. Generally, oases population has a know-how and customs in the use and distribution of water to which they give a very high importance taking into account the vital worth of this natural resource for the continuity of life in oases.

The various rich and exceptional heritage of oases is another challenge in these areas. It covers a rich plant and animal biodiversity. In addition, oases population has been able to acquire, throughout centuries, responsible behaviour towards natural heritage that they have protected, improved and valued. This has allowed, among others, the good adaptation of animal breeds and plant speaces ecotypes to agricultural practices in oases.



The sociocultural aspects acquired and adapted from generation to another have led to a specific lifestyle within oases allowing the preservation of their balance as well as their continuity. The architectural heritage traditionally developed within oases is a testimony of the full adaptation of inhabitants to face the harsh environment and at the same time manage themselves in a co-operative manner. This diverse heritage is an important issue which conservation and adaptation have become a necessity in order to face the future.

The first historically known human had been developed at the level of oases. Thus, oases are places of human and natural history that must be recognized , analysed and asserted for the present and future of humanity. The oases that played an important historical role can also ensure human life, in the future, in many regions of the world.

Oases are however threatened by the modern lifestyle. They are trapped in a vicious spiral of land degradation triggered by climate change and compounded by migration, mainly of the rural youth, the gradual loss of the ancestral know-how, the introduction of new lifestyles and behaviour which

are inconsistent with the vulnerable equilibrium of oases. Such trends seriously affect the sustainability of oases.

Indeed, the Sustainable Oases Initiative must take into consideration many issues and challenges in order to develop a vision for oases' future.



2. Vision and objectives

Oases agroecosystems will be resilient to climate change only if the equilibrium between their natural resources and human communities is maintained. The sustainability of these areas depend largely on the proper use of the available water, soil and biodiversity. The Sustainable Oases Initiative aims at the development of an integrated strategy of sustainable management of the oases systems. It is also an initiative for better awareness raising and a mobilization of all the authorities concerned by the conservation, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of the oases regions. The initiative concretely aims at achieving three goals:

- Better recognition and characterization of oases to highlight their vulnerability as well as their unique resilience abilities to climate change;
- Implementation of adapted and appropriate solutions to protect the oases heritage in particular, its rich biodiversity, its ancestral know-how, its cultures and human system;
- Reasoned valorization of natural potentialities of the oases systems in the perspective of sustainable development which integrates, in a balanced way, the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

III. STRATEGIC AXES OF THE INITIATIVE

To reach the aforementioned goals, the SOI will act according to three complementary axes, establishing three intervention pillars leading to a sustainable balance of the oases systems: **recognize, protect and develop**. These strategic axes are presented schematically as follows (figure 2):

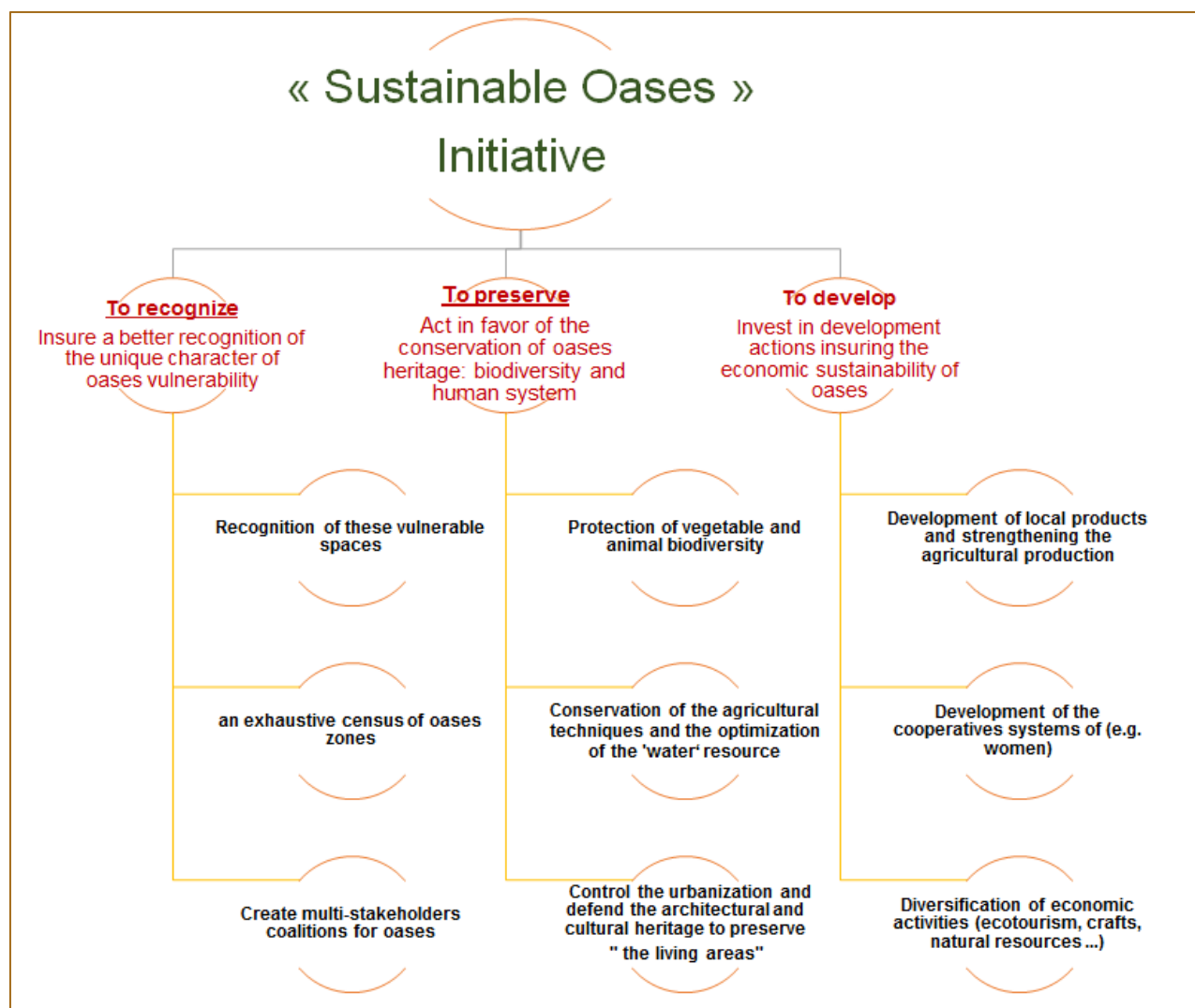


Figure 2 : Schematic presentation of 'sustainable Oases Initiative' strategic axes

1. Pillar 1: Recognition of the oases ecosystems and vulnerability

This pillar aims at a better acknowledgement of the unique character and vulnerability of oases ecosystems. In this regard, actions are planned allowing to:

- **Recognize** oases as vulnerable ecosystems threatened by climate change;
- **Census** all oases areas as exhaustively as possible;
- **Mobilize** and establish a coalition of the stakeholders concerned to defend the interest of these oases areas.

1.1. Recognition of oases' vulnerable nature

To identify oases' vulnerability to climate change, tangible, appropriate and scientifically recognized criteria must be developed. These criteria must lead to oases labelling as is the case for spaces recognized as ingenious system of the world agricultural heritage (GIAHS) established by FAO or Biosphere Reserves set up by UNESCO.

Oases acknowledgment should also lead to the establishment of scientific committees which actions must focus on subjects relating to oases protection and sustainable development while creating databases, and relevant knowledge oriented to practical resolutions of oases issues.

Improving the knowledge of oases systems, its vulnerability, its ecological, economic and social importance, will provide the basis for leading events that help, on one hand, raising awareness of general public, and on the other hand, working with diverse actors including those concerned by the impacts of climate change, in order to defend oases issue. The developed knowledge bases will help build arguments to support this.

1.2. The exhaustive census of oases zones

This component concerns the elaboration of a georeferenced database through mapping and developing a typology of oases areas in world dry zones. Therefore, we must capitalize the work of national and international agencies to combat desertification: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the other organizations and institutions (UNESCO, FAO, OSS, UNDP, ...). This mapping and inventory work will cover all fields of oases spaces, particularly:

- The mapping of soils and their use;
- The mapping of "ecosystems" (geomorphology and landscapes);
- The mapping of biodiversity (vegetation) and other natural resources;
- The mapping of water resources and their uses (water accounting and audit, hydro-agricultural managements);
- The mapping of the surrounding spaces and the identification of the existing interactions;
- The inventory of the cultural and human heritage and the local know-how for their valuation and conservation.

1.3. Stakeholders' mobilization

Forming coalitions to support the importance of oases is the third component of strategy pillar1. It concerns the identification of all the stakeholders from various backgrounds and origins (governments, political decision-makers, national and international agencies, funders, scientific institutions, producers, awareness raising and communication professionals, professional organizations, non-governmental organizations, trainers) and raising their awareness about the issue and threats to oases and potential solutions to protect and sustainably develop these ecosystems.

2. Pillar 2: conservation of oases ecosystems

This pillar is dedicated to oases ecosystems conservation. It includes three components:

- The protection of the biodiversity and the oases natural heritage;
- The preservation of Production techniques and optimization of water resources;
- Conservation of architectural and cultural heritage.

Overall, it concerns taking actions in favor of oases systems conservation "**Don't Touch**" including the accommodated human systems.

2.1. Protection of biodiversity and oases natural heritage

Efforts will focus on preserving plant and animal biodiversity and natural heritage of the oases systems. For this purpose, several actions are planned to fight degradation factors of these natural resources; particularly, those related to climate risks, to diseases and pests, and to anthropogenic activities.

In order to address risks threatening the biodiversity, SOI proposes a process of setting up warning systems related to droughts, fires, floods, silting, locusts invasions, and outbreaks of other pests and diseases. Once these systems are installed, they will prevent risks and reduce the impacts by taking appropriate measures.



To reinforce the oases systems resilience, we will get through:

- Research development support on biodiversity for these ecosystems;
- Supporting awareness-raising and communication activities with stakeholders, decision-makers and with general public;
- Establishment of a network of observatories dedicated to following up, monitoring and warning in the fields of:
 - Agricultural and rural development;
 - Management of solid and liquid wastes;
- Fight against water and soil degradation;
- Sustainable management of natural resources: water and soil (ecosystems including landscapes);
- Setting up valuation systems and adequate use of biodiversity to guarantee its protection and its durability.

Considering the interest of natural reserves in the preservation of these natural resources, it is planned, as part of this initiative, to create, encourage and develop national parks and protected areas. The creation of these parks will be based on the identification and characterization of spaces as well as the implementation of adapted management plans.

Measures to combat diseases, pests, floods and the other degradation and pollution factors, will be introduced by integrating:

- Development of scientific research on these oasis environments; particularly, aspects of degradation and innovations to overcome them;

- Strengthening international health measures of prevention and protection against enemies threatening the natural plant facies, cultures and animal health;
- Promoting partnerships, exchanges and collaboration between national and international research and development organizations.

2.2. Preservation of agricultural techniques and optimization of resources

Oases have been able to survive over centuries owing to the use of techniques allowing the maintenance of a balance in these ecosystems. Therefore, it turns out to be necessary to pay particular attention to the conservation and rehabilitation of such agricultural techniques that showed their relevance and their contribution to sustainability.

Among these techniques, we could mention ancestral methods of water mobilization and irrigation, such as the systems of Khettaras that are nowadays threatened by collapse if rehabilitation integrated actions and maintenance are not implemented. This basic project should be urgently implemented in order to mobilize and sustainably use these oases' natural and vital water resources.

The rehabilitation of traditional irrigation techniques will be approached through:

- Mobilization of "water resources" through:
 - Prospecting the deep underground water;
 - Rainwater harvesting;
 - Improvement of the storage capacity (hill dams /underground passageways, basins ;
 - Sewerage systems widespread;
 - Setting up water-treatment plants and waste water re-use in agriculture;
 - Development of the most adapted crops.
- The introduction of new irrigation technologies adapted to oases context and the improvement of the efficiency of irrigation;
- The reconversion to localized irrigation, wherever possible, particularly in oases periphery;
- The optimal exploitation of flooding water in the context of climate change;
- The modernization of the legal framework governing traditional rights of surface water and groundwater (underground waters contract);
- The capacity building of agricultural water users' organizations and transfer of know-how.
- The maintenance of the traditional systems (khettaras, foggaras, intra oases distribution networks ...).



The transmission of the best agricultural and technical practices and the use of new technologies adapted to communities is a way of intervention that the Initiative foresees in order to protect the old relevant techniques and introduce new ones to improve and complete them. In this regard, it is expected to:

- Set up training and vocational qualification programs, and systems of stakeholders mentoring (agricultural extension);
- Develop, strengthen and spread agro-ecological techniques for an integrated and sustainable agricultural development.

Research and development are actions to promote within the framework of conservation and improvement of techniques practised within the oases systems. They have to cover a set of components of the agroecosystem by giving particular attention to oases agriculture pillar: the date palm tree and the other species cultivated in association with the date palm tree. Generator of technologies, research and development have also to:

- Be applied to production techniques, irrigation and valorization of agricultural products of oases system (date palm and other associated crops) ;
- Contribute to the establishment of data bases dedicated to oases techniques;
- Serve as a platform to encourage collaboration between research institutes and scientific community at the universities.

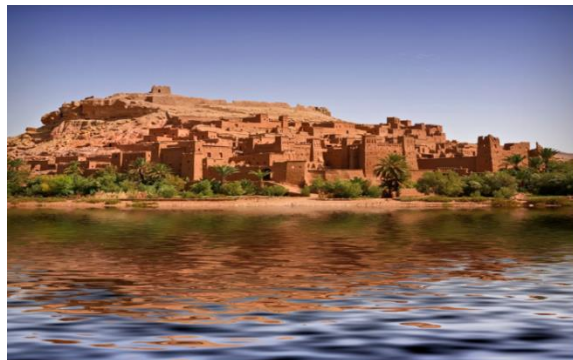
2.3. Conservation of architectural and cultural heritage

The third component of pillar 2 is dedicated to sectors related to urbanization, protection and promotion of architectural and cultural heritage. These sectors are significant, as they constitute basic elements of oases differentiation and identity. This component is approached through three main actions:

- **The improvement of the urbanization legal frame** allowing to preserve the suitable agricultural production areas from soil sealing (construction) or to build and to bound quarries in order not to allocate spaces with ecological and/or scientific value. This action will also:
 - Work toward elaborating a legislation of an adapted urbanization and its distribution;
 - Set up oases development programs according to a participative approach.
- **The promotion of the oases spaces culture** by making events dedicated to their distribution, conservation and valorization. At this level, efforts will be focused on:
 - Identifying, describing and listing the sociocultural heritage of diverse oases;
 - Organizing festivals and promoting events of the ancestral cultural practices and make them known in order to preserve them;
 - Developing media supports (audio-visual) granting the general public access: movies, DVD, etc.
 - Setting up Eco-museums networks for the preservation of oases civilization.
- **The protection of architectural heritage** of oases is a project to be methodically led for a typology and a classification of sites, restoration of ksours, kasbahs, historical sites and

development of an ecosystem-based management. This construction site will be dedicated to:

- Inventory and classification of sites;
- Restoration and rehabilitation of oases buildings heritage;
- Development of modern accommodation models adapted to oases conditions by protecting the architectural landscape;
- Research and development of building materials and distribution of results adapted to the oases housing environment.



3. Pillar 3: Sustainable development of the oases ecosystems

This strategy third pillar adopted by the “Sustainable Oases” Initiative completes two other pillars through the proposal of an investment vision carrying out development ensuring, in an integrated and participative way, the economic environmental and social sustainability of oases. Three main components are structuring this pillar:

- Development of agricultural activities and adapted production sectors;
- Development of production systems and solidary-based valorization;
- Diversification of socioeconomic activities and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

3.1. Development of agricultural activities and adapted sectors

It is not only an economic component but it concerns also landscape and social aspect taking into account the multifunctional roles of agriculture. The oases agriculture really shows these roles due to the very small size of the farms and the existing interactions between farmers that any intervention has to consider ensuring the sustainability of the global system. Therefore, this component will focus on:

- Developing adapted crops (choice of species and varieties suited to the oases context);
- Labelling local products, organic farming and the oases agroecology to better differentiate oases products;
- Developing refrigerated storage equipment to secure and optimize the valorization and marketing;

- Strengthening research, development and technology transfer for a better control of production techniques adapted to the oases context;
- Developing qualification and vocational training institutes, monitoring structures and agricultural extension for a continuous and sustainable improvement of skills.

3.2. Development of production and valorization solidarity-based systems

The characteristics of the oases agriculture makes it necessary to optimize production systems and work toward grouping the most adapted operators for a better management of space, a better use of resources and products. In this sense, we should act for:

- Organization of farmers on cooperatives;
- Development of collective professional organization: economic interest groups, unions of cooperatives, professional federations;
- Capacity building techniques and management of cooperatives and associations;
- Development of entrepreneurial spirit, auto-employment and initiative among women and young people;
- Capacity building of the traditional social organizations.

3.3. Diversification of the socioeconomic activities and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises

Since oases are living places offering opportunities for practicing different human activities, they had ensured an economic role in the past, regarding trade, stopovers and exchanges in the vast desert spaces. These opportunities, in spite of the harsh climate, continue to exist and it is recommended to value them. Therefore, it is relevant to act for:

- The development of oases tourism: ecotourism, natural sites of geological and biological interest ...
- Supporting the traditional economic activities: handcrafts, small business, service delivery;
- The sustainable valorization of natural resources: natural deposits, mines, rare earths,... ;
- The encouragement of social development initiatives;
- The promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Elaboration and implementation of integrated projects

To achieve the strategic axes of "Sustainable Oases" Initiative, a participative approach of all the concerned stakeholders has to be adopted in order to develop action plans adapted to the context.

In this sense, planning must be directed, according to an integrated approach, toward actions of conservation and development of the oases ecosystems. It is a question of having an overall view of territorial development where the various sectors contribute in a complementary and harmonious way to the satisfaction of populations' needs, meanwhile, protecting the natural and sociocultural heritage for the future generations.

In accordance with the integrated and sustainable territorial development, each of the sectorial stakeholders will have to program projects, such as:

- Projects for improving the basic infrastructures, particularly the development of road networks to improve access not only to the outside world but also to drinking water and electrification;
- Projects for improving the basic services such as health and education;
- Projects of other services such as transport and communications;
- Agricultural projects of production and other projects;
- Industrial and energy production projects ;
- Sustainable tourism projects;
- Environmental management projects, mainly, combat degradation of landscape and pollution.

2. Promotion of the Initiative

The "Sustainable Oases" Initiative will also need to be promoted locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. In fact, it is necessary to accompany the concretization of projects with a communication policy established on an evidence-based argumentation and scientifically irrefutable economic, social and environmental data.

The various targeted stakeholders are :

- International Organizations interested by the protection of oases;
- Concerned funders;
- Governmental Bodies;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Professional organizations;
- Beneficiaries of oases agroecosystems services.

3. Institutional Mobilization and development of partnerships

The efforts of communication aim at unionizing organizations and countries around the Initiative. Thus, as part of this mobilization, concerned countries will be primarily targeted to share and contribute to the goals and strategic axes of this Initiative.

In addition, it is planned to introduce discussions (UNFCCC process) about oases' specific status. These discussions involve the countries concerned as well as other organizations and interested agencies in order to form a coalition of countries and organizations concerned by oases issues.

4. Management and Mobilization of funds

This Initiative cannot have concrete impacts and achieve its goals of protection and revitalization of oases unless it is supported by a sustainable funding. Thus, it's necessary to create a dedicated fund to oases issues with sustainable co-funding sources from concerned countries, donors and climate funds.

In addition, it is necessary to create a structure dedicated to the initiative management in order to set up frameworks for the achievement of the actions planned, accelerate oases projects funding by climate funds and continue to promote a specific status for oases.

CONCLUSION:

The "Sustainable Oases" Initiative is an opportunity for stakeholders to join their efforts and build together a common vision to safeguard, protect, revitalize and develop these oases spaces rich by their ancestral natural and sociocultural heritage. Considering the issues, challenges, threats and sustainable development goals, this vision covers all related aspects.

Indeed, the desertification phenomena and climate change can be handled only within a cross-border context. It is obvious that certain oases issues can be treated locally, but in this case, the results are weak, limited and temporary. In every part of the world, oases are under threats of disappearance and calling for efforts and help.

This is the main goal of this Initiative that aims at showing oases' vulnerability and threats, identify and characterize them and consequently, consider all the measures, actions and material and non-material investments, in a participative and united way, to protect and develop them sustainably.



Marrakech COP22

The Global Climate Action Agenda –GCAA- Blue Zone

Side event on the SUSTAINABLE OASES INITIATIVE November 14, 2016

DECLARATION

CONSIDERING:

- 1- The objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the RIO+20 Declaration “The future we want” mainly its article 107;
- 2- The article 7 of the Paris Agreement (COP21) on vulnerable areas aiming “to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing country, parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change”;
- 3- The declaration of participants in the Maghreb seminar, held in Marrakesh in October 2016, on the development of traditional know-how, the protection and enhancement of oases ecosystems;
- 4- The rich resources of the oases zones with regard to biodiversity and geo-diversity as well as the traditional expertise of ecosystem-based management and protection of the natural, architectural, cultural and oases landscape heritage.
- 5- The potentials of the oases ecosystem to promote a sustainable development model involving the different economic, social, environmental, cultural and landscape dimensions;

- 6- The necessity to protect the oases ecosystems and improve their resilience to climate change so that they could pursue their multiple roles in drylands.

WE, PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENT, FULLY RECOGNIZE:

- 1- The importance of the **Sustainable Oases Initiative** addressing the issues, challenges and opportunities of the oases ecosystems as well as the global context of international and regional protocols and agreements to develop a global, joint and integrated vision of their management.
- 2- The objectives of this initiative aiming at:
 - A better characterization of oases to further identify their peculiarities, vulnerability as well as their unique capabilities of resilience to climate change;
 - An implementation of adapted and appropriate actions to protect the oases heritage mainly the biodiversity, geo-diversity, ancestral know-how of inhabitants and cultural and human systems;
 - A well thought-out development of the natural potential of oases systems with a view to sustainability, involving in a balanced and harmonious manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions;
- 3- The approach advocated for reaching these three objectives based on the involvement and participation of all the stakeholders as well as the joint efforts to face the challenges of climate change and ensure oases sustainability.

In the light of the foregoing, the participants in this event recommend:

- 1- The establishment of an **international alliance**, around the Sustainable Oases Initiative introduced by Morocco, of the countries concerned by the oases issue, under the auspices of the United Nations in order to develop the necessary tools and means to save and ensure the sustainability of these areas;
- 2- The creation of a **structure** responsible for implementing the objectives of the Sustainable Oases Initiative;
- 3- The fund-raising necessary for implementing this initiative.

