

LAUNCH EVENT: FRANCE RENEWS ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION

Desertification is a gradual degradation of soils in drylands, affecting their biological and economic potential.

Today, more than 3.2 billion people worldwide live on around 2 billion hectares of degraded land. Moreover, 500 million people live in areas already affected by desertification and the economic, social and environmental consequences it brings.

This growing phenomenon now affects all continents and is a genuine danger for human health, biodiversity, the climate, food security, stability and security.



Dadès Valley, Morocco

The consequences of desertification are manifold:

Biodiversity: degradation of soils, linked to the spread of artificial surfaces and land use changes, is the main factor of biodiversity erosion worldwide.

Human health: the degradation of natural ecosystems is believed to contribute around 30% of the risk of emerging infectious diseases, as the COVID-19 global public health crisis has highlighted.

Climate: arable and livestock farming, deforestation and land and forest degradation are responsible for 23% of human CO2 emissions.

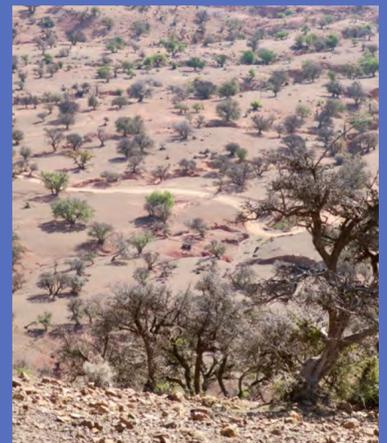
Food security: drylands are home to 50% of global cattle and around 50% of arable land.

Stability: increased population instability, with some 135 million people at risk of displacement in the coming decades.

Security: increased insecurity of populations, as land-grabs and scarcity of land are a source of conflict.

KEY FIGURES

- **12 million hectares** of land are degraded each year;
- More than **3.2 billion people** worldwide live on around **2 billion hectares** of degraded land;
- The cost of the loss of species and ecosystem services represents **10% of global GDP** annually (more than three times the GDP of France);
- Drylands are home to **50% of global cattle** and around **50% of arable land**;
- **135 million people** are at risk of desertification-related displacement in the coming decades.



Agro-silvo-pastoralism, Morocco

FRANCE'S ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2020-2030

France has long been committed to supporting the efforts of countries threatened by desertification, thanks to its ratification of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, adopted in Paris in 1994. France has created global initiatives, including the 4 per 1000 Initiative and the Green Initiative for the Sahel, and supported many more.

Given the importance of desertification issues for both the environment and social and economic development, **France is adapting its strategic framework to combat desertification and land degradation worldwide for the period 2020-2030.**

This new strategic framework supports the following goals:

- **Contributing to France's development policy** to combat global inequalities and preserve global public goods, addressing the root causes of mutually reinforcing crises which affect all continents;
- **Guiding ministries, agencies, NGOs and scientists**, as well as other French actors, in their support to the most vulnerable populations seeking to prevent degradation of land and manage it as sustainably as possible.



Vegetable cropping, Sakal, Senegal

FOUR PRIORITIES AND 12 OBJECTIVES TO PROMOTE:

- The creation of a context conducive to combating land degradation at all levels, involving all stakeholders (i) and the knowledge that is available or to be developed (ii).
- Enhanced effectiveness of France's contribution to achieving land degradation neutrality worldwide, improving the performance of projects (iii) and ensuring they always involve all populations and stakeholders concerned (iv).

This strategic framework is **multi-sector**. It seeks to **strengthen synergies between actions implemented by France and its partners in all fields of sustainable development**, including biodiversity, climate, management of water resources, food security, economic development and the reduction of inequalities.