



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?

Dr Youba SOKONA
Executive Secretary
Sahara and Sahel Observatory

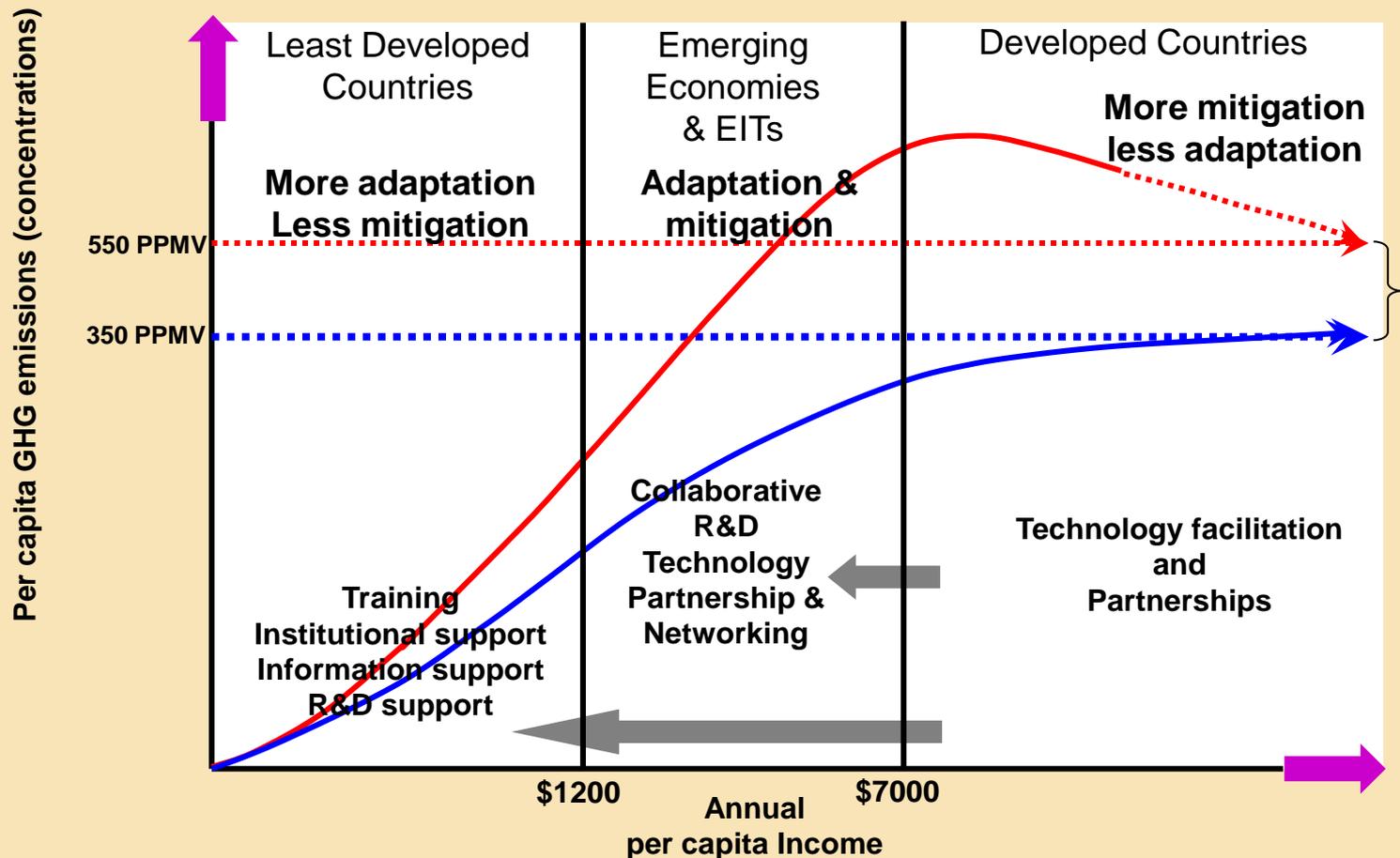


- **Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations.....**
- **Mitigation measures are slow and sparse, global emissions are increasing**
- **Adaptation is now unavoidable but without mitigation it may become impossible**



Holistic is an imperative

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

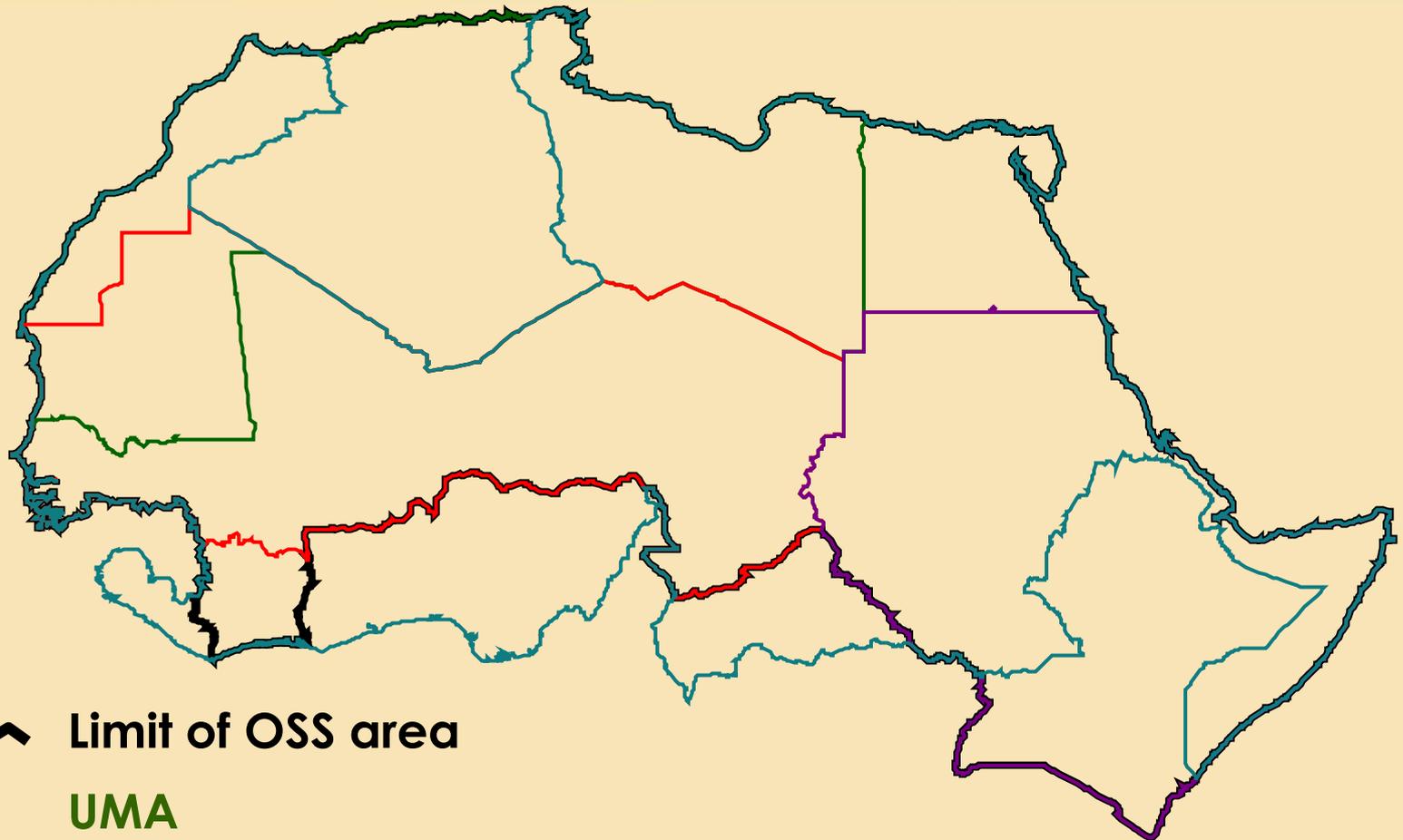
Sequencing of strategic issues and policies is crucial (short – mid and long term)

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

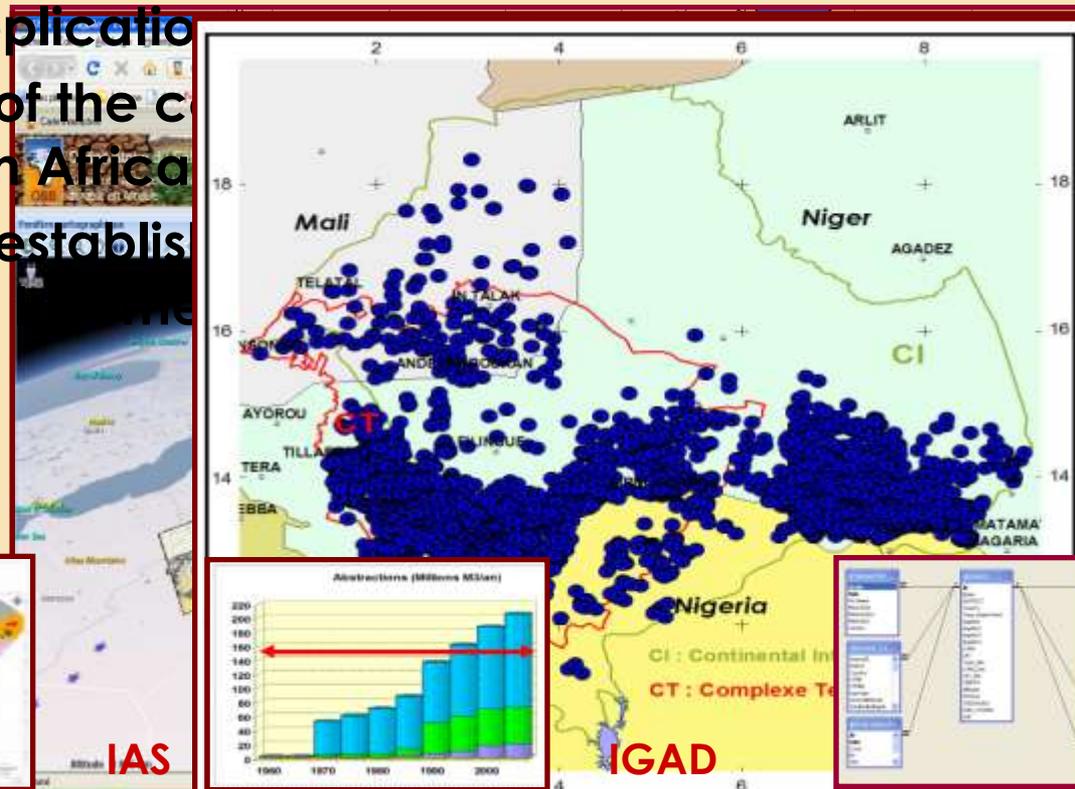
2. WATER

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 groundwater management mechanism on the continent



NWSAS

IAS

IGAD

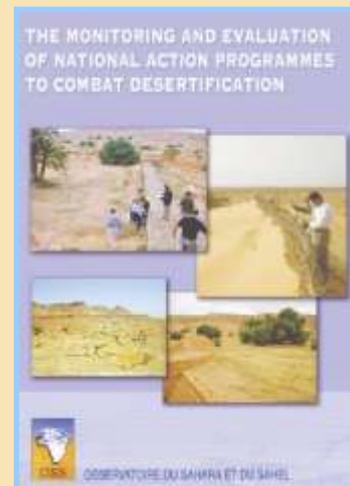
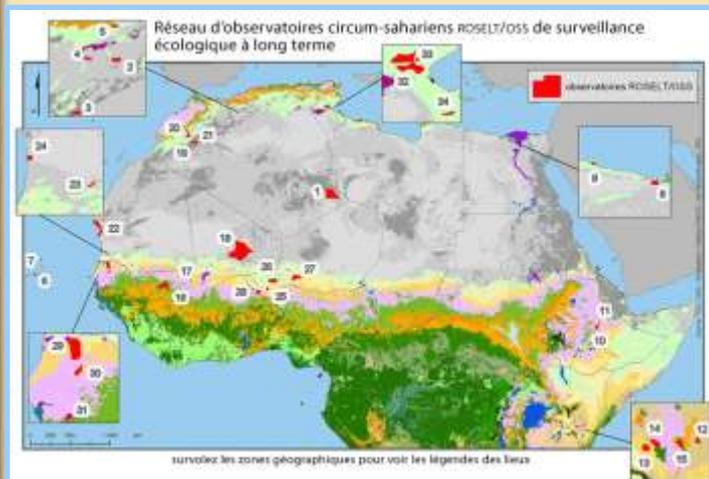


FOCUS: providing a comprehensive and operational structure for effective environmental management: DOSE®



A comprehensive, three-pronged approach:

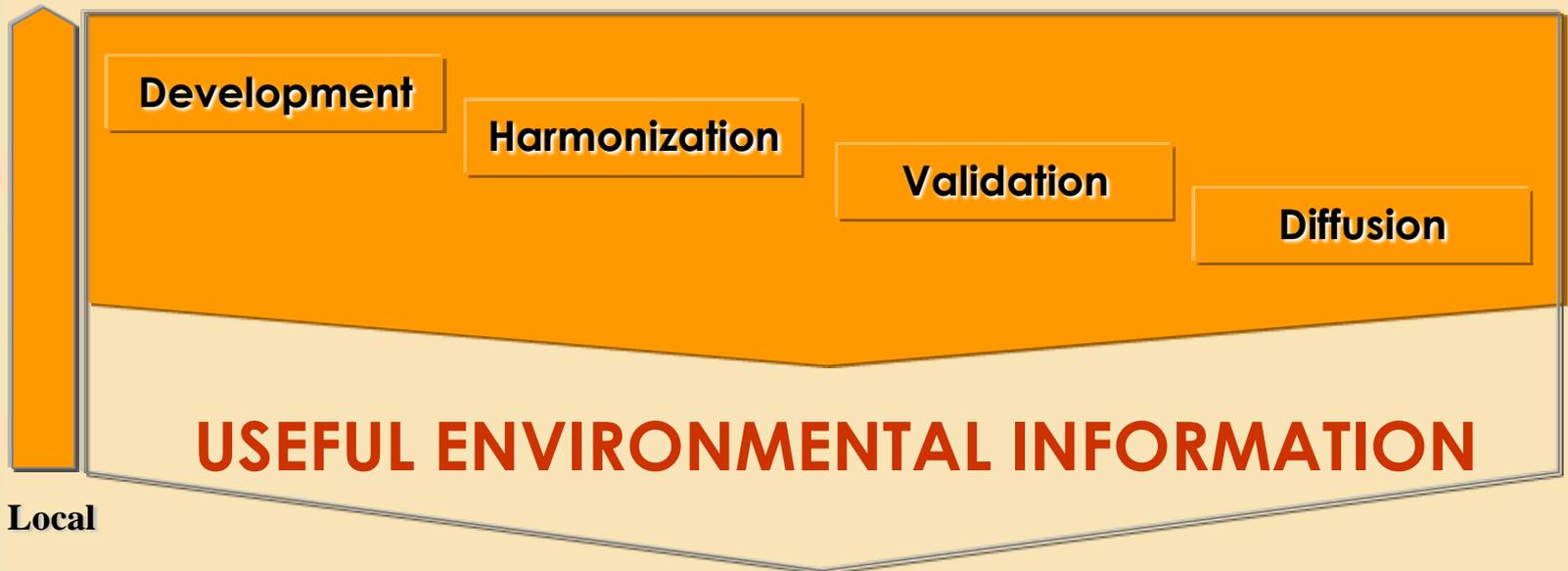
- **Long-term ecological monitoring : from science to an integrated approach for development**
- **Early Warning systems : mitigation of the impacts of climate variability and natural disasters**
- **Monitoring -Evaluation of action programmes : support for policy, planning and implementation**





Perfect command of process of production of

Regional

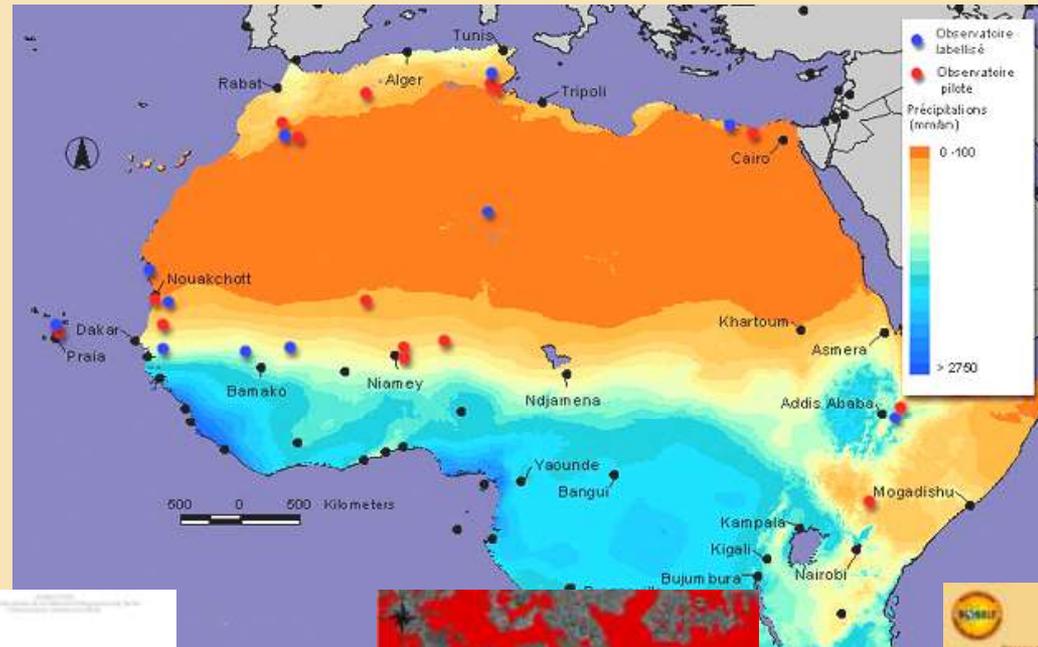


Decision making and Targeted Actions

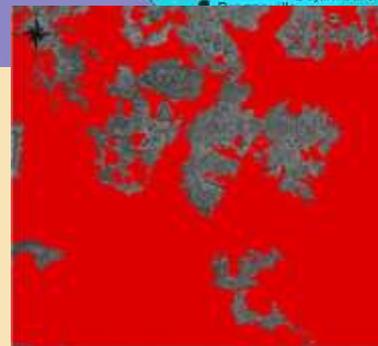
Use of local and earth observation systems



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



Methodological Guidelines
Technical Documents



Ecosystem Evolution



Information Dissemination



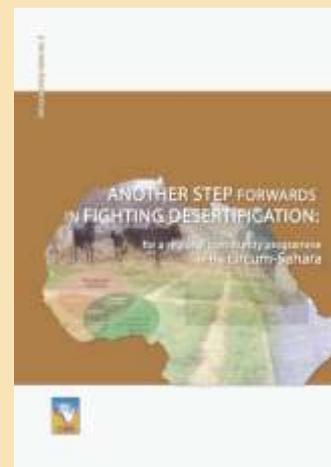
Knowledge generation and management

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

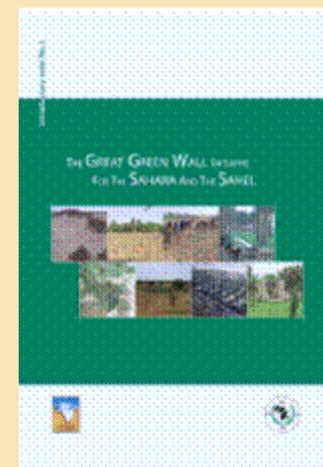
- Strategic watch and guidance through the identification and analysis of emerging environmental issues
- Contribution to empowering the Circum-Saharan region's research community in responding to current and future challenges
- Knowledge management, including the dissemination of data, information and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