

Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles West Africa



ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2021

July 2019

At the end of its fourth annual meeting that was held from July 22 to 24 in Bohicon, Benin, the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles – West Africa (GCLWS WA) has drawn up an action plan for the period of 2019 – 2021. The meeting was attended by the focal points for the national member platforms, and this action plan has three axes:

- Strengthening the visibility of the Convergence and ensuring its participation across various agendas;
- Influencing policies at national and regional levels, in connection with the working groups on Land, Peasant Agroecology / Biodiversity, Gender, and Human Rights;
- Communication.

Specifically, the plan aims to:

- Strengthening country platforms and making them operational in order to have strong local and plural dynamics, mobilizing grassroots movements and victim communities to promote action at the regional level in West Africa;
- Following up on and implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Caravan;
- Engaging in critical dialogue of policies and national and regional levels (ECOWAS and WAEMU) in regards to regulatory and legislative texts and public policies
- Improving communication, around the Convergence's actions generally, and even more specifically for the West African Caravan – Rights to land, water, and peasant agroecology: a common struggle, 2020

It should be noted that the 2019 activities that have not yet been carried out are covered in this action plan.

Action Plan 2019 – 2021

Objectives	Activities	Place	Period	Relevant organizations	Notes
AXIS 1: Strengthening the visibility of the Convergence and ensuring its participation across various agendas					
OS1.1 : Strengthening country platforms and making them operational in order to have strong local and plural dynamics, mobilizing grassroots movements and victim communities to promote action at the regional level in West Africa	A1.1.1 : Hold the Convergence's annual meeting in 2021	Nigeria / Liberia	2021	National platforms	The next meeting will be held in an Anglophone country as decided at the annual meeting in Makeni; Liberia and Nigeria are on the waiting list.
	A1.1.2 : Organize days (workshops) or yearly meeting weeks of the GCLWS WA at the country level	All countries	2019 -2021	National platforms (Burkina,)	Organize a meeting with all the member organizations of the national platforms around the Convergence's themes
	A1.1.3 : Social Forum of Peasants	Togo Guinea	2019 -2020	PN Togo and Guinea	Togo in September 2019, Guinea at a date to be determined (other countries yet to decide)
	A1.1.4 : Organize the 3 rd edition of the sub-regional caravan in 2020	All countries	2020	Regional platform	Itinerary: Gambia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone in November/December 2020
	A1.1.5 : Report on peasant seed fairs	Niger	2019- 2021	COASP,	Niger, Burkina, Mali

	Burkina Mali Benin Senegal				Senegal, Benin Around November
A.1.1.6: Establish a space for strengthening the participation of women and youth in Convergence activities	All countries	2019- 2021	National platforms	Respect gender representation when choosing those who will participate in the Convergence's activities	
A.1.1.7: Organization of lobbying actions (marches, declarations, petitions, etc.) to denounce pro-GMO policies to decision makers (ECOWAS etc.), including issues around mosquitoes and chemical inputs	GCLWS WA	2019-2021	Regional coordination	Urge authorities to develop policies in line with peasant agroecology	
A.1.1.8: Awareness-raising workshops for peasants on how to protect their seed heritage	All countries	2019-2021	COASP COPAGEN The NPs	Strengthen capacities on seed issues (Peasant seeds, GMOs, UPOV, etc.)	
A.1.1.9: Accompaniment for victims of land grabbing, exploited by gold mines and agribusiness (such as the case of Houndé - BF, Toumanguié - CI....)	Burkina Aboisso	2019-2021	NP Burkina NP Côte d'Ivoire	Organize social mobilization and / or advocacy initiatives to push local authorities to reinstate rights to victims Houndé (Gold mining) Aboisso (case of Palm Ci and	

					Dkel Oil)
	A1.1.10 : Capacity building for women and youth in the informal sector	Burkina, CI, Guinea, Mauritania , Mali	2019 - 2020	Regional coordination Gender group PN of relevant countries	Make the informal sector attractive for women and youth in order to reduce unemployment Partnership with FJS
OS1.2 : Following up on and implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Caravan	A.1.2.1 : Reinforce the dialogue established between the authorities and the communities during the caravan;	Guinea	2019-2020	PN Guinea	Organize periodic meetings with the authorities on one side, and the communities on the other to take stock
	A.1.2.2 ; Support to grassroots movements for their participation in the land policy process for good land governance;	Guinea	2019-2020	PN Guinea	Strengthen the capacities of social movements for a solid participation in the process
	A.1.2.3 : Support communities in their efforts to protect the Ziama forest and Gueke, the lung of West Africa	Guinea	2019-2020	PN Guinea	Support the establishment of collective and / or coalition for the protection of forests and forest resources
	A.1.2.4 : Accompany victims of land grabbing in Famienkro and in the gold zones in lty (Man) in their search for land restitution and compensation for damages suffered	Côte d'Ivoire	2019-2020	NP Cote d'Ivoire	Strengthen victims' capacities for mediation for land restitution and reparation
	A.1.2.5 : Support to grassroots organizations to bring community	Côte	2019-2020	NP Cote	Strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations in their

	voices to the table when engaged in advocacy having to do with reviewing the land law, especially the article on creating land titles for customary landowners	d'Ivoire		d'Ivoire	advocacy tactics
	A.1.2.6 : Advocacy on issues related to land grabbing in Ho	Ghana	2019-2020	NP Ghana	Target authorities to give them a better perception of the need to protect community land
	A.1.2.7 : Support the eight (8) villages that are victims of land grabbing by the SNP (new phosphate company of Togo) for the exploitation of phosphates. The communities are seeking out solutions, such as land restitutions or compensation for damages suffered	Togo	2019-2020	NP Togo	Strengthen victims' capacities for mediation for land restitution and reparation
	A.1.2.8 : Dissemination of the new land and land code by mobilizing social movements and supporting the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to advocate where the code is inadequate.	Togo	2019-2020	NP Togo	Mobilize social movements and support the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform
	A.1.2.9 : Support organizations following up on authorities' commitments to resolve Gbahouété's	Benin	2019-2020	NP Benin	Support organizations in monitoring commitments of authorities

	land grabbing cases;				
	A.1.2.10 : Follow up on the implementation of the decision in Womey that indicated public use of land to benefit communities victimized by land grabbing	Benin	2019-2020	NP Benin	Ensure the implementation and maintenance of the authorities' decision for the benefit of the communities of Womé
	A.1.2.11 : Continue advocacy around the land law in order to guarantee more land for peasant communities	Benin	2019-2020	NP Benin	Set up a monitoring group for advocacy with the framework of safeguarding peasant land
	A.1.2.12 : Follow up on handing over the Green Book to ECOWAS president via the President of Benin	Benin	2019-2020	NP Benin	Ensure that the Green Book is delivered to heads of states in ECOWAS countries
AXIS 2 : Influencing policies at national and regional levels					
OS2 : Engaging in critical dialogue of policies and national and regional levels (ECOWAS and WAEMU) in regards to regulatory and legislative texts and public policies	A2.0 : Meeting with the ECOWAS Parliament and Rural Development Committee	Abuja	2020	Regional coordination	Recognize the GCLWS WA as actors within the Civil Society Advisory Group at the ECOWAS level
	A2.1 : Land and water				
	A2.1.1 : State of play on land laws and policies at the national level in each country	All countries	2019 – 2020	COPAGEN and all NPs of the GCLWS WA	To be done by COPAGEN, referring to the GCLWS WA Land working group as lead (FPH partnership)
A2.1.2 : Meeting to prepare an advocacy document to influence	All countries	2019 – 2020	COPAGEN GCLWS WA	To be done by COPAGEN, referring to the GCLWS WA Land	

	different processes regarding the revision of land policies at the country level based on: DVGF, CLD/UA, PNIASAN,			Points of contact for land in the various countries	working group as lead (FPH partnership)
	A2.1.3 : Support networking of grassroots struggles centered on the issues and challenges related to land	All countries	2019-2020	Coordination and country focal points	Partnership with FPH
	A2.1.4 : Learning exchanges to create synergies between the different NPs for mutual support on land and peasant agroecology (seeds, farmers, and animals);	All countries	All year	Focal points/countries with help from the coordination	Thematic groups (land and peasant agroecology)
	A2.1.5 : Grassroots information and awareness campaign on land governance – texts and laws	All countries	2019-2021	National platforms	Look into the possibility of translating into all national languages
	A2.1.6 : Continuation of Advocacy for land reform in ECOWAS countries;	All countries	2019-2021	National platforms	Urge the authorities to undertake and/or complete ongoing land reform programs in the ECOWAS countries
	A2.1.7 : Participation in the continental launch of the decade of family farming	All countries	August 2019	National platforms	Niger, Senegal
	A2.1.8 : Establishment of a think-tank composed of researchers and academics, including leaders of OPAs and CSOs to accompany the	All countries	2019 - 2021	Sub-regional coordination	Producing alternatives for inclusive and participatory land governance in the ECOWAS region

	Convergence in the elaboration of alternatives for inclusive land governance in the ECOWAS area in accordance with frameworks and guidelines of the AU and the Tenure Guidelines / FAO			Academics	
	A2.1.9 : Continuation of training and application of FAO's Responsible Land Governance Guidelines;	Countries that have not yet benefitted	2019-2021	Coordination and country platforms	Train members of organizations from countries that have not yet done training
	A2.1.10 : Organize an African forum for customary authorities on the rights of women and youth in relation to land	Mali	December 2019	Regional coordination / National platform	Strengthen the social status of women and youth and their inclusion in all dimensions of customary rights in general and specifically on land; Participation African customary authorities
	A2.1.11 : Continued implementation and revitalization of a multi-stakeholder platform (CSO, pop, chieftaincy, governments, researchers, private, parliamentarians,) at the country level	All countries	2019-2021	National platforms and Regional coordination	Work to set up other multi-stakeholder platforms on land governance in other countries, such as Mali, Senegal, Togo, and Benin
	A.2.1.12 : Participation of the Convergence in the 2019 CSF Tenure Guidelines process	Rome	October 2019	Two delegates from the Convergence	Uphold the GCLWS WA vision within the CSM/CFS

	A.2.1.13 : Alliance with the Our Land, Our Life platform	GCLWS WA	2019-2021	Regional coordination	Participate in the sub-regional dynamics regarding the protection of community land rights
A2.2: Peasant agroecology/biodiversity					
	A2.2.1 : Advocacy to push states to integrate peasant agroecology into agricultural policies	All countries	2019-2020	National platforms	Work to bring organic inputs into state subsidies for a better agroecological transition
	A2.2.2 : Training of trainers in peasant agroecology	All NPs	2019-2021	Peasant agroecology group	Distribute results to communities for better ownership
	A2.2.3 : Advocacy for non-adoption of UPOV by ECOWAS States;	All countries	2019-2020	Led by Benin	Further support the Benin NP in its fight against UPOV Focus on government authorities and other state institutions
	A2.2.4 : Advocacy for the development and adoption of a seed policy that takes peasant seeds into account throughout West African states;	All countries	2019-2020	National platforms	Lead the authorities to adopt seed policies that are favorable to peasant seeds
	A2.2.5 : Grassroots awareness campaign on land tenure issues, peasant seed systems, and farmer agroecology to mitigate the effects of climate change;	All countries	2020	National platforms	Promote changes in behavior at the community level in order to better adapt to the impacts of climate change
	A2.2.6 : Information and awareness campaign for authorities and riparian	Guinea	2020	PN Guinea	Explain the dangers of exploiting forests to authorities and

	communities on the consequences linked to the exploitation of forests, using the cases of Ziama and Diécké (Guinea), Atewa (Ghana), Montpeko (Côte d'Ivoire), Kua, Yacouba Sawadogo Forest (Burkina);	CI, Ghana, Burkina		NPCôte d'Ivoire NP Ghana NP Burkina	communities
	A2.2.7 : Celebration of the International Day of Rural Women	All countries	October 2019 - 2021	Working group on Peasant agroecology	To be celebrated in all countries
	A2.2.8 : Organization of a sub-regional capacity building workshop to better support the development of peasant agroecology at the wider territorial level.	Dakar - coinciding with the night for agroecology	November 2019	NP Senegal / GCLWS WA	To equip participants to support peasant agroecology at the territorial level
	A2.2.9 : Organize workshops on climate change in countries as part of a peasant agroecological vision	All countries	2020-2021	National platforms	Enable participants to use peasant agroecology as a means of climate change adaptation
	A2.3 : Gender				
	A2.3.1 : Campaign for secure access to arable land for women and youth (set percentages of land allocated to women and youth in settlements)	All countries	2020-2021	National platforms	Promote equal opportunities and land access for women and youth
	A2.3.2 : Capacity building for women and youth in food processing technology – local agricultural	All countries	2019-2021	National platforms	Encourage authorities to boost the entrepreneurship efforts of women and youth regarding the

	products, fisheries, pastoral resources, and marketing.				appreciation and development of local products
A2.4 : Human rights					
Alert system: mechanism to protect human rights defenders					
A2.4.1 : Organize a reflection workshop for the protection of human rights defenders (Alert system)	Burkina Faso	2020	System focal points	Boost the warning system and group: set up a guiding development committee – System Learning and Training Framework	
A2.4.2 : Learning exchange meeting with the ECOWAS Human Rights Commission in Banjul (Gambia)	Gambia	2020	Regional coordination	Establish a partnership between the commission and the Convergence	
A2.4.3 : Team of experts for laws and tools that protect human rights defenders	All countries	2020 - 2021	All NPs of the GCLWS WA	Collect and analyze texts and laws protecting human rights defenders at the national and global levels	
A2.4.4 : Build momentum in countries between NPs and networks for human rights defenders	All countries	2020-2021	National platforms	Set up a monitoring device to ensure observation at the local level. <i>Note: each country platform will set up its own device</i>	
2.5 International treaties					
A2.5.1 : Advocacy to implement the Peasants' Rights Declaration	The whole region	2020-2021	National platforms & Coordination	Urge institutional authorities to respect the various paragraphs of the declaration (workshop, dialogue session, ...)	
AXIS 3: Communications					

OS3.1 : Operationalize convergence communication tools	A3.1.1 : Update the website, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts	All countries	2019-2021	Communication group	Make the GCLWS WA's actions more visible
	A3.1.2 : Update WhatsApp groups (communication, coordination, and focal points)	All countries	2019-2021	Communication group	Ensure the flow of information
	A3.1.3 : Organization of digital information and awareness campaigns for national and international days related to Convergence themes	All countries	2019-2021	Communication group Regional coordination	Make the GCLWS WA's actions more visible
	A3.1.4 : Organize radio and TV programs related to themes	All countries	2019-2021	Communication group Regional coordination	Let people know about the GCLWS WA's actions
	A3.1.5 : Report on the GCLWS WA's best practices in lobbying		2020 - 2021	Communication group Regional coordination	Produce a publication on the GCLWS WA's struggles
	A3.2.1 : Create a section for the 2020 caravan on the Convergence website	Mali	2019-2020	CMAT	Use reports from previous caravans to bring this section to life before and during the caravan

OS3.2 : Set up tools to fortify the Caravan's communication	A3.2.2 : Update the communication strategy for the 2020 Caravan	All countries	2019-2020	Communication group Regional coordination	Improve communications for the 2020 caravan
	A3.2.3 : Organize a meeting for communication officers to refine the strategy in order to bring more visibility to the caravan, while preparing the digital campaign that will be implemented during the caravan	All countries	2019-2020	Communication group Regional coordination	Prepare the digital campaign for the 2020 caravan
	A3.2.4 : Strengthen collaboration with community radio and other communication tools, specifically those of GCLWS WA member organizations	All countries	2020-2021	National platforms and Regional coordination	Ensure the presence of members of national platforms in the media to better communicate on the challenges and issues related to land, water, and peasant seeds
OS3.3 : Distribute the second edition of the Green Book	A3.3.1: Continue diffusing the Convergence's messages through the organization of press conferences at the country level and in meetings	All countries	Permanent	Communication group Regional coordination	Widely distribute the Green Book throughout West African countries
OS3.4 : Continue capacity building	A3.4.1: Organize training related to communications (article writing and website update)	To be determined	To be determined	Regional coordination	Involve those who did not have the opportunity to participate in the Makeni session or other communications sessions through adding communications activities, especially for training

International plans

Plan	Place	Period	Observations
Participation in the sub-regional government workshop on land	Abidjan	November	Emphasize the Convergence's participation in international spaces in order to share its experience and contribute alternative proposals
Participation in the AU land policy initiative workshop as part of the land is life platform	Addis Ababa	November	
Participation in the 8 th session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the UN FAO	Rome		
Meeting of Indigenous peoples	Colombia	December	