



News from Drynet

A global initiative giving future to drylands

Drynet is a network of 18 organisations from all over the world. They work together to combat land degradation.

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**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
represents civil society**

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Editorial

Noel Oettle, Environmental Monitoring Group

Welcome to the first edition of News from Drynet for 2016. This edition has a focus on the outcomes of UNFCCC COP 21, with a focus on land-related matters.

The Paris Agreement puts the ball back in the court of national governments, which must turn their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) into actual contributions to mitigate the effects of climate change. In all countries it will require political will to take the sorts of actions that are needed to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to enable sustainable adaptation to the effects of global warming, and civil society must play its vital role in informing decision makers and ensuring that the right sorts of action are taken.

The inauguration period of one year for the Paris Agreement was launched on Earth Day 2016, and 175 Parties signed it to indicate that they are committed to ratification. However, to date only 16 Parties, representing 0,03% of global emissions have ratified the Agreement. For the Paris Agreement to come into effect, at least 55 countries, that together represent at least 55% of the global emissions, must ratify it.

Drynet has experienced steady growth in the past months, and we welcome on board two new members: CAATINGA of Brazil and Gram Bharati Samiti of India. This brings our total membership to 18 organisations.

In this edition we also congratulate the incoming UNCCD CSO Panel, which includes 3 Drynet members: Marioldy Sanchez Santivanez of AIDER, Barış Karapinar of TEMA and Bhawani Shanker Kusum of Gram Bharati Samiti. They have taken to the task with enthusiasm and dedication, and have been supported by the previous members of the Panel from Drynet, who have shared their insights and experiences.

We are pleased to note that Barış Karapinar of TEMA is serving in the Advisory Board for the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDNF) that the UNCCD Secretariat has been establishing. With its focus on profitable investment by the private sector, the Fund has the potential to bring about improvements in land management, but also to undermine the rights and livelihoods of marginalised land

users. In our next edition of News from Drynet Barış will share some perspectives on the LDNF.

Drynet is no longer a project, but a well-established network that has a key role to play in bridging the gap between land users and decision makers at all levels. In 2015 all our members honoured their commitments to supporting Drynet by paying their annual fees, and this has enabled the Secretariat to provide information and support to the Board and to members. Much of this was achieved under the leadership of former Board Chair Duygu Kutluay, who departed from TEMA to pursue further studies at the end of 2015. Following her departure the Board recently welcomed Özgül Erdemli Mutlu of TEMA to its ranks and we look forward to her contributions to the Board as a co-opted member.

Soils for food security and for facing climate change: The “4 per 1000” Initiative

Patrice Burger – CARI

The “4 per 1000” (“4°/°”) Initiative: what is it?

The initiative is based on the assumption that increasing the carbon content of soils by 0.4 % (4/1000) annually would make it possible to store all current CO₂ emissions in the soil.

In the course of a conference on Climate Smart Agriculture in Montpellier in March 2016, the French minister of Agriculture Mr Stéphane Le Foll referred as follows to the French agricultural initiative called 4°/°, which aims to

achieve this goal: “The aim of the Initiative is to demonstrate that agriculture, and agricultural soils in particular, can play a crucial role where food security and climate change are concerned. Based on robust scientific evidence, the Initiative therefore invites all partners to declare or to implement practical programmes for carbon sequestration in soil and the types of farming methods used to promote it (e.g.

agroecology, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, landscape management). The goal of the Initiative is to engage stakeholders-national governments, local and regional government, companies, trade organisations, NGOs, research facilities, and others, in a transition towards a productive, resilient agriculture, based on a sustainable soil management and generating jobs and incomes, hence ensuring sustainable development.” government, companies, trade organisations, NGOs, research facilities, and others, in a transition towards a productive, resilient agriculture, based on a sustainable soil management and generating jobs and incomes, hence ensuring sustainable development.”

This initiative is based on the assumption that the “4°/°” annual growth rate of soil carbon stocks will make it possible to halt the current rate of increase in atmospheric CO₂. This growth rate is not a normative target for every country, but is intended to show that even a small increase in the soil carbon stock (of agricultural soils, notably grasslands and pastures, and of forest soils) is crucial to improve soil’s fertility and agricultural production and to contribute to achieving the long-term objective of limiting the temperature increase to the 1,5°C threshold.

Because it is primarily composed of carbon, the organic matter in soils plays a role in four important ecosystem services: resistance to soil erosion, water retention in soils, soil fertility for plants and soil biodiversity. Even small changes of the soil carbon pool have tremendous effects

both on agricultural productivity and on global greenhouse gas cycle. Maintaining soils, restoring and improving degraded agricultural lands and, in general terms, increasing the soil carbon, play an important role in addressing the three-fold challenge of food security, adaptation of food systems and people to climate change, and the mitigation of anthropogenic emissions. The initiative aims to support the scaling up of proven solutions (*Reference: <http://4p1000.org/understand>*).

The justification for the 4/1000 is based on three challenges

i. Combating soil degradation

Soil degradation poses a threat to over 40% of the world’s drylands and the process is being accelerated by climate change. Such degradation has negative impacts on food security and family farming.

ii. Helping to ensure food security

Our ability to feed 9.5 billion human beings in 2050 in the midst of climate change will notably depend on our ability to protect living soils. There is a strong correlation between agricultural production and soil health, for which the principal indicator is its organic matter content. Productive, stable soils are directly conducive to farms’ resilience in the face of climate change.

iii. Adapting agriculture to climate change

Soils that are richer in carbon cope better with the impacts of climate change because they withstand erosion and retain water more effectively, especially during extreme events such as floods and droughts.



Image source: <http://4p1000.org/understand>

The "4 per 1,000" Initiative seeks to demonstrate that agriculture can provide practical solutions to the challenge of climate disruption, while also meeting those posed by

food insecurity through the use of farming methods that match local conditions: e.g. agroecology, agroforestry, conservation agriculture and landscape management.

Launch in Paris at COP21

The launch of the 4/1000 took place during COP21 in Paris. Around 100 stakeholders confirmed their intention in support of the Initiative, including states, research institutes, funds, foundations, CSOs¹, professional organizations, regional organizations, international organizations and private companies. All of them subscribed to the following 5 objectives in accordance with their missions or mandates:²

- to strengthen our public policies, our tools and our actions to foster sustainable and inclusive agricultural and rural development that provides for the implementation of practices that maintain or enhance carbon stock in agricultural soils,
- to encourage the launch of research programs in order to improve knowledge on soil-carbon storage, to assess the performance of farming techniques and methods of restoring degraded land with regard to carbon storage,
- to support a participatory approach to building innovative solutions and their adoption for the benefit of farmers and the general population, notably by means of training and education programs,
- to share our projects, actions, experience and results in this area, in particular the
- results of research, through a common platform and to organize meetings at

regular intervals for discussion and stock-taking with the support of a scientific and technical committee, and results of research, through a common platform and to organize meetings at regular intervals for discussion and stock-taking with the support of a scientific and technical committee, and

- to put in place inclusive and transparent governance to guarantee fair participation by the various actors. In this connection, a Council of Members, supported by an executive committee, will be charged with defining and implementing the programme”.

Image below: CARI Director, Patrice Burger joins other representatives at the launch of the 4 per 1 000 initiative.



¹ CARI is one of the CSOs that supported the initiative at this early stage

² http://agriculture.gouv.fr/sites/minagri/files/declaration_projet_eng.pdf

Controversial issues raised by the 4 per 1000 initiative

There can be no doubt that this initiative intends to provide a response to the current challenges faced by agriculture in response to the pressures of global warming, increasing food demand and increasing land and natural resource degradation. This explains why the 4 per 1000 included in the Lima Paris Action Plan³. Nevertheless, while the aim of the initiative is positive, several doubts or questions must be addressed, including:

- The uncertainty of the scientific assumption that a rate of 0.4 % (or 4 per thousand) storage of carbon in the soil would allow to capture the full net emissions of CO₂⁴. Soils have limited, non-permanent and reversible capacity for storage of carbon. Furthermore, the initiative might enable the introduction of off-sets, allowing high emissions to be maintained in other sectors.
- The strong focus on carbon sequestration does not adequately challenge the negative impact that the current models of agriculture and food systems have on global warming. Moreover, the main contributions of the agriculture sector to global warming are CH₄ and N₂O, which are not addressed by the initiative. Agricultural production is therefore at risk of being pursued on the same manner as currently: “business as usual”.
- The link between food security, adaptation of food systems to climate change and the mitigation of the GHGs is poorly documented. This lack of concrete evidence of the weight of these different components points to the risk of a serious imbalance. This is particularly true of food security, which is prominently mentioned as a main objective of the initiative but is only partly addressed, because a target of increasing food production is not sufficient to any security in of food supplies to those in need.
- The farmers of the world, and particularly small-scale family farmers, are not mentioned as a priority by the Initiative, whereas they produce 70% of food globally. As the methodology for the involvement of stakeholders has not yet been clarified, they are at risk of being excluded by models or procedures that are not attuned to their livelihoods. They should be the primary beneficiaries, and also the primary contributors to the initiative through their management of a large proportion of the earth’s agriculture land.

³ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/agriculture/>

⁴ Report of the Secretary General, agriculture, development, food security and nutrition, 18 August 2015, A/70/333,§60

- The scale of the Initiative implies impact on many millions of hectares. It will be imperative to ensure that the land rights of farmers and other land users remain secure. The selection procedures for the land that will benefit from 4/1000 could lead to speculation and encourage land grabbing, and deprive communities that depend on natural resources of their livelihoods.
- How the 4/1000 Initiative will be funded is not yet clear, although it will probably include both public and private funding. The mechanism for such a funding, its channelling as well as the measurement of the results have not been defined and are potentially problematic. Market-based instruments will probably be put in place and will require firm regulation and strong governance.
- Last but not least, the similarities with, as well as the differences between two related concepts that are currently in vogue, namely Land Degradation Neutrality⁵ and Climate Smart Agriculture⁶, need to be characterized in order to avoid confusion, misunderstanding or competition .

In order to address these issues, new developments are anticipated, among them the establishment of a governance body and a work program.

This initiative highlights the emergent agricultural issues in the face of the changes brought about by global warming, land degradation, lower crop yields and decreasing food stocks in the face of increasing demand. The food crisis and instability that they generate are of global concern and are closely linked to increased forced migration.

In this regard, agroecology promises to be one of the most suitable solutions for responding at all levels. It responds to local needs while providing global benefits.

⁵ <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/RioConventions/RioPlus20/Pages/LDNFAQ.aspx>

⁶ <http://csa2015.cirad.fr/>

Agroecology and local family farming: levers to prioritize⁷ (extract from a position paper from the French CSOs of Coordination Sud)

Not all agricultural models contribute equally to climate change. Industrial agriculture contributes heavily to the problem, whereas local family farms contribute far less and are far more resilient when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Small-scale farmers should be the first to benefit from the initiative because they have a fundamental interest in taking care of the land they farm. Yet, because they do not often have the means to do so, they could paradoxically be excluded from the initiative if everything possible is not done to protect them (from competition from products imported cheaply to land grabbing) and actively to support them in their own context and at their own scale. At the same time, certain models and practices of economic and financial players could be promoted simply because of their impact on soil carbon, even though they could contribute to the exclusion of rural communities, to land grabbing, and so on. The agricultural models and practices supported in the framework of the initiative must therefore be clearly defined in terms of criteria of exclusion and/or inclusion, so that small farmers are favoured.

This implies the evolution of agricultural policies on a global scale so that agroecology and small-scale farmers are prioritized. In this context it is important to engage and involve farmers, farmer organizations, and women. Small-scale farmers produce 70 % of the world's food and as such have a key role to play in protecting the soil. Due to gender inequality in access to land, it is also important to promote women's participation and to take their opinions into account in the institutions that implement and monitor the '4 per 1000' initiative. Unless agroecology and local family agriculture are operationalized within the '4 per 1000' and the majority of farmers in developing countries are involved, it will fail to deliver on its laudable goals.

⁷ <http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Note-N8-4-per-1000-caution-caution-October-2015-VEENG.pdf>

Agroecology side-event at UNFCCC COP 21

Noel Oettle, Environmental Monitoring Group

Drynet members CARI, GRET and EMG joined with French NGOs Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans frontières, Action Contre la Faim and Compassion in World Farming (CIFW) to organise this side event. Our intention was to show how family farming and agro-ecological approaches to agriculture contribute to mitigation of climate change, reduce poverty and enhance human security, and to identify international mechanisms and policies that should be mobilised and implemented in order to support agroecology.

Image below: Badrul Alam of Via Campesina presents on screen while Noel Oettlé and Moderator Katia Roesch listen attentively



We designed the event to enable panellists and other participants to exchange views on agricultural models, their impacts on climate change and the potential of agroecological systems to support communities in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change and preserve the environment while providing scientific information and concrete experiences on the agroecological benefits.

and mitigate climate change and preserve the environment while providing scientific

The event also put forward arguments and recommendations for decision makers and negotiators on agriculture to support low-carbon agricultural development and assist family farmers in sustainable adaptation based on agro-ecological principles.

The event was moderated by Katia Roesch (Program Officer of AVSF), and four panellists presented different perspectives on the topic:

- Hilal Elver, Special Rapporteur on Right to Food at the United Nations
- Philippe Baret, researcher at the Catholic University of Louvain
- Badrul Alam, representative of Via Campesina, member of the Bangladesh Krishok Federation (BKF)
- Noel Oettlé, Environmental Monitoring Group (South Africa)

According to Hilal Elver 'Agroecology is very important to farming communities in order to maintain equilibrium in terms of food security, human rights and appropriate response to climate change'. *Image below: Hilal Elver*



The agro-ecological approach is in particular an effective, resilient and sustainable model of production, able to tackle the issues of adaptation and mitigation and with proven on-the-ground results. Its focus on pastures and building soils with high levels of organic matter enables agro-ecology to store large amounts of carbon. Practised on family farms, it allows people to remain or become autonomous and is based on existing local knowledge, the preservation of natural resources, promoting the potential of ecosystems and natural biomass cycles, within a context of sustainable land management, including the various environmental, social and economic aspects thereof. Agroecology is the alternative to the industrial food production model that has contributed to climate change and continues to do so.

The side event stimulated a spirited exchange of views on agricultural models, their impacts on climate change and the potential of agroecological systems to support communities in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change and preserve the environment.

At a press conference held after the event, the following key messages were delivered to the press:

- Agroecology based on food sovereignty principles is the only comprehensive agricultural solution to the climate crisis and its impacts on human rights.
- Policy should avoid supporting technologies and approaches that promote false solutions that will undermine farmers' autonomy and food sovereignty and aggravate the climate crisis whilst promoting a productivist agenda with mitigation and adaptation as subsidiary objectives.
- Technologies such as GMOs, agrofuels and so-called Climate Smart Agriculture promoted by GACSA are false solutions
- Agroecological solutions are already practiced and are socially, ecologically and economically sustainable
- Public policies (including subsidies, taxation and regulation) should be applied to decrease the imbalances that currently exist in most countries.
- Agroecology creates sound livelihoods by applying accessible technologies that depend on low-carbon energy sources (including people's labour).
- Agroecology also is more resistant to the impacts of flooding, drought and other extreme weather events.

TEMA Foundation's participation in UNFCCC COP21

Özgül Erdemli, TEMA

TEMA Foundation's General Manager, Prof Barış Karapınar and Climate Policy Coordinator Cem İskender Aydın participated in UNFCCC COP21 between 28 November-12 December 2015. They closely followed the debates related to adaptation, food security, forestry and land, among other issues.

During the two weeks of the conference, with the coordination of TEMA Foundation, a bi-daily bulletin titled "*Paris İklim Postası* (Paris Climate Post)" was prepared together with the other Turkish NGO representatives participating in the conference. From the Twitter account of the bulletin, more than 500 tweets were shared, reaching approximately 250 000 viewers. Furthermore, during the conference, several TV and media appearances were made by Prof Barış Karapınar and Cem İskender Aydın: three national television networks (*Bloomberg HT, IMC TV* and *NTV*) and one radio station, *Rusya'nın Sesi* (Voice of Russia).

In addition, two radio shows were broadcast live from Paris for *Yeşil Dalga* (Green Wave), prepared by TEMA Foundation on *Açık Radyo*. In the first show, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Prof. Hilal Elver discussed the implication of the negotiations in Paris on the food security. And in the second show, Prof. Barış Karapınar discussed the implications on the adaption, finance and related issues. While in Paris the TEMA team was also able to participate in some of the civil society actions that took place around the city.

Image below: Cem İskender Aydın conveying an anti-coal mining message at the Civil Society Climate Event at the Eiffel Tower on December 12, 2015



Indigenous Peoples at COP21 and their demands

Nahid Naghizadeh, CENESTA

Though indigenous peoples around the world number approximately 400 million, speak thousands of languages and own, occupy or subsist off vast swaths of land, they are widely excluded from decision-making and refused their legal right to stewardship.

“Indigenous Leaders at COP21”

Despite devastating terror attacks on November 13 and increased security, the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris from 20 November to 13 December. The conference was one of the largest environmental and diplomatic meetings and brought over 36,000 participants from around the globe including government authorities, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, media, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) organisations.

The strong presence and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities during the COP21 of the UNFCCC was one of the outstanding and remarkable part of the conference. The indigenous peoples and local communities **from all over the world gathered together to unite their voices and announce their solidarity** for protecting the Mother Earth and keep it alive. They organised a series of events for public announcement of climate change consequences on their lands, territories, livelihoods and cultural values through careless and increasing development plans and technologies in the globe including government authorities, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, media, civil society organisations,

media, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) organisations. **The strong presence and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities during the COP21 of the UNFCCC was one of the outstanding and remarkable part of the conference.** The indigenous peoples and local communities **from all over the world gathered together to unite their voices and announce their solidarity** for protecting the Mother Earth and keep it alive. They organised a series of events for public announcement of climate change consequences on their lands, territories, livelihoods and cultural values through careless and increasing development plans and technologies in the globe. Indigenous peoples offered their demands through various various statements, demonstration, panel discussion, preconference, film showing, peaceful protests in and out of the conference centre and cultural events to convince the world leaders and decision makers for rejecting the false solutions in climate change and stop victimising and marginalising indigenous peoples. The following text has a brief review to participation of indigenous peoples at COP21, their demands and inclusion of the demands within the Paris Agreement.

Image below: Indigenous leaders Panel members



Actions and demands of indigenous peoples in COP21

During the two weeks of COP21 indigenous peoples network's and organisation's from all regions including Latin America, Africa, North America, the Pacific, Asia, the Caribbean, the Arctic, Russia and Eastern Europe showed a tremendous reflection to influence the content of the Paris agreement and inclusion of their demands within the text.

Indigenous peoples are not part of the problem! Their roles and contributions are vital for effective solutions to climate change.

They organised an Indigenous Pavilion at the Climate Generations space adjacent to the UN Blue Zone as exhibition and dialogue space with daily cultural events, press conferences and panel discussions.

Indigenous Peoples are demanding Systems Change – Not Climate Change

Alongside other non-state actors the indigenous peoples organised a number of peaceful protests and public manifestations in and out of the conference centre to signify a renewed strength to uphold the collective work of indigenous peoples, holding placards with messages calling for “implementing UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, ending fossil fuel subsidies, stopping exploitation of nature and human resources, freezing tar sands expansion, ending extractivism, ending militarism, stopping funding fossil fuels, keeping fossil fuels in the ground and climate justice and peace.



Their representatives participated in plenty of side events, panel and round tables discussions, raised awareness about their demands and made their voices heard on a vast range of the conference by stressing their sense of ownership, beliefs, innovations, traditional adaptation strategies, indigenous knowledge and customary laws on conservation of nature, protecting Mother Earth and effective climate change solutions. They also emphasized securing the land rights of indigenous peoples for protecting the earth, stop land grabbing in the name of climate change and building partnerships for effective mitigation and adaptation.

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) Demands for Inclusion in Paris Agreement:

- Inclusion of the Rights of IPs:
- Recognition of the Rights of Mother Earth;
- Establish mandatory—not voluntary—emissions cuts at the source;
- Inclusion of securing the land rights of IPs and say no to land grabbing;
- No False Solutions – Just Transition;
- Leave Fossil Fuels in the Ground;
- No to large hydro dams;
- No to nuclear energy;
- No to biofuel plantation;
- No to tar sand mining;
- No to carbon trading;
- Provide direct access to funds by IPs in developing and developed countries;
- Ensure the full and effective participation of IPs in climate change processes at all levels;

Despite continuous discussion and debate of indigenous peoples for inclusion of their demands in the operative text of the Paris Agreement, the content of the final accord does not show a clear commitment to their demands, in particular to the rights of indigenous peoples, no reference or clear timeline for the phasing out of fossil fuels and no reference to food security within the operative text of the agreement that are crucial for IPs. In addition, there is no wording on “land” or “land use” and “right to land” which is inseparable components of the rights of IPs according to The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

(Reference:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

At present, the rights of Indigenous Peoples only reflected within the preamble – which is purely aspirational text, and not legally binding or enforceable in any way and is better than none.

Indigenous Peoples are Rising Up in Solidarity to defend our Rights as Indigenous Peoples; to protect the Sacredness of, the Territorial Integrity of, and Rights of (Grandmother) Mother Earth; and the Rights of Future Generations. We are building solidarity from the Global South to the North to fulfil our sacred duties, listening to the teachings of our elders and the voices of our youth and women, to act wisely to carry out our responsibilities to enhance the health and respect the sacredness of Mother Earth, and to demand climate justice now. Indigenous Peoples will not stand idle as we tell the world the Earth is the source of life to be protected, not merely a resource to be exploited.

(Reference: <http://indigenusrising.org/about>)



UNCCD CSO Panel member Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim represents civil society at the signing of the Paris Agreement

Candice Arendse, Environmental Monitoring Group

On 22 April 2016, New York City hosted the much anticipated signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement, which also coincided with International Mother Earth Day. All world leaders were invited to attend this event. 55 countries had to sign the agreement in order for it to achieve legal status.

We are proud of Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim from the Indigenous Women and Peoples Association of Chad (AFPAT - "Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad), who was nominated as the Civil Society representative to speak at this momentous event. As an African Indigenous woman, Hindou represented the world's indigenous

and local communities, and their role in resilience, adaptation and mitigation of climate change issues.

The Paris Agreement is the key outcome of the proceedings from UNFCCC COP 21 during December 2015. 196 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change came to an agreement that will focus on combatting the impacts of climate change through measures that will increase the capacity of vulnerable communities to address the impacts of climate change.

If you would like more information on Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, please see her bio [here](#)

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www.emg.org.za

For comments, suggestions or contributions to the newsletter, please contact **Candice Arendse**, candice@emg.org.za or **Noel Oettle**, dryland@global.co.za.

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