



Avec le soutien de :



LA RECONNAISSANCE DE L'AGROÉCOLOGIE DANS LES CONVENTIONS DE RIO : UN POTENTIEL POUR SA MISE À L'ÉCHELLE

**Webinar presenting the
briefing note**

17 September 2024

3pm CEST/UTC+2



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Introducing the Minka network

- North/South network, based in Brussels and founded in 2020
- 10 members on 3 continents, supporting family farming in 25 countries
- 4 areas of work:
 - development of joint projects
 - capitalisation, capacity building and synergies
 - development of analysis and expertise
 - advocacy





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Context for reflection

- The global situation is alarming (climate change, famine and malnutrition, erosion of biodiversity, poverty/inequality, etc.).
- Agricultural and food systems are at the heart of these global challenges
- Agroecology is a multi-sector, cross-functional response to global challenges
- The Rio Conventions are a proactive approach to environmental issues:
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



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Genesis of the reflection

- 3 members of the Minka network have taken the initiative to reflect strategically on the place of agroecology in the Rio Conventions



- This recognition is important for :
 - Contribute to strengthening the overall narrative around AE
 - Offer direct funding opportunities for AE
 - Momentum with the COPs at the end of 2024
- This project was shared within the Minka Advocacy WG: Mandate to identify and support relevant advocacy issues at an international level, in the South and in the North.
- Publication of a summary note last July



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- Systematic search for the term "agroecology" in COP decisions
- Targeted research into the texts of supporting bodies/expert and scientific groups
- Broadening the scope of the FAO/HLPE principles
- Identification of 3 entry points:
 - nature-based solutions
 - Resilience
 - inclusiveness.
- Precautions: not a scientific or totally exhaustive work

Analysis methodology



The place of agroecology in the UNFCCC process

François Grenade, advocacy manager Humundi



Who we are

Humundi, formerly SOS Faim, is a Belgian NGO working and campaigning for 60 years for a transition to **fair and sustainable food systems**, with the aim of **fighting hunger and rural poverty**.

CARTE DES PAYS PARTENAIRES



Our mission

Promote and support the **agroecological transition** needed to create Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), capable of providing **healthy food for all** in a preserved environment.

Food systems and climate

- Cause : food systems emit 1/3 of GHG
- Victim : food systems and particularly smallholder farmers are vulnerable to climate change
- Solution : food systems and agriculture are important levers for mitigation
- Agroecology :
 - Delivers multiples benefits
 - For climate change : mitigation, carbon storage and especially adaptation



Food systems in the UNFCCC

- UNFCCC :
 - Overall objective : Stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic (humaninduced) disruption of the climate system.
 - 197 parties
- For long, food systems and agriculture were not a topic at COP
 - Only through REDD and Clean Development Mechanisms.
- COP23 (2017) : Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Food systems in the UNFCCC

- COP 27 (2022) :
 - Growing political interest for food and agriculture (food day at COP, reference in the cover decision)
 - New process : Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of action on agriculture and food security (SSJW) replaces Koronivia.
 - Objective : increase the implementation of climate solutions within food systems.

Food systems in the UNFCCC

- COP28 (2023)
 - Several mentions of food in different outputs of the COP (GST, GGA)
 - SSJW: no progress due to organisational aspects
 - United Arab Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action
 - Signed by 159 member states
 - It aims to commit countries to include agriculture and food systems in their nationally determined contributions and other national plans before COP30 in 2025.

Agroecology in the UNFCCC

- No reference in the UNFCCC COP reports
- IPCC :
 - IPCC (2022) : “**agroecological principles and practices**, ecosystem-based management in fisheries and aquaculture, and other approaches that work with natural **processes support food security, nutrition, health and well-being, livelihoods and biodiversity, sustainability and ecosystem services**”.
 - Summary for Policy makers of the IPCC report (2023) : “**Examples of effective adaptation options include:** cultivar improvements, on-farm water management and storage, soil moisture conservation, irrigation, agroforestry, community-based adaptation, farm and landscape level diversification in agriculture, sustainable land management approaches, **use of agroecological principles and practices** and other approaches that work with natural processes (**high confidence**)”.

Opportunities for the agroecology principles within the UNFCCC

- Nature-based solutions (opportunity and risk for agroecology)
 - COP28 (2023), Global Stocktake : « encourages the implementation of nature-based solutions” + “urges countries to raise their ambitions [...] , in particular by accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and **nature-based solutions**”
- Equity, participation and social responsibility :
 - Paris Agreement : “Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger”
 - Koronivia joint work for agriculture final text (2022) : emphasis on the **importance of smallholder farmers, food security and equity**
 - Global Goal on Adaptation (2023) : emphasis on increasing sustainable and regenerative production and **equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all**

Opportunities for the agroecology principles within the UNFCCC

- Resilience :
 - United Arab Emirates declaration on sustainable agriculture, **resilient food systems** and climate action (2023) : adaptation and resilience measures must be scaled up.
- Opportunity for agroecology as a whole :
 - Agreement for SSJW found in Bonn (2024), 2 workshops will be organized :
 - “**Systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action in agriculture, food systems and food security**” (June 2025)
 - “Progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation **for climate action in agriculture and food security**, including sharing of best practices” (June 2026)



THANK YOU

frgr@humundi.org



Raising awareness,
mobilising, taking action
for sustainable land
management

25 years' experience
serving people in arid zones

www.cariassociation.org



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- Adopted in **1994** following the Rio Summit
- Ratified by **196 countries**
- Objective: "Combat **desertification*** and mitigate the effects of **drought** in severely **affected** countries*, particularly in **Africa**".

Desertification: land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas linked to climatic variations and human activities.

Distinguishes between [affected/non-affected countries] and [developing/developed countries].

Developing countries are eligible for assistance in implementing the Convention.

Strong involvement of civil society from the start of the Convention



CARI's involvement in the UNCCD

In line with its central concern for **land** for development and preservation of the environment.

For advocacy on:

- ➡ The involvement of CSOs in the Convention and their **participation in the negotiations**
- ➡ **Oases** as agro-ecosystems to be preserved
- ➡ The role of **local and regional authorities** in sustainable land management
- ➡ **Agro-ecology** as a tool for implementing the Convention



CARI's involvement in the UNCCD

- Civil society **informed** about the UNCCD and the issues at stake in the negotiations
- Able to **contribute to the debate** on key issues
- Thanks to the **organised and legitimate representation of** civil society

Strategic intelligence and
popularisation of issues



COP **preparatory summits**



Initiating civil society
networks





Opportunities for civil society to influence the UNCCD

- Thanks to legitimate and secure representation
- Supported by the UNCCD secretariat

Between the COPs

- ➡ CSO panel
- ➡ Observer positions in the Science-Policy Interface and ad hoc working groups

During the COPs

- ➡ Statements at plenary sessions (CST, CRIC, COP)
- ➡ Open Dialogue Sessions





Agriculture and food systems within the UNCCD

Among the causes of land degradation :

- Extending agricultural land
- Poor management of water resources
- Pollution caused by inappropriate farming practices
- Soil fragility (mechanised ploughing, overgrazing)

To combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought:

- Implement long-term integrated strategies focusing simultaneously on improving land productivity and on the restoration and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions (Article 2).
- Raising awareness of production and consumption patterns and their impact on land management (COP3)

Farming systems at the heart of the problem, but their transformation is slow in coming

Founding text of the Convention (1994)

- Farming/Agriculture: 17
- Breeding: 5

2008-2018 strategy

- Farming/Agriculture: 4

Strategy 2018-2030

- Farming/Agriculture: 0

In COP decisions: direct but discreet references to agroecology

At **COP14 in 2019** in New Delhi:

- **Decision 20:** Encourages countries to [...] take account of various approaches, **including agro-ecological approaches**
- **Decision 23:** use various approaches, **including agro-ecological approaches**, to deal with drought and increase the resilience of ecosystems and populations





In peripheral texts: direct references to farming and food systems



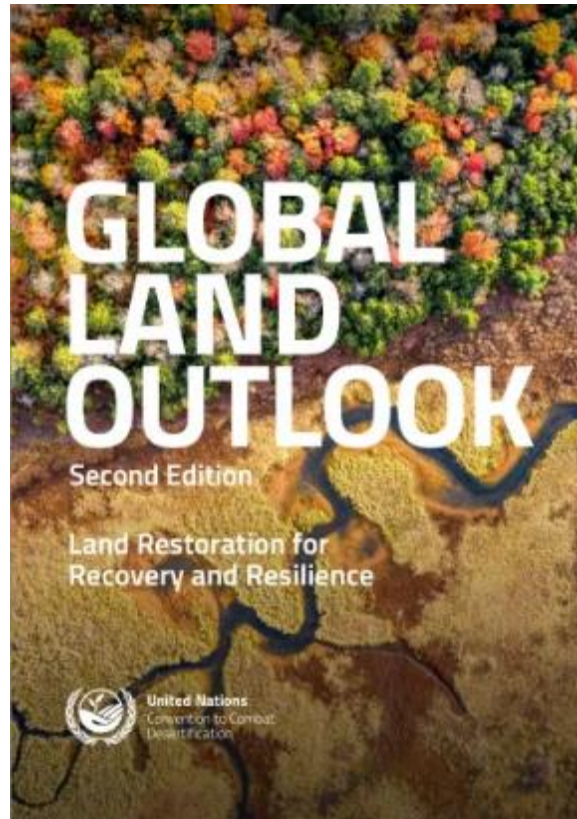
Achieving neutrality and agro-ecological approaches to make food systems more resilient

"Nature positive food production
Non-destructive and regenerative use of natural resources

"Production systems based on the elements of agroecology deliver positive results for nature, people and the climate".



In peripheral texts: direct references to farming and food systems



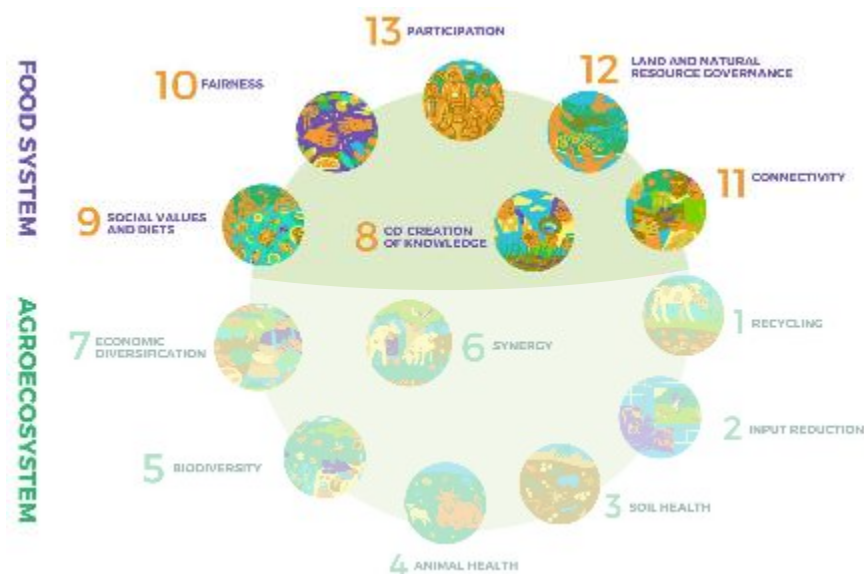
Food systems are responsible for 80% of deforestation, 70% of freshwater use, and the greatest cause of loss of terrestrial biodiversity.

Recommendation to decision-makers:
→ Changing food systems

"Agroecology as a sustainable, affordable and effective alternative, enabling agriculture to move from being the main cause of degradation to being the main driver of land and soil restoration".



Reflecting Agro-ecology principles in the UNCCD: The place of inclusion



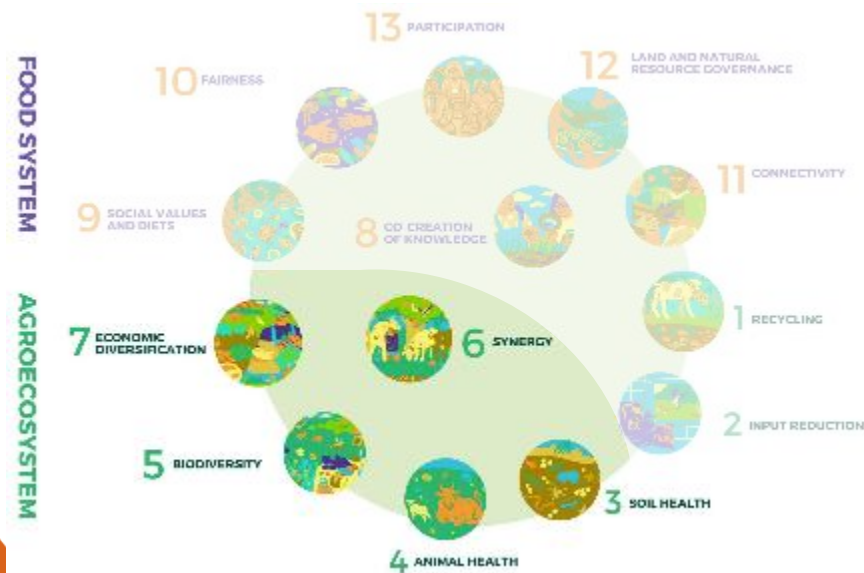
Responsible governance

Historic decision taken at COP14 in 2019 on responsible land tenure



Reflecting Agro-ecology principles in the UNCCD: Resilience

The resilience of populations and ecosystems: a key issue for the Convention



COP15 (2022) - Political dialogue :

"the localisation and increased resilience of food production is essential to mitigate land degradation".

- Nature Based Solutions - mentioned, but not the mainstay



COP16 in 2024: envisionable progress



Continued advocacy of agro-ecology by civil society

References to agroecology in official COP framework documents and in recommendations for decisions

The COP could recommend that the Secretariat define and promote approaches and practices such as agroecology...

COP16 agenda:

- Thematic day on agricultural and food systems
- Debate to adopt policy recommendations on "ecological agricultural and food systems".



**Thank you for your
attention**





The place of agroecology in UNCBD

Alice Jandrain, Research and Advocacy Officer

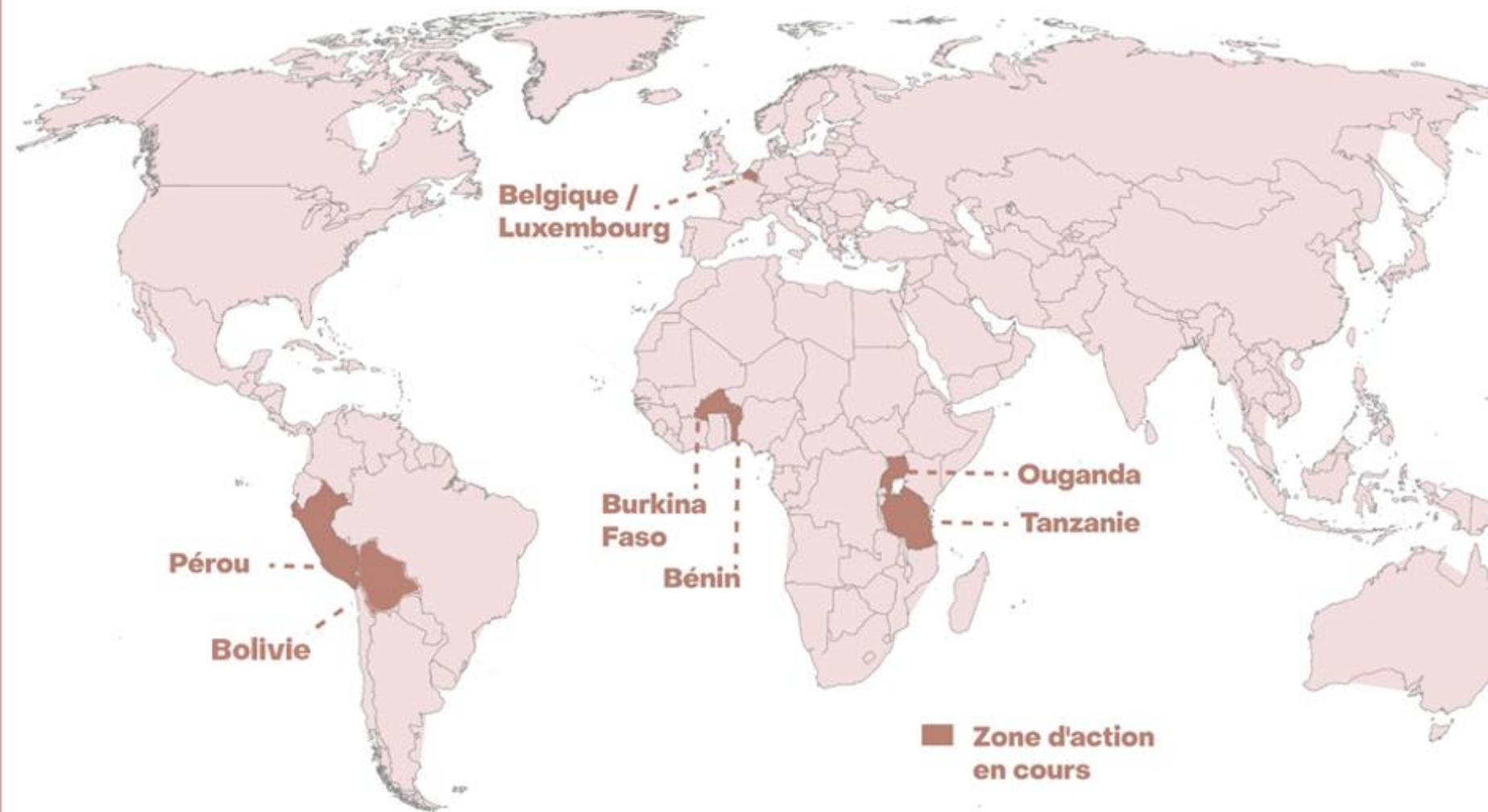
Tuesday 17th September

Webinar "Recognition of agroecology in the Rio Conventions: potential for scaling up".

The right to food for all

Africa and South America
Supporting small scale
farmers.

Belgium and Luxembourg
Education, awareness-
raising and advocacy.



Food systems and biodiversity erosion

- Destruction of natural ecosystems, soil artificialisation and deforestation,

Ex: Conversion of natural or semi-natural land for agricultural use.

- Introduction of invasive exotic species, including pests and diseases,
- Increasing use of species, varieties and breeds modified *ex situ*.

Agroecology: A cross-disciplinary response



Principles

Connectivity
Diversification
Synergies
Ecosystem
services



Examples

Habitats for wild
species
Biological control of
pests
Reduction of
synthetic inputs
Pollination

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

- Adopted in **1992** at the Rio Summit
- Ratified by **196** Parties
- Objectives: "The conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources".
- "Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Agroecology: direct references

- The term "agroecology" does not appear in the 1992 Convention (text),
- But it appears in the decisions of COP 12 (2014), COP 13 (2016), COP 14 (2018) and COP 15 - Global Biodiversity Framework for 2022-2030 (Kunming Montreal), peripheral texts.

COP decisions

COP 12
(2014)

Recognition of agroecological approaches as sustainable agriculture and practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

COP13
(2016)

Combining agroecological approaches with the agricultural practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.

COP 14
(2018)

Recognition of the potential of agroecology and the agricultural practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to find solutions to current unsustainable production and consumption practices.

COP decisions

COP 15 (2022)

- Adoption of a new global biodiversity framework for 2022-2030, Kunming-Montréal.
- Agroecology presented as one of a number of innovative approaches...
- helping to "improve the resilience, efficiency and long-term productivity of these production systems, as well as enhancing food security and conserving and restoring biodiversity".

Peripheral texts

IPBES (2019)

Agroecology is presented as « a **sustainable agriculture**" alongside "integrated pest and nutrient management, organic farming, soil and water conservation practices, environmentally friendly farming, agroforestry, silvo-pastoral systems, irrigation management, small plot systems."

Peripheral texts

Global
biodiversity
outlook 5
(2020)

"The transition to **sustainable agriculture**: redesigning farming systems using **agroecological** or other innovative **approaches** to increase productivity while minimising adverse effects on biodiversity."

Local
biodiversity
outlook 2
(2020)

"Indigenous peoples and local communities also manage and enhance genetic diversity, in particular through their highly diversified **agroecological production systems**".

The principles of agroecology in the UNCBD

Nature-based solutions

Inherent to the objective of the 1992 Convention (*in situ* and *ex situ* conservation).

Textually specified in other texts (Global Biodiversity Framework for 2022-2030 SBSTTA 2019).

Resilience

Convention: resilience of ecosystems and the communities that depend directly on them for their survival: focus on biodiversity.

The principles of agroecology in the UNCBD

Inclusiveness

3^e objective of the Convention: fair and equitable sharing of the benefits (monetary and non-monetary) arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

Role of indigenous communities and women

Intergenerational equity

Principle of solidarity with "developing" countries



✕ More than ever,
resignation is not an
option!

World hunger is on the increase. The erosion of biodiversity is accelerating. Faced with these realities, we are committed to change.