



NL PARTNER - JANUARY 2024

# TOGETHER FOR A FAIR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

## Dear partner, dear friend,

To begin this newsletter, the MPA team wishes you all the best for the new year 2024.

May it bring hope, peace and joy.

Collectively, we want to continue to build the resilience that embodies the Fair Ecological Transition.

Let's create connections, between ourselves and with the elements around us. Let's work on our spiritualities, whatever they may be, to bring about change.

Let's share our expertise and knowledge.

Let's raise our voices.

It is together, and with our communities, that we will be able to cultivate the resilience that will enable us to absorb the environmental, social and political shocks of the present and the future.

This resilience will enable us to offer new, positive and desirable solutions.

Here you'll find news about the MPA collective, current projects and links that can nourish our reflections.

The highlight of 2024 will undoubtedly be the Assembly of Stakeholders (APP) in May. We are looking forward to this opportunity to get together and share ideas.

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**Latin America regional dynamic: Meeting in Ayacucho - PERU**

43 participants, including 9 farmers and indigenous people from the communities involved in the action-research process on common goods, were in Ayacucho (Peru) for the MPA Regional Assembly on Fair Ecological Transition. This provided an opportunity to give a higher profile to the local initiatives to promote a Fair Ecological Transition initiated by the partners (via a field visit to the community of Culluchaca) and to work together to plan the work for the 2nd phase of the MPA, identifying avenues for advocacy and communication. The Assembly also sought to strengthen the contribution of the regional dynamic to the global dynamic. The participation of the Latin American regional coordinator of CCFD- Terre Solidaire's TAPSA programme (Farmers' Agroecological Transition for Food Sovereignty) opened doors to the possibility of collaboration mechanisms between our respective programmes. At the same time, a seminar was held at the Universidad Nacional San Cristóbal de Huamanga on farmer seeds in the context of climate change.

**« A wide range of achievements, to be developed, consolidated and disseminated. »**



**Agroecology programme in the Sahel:** : webinars on Farmers' Seeds (FS)

The Regional Agroecology programme in the Sahel held a series of webinars on farmers' seeds to gain a better understanding of the issue.

The 1st session took place in April and focused on farmers' seed systems (FSS). A presentation on the importance of FSS in agroecology ( Anne Dena, Jardins d'Hambe) was followed by an update on FSS legislation in Africa (Famara Diediou from the African Alliance for Food Sovereignty). A number of key points emerged, such as the need to bring farmers together around a seed cooperative, the need to enhance the value of Farmer's seeds grown by elders, and the need for Farmer's seeds to be governed by the farming community.



In May, participants from Asia and Latin America were able to enrich the session on FS management by sharing their experiences of seed selection, conservation and protection (Father Aloysus, CARITAS Myanmar). In Brazil, strategies to defend seeds are also at work (Luiza Damigo, ASPTA and Miriane, Triunfo collective), while in Bangladesh, communities are mobilising around seed houses (Arook Toppo, Caritas Bangladesh). The importance of agroecology in FS management was also highlighted, particularly in Kenya (Kevin Kokou, Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network).

In June, a session on policies and actions for seeds: Sahar Meddeb from the Tunisian Permaculture Association presented awarenessraising and advocacy practices for the protection of FSs. Ibrahim Diori, an activist and member of AFSA, presented a legal offensive against farmers' rights to their seeds in West Africa. Alimata Traore, President of the Convergence des Femmes Rurales pour la Souveraineté Alimentaire (COFERSA) in Mali, gave her views on the law and the importance of advocacy work. A roadmap was then drawn up with the participants.





## Regional dynamics on Sustainable and Inclusive Cities

On 20th December 2023, the first regional workshop on Sustainable and Inclusive Cities in Asia was held online, in the presence of Caritas Bangladesh, Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT) and Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS). This discussion forum provided an opportunity to address, the urgent need to put in place adaptation strategies to reduce the risk caused by the intensification of natural disasters in urban areas, and thus better manage the displacement of communities. In particular, the issues of property rights, decent housing and access to basic services have emerged. All these issues are linked to the urban typology of cities, where informality is not yet sufficiently taken into account at institutional level. The partners stressed the growing need for participatory and inclusive urban governance, based on policies that take greater account of the interests of the most vulnerable sections of the population. A second workshop is planned for Asia at the end of June 2024.

## « Cities join the MPA »



Tranche 2 of the MPA began in October 2023, and was marked by this new urban section with the integration of two new projects:

"Satat Shehar - Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Cities" in India, implemented by IGSSS, aims to promote city resilience through people-led actions for smart and climate-smart urban development at local, city, state and national levels. IGSSS plans to build the capacity of 5 civil society networks and support them to engage and collaborate with state agencies and departments for sustainable and resilient cities.

"NIRAPAD NAGAR: Promoting Safe, Inclusive and Sustainable cities", implemented by Caritas Bangladesh in Dhaka, has 3 main strands: capacity building for local people to increase resilience; community mobilisation through the activation and reactivation of existing groups; and partnership building and collaboration with various public and private stakeholders.







### Publication of the study on environmental migration

On Tuesday 26th of September, the Climate Academy in Paris launched the publication of the study on environmental migration carried out by the International Advocacy Unit of Secours Catholique.

The conference-debate was open to the general public. Institutional players, political decision-makers and French and international organisations were also invited. A total of 95 people registered, and around 80 turned up.

The aim of this conference-debate was to disseminate the results of the study, highlight the partners, raise awareness of the ramified impacts of environmental degradation on the communities affected, and of the needs that have been identified. To do this, the 3 partners in the study (OKUP Bangladesh, Caritas Senegal and a non-MPA partner in Honduras), Catherine Withol de Wenden, and Camille Sarazin (a journalist specialising in environmental issues) moderated a panel discussion.

Véronique Deise, president of SCCF gave an introductory speech.

[Link to the study here](#)



### Research point

On 28th of September, our research partner GEMDEV organised a seminar on Agroecology and TEJ, bringing together researchers and partners from the MPA. At the seminar, researchers Marie de Lattre Gasquet and Fatma Zahra Rostom shared a number of lessons learned from prospective studies on the potential for transformation of agroecology.



This was followed by two sessions on the work carried out by IRAM (Institute of Research and Application of Developpement Methods) and its Sahelian partners, as well as ACLO (Bolivia) and Caritas Bangladesh on transition trajectories in their territories. During the last session, AgroParisTech shared the initial results of its work (in Brazil, Senegal and Bolivia) on the role of agro-ecology in the transformation of family farming and its increasing integration into markets.

The following day, at a second session of the Scientific Committee (SC), the initial results of the capitalisation work in progress and the work on the publication of the Environmental Migration study were discussed. The Scientific Committee approved the presentation of a secon research-action project and drew up a list of potential topics for discussion and study, which were submitted for final selection to the Strategic Committee in October.

[Link to the recording of the day, access with the following code: 71\\_je@\\_gt@.](#)



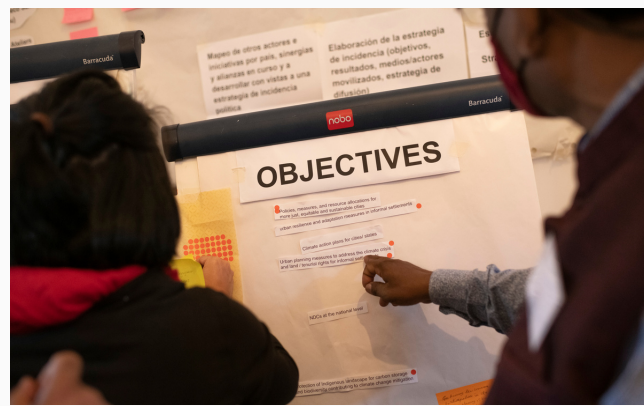


**"A week to discuss our shared vision of a Fair Ecological Transition".**

## Second Stakeholders' Meeting

As announced in the previous Newsletter, the next CPP Stakeholders' Meeting will take place from **27 to 31 May 2024**.

It will be held in Lourdes, at the Cité Saint Pierre, the home of Secours Catholique Caritas France, an inspiring place for reflection and meetings.



The main objective of this second Assembly is to continue building our shared vision of a Fair Ecological Transition.

A preparatory committee is working on this event, and we're counting on you to contribute. The week will be organised around 3 main events:

- a common thread running around the construction of our shared vision, with a large place left to times of debates and spirituality
- a place to share the experiences of partners and communities, to debate these experiences and what brings us together in these experiences and which can be translated into joint advocacy initiatives

Four major themes will be explored:

1. The common goods
2. Agro-ecology
3. Territories (with a focus on indigenous peoples)
4. Urban-rural relations

- time to work on the levers for change towards the transition we want to see (strengthening of power to act, gender awareness, learning, etc.)





## Website, communication and knowledge sharing

A number of issues in our programme revolve around communication:

- To be visible, to change scale, and also to recognise ourselves as part of the same community, it's important to have our own visual identity.
- To share our knowledge, our productions, studies, capitalisations and news, and provoke exchanges - we need a shared space where we can store and disseminate this information.
- We also need to showcase the successful, inspiring experiments, the new stories that will form the basis of the paradigm shift we are calling for,

### Progress on the website

New to the MPA team are two volunteers, [Delphine and Kurt](#), who are working on the website. It will serve both as a showcase for the MPA and as a knowledge-sharing space for all partners.

A great deal of work is underway in terms of monitoring the service provider and updating the site with all the information.

We hope to be able to launch the site at the Stakeholders' Meeting in May.

### Programme name

MPA (or CPP in French) is an acronym that corresponds to the system used by our main donor, AFD. But it is difficult for us to recognise ourselves behind this acronym. Furthermore, "Transition Ecologique Juste" or Fair (or Just) Ecological Transition is a long name that is difficult to use as a programme name. That's why we're proposing two alternatives, and would like to hear your feedback.

Choice 1: Résilience en commun - Resiliencia en común - Resilience in common

Choice 2 : Communautés résilientes - Comunidades resilientes - Resilient communities

Choice 3 : Révolution Ecologique - Revolución Ecológica - Ecological Revolution



### Inspiration from partners

Our partner [Caritas Colombia](#) has done a remarkable job on its visual identity, which is shared here.



The Agroecology in the Sahel Programme has also produced a series of videos to present the programme. You can find them here:

- [the global presentation video](#), which puts networking at the heart of its actions
- [actions on the ground in Niger](#) on farmers' seeds
- [in Senegal](#) on the tomato sector
- and [Togo](#) on complementarity between agriculture, livestock farming and agroforestry







**MPA and around  
"An ecosystem for  
enrichment and  
dialogue"**

**FORM' ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN MAURITANIA**

In early February 2024, Caritas Mauritania is organising a training of trainers course run by CARI (Center for International Action and Achievement) on sustainable land management. This will be an opportunity to invite two representatives of the PAES, in order to disseminate what has been learned under the programme. The opportunity will also be taken to visit the Caritas Mauritania field projects that have just entered the MPA.

**NATIONAL SESSION 2023 ON DIGNIFIED ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE, HIGH-QUALITY FOOD**

From 10 to 13 October 2023, the network on dignified access to sustainable, high-quality food met in the Hérault region of France to meet, share a common vision and move forward with its projects. 38 SCCF delegations and directorates represented, 140 participants, workshops to experiment in sub-groups with activities on the theme of food: inspiring visits around the world of agriculture, peasant solidarity and the development of empowerment; "open discussions" to move forward on our projects and ask ourselves what questions we should be working on and discussing with others? There will also be plenary sessions where we can get together and share a common vision of dignified access to food, here and elsewhere. [The video presenting the meeting](#) is available. This workshop saw the participation of two people from Caritas Brazil, Graça Ramos and Keila Maraes, to share our knowledge and experience on food issues - and, because Caritas Brazil has a particular focus both on the issues of food sovereignty and peasant struggles - and therefore the political dimension of food - and also on the link between ecosystems, food and spirituality.



**On the road to FOSPA in June 2024 in Bolivia**

The next FOSPA (Pan-Amazonian Social Forum) is expected to attract the participation of several thousand people and over 100 organisations. The main topics to be discussed will be

- i) Sanitation, titling and autonomy in indigenous territories
- i) Respect for the rights of indigenous peoples;
- i) Climate and water emergency;
- iv) Amazonia: neither mining nor mercury; alternatives to extractivism;
- v) Aboriginal women as a source of change



Several Latin American members of the CPP will be present, as members of national FOSPAs. This 11th FOSPA will be focus on proposals for alternative models. After decades of denouncing the ravages they have suffered, the Amazonian peoples and their allies want to show that other solutions exist and that it's not too late! # FOSPABolivia 2024 # Défenseduterritoire#

**COP 28: A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE END OF FOSSIL FUELS...**



From 29 November to 13 December, Secours Catholique was present at COP 28 to make its case for greater climate justice. Now it's time to take stock! At COP 28 in Dubai, civil society from all over the world used its collective power to put the spotlight on the end of fossil fuels. Mobilisations throughout the year and in the corridors of the COP resulted in countries agreeing on the transition away from fossil fuels. However, despite a strong political signal, the lack of resources is compounded by dangerous technological gambles that are taking us further away from a rapid, fair and equitable exit from fossil fuels. Nevertheless, it is important to recognise the major step forward in climate financing with the operationalisation of the Fund to finance loss and damage caused by the effects of climate change, marking the culmination of 30 years of relentless struggle by developing countries. However, the amount of the first one-off contributions remains derisory in relation to the needs of vulnerable countries to cope with the most severe impacts of climate change. We will continue to make our voice heard at COP 29 to demand fair climate policies.





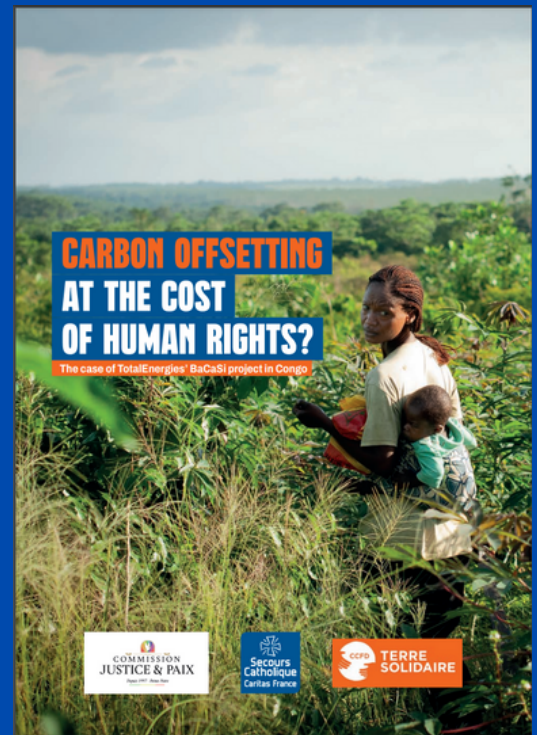
## Reflections on carbon offsetting

Secours Catholique, CCFD and the Justice and Peace Commission have published a report on carbon offsetting.

Carbon offsetting is increasingly being used by various players to finance afforestation projects in developing countries in order to 'absorb' the emissions generated by their activities. Many multinational companies lease or buy tens of thousands of hectares of fertile, nourishing land with the aim of "offsetting" some of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by their activities. This can be done directly or indirectly by buying carbon credits.

But at a time of climate urgency, this practice is controversial not only because it is ineffective, but also because it detracts from the efforts needed to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This false solution removes responsibility from those who use it. Above all, the increase in demand for land for tree plantations carries with it the danger of an increased financialisation of nature, going hand in hand with a monopolisation of large swathes of territory to the detriment of local populations, their lifestyles and their ability to produce theirs.

<https://www.secours-catholique.org/m-informer/publications/la-compensation-carbone-au-prix-des-droits-humains>



## What our partners have to say - TAM in Palestine

Since the start of the Israeli attack on Palestine in October 2023, civilians in Gaza have been facing serious humanitarian problems as a result of heavy Israeli air strikes. At least 23,084 Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces in Gaza, 70% of them children and women. 58,926 people have been injured and 85% of the population has been forcibly displaced and is on the brink of starvation. Several thousand people are still under the rubble. All this has led to a very difficult humanitarian crisis, as well as a difficult economic situation where most people have no jobs and are struggling to find food. It should be noted that women are particularly targeted and affected by the attacks, both in Gaza and in the West Bank.

TAM's CPP project is experiencing difficulties mainly due to the blockade and the deterioration of the economic situation in the West Bank. Indeed, the beneficiaries are deeply affected by the situation and people are mainly focused on finding employment and means of subsistence. As a result, the implementation of certain activities (workshops, economic empowerment initiatives, advocacy campaigns and raising awareness of social and environmental issues) is very difficult. However, this context has enabled some of our women beneficiaries to take on leadership roles and join TAM to find a way to implement our projects in a meaningful way.

We need the Israeli aggression to end, because this is the worst humanitarian crisis in our history.