

# CORE PROGRAM

## "RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FOR A JUST ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION PHASE II"



**PROGRAM PRESENTATION DOCUMENT FOR STAKEHOLDERS**

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# 1- Reason for being and challenges

**"There are not two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but a single, complex socio-environmental crisis. The possible solutions require a comprehensive approach to combat poverty, restore dignity to the excluded and, at the same time, preserve nature. Thus, it is essential to seek comprehensive solutions that take into account the interactions of natural systems with each other and with social systems," Pope Francis, Encyclical Laudato Si' 2015.**

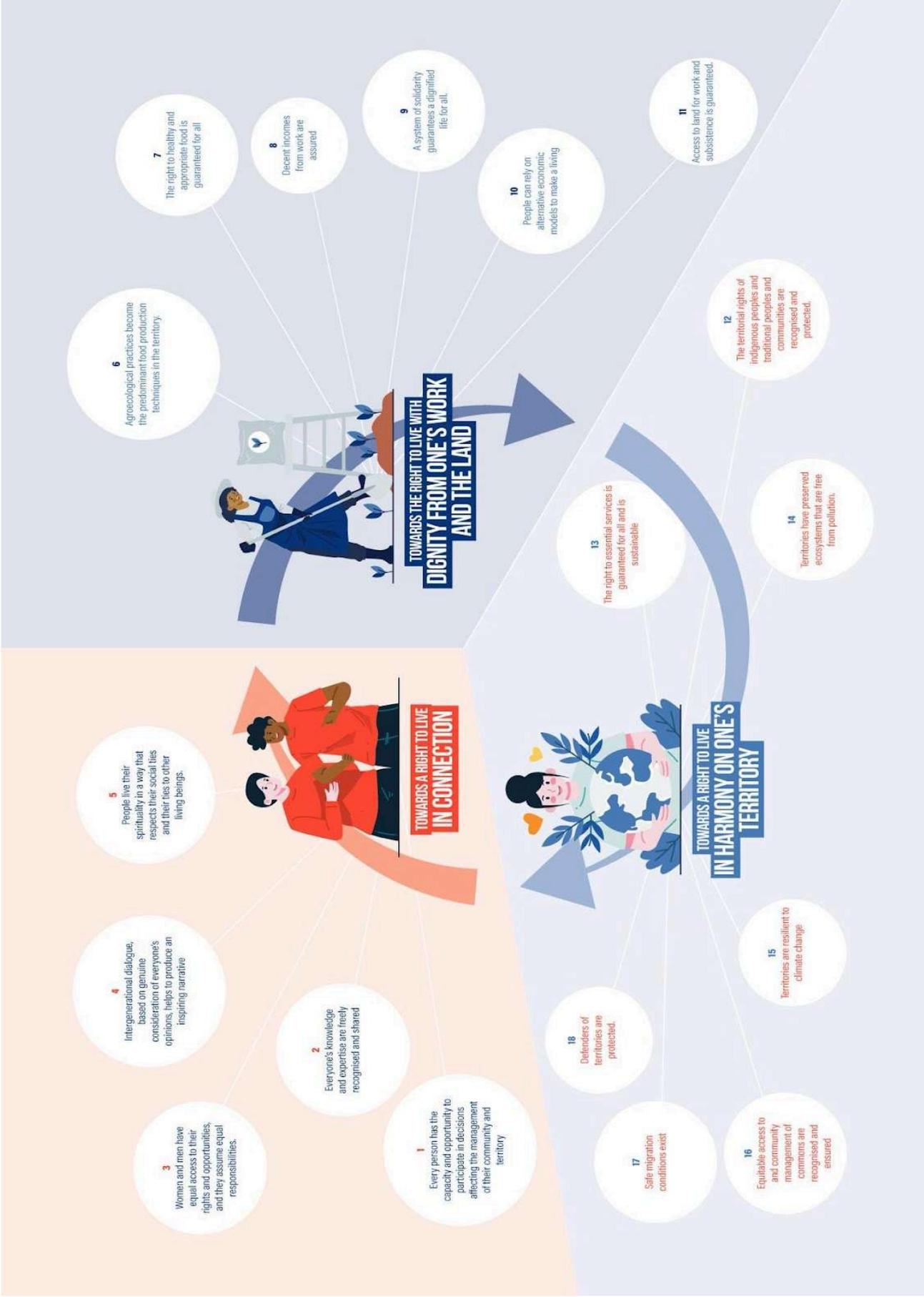
This, in short, is the challenge facing the Resilient Communities program, which brings together partners from all geographical areas and with different spiritual and cultural influences.

We know that vulnerable populations are currently the first victims of the environmental and climate crisis, even though they contribute the least to polluting lifestyles. The solutions proposed to resolve this crisis further penalize these populations. Furthermore, increasingly unstable socio-political contexts and the shrinking civic space are reducing the capacity of communities to participate and of civil society organizations to intervene on behalf of the most vulnerable.

The program's main ambition is to enable these vulnerable communities to make their voices heard, to demand their fundamental rights and to promote their knowledge and expertise. Among other things, this will involve comparing different points of view and experiences in order to understand both the commonalities and the necessary diversity of local solutions. It is essential to coordinate levels of action and promote strong subsidiarity that empowers actors, while driving ambitious structural changes that are taken into account and supported at the national and international levels.

The CoRe I program has made it possible to create a solid network of actors, linking their experiences and their responses to the crisis, enabling them to join forces and strengthen their ties at regional and global level. They have agreed on a common foundation of rights, giving them a coherent vision to defend, and therefore recognize themselves in a common struggle, based on a corpus of three common and fundamental rights:

- **the right to live in connection** with one another and with nature, to live without oppression or power struggles, to respect spiritualities, to speak out and make decisions in the civic sphere, and to live in fraternity and respect
- **the right to live off the land and one's labour**, to have decent food and income, and virtuous and equitable economic systems
- **the right to live in harmony with one's territory**: preservation of ecosystems and environmental migration routes; resistance to extractivist pressures and land grabbing; the right to live in a healthy and safe environment, free from pollution (physical and mental well-being, protecting populations against environmental and socio-economic risks); recognition and protection of the specific rights of indigenous peoples and their territories; access to essential sustainable services, but also the right to social cohesion.



**In Asia**, a large proportion of the 4.7 billion inhabitants live in areas that are increasingly exposed to natural disasters, the frequency and intensity of which are amplified by the effects of climate change, rapid urbanization and demographic pressure. While economic growth in these regions has led to some progress in human development, it has often been accompanied by overexploitation of natural resources, accelerated degradation of ecosystems and increased socio-economic inequalities. Inappropriate development policies exacerbate these imbalances and limit the resilience of populations to climate shocks. Growing political tensions at both the national and regional levels, increasingly unstable socio-political contexts, and shrinking civic space complicate the implementation of sustainable and inclusive policies, make it more difficult to coordinate responses to crises, and exacerbate the vulnerability of the most marginalized populations.

**In Africa, and in the Sahel region in particular**, insecurity and food crises are impacting the resilience and living conditions of populations. The effects of climate change, combined with security issues, are leading to population displacement and increasing pressure on already limited natural resources. Partners in the sub-region are fully involved in the ecological transition through the adoption of sustainable agroecological practices, thereby contributing to food security for communities and decent incomes for producers. Although agroecology is widely supported, its integration into public policy remains limited, hampered by the predominance of agricultural models based on the intensive use of chemical fertilisers. The scaling up of agroecological practices requires multi-stakeholder work at different territorial levels, involving populations, public authorities and private sector actors.

**The Middle East and North Africa region** is one of the most exposed to climate change, with rising temperatures, critical water shortages and accelerated desertification. The impacts are exacerbated by political conflicts and socio-economic inequalities.

Natural disasters (droughts in Syria and Iraq, floods in Libya) follow one after another, as do conflicts (occupation in Palestine, wars in Yemen, Lebanon, Gaza and Iran), limiting access to natural resources such as water and agricultural land. Women and young people, who are already vulnerable, bear the brunt of these crises.

**South America** faces major challenges related to climate change and human development, in a context dominated by economic models based on the extraction of soil and subsoil resources and where inequalities persist. The continent is experiencing extreme events (droughts, floods, fires) and suffering from deforestation: the Amazon rainforest, which covers approximately 5.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, has lost more than 17% of its surface area in 50 years, mainly in Brazil, due to intensive agriculture, livestock farming, mining and urban expansion, among other factors. This situation is emblematic of the dominance of the private sector, particularly agribusiness, but also energy sector players, over public institutions. The European Union's postponement of the entry into force of its regulations on imported deforestation perpetuates the mechanisms of deforestation, while the voracious global demand for minerals for the "energy transition" and new technologies is creating a new form of extractivism that affects the rights of peoples and sacrifices the territories of Latin America. Latin America is the most dangerous region in the world for environmental defenders.

The diagnosis described above reminds us that social, economic and environmental issues are more closely linked than ever. The problems encountered in different cultural and geographical contexts echo and respond to each other. Sometimes, solutions implemented in one place can weaken another, due to a lack of systemic vision. Production and consumption patterns, use of and access to resources and common goods, governance, and place in civic space are all issues that widen inequalities and reinforce vulnerabilities.

**Rethinking them together, highlighting virtuous practices, linking effects, listening to witnesses, actors and victims of this multifaceted crisis, showing the holistic and interconnected nature of the issues, enabling everyone to break out of isolation and equip themselves to defend their rights: these are the reasons behind the "Resilient Communities for a Just Ecological Transition" program.**

## 2- Objectives and activities

### Objectives, vision and logic of action

The CoRe program therefore aims to address the systemic dimension of these issues by acting on several levels, based on the needs and practices of each individual, taking into account vulnerabilities and empowering actors to bring about lasting and structural change.

It will address these challenges in the following ways:

- **promoting local responses** through a network of actors sharing a common transformative vision based on rights, empowering communities, and providing evidence of the effects and changes achieved through participatory and experimental approaches
- ensuring that a growing number of actors embrace the **mobilizing vision of a just ecological transition** (see vision in the previous paragraph)
- to embed a **culture of collective action and engagement**;
- putting a local/global dimension at the heart of the program: **the exchange of views** between French actors (in mainland France and overseas) and international partners will be systematized in all cross-cutting areas of the program
- Work in synergy with the **RevE (Ecological Revolution for a Fairer and More Fraternal World)** initiative led by the SCCF.
- create a culture of collective **learning** and the emergence of new narratives
- take vulnerabilities into account, emphasizing the identification between ecological transition and power relations, gender and intersectionality
- **increase the capacity to influence** local, regional and national policies through structured and legitimate advocacy.

### Vision:

The actors involved in the CoRe programme — civil society organizations, citizen collectives, local institutions and partners — will have developed a **strong capacity for collective action**, based on in-depth skills, a shared understanding of socio-environmental issues, and structured and sustainable modes of cooperation. Multi-stakeholder alliances will have become recognized spaces for co-construction, mutual learning and governance, capable of designing and implementing systemic responses to the ecological and social crisis.

The CoRe program is an essential step on this path: it creates the conditions for these changes to emerge by strengthening skills, supporting multi-stakeholder experiments and consolidating advocacy and communication dynamics.

### **Overall objective:**

The overall objective of the Resilient Communities (CoRe) program – Phase II is to **empower actors so that they can actively contribute to a just ecological transition in their territories and defend it collectively.**

The central idea is that by strengthening **the collective capacity for action** of the actors involved in the program at the local and global levels, we will be able to contribute to a just ecological transition, which will be both implemented and carried out on the ground with communities, as well as promoted and defended by the collective of actors involved in the program through awareness-raising, communication and advocacy at local, regional and international levels, to achieve systemic change.

In this way, communities and partners see their capacity for action evolve, as measured by changes in rights, practices, power relations and capacities for collective action.

To achieve this overall objective, two elements are essential:

- on the one hand, **the articulation of the three key components**, which correspond to the three specific objectives and contribute to the overall objective;
- on the other hand, **the collective dimension**, which cuts across all components and feeds into the specificity of the program, recognizing that acting together is more impactful and effective in achieving systemic change, as well as more rewarding for the actors involved.

**The articulation of the three key components** (specific objectives) is essential to achieving the overall objective. The three objectives are designed to work in synergy and feed into each other, in a holistic and comprehensive approach that takes into account the complexity of the socio-environmental crisis.

**Specific objective 1** focuses on **action in the field**. It aims to test and implement concrete responses to the socio-environmental crisis. The emphasis is on the collective dimension: solutions must be driven by multi-stakeholder alliances, integrating the diversity of territorial perspectives.

**The logic:** it is by experimenting in the field, with several actors involved, that we can really advance the just ecological transition.

**Specific objective 2** focuses on **capacity building**. The aim is to strengthen the expertise, skills, knowledge and collective practices needed to effectively support the just ecological transition.

**The rationale:** a just ecological transition can only be driven by actors who are better trained, better connected and able to learn together.

This objective directly supports the first and third objectives: the more stakeholders develop their skills, practices and expertise and learn from each other, the more effective experimentation, awareness-raising, communication and advocacy will be.

Various collaborative approaches will be mobilized, in a dynamic of peer learning. In particular, SCCF actors and partners **will experiment with Change-Oriented Monitoring and Evaluation methods**, with methodological support from F3E (see Annex 6.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism). This will enable the lessons learned from this type of evaluation to be integrated into the overall learning dynamic of the program.

**Specific objective 3** is to **give visibility, coherence and scope** to the just ecological transition so that it becomes a shared frame of reference, as well as to build broader consensus around these issues.

**The rationale:** for a transition to be sustainable, it must be understood, supported and defended by a growing number of actors. Collective promotion helps to consolidate the changes initiated in objectives 1 and 2. This SO3 amplifies the impact of the first two objectives: what is tested (SO1) and reinforced (SO2) is brought into the public and political arena.

The entire system is based on **a coordinated approach**:

- OS2 strengthens skills → stakeholders share their knowledge, learn and become stronger;
- OS1 enables these better-equipped actors to experiment with concrete responses to the just ecological transition in their territories;
- OS3 disseminates and promotes these practices and this vision → stakeholders make this vision visible, legitimate and defensible beyond their projects, which strengthens the program's impact and contributes to a just ecological transition.

Through this combination of capacity building, grassroots engagement, collective action and advocacy, the program aims to sustainably anchor a dynamic of just ecological transition. The other essential element of the overall objective is **the collective dimension**: just ecological transition requires responses that go beyond isolated approaches and are based on strong collaborations.

The overall objective therefore includes the idea that stakeholders (including the UK) must be able to:

- pool their expertise, resources and experience;
- contribute to joint discussions with their experiments, projects and alliances;
- coordinate their actions to produce more significant impacts.

## Activities

To achieve these objectives, the program deploys a set of coherent, progressive and interconnected activities, organized around the three specific objectives and fueled by a strong collective dimension.

This paragraph provides **a non-exhaustive description of these activities**, which are detailed in the appendices.

### [1- Experimenting with systemic responses in the territories \(OS1\)](#)

The activities aim to support concrete projects led by multi-stakeholder alliances, based on a shared vision of a just ecological transition:

**Support for multi-stakeholder regional projects** incorporating a systemic approach, based on the three rights and 18 horizons of a just ecological transition;

**Capacity building for local populations**, in particular through:

- training in agroecology (production, processing, marketing);
- support for agricultural entrepreneurship and certification;
- the establishment of farmer training fields, demonstration plots and pilot communities;
- training in energy management (e.g. photovoltaics);
- training community leaders, with a particular focus on gender equality;

**Support for local experiments**, including:

- promoting endogenous, ancestral and indigenous knowledge;
- the protection and management of farmers' seeds;
- adaptation to climate change;
- land use planning and sustainable management of common goods;

**Strengthening and structuring territorial alliances** through:

- the formalization of producer groups;
- support for networks defending territories and common goods;
- the organization of forums for consultation, inter-community exchanges, fairs and festivals;
- regional and international meetings between partners and communities;

**Implementation of a change-oriented monitoring and evaluation experiment**, in partnership with F3E, to measure systemic transformations at the project and collective levels. This will be included in the thematic group on empowerment.

## [2. Strengthening skills and practices through a learning network \(SO2\)](#)

The activities in this area aim to build a **culture of collective learning**, promoting skills development, networking and the co-construction of knowledge:

**Creation and facilitation of learning spaces at different levels:**

- within territories (communities, producers, CSOs);
- between partners, at regional and international level;

**Establishment of thematic groups** on:

- food systems and agroecology;
- governance and territories;
- environmental and climate justice;

**Deployment of methodological groups**, in particular:

- an "empowerment" group (training, AOC, change-oriented monitoring and evaluation);
- an "influence" group (advocacy strategies, co-development, webinars);
- a cross-cutting "gender" group integrating intersectionality issues;

**Development of common tools**, including a digital platform for sharing learning.

**Capitalisation and sharing of knowledge** through:

- participatory research;
- exchange visits and intergenerational workshops;
- the production of capitalisation materials and shared narratives;

It is understood that all partners will participate in these learning dynamics.

### [3. Collectively promoting and defending a just ecological transition \(OS3\)](#)

The activities in this third area aim to amplify and sustain the transformations initiated by coordinated communication, awareness-raising and advocacy actions:

**Awareness-raising and communication actions**, in particular:

- promoting cultural and indigenous knowledge related to caring for living things;
- organising public events, festivals and awareness campaigns;
- producing shared documentary and narrative materials;
- raising awareness of agroecology, common goods, healthy eating and risk reduction;

**Strengthening the leadership and participation of women and young people** through:

- dedicated training;
- support for participatory governance mechanisms;
- promoting gender equality and positive masculinities;

**Multi-level advocacy actions**, including:

- training community leaders and young people in advocacy;
- legal support for victims of human rights and land rights violations;
- campaigns for the recognition of farmers' seeds and agroecology;
- advocacy with local, national and international authorities;
- building alliances and coalitions with other influential actors;

**Strong coordination between the field, the network and influence**, so that local experiences feed into political messages and advocacy reinforces territorial transformations.

## 3- Stakeholders and governance

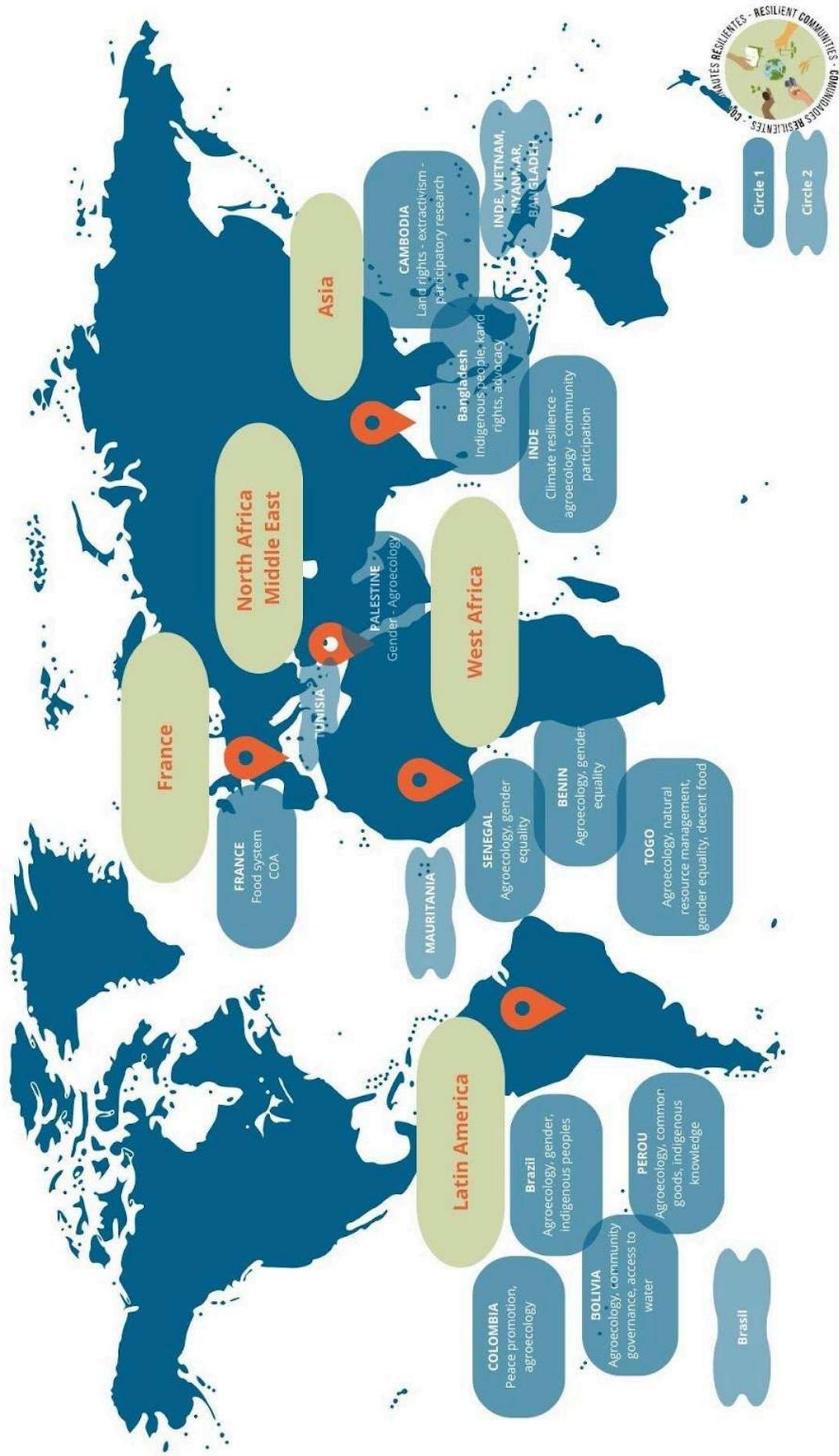
### The group of partners

Phase II of the CPP will be implemented in Africa (Benin, Senegal, Togo), Latin America (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru), Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia) and the Middle East-North Africa (Palestine).

In addition, the following countries will contribute to thematic exchanges, learning dynamics or advocacy actions within the program: Mauritania, Tunisia, Myanmar, Vietnam, India, as well as Brazil and Bangladesh through projects other than those mentioned above.

In total, the collective has 24 partners implementing field activities within the framework of the program (known as circle 1 partners) and 8 partners who will participate in exchanges, learning and advocacy activities (known as circle 2 partners). Welcome to those who are joining us!

A comprehensive description of the partners and their activities can be found in [Appendix A](#).



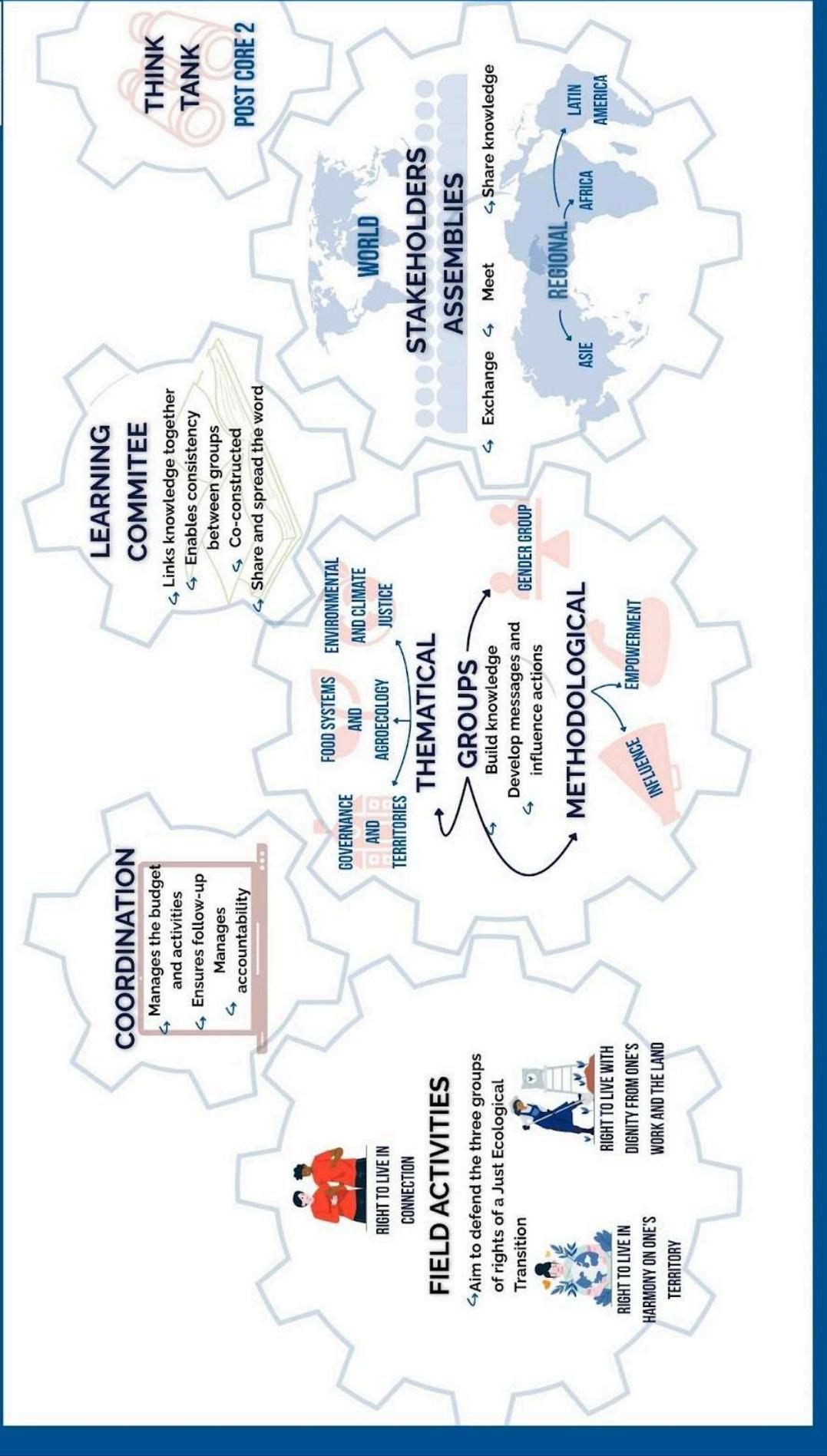
## Governance

The governance of the CoRe program is designed to address the following key issues:

- operational management of the programme
- collective accountability among stakeholders
- learning management
- development of the framework for the remainder of the program

The diagram below summarizes the different areas and bodies :

# CORE 2 - GENERAL ORGANIZATION DIAGRAM



### **1/ Project level – field activity**

Each partner implements a project that responds to the socio-environmental crisis with its own objectives. **These fall within the three areas of rights for a just ecological transition.** They also participate in cross-cutting areas through thematic, methodological or gender groups.

They are involved in testing the change-oriented monitoring and evaluation system to measure the effects of their project based on the 18 objectives and the three sets of rights for a just ecological transition.

### **2/ Regional stakeholder assemblies**

Each regional stakeholder assembly meeting provides an opportunity to share and discuss the progress of field projects and cross-cutting groups. **The role of the regional assemblies is to stimulate cross-fertilisation, experience sharing, dissemination of capitalization, sharing of observed changes, etc.** Meetings can be face-to-face or virtual and are organized in turn by the partners. The assembly decides on its own activities.

At the end of each meeting, the assemblies are invited to communicate the progress of the collective work to all other partners on a regular basis via the CoRe II communication platform (forthcoming) or the website (existing).

### **3/ Global stakeholder assemblies**

3.1/ Halfway through the program, it is proposed that all stakeholders (actors involved in field activities and thematic, methodological and gender groups, as well as partners involved in learning management) meet at **a global stakeholder meeting**. This will **be an opportunity to exchange and share learning, but also to explore different points of view, identify synergies and advocacy opportunities, and adopt common positions**. Regional assemblies, thematic groups and methodological groups are invited to share the progress of their work.

It will also be an opportunity to take stock of the program's progress, measure and analyze changes, make adjustments to activities that are experiencing difficulties, and draw lessons for the program's future development.

Strategic partners will also be invited to this assembly to discuss and share their views (other CSOs, political and/or institutional partners).

3.2/ Several virtual meetings will be organized with all CoRe partners and potential new partners to develop a post-CoRe II program (decision-makers at the level of each partner organization). The decision on the development of a post-CoRe II program will be made by decision, consent or vote on the basis of a proposal from a post-CoRe II think tank between October 2027 and October 2029.

#### **4/ Learning Committee (COA)**

The COA is a **new committee in CoRe II compared to CoRe I**. Its role is to coordinate the work of cross-cutting groups through the circulation of knowledge and learning at the global level. By facilitating a learning network, the aim is to strengthen the awareness-raising, communication and advocacy capacities of stakeholders and to grow their alliances with local and regional authorities and other partners in order to disseminate and promote a just ecological transition.

**The scheme aims to strengthen the links between the knowledge of all stakeholders and ensure the coherence of cross-cutting groups.** It provides methodological support for the facilitation of groups and the development of learning strategies through peer exchanges. Key learnings and innovations from the CoRe I and II programs are identified and disseminated. A holistic approach is taken to learning, both in terms of its forms and its content related to the ecological transition. Finally, experiments and lessons learned are capitalized on in order to identify levers for transformation to feed into post-CoRe II thinking.

This committee will be composed of:

- the facilitators of the thematic, methodological and gender groups (6 people)
- the CoRe II learning management officer
- the CoRe II monitoring and evaluation manager
- the CoRe II communications officer
- an external member of the specific partnership on learning management

This committee will meet three to four times a year remotely.

#### **5/ Cross-functional groups**

It is understood that all partners will participate in at least one of these groups.

##### 5.1 Thematic groups

Three thematic groups structure the work:

- Food systems and agroecology
- Governance and territories
- Environmental and climate justice.

**The aim of these groups is to analyze and highlight the successes, transformative actions and solutions proposed by stakeholders, build shared knowledge and, where appropriate, serve as a forum for joint activities and develop advocacy actions at different levels.** Ideally, they will draw on external contributions (action and advocacy networks, universities, researchers, other civil society organizations, etc.).

Each group, led by a manager and composed of partners from different regions, organizes the flow of information and regular exchanges. The issues are broken down into sub-groups with clear objectives, a jointly developed learning strategy and deliverables disseminated on the CoRe II platform. The work meets learning, awareness-raising, communication or

advocacy objectives, in connection with France and in possible collaboration with other institutional and academic actors.

Frequency: One virtual working meeting every two months on average.

### 5.2/ Methodological groups

Two methodological groups have been identified:

- Empowerment
- Influence

**The aim of these groups is to experiment with, capitalise on and share best practices on methods of action that lead to change.** Their representatives will be integrated into the COA alongside those of the three thematic groups in order to promote the sharing of knowledge, ensure the consistency of the groups and their actions, encourage co-construction and ensure consistency in dissemination and sharing.

The groups are led and facilitated by a facilitator (partner or SCCF, or pair). They will be responsible for circulating information, facilitating dissemination spaces, etc.

Frequency: One virtual working meeting every two months on average.

### 5.3/ The gender, intersectionality and power relations group

A "gender group" will be set up with the following objective: **to integrate gender justice into a fair, intersectional, evidence-based and participatory ecological transition.**

Frequency: one virtual working meeting every three months on average

## **6/ CoRe II coordination team**

The roles of the CoRe coordination team are as follows:

- Ensuring the administrative and financial management of the program.
- Ensuring the proper implementation and consistency of the program (action plans, budgets, communication).
- Prepare reports for the AFD in accordance with the AFD's criteria.
- Review and validate CoRe II operational and financial reports.
- Supervising the audit (to be prepared at the start of the project) and the evaluation (to be finalized before the last six months).
- Prepare Learning Committee (COA) meetings and contribute to the dissemination of learning, particularly in sharing spaces (website and assemblies).

The coordination team is composed of (part-time positions, volunteers and international reciprocal volunteers for some):

- a coordinator
- a learning management officer
- a monitoring and evaluation manager
- an administrative and financial manager
- a communications and influence manager

- a website manager

### **7/ Post-CoRe II think tank**

Its role is to:

- Gradually build on the learning dynamic developed by the program's network of stakeholders, lessons learned and shared innovations
- Consult decision-makers within partner organizations and other potential external partners
- Identify possible strategic directions for the next phase of the CoRe program (funders, field activities, cross-cutting activities, new or previous stakeholders, etc.)

The work of this group will serve only as a basis for reflection and will be presented as a proposal for debate and amendment at the stakeholder assembly so that it can decide on the possible next steps for CoRe II.

It will be composed of four or five individuals (academics, civil society representatives, partners, etc.) co-opted by the Director of DAPI.

Frequency: Three to four meetings between October 2027 and October 2028 and consultations with decision-makers within partner organizations and other potential external partners.

## 4- Annexes

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- B. [LOGICAL FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM](#)
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