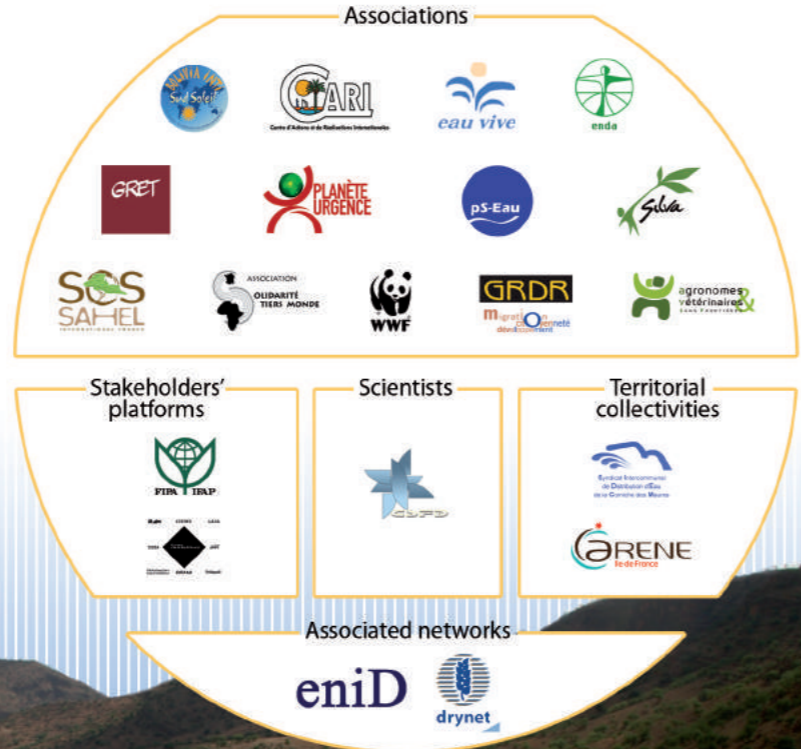




GTD's composition



Combating Desertification : Land preservation and international solidarity

- Rural development
- Access to water
- Strengthening of capacities
- Traditional subsistence farming
- Combating deforestation
- Education on development
- Preservation of natural resources

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What is desertification?

« Desertification designates land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. Over 250 millions people worldwide are directly affected by desertification. The term desertification does not refer to the natural expansion of existing deserts. »
 UNCCD

« Desertification is the absence of favourable conditions for the development of life. »
 Nicolas Hulot, ambassador for the campaign against desertification

GTD : Pool resources, inform and act in arid areas





The Working Group on Desertification

The Working Group on Desertification (GTD, Groupe de Travail Désertification) is a French network of stakeholders from international solidarity rallied for Combating Desertification (CD).

Since 2001, the GTD has been proactive in France but also within European networks (eniD: european network initiatives on Desertification), as well as worldwide (Drynet: international network of NGOs).

The GTD asset

To initiate network activities amongst various stakeholders (associations, scientists, agricultural professional organisations, territorial collectivities).

To provide ongoing consultation with governmental decision-makers.

Its objectives

To rally the different stakeholders involved and to develop a consultation at national and international level.

To pool resources, to capitalise, and to disseminate knowledge.

To enhance the capabilities of stakeholders and institutions.

Our intervention framework: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



Adopted in Paris on June 1994, UNCCD addresses the problem of desertification and builds on links between combating desertification and combating poverty. This convention, like all conventions on biodiversity and climate change issues, was established in the wake of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. UNCCD entered into force in 1996 and it is the first and only instrument set up to address the problem of desertification. 193 Countries have ratified the Convention, which makes it the most ratified of all existing conventions on environmental issues.

Advocacy

Monitoring and contribution to brainstorming activities and negotiations in France, as well as at international level regarding the combat against desertification.

Elaboration and defense of civil society positions with the decision makers.

Contribution to the drafting of the French strategy on CD, Paris 2006

Campaign "A Convention without action causes Desertification" at the UNCCD Conference Of the Parties, Madrid 2007



Dissemination of knowledge

Circulation of information on CD to make it accessible to the stakeholders involved.

Creation of educational materials for the general public.

Factsheets "Experiences and lessons learned on the field"

Handbook "Desertification: benchmarks for understanding and action"
Study "The struggle to Combat Desertification: Guidelines to Good Practices and Farmer Experiences for Sustainable Development"

Activity "World Day to Combat Desertification", 17th June

Strengthening of capacities

Coordination of workshops on implementing CD's projects for local stakeholders.

Organisation of CD's Awareness days.

Workshops on CD's project realisation, Niger 2008

Conference on "Local development and natural resources management in arid areas: Sharing experiences of decentralised cooperation in terms of CD", Paris 2008

