



## AFRICA DAYS 2022



## FORUM PROGRAM

**Monday 16 May 2022 at the French  
Institute Abidjan from 14h-17H**

**Followed by a cocktail hour and  
screening of an excerpt from the  
Great Green Wall film at 7 PM**

**Objective: to connect actors in the field and partners, as  
well as to promote solutions**





## **Houcine DAHMANE**

### **Regional Cooperation Committee for West Africa at the Embassy of France in Burkina Faso**

Agroeconomist by training, specialized in local development (rural, decentralization, territory) Mr. Houcine Dahmane first worked in consulting and study activities in the field of agriculture and the environment in France. He then oriented his career towards international cooperation during which he was able to implement different development projects in different countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Since September 2018, he has held the position of Regional Cooperation Advisor for West Africa at the Embassy of France in Burkina Faso. As such, he is in charge of developing cooperation with regional organizations such as UEMOA, CILSS, etc., and of promoting and monitoring regional initiatives, such as cross-border cooperation, volunteering in companies for young West African graduates, or the accelerator of the Great Green Wall. For his intervention, Mr. Dahmane will briefly discuss the different types of actions carried out by the cooperation services of the embassies of the countries concerned to support the GMV.

## **Panel 1: How to develop Great Green Wall projects that will be impactful and interesting to investors?**



## **Abdou AZIZ DIEDHIOU**

### **Head of the Studies and Strategy Department and Environment and Climate Focal Point of La Banque Agricole**

Mr. Abdou Aziz Diedhiou is an agroeconomist forest engineer, specialized in rural economics and environmental management. He is currently the Head of the Studies and Strategy Department and the Environment and Climate Focal Point of La Banque Agricole. He is in charge of coordinating the climate finance strategy of LA BANQUE AGRICOLE as the second accredited national entity of the GCF for direct access. Abdou Aziz Diedhiou has more than ten years of experience in the fields of environmental management, rural development and sustainable finance.



## **Ahmed Aziz DIALLO**

### **Member of the Advisory Board of the G5 Sahel Facility and President - Decentralized Cooperation Unit of Territorial Communities of the Sahel (C3Sahel)**

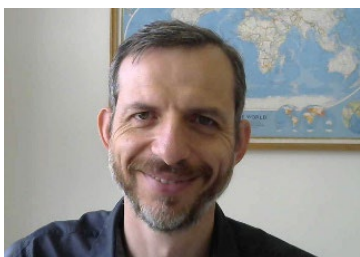
After studying management and computer science in Canada, Ahmed Aziz Diallo decided to work in the private sector in the same country. A few years later, he joined the United Nations system. Attached to UN peacekeeping operations, he works in countries in crisis. From Sierra Leone to Liberia to Afghanistan, it contributes to peacekeeping in these countries. Loving challenges, he resigned from his prestigious position in 2014 to join his country, Burkina Faso. After a year in the private sector in the land of men of integrity, he began a political career. He was deputy mayor of the urban commune of Dori, capital of the Sahel region, then Deputy to the National Assembly of Burkina Faso. Today he is a member of the advisory board of the G5 Sahel Facility and President - Cellule de Coopération décentralisée des Collectivités Territoriales du Sahel (C3Sahel).



## **Rekia FOUDEL**

### **Director and Founder of Barka Fund**

Rekia is Director and Founder of Barka Fund, an early-stage impact fund that invests in startups in Africa. Barka provides innovative funding and investment-readiness support to founders taking measures to reduce the negative impact of climate change in their communities. Prior to founding Barka, Rekia spent 15 years in the financial services sector in the US, Europe and Africa. Rekia then moved to Niger, where as Head of Project Development for the Executive Office of the President, she helped raise \$437 million through the Millenium Challenge Corporation for two growth-focused and climate-resilient projects. Rekia earned an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A in Political Science from Stony Brook University.



## **Gilles MARTIN**

### **Decentralized Cooperation Advisor, FAO**

Gilles Martin has been working on the implementation of the Green Cities Initiative since he joined FAO. He contributes to projects and exchanges aiming at the sustainable transformation of urban food systems and green spaces in support of municipalities in developing countries. The objective is to contribute to the improvement of the food and climate resilience of cities and the well-being of their populations. Prior to this, Gilles Martin worked for eight years for the French Ministry

of Foreign Affairs in the field of agricultural and rural development, mainly for the Africa and Near East regions. In addition, for more than 10 years, he implemented and managed agricultural and rural policies in the European context in France, at national and regional levels. Gilles holds a master's degree in rural economics and is an agronomist.



## **Georgette OUEDRAOGO**

### **Head of Sustainable Land Management, DGAHDI, Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso**

Georgette holds a Master's degree in Concerted Management of Natural Resources with several years of field experience in rural development. She works at the General Directorate of Hydro-Agricultural Development and Irrigation Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal and Fisheries Resources where she holds the position of Head of Sustainable Land Management Department. She also held the position of Regional Director of Agriculture for a few years in the south-central part of the country. She worked at OCADES Kaya for several years as Field Agriculture Coordinator as part of the FASO Program "Families Achieving Sustainable Out Comes" where families achieve sustainable gains (USAID funding under the aegis of CRS / Burkina as the leader) in the North Center of Burkina (target region of the GMV). Interventions in the regions of the Boucle du Mouhoun and the North (GMV zone) as Head of Antenna of the Support Project for Agricultural Sectors (PROFIL) are projects of the Ministry of Agriculture under IFAD financing.



## **Sarah TOUMI**

### **Programme Management Officer of the Great Green Wall Accelerator, UNCCD**

Sarah Toumi is the programme management officer of the Great Green Wall Accelerator, a UNCCD-based team seeking to facilitate the coordination and collaboration of donors and stakeholders involved in the Great Green Wall Initiative. Involved since her younger age in farming activities in arid areas, she has been a witness of the impact of desertification on communities livelihood and human rights and got involved as an entrepreneur to develop agroecological value chains projects, and as an expert to design new programmatic approaches to solve complex issues in arid areas empowering new collaborations based on innovation, tech4good and fairness.

## Panel 2: How to connect project leaders and investors?



### **Sayouba BONKOUNGOU**

#### **President of the Association for the Protection of the Environment and Rural Development (APEDR)**

Sayouba Bonkougou is an agronomist geographer by training. He is President of the Association for the Protection of the Environment and Rural Development (APEDR) and a member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly in Burkina Faso. For nearly ten years, APEDR has been working to promote agroecology and sustainable land management. Apedr favours the participatory approach, which results in the effective involvement of communities, in all phases and actions initiated locally: from the design, development, implementation and evaluation of programmes. Its interventions are part of the fight against poverty by focusing on organization, local capacity building and communication between actors.



### **Tillem BURLACE**

#### **Project Manager, 1t.org Regional Strategy Sahel, World Economic Forum**

Ms Tillem Burlace is passionate about finding solutions to the complex challenges facing our world that balance environmental sustainability, social development and economic growth. She is leading on the Sahel/Great Green Wall focused work of the World Economic Forum's 1t.org platform to conserve, restore and grow 1 trillion trees. 1t.org is supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative to halt and reverse desertification and restore soil quality in the Sahel by stimulating public-private collaboration for accelerated restoration outcomes and landscape reforestation linked to key value chains that contribute to the vision of the GGW.

Ms Burlace has more than 15 years' experience working in research, environmental economics and evaluations. She also has strong experience in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of sustainable agriculture and climate change mitigation and carbon reduction/forest conservation projects. She is also experienced in M&E on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction funds and programs, including evaluating the UK Government funded Carbon Market Finance Programme. Tillem was the Team Leader and evaluation expert for the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture national tree cropping evaluation, an impact evaluation of an equity investment project

supporting smallholder avocado growers in Tanzania, as well as the Scottish Government's Climate Justice Fund. Tillem has also conducted cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis across a range of agricultural and environmental commodities. She holds a Master's degree in Ecological Economics from the University of Edinburgh.



## **Rémi HEMERYCK**

### **Directeur Général SOS SAHEL**

Rémi Hémeryck is an agricultural economist and the Executive Director of SOS SAHEL since 2002. Rémi joined SOS SAHEL in 1997 as Technical Director. For more than 20 years Rémi has contributed his expertise to SOS SAHEL's evolution and development, solidifying the organization as an international expert in food security, now working with more than 1,000 local partners throughout the entire

Sahel region. Accompanying this evolution, Rémi has created a social enterprise model linked to SOS SAHEL's mission.

From 2002 to 2007 Rémi served as Vice President of EURONAIID, the first European network on food security.

Rémi frequently lectures at conferences on topics related to food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change, and women's empowerment among corporates and international organizations like the African Union, European Union, United Nations, World Bank and others worldwide.

Rémi received his Master's degree in Agroecology from Panthéon-Sorbonne University. As part of his specialization in agricultural development, Rémi studied the economics of the dairy industry. Rémi continued with Executive Education in Organizational Leadership from Syracuse University as well as Social Entrepreneurship and Finance for Executives from INSEAD.



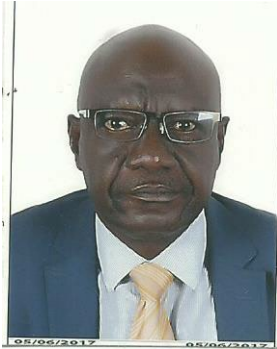
## **Ms Yoko WATANABE**

### **Global Manager, SGP**

Yoko Watanabe has over 25 years of professional experience working on biodiversity and natural resources management. She directs the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) at UNDP as its Global Manager. SGP is one of the largest global funds dedicated to supporting innovative local actions that address global environmental issues led by civil society and communities-based organizations. Prior to that she worked at the Global

Environment Facility and held various key positions, including Program Manager on Biodiversity, and Coordinator for the Asia Program and Gender/Social Inclusion Teams. Yoko also worked at the World Wide Fund for Nature, as its Conservation

Director at the Mongolia Country Office and later as a Senior Advisor on Multilateral Relations at the US Office; Environment Program Officer at UNDP Nepal and Mongolia Offices; and Program Associate at Japan International Cooperation Agency.



## **Abakar Mahamat ZUGOULOU**

### **Scientific and Technical Director, APMV**

A Chadian national, Mr. Zougoulou is a senior expert, specializing in plant ecology, pastoralism, societal dynamics and natural resource management. Thirty-three (33) years of experience. He has held multiple positions: Teacher-researcher, Coordinator of multiple projects, Secretary General of University Institutes, Director of Wildlife and Forests, Technical Advisor to the Ministry, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment, Director General of the Domestic Energy Agency and currently, Scientific and Technical Director of the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall.

## **Signature of a partnership agreement with the APMV**



## **Dr Brahim SAID**

### **Executive Secretary of the APMV**

Born on February 14, 1953 in Koundjar in the Province of Batha, Dr. Brahim Said is a Chadian national. He is a veterinarian by training with forty years of experience in the fields of rural development, land use planning and livestock.

He has held various positions at the technical level as Director of Slaughterhouses and Advisor in charge of the Environment to the Head of State. Several times Minister, including Livestock, Spatial Planning, Urban Planning and Housing, Post and Telecommunications, Dr. Brahim Said was also

Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance and Informatics and Planning and Reconstruction. He also headed the Board of Directors of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall of Chad from February 2013 to June 2019. Finally, he chairs the Board of Directors of the Special Fund for the Environment (F.S.E). Since January 2022, he has held the position of Executive Secretary of the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall.

## Great Green Wall Champions



### Ali Tassi ANNOUR

**ADIL Director  
(Association for the  
Development of Local  
Initiatives)**

Ali Tassi Annour is born in Mongo in a province in central Chad. He did his university studies in the field of planning and the environment in Chad and Guinea Conakry. Being integrated into the State and working in several projects and development programs with sequential availability periodicals; Al Tassi has acquired a lot of experience in the field of natural resource management and precisely in the organization of the rural world. His last 10 years of experience have been very rich in the field of gum arabic with SOS SAHEL.



### Ouma Kaltoume Issoufou MOUSTAPHA

**Entrepreneur, creator of the ProNat  
brand**

A state engineer in agro-economics, Ouma held the positions of economic development consultant, program manager and socio-economist expert in international NGOs and with the United Nations in Niger before taking a new professional turn. Since January 2018, she has been an entrepreneur. She created the brand ProNat (Natural Products of Niger) specializing in the collection and marketing of pure honey, the manufacture of cosmetics based on beeswax, shea butter, balanitis oil, honey sweets, etc.



### Seydou KABORE

**Director of the Guiè pilot farm (FPG),  
ONG TERRE VERTE**

Seydou Wendmété Kaboré is an agricultural economist. Currently Deputy Director of the Guiè pilot farm, he previously held the position of manager of the farm's land development for five years. Seydou has skills in the following areas: sustainable agriculture, rural development, environmental management and sustainable development issues, project management and design, management of cooperatives and associations.





## **Kadio NIANG**

### **Eco-energy engineer**

After studying in France, Kadio Niang returned to Mauritania with a business creation project. Its activity consists of manufacturing solar lamps to promote green building to facilitate access to lighting for modern and sustainable housing in remote villages and places in Mauritania and the sub-region. Her "solar-ecobat" project won the female entrepreneurship prize in the entrepreneur's marathon competition organized by Hadina Rimtic in partnership with the World Bank group and the Mauritanian Ministry of Finance.