

Title of the side-event: “Production of green energy from organic waste to preserve mangroves and increase the income of women salt producers in the village of Djègbadji, in southwestern Benin”

Background of the side event

At the initiative of the Secretariat of the UN Conference on the Oceans which should be held from June 27 to July 1, 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, we were honored to be eligible to present our parallel event in person and in online on June 28 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time on the theme: "Production of green energy from organic waste for the preservation of mangroves and the increase in the income of women producing salt in the village of Djègbadji, in the South -West of Benin”.

Several experts have done us the honor of responding to our invitation. They are Momar SOW, coordinator of the support project for Senegal's marine protected areas policy through the conservation and sustainable implementation of the mangroves of Casamance and Siloe saloum; from Rock Rosath GNANGA, specialist in renewable energies (biogas) and transformation of organic waste, Director of BIOGAZ Benin and finally from AZIZET Roger François, Director of Nature Protection at the Gabonese Ministry of the Environment.

The observation of CO₂ emissions have increased by + 50% over the last 60 years leading to more acidity of the seas and marine and coastal areas. This destabilizes the aquatic food chains and reduces its ability to capture ever more CO₂.

Key issues discussed

- Importance of mangroves in CO₂ absorption
- Importance of mangroves in plant and animal production
- Ignorance of the importance of the biodiversity that local residents encounter
- Destruction of mangroves as fuel for households and income-generating activities
- Protection and restoration of mangroves

Key recommendation

- Bring new source of green energy (biogas) to local residents and women's groups in order to avoid the felling of mangroves
- Carry out participatory campaigns for reforestation and restoration of mangroves
- Support groups of women transforming salt by erecting biodigesters favorable to cooking, electrification
- Support projects aimed at green growth

Voluntary commitments

- Facilitation of NGOs and associations working in the same area to cooperate in order to be useful to populations sometimes in distress in the implementation and execution of flexible projects
- Ensuring, with local populations, cleaning and sanitation exercises for beaches and other coastal and marine areas