

# WEST AFRICAN FUTURES

## THE SAHARO-SAHELIAN AREAS

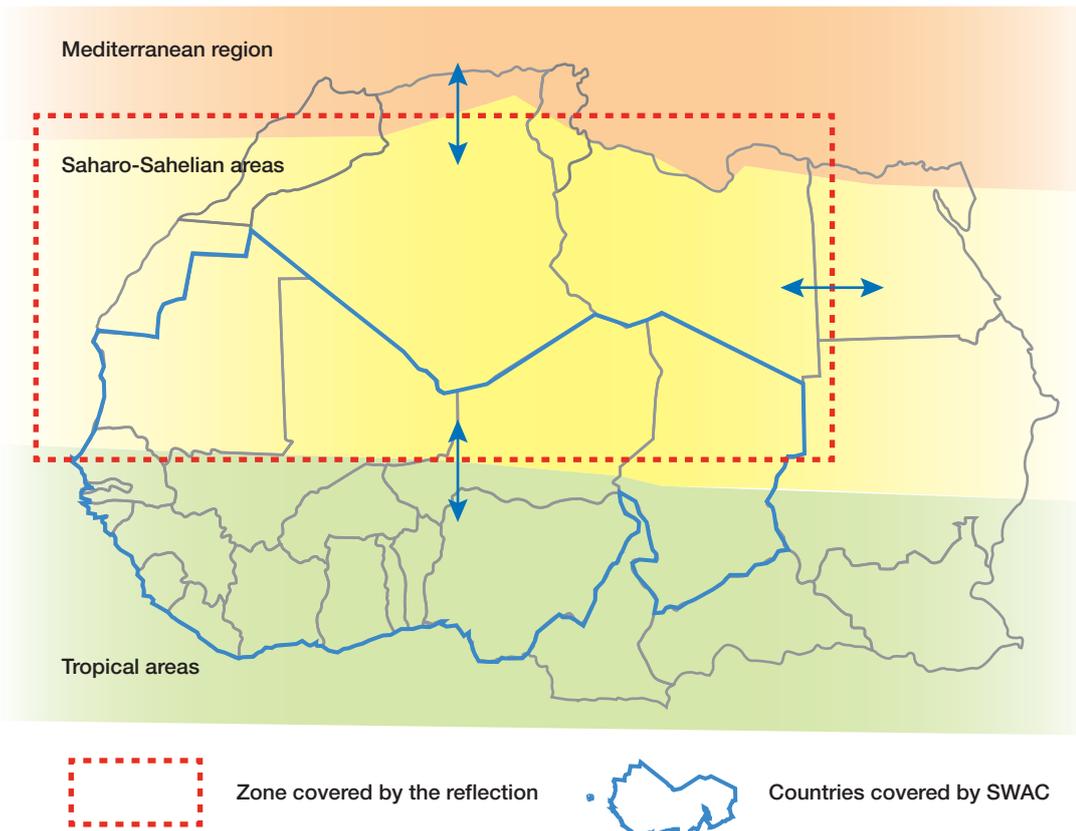
### CALL FOR PAPERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

#### ■ FOCUS

- A set of annotated maps and graphs to illustrate key features of the Saharo-Sahelian areas.
- Thematic chapters on the current stakes of the Saharo-Sahelian areas, their development potential and the impact of relations between West and North Africa on the region's stability and development.

Submission deadline for proposals:  
**15 March 2013** (midnight, Paris time)

Within its 2013-14 Work Programme, the SWAC Secretariat is conducting a reflection process on the future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas. This zone includes the Sahara and its neighbouring shrub-steppe areas stretching from the mouth of the Senegal River in the West to Lake Chad in the East; and is bordered by the Mediterranean region in the North and the dry/humid tropical areas in the South. The Saharan area is thus at the centre of this reflection. Despite extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, the reflection does not include Egypt or Sudan (though relations with these countries may be considered if relevant). The focus area includes Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia, representing about half of the surface covered by SWAC and 80% of North Africa.



Enormous fears exist about the future of this region. According to the most pessimistic scenarios, chaos may spread widely throughout the zone in the coming months and years, threatening the stability of West Africa as well as African and global security. It still seems too early to be able to assess the impact of the current military intervention in Mali.

The starting point for this reflection process will be an analysis of relations between North and West Africa. The risks and opportunities associated with the countries on both sides of the desert will be approached from a trans-regional perspective.

Our hypothesis is that “The Saharo-Sahelian areas have an enormous development potential, which could also benefit the whole West Africa region; the Saharo-Sahelian’s future depends largely on deeper economic and political co-operation with North Africa.” This idea will be explored and developed in detail over an 18-month period that will result in:

- **An Atlas** capitalising on the forward-looking analysis conducted within this reflection; the Atlas, to be published within the SWAC/OECD “West African Studies” series, will be structured in two parts:
  - **Part 1:** Annotated maps and graphs s.
  - **Part 2:** Thematic chapters

- **The SWAC Forum**, which will take place in Côte d’Ivoire in December 2013 within the Sahel and West Africa Week (to be confirmed). Authors selected in this call for papers will be invited to participate in the Forum. In addition, the SWAC Secretariat considers inviting experts/candidates who were not selected as authors, to participate in panel discussions. The Forum aims to provide a platform for dialogue between experts and policy makers on the development potential of the Saharo-Sahelian areas and the role that co-operation between North and West Africa could play in stabilising and developing these areas. By bringing together SWAC Members (notably the West African regional organisations) and other key stakeholders, we hope that the Forum will favour an informed and rich debate that encourages increased co-operation between North and West Africa.

## 1 ANNOTATED MAPS AND GRAPHS

to illustrate key features of the Saharo-Sahelian areas

### Expected Outputs

A set of thematic maps designed in Adobe Illustrator (CS5 or CS6, Windows compatible version). Each map should be completed with a descriptive text of 500 to 1 000 words.

### Conditions and timeframe

The technical and financial proposals should cover the complete set of maps described above, including sample maps of previous work, technical details and cost estimates.

Please send your proposal to:

Ms. Sylvie Letassey ([sylvie.letassey@oecd.org](mailto:sylvie.letassey@oecd.org))

- Submission deadline for proposals: **15 March 2013** (midnight, Paris time).
- Notification of successful candidate/service provider: **29 March 2013**.
- Submission of finalised maps and texts, including source material: **15 September 2013**.

The maps should be shared with the SWAC Secretariat as they are developed.

### Focus Areas

1. Physical geography, topography and hydrography, groundwater resources;
2. Climate and climate change in the past decades;
3. Vegetation;
4. National borders, including their status (not demarcated, demarcated and unbounded, or demarcated and bounded); administrative regions; decentralisation;
5. Ethno-linguistic and religious groups;
6. Human geography, urban networks/oasis, density of rural population;
7. Road, rail and airport infrastructure;
8. Agriculture;
9. Farming and pastoral areas, water points and salt licks, transhumant livestock corridors;
10. Mining, oil and gas sectors, industry, as well as renewable energy sources;
11. Tourism.

Note: It is possible to propose additional topics.

## 2 THEMATIC CHAPTERS

on the current stakes of the Saharo-Saharan areas, their development potential and the impact of relations between West and North Africa on the region's stability and development

### Expected Outputs

Descriptive and analytical contributions that aim to explore the following two questions:

- What influence do the Saharo-Saharan areas currently have on increased co-operation between North and West Africa, and what impact could they have if their potential were further developed?
- What influence does co-operation between North and West Africa have on the stability and development of the Saharo-Saharan areas and how could deeper co-operation contribute to stabilise and develop these areas?

Each paper should be composed of between 5 000 and 7 000 words and be illustrated with graphs and maps, wherever possible. If no proposals for maps are provided, the SWAC Secretariat will produce and/or finalise maps, in collaboration with the author, drawing on map source material produced within Part 1.

The SWAC Secretariat will provide guidance for authors and edit draft texts in order to ensure the overall coherence of compiled Atlas chapters and adjust style and content in line with OECD publishing guidelines. Authors should keep in mind that each paper is just one piece of the final Atlas. The chapters will be signed by the respective author/s who will be presented with a short biographies provided by the authors (100 words).

### Focus Areas

The following focus areas were selected and can be discussed and fine-tuned in collaboration with the selected authors. It is possible to propose additional topics.

#### 1. History, and bi-/multilateral political relations

An analytical summary of the most important stages of North and West African history, focusing on convergent and/or divergent dynamics between the two regions. An historical overview and description of current alliances, and of bi- and multilateral political relations, including regional co-operation (AMU, CEN-SAD, CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA, etc.).

#### 2. Political crises, conflict and insecurity

An analytical overview of past crises and conflicts and their regional dimensions. A description and spatial analysis of trafficking.

#### 3. Economic co-operation between North & West Africa

One of the underlying hypothesis of this reflection is that the "economic and commercial desertification of the Sahara" is the result of the greatly underestimated value of the two regions' complementarities. Moreover, economic co-operation between North and West Africa, even if it does not directly impact the Saharo-Saharan areas, could create or strengthen political co-operation and the common desire to develop the region. The paper shall take stock on the current level of economic co-operation and explore whether it is possible to show that the two regions have quite significant shared economic interests in various sectors such as agriculture, energy, food, investment and industry.

#### 4. Agriculture and livestock farming

A description of the agricultural activities/sector in the Sahara and bordering areas (irrigation, oases and prospects). A summary of the state of livestock farming and related constraints and prospects.

#### 5. Trade

The Sahara is often (rightly so) compared to a sea. The Mediterranean Sea is a key trading area. With this in mind, this paper should aim to answer the following questions: Why is the Sahara not (or no longer) a trading area as vibrant as the Mediterranean Sea? What share represents trade between North and West Africa in the foreign trade of these countries? A special focus should also be placed on barter trade, trade agreements between North and West African countries, trade obstacles such as the non-convertibility of currencies.

#### 6. Trans-Saharan transport infrastructure

Description of the current trans-Saharan road network. A detailed analysis of the current transport system and future projects will help determine whether improving trans-Saharan transport is indeed key to the region's development and security, while providing useful indications on the current and potential competitiveness of supplying the northern Sahelian regions via North African ports

Also see: "Study on the potential for trade between member countries of the Trans-Saharan Road Liaison Committee." December 2009.

## 7. Land planning

The consideration of transport infrastructure points to the broader issue of land planning: Assessment of land planning strategies. Are there substantive differences between countries of the Saharo-Sahelian areas? Are there any particularly successful models that respond to the specific characteristics of the Saharo-Sahelian areas? Is regional co-operation necessary to the integration of these areas? What role has decentralisation and cross-border co-operation played in the countries concerned? What are the specific characteristics of decentralisation?

## 8. Borders, cross-border co-operation & free movement

History and current description of borders with regard to frontiers and boundaries. Are there contentious borders? Assessment of the impact of cross-border co-operation on security and economic development. How have bilateral agreements and the Joint Commissions for Co-operation evolved and contributed to ensure the free movement of people and goods, improve security and/or facilitate trade, for example, between Libya and Niger, Morocco and Niger, and Mauritania and Senegal?

## 9. Migrations

What are the specific aspects of North and West African migrations? What is known today about West African migration to North Africa and vice-versa? Is there still a need for a workforce in North Africa, particularly in the agricultural sector? What is the situation of West African students emigrating to North Africa? What is the current situation in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, and what has been the impact of the Arab Spring and the Libyan civil war? Can migration policies contribute to build closer social and economic ties between the two sides of the Sahara?

## 10. Petrol, gas and mining

An overview of the current state of mining, oil and gas explorations, potential and prospects. Who are the main investors? What is the medium and long-term outlook? Can Trans-Saharan co-operation play a role (through Trans-Saharan gas pipelines, for example)?

## 11. Tourism

Summary of the importance of tourism in the concerned countries, including the non-coastal areas. Assessment of the potential of Saharo-Sahelian tourism, estimated number of visitors, current trends, constraints and prospects. Link between development and spatial organisation.

## Conditions and Timeframe

Interested candidates shall submit a two-page proposal in English or French. The proposal should include: a summary of key ideas, a draft chapter outline, a provisional bibliography of source statistics, proposals for maps, graphs and figures, as well as a short biography and track record of previous publications.

If qualified, the selected candidate/s could be involved in proofreading the translation which is provided by the SWAC Secretariat, in order to verify that the translated text adequately expresses the ideas of the original document.

Proposals should be submitted to:

Ms. Sylvie Letassey ([sylvie.letassey@oecd.org](mailto:sylvie.letassey@oecd.org))

- Submission deadline for proposals: **15 March 2013** (midnight, Paris time).
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A lump sum of 4 000 EUR is fixed for each article.



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