Multi-stakeholder coalitions: an evaluation methodology

réseau action climat france

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ABBREVIATIONS

COP: Conference of the Parties
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MPGCA: Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action
NDC: Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
UN: United Nations
UNFCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

introduction and recommendations

2021 began with several multi-stakeholder events for climate and environmental protection, such as the One Planet Summit, the Climate Adaptation Summit, and the Leaders' Climate Summit organized by President Joe Biden in the United States. Indeed, multi-stakeholder coalitions continue to play a growing role in international climate governance. They are seen as tools for implementation, but also for transforming traditional multilateralism, as demonstrated by the launch of 20 partnerships by the UN75 Global Governance Forum on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN)[1]. And yet, the benefits and contributions of these coalitions to achieving climate goals are insufficiently measured. In November 2020, *Réseau Action Climat-France* published an overview of multi-stakeholder coalitions[2], showing that despite high expectations about their ambition and impact, a lack of clarity persists. Few coalitions are transparent about their governance and few communicate their results in a tangible way. This situation increases the risks of greenwashing. The COP26 will launch a new phase of implementation of the Paris Agreement, and contributions by non-state actors, often announced through coalitions, will certainly influence it. For *Réseau Action Climat-France*, only the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is currently capable of centralized monitoring and evaluation of multi-stakeholder coalitions. Without such a transparency effort, the achievement of the Agreement's goals is likely to be severely compromised. Moreover, the potential of coalitions cannot be recognized if their impact is not measured and reported.

Réseau Action Climat-France therefore hopes to be a force for improving the evaluation and monitoring of coalitions, and this report proposes an evaluation methodology, tested on three coalitions: the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, and the International Solar Alliance. These coalitions were chosen by the members of *Réseau Action Climat-France* for their position in sectors central for the climate, namely agriculture and energy production and efficiency. They include very influential French actors among their members, including the French government and multinational corporations such as Total and Danone.

Recommendations...

... for the UNFCCC and governments worldwide:

- Recognize the **UNFCCC as the organ for monitoring and evaluating** the impact of global climate action, integrating the activities of multi-stakeholder coalitions.
- Define the Global Climate Action Portal as a **mandatory gateway**: coalitions and actors registered on the portal must **update** their information **annually**, or risk having their participation in UN spaces "suspended" until they have provided complete and up-to-date information.
- Establish **selection criteria** for coalitions on the Global Climate Action Portal, which could exclude, for example, coalitions that directly or indirectly support fossil fuels.
- **Accounting by governments of data from non-state actions** compiled by the UNFCCC **and adapting Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs) accordingly, including in terms of emissions reduction targets.
- Recognize a **formal mandate** for the Secretariat of the UNFCCC as the guarantor of the monitoring and evaluation of the action of multi-stakeholder coalitions by States, and allocate the necessary **human and financial resources**.

... for the French government:

- **Encourage coalitions** of which the French government is a member **to be more communicative and transparent about their governance and results**.
- **Focus on transparent and transformative coalitions**, and **officially** disengage from others.
- **Support the central evaluation role of the UNFCCC Secretariat** and advocate for it with other states.
- **Establish a robust assessment system within the One Planet Summit before COP26.** The recent summit on January 11, 2021 was a partially-missed opportunity, with the announcement of more regular monitoring for new coalitions, without much detail. Without that work, the **One Planet Summit will lose credibility** compared to multi-stakeholder spaces that are beginning to establish criteria for participation, such as the November 2020 *Race To Zero* campaign[3].

1. See the partnerships here: https://www.platformglobalsecurityjusticegovernance.org/un75-global-forum-partnerships/

2. Pouget, Marine, *Overview of Multi-stakeholder Coalitions*, November 2020, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/overview_coalitions_reseauactionclimat.pdf

3. See the participation criteria entitled *Defining the "Starting Line"- Minimum criteria required for participation in the Race to Zero campaign* https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Minimum-criteria-for-participation-in-RTZ.pdf

... for the three selected coalitions, the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, and the International Solar Alliance:

- **Ensure the sustainability** of the coalition's goals and activities using environmental, economic and social criteria.
- **Ensure the inclusiveness of the coalition**, as well as **balance in the representativeness** of its members, including different types of actors and geographical areas.
- **Communicate transparently about the internal governance** of the coalition, and establish an inclusive decision-making body, as well as governance tools such as a charter, work plan, and financial statement.
- **Establish a robust and transparent monitoring and evaluation system**, with full reporting of coalition activities and projects, and full recording of results on UN platforms.

This publication presents a methodology that can be used by coalitions themselves as well as by multi-stakeholder platforms. This includes in particular the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA), which includes the Global Climate Action Portal within the UNFCCC. Other multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the One Planet Summit, could also take up the proposals in this report. It was developed and informed by other studies and institutions doing this work of assessing the impact of coalitions and non-state actors[4]. **This methodology does not cover all aspects of coalitions that need to be analyzed. The aim here is to present the criteria that civil society believes should be taken into account as a minimum to ensure a meaningful evaluation of multi-stakeholder coalitions. The methodology is not intended to be perfect, but can serve as a starting point for multi-stakeholder platforms, which have access to more information than civil society. Those platforms could therefore conduct an even more accurate assessment, particularly of the quality of coalition impacts.** *Réseau Action Climat-France* has attempted to assess the coalitions in this report qualitatively using sustainability criteria defined on the basis of standards drawn from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports.

In addition to employing an evaluation methodology, multi-stakeholder platforms or coalitions should themselves solicit external experts for each sector of activity (energy, agriculture, etc.) in order to carry out a complete qualitative evaluation of projects and activities by coalition. *CCFD-Terre Solidaire* has undertaken this effort for one specific coalition, DeSIRA[5]. Beyond problems of transparency, accountability, and the representativeness of members, that initiative in the agricultural sector encourages industrial agriculture, which contributes little to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. That study can also serve as an inspiration for multi-stakeholder platforms to evaluate their member coalitions.

4 See, for example:
- the United Nations Environment Programme *Climate commitments of subnational actors and business: A quantitative assessment of their emission reduction impact, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi 2015*, https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9753/-Climate_commitments_of_subnational_actors_and_business_A_quantitative_assessment_of_their_emission_reduction_impacts-2015unep-2015-climate-commitment.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y,
- the Data-Driven EnviroLab & New Climate report, *Accelerating Net Zero: exploring cities, regions, and companies' pledges to decarbonize*, 2020 edition available at this link: https://newclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NewClimate_Accelerating_Net_Zero_Sept2020.pdf,
- the ICAT report *Non-State and Subnational Action Guide: Integrating the Impact of Non-State and Subnational Mitigation Actions into National Greenhouse Gas Projections, Targets and Planning*, 2020: https://climateactiontransparency.org/icat-toolbox/policy-assessment-guides/non-state-subnational-action/
- other resources can be found in the bibliography of our overview of multi-stakeholder coalitions: https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/etatdeslieux_coalitions_reseauactionclimat.pdf.pdf

5. Jorand Maureen, Castagné Manon, Azoulai Lorine, (in French) *DeSIRA : l'indésirable? Quand des financements publics se mettent au service d'initiatives agricoles opaques*, January 2021, https://cc-fd-terresolidaire.org/IMG/pdf/desira_v3.pdf

presentation of the methodology

1.
Coalition Fact Sheet

This fact sheet identifies the coalition and its members, its field of action and objectives, as well as its activities. The categorization of members is aligned with that of the UN multi-stakeholder portals: companies, banks and financial institutions, local and regional authorities (federal states, regions, departments, or cities), sovereign states, and other types of actors (non-governmental organizations – NGOs, universities, think tanks, inter-governmental and international organizations). The categorization of activities is also inspired by that of UN platforms, distinguishing among the organization of events promoting exchange, awareness-raising, and the production of expertise. Some coalitions also declare activities related to the labelling of their members, while others engage in communication activities, particularly campaigns. Some communicate advocacy work with governments or investors. Finally, some do fundraising and implement pilot projects, such as the development of renewable technologies.

	Information
General presentation of the coalition	Name
	Field of action
	Founding date
	Founding place
	Geographic area
	Number and type of members
	Links with other coalitions
Objectives	Title of coalition objective
Activities	Exchange and dialogue
	Awareness raising
	Expertise / Consultation
	Labelling
	Advocacy
	Campaigns / Declarations
	Fundraising
	Projects
French members	Government
	Regions, Departments, Municipalities
	Companies
	Others: civil society, research institutes, think tanks, citizen groups, universities…

2.
Evaluation grid

Composition of the evaluation grid

The evaluation grid lists and evaluates detailed information about the coalition in order to rate it based on governance, monitoring and evaluation indicators. **Four areas of assessment were identified**: the quality of the coalition's goals and impact, the inclusiveness and representativeness of its members, its transparency and internal functioning, and its monitoring and evaluation system.

The first area addresses the quality of the objectives (Are they quantified? Is there a time frame?), as well as **whether the coalition communicates the achievement of its goals** or not. It also **integrates a qualitative evaluation using a sustainability indicator** based on the positions of the *Réseau Action Climat-France.* For example, the coalition's work should not encourage technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions but have negative social, economic, or environmental impacts. If that is the case, the sustainability indicators will not receive any points.

The second area concerns the inclusiveness and representativeness of the coalition, in terms of types of actors, but also of geographies. *Réseau Action Climat-France* attempts to assess whether **civil society** is represented (and if so, whether via international or local organizations), but also to identify its role. This axis will also address the role of **developing countries** in implementation and decision-making.

The third area of evaluation examines the internal functioning of the coalition: *Réseau Action Climat-France* has attempted to identify the coalition's **various bodies** and to analyze access to **information on meetings and decisions taken**. Financial reports, action plans, and charters are also consulted in this axis.

Finally, **the fourth area concerns the coalition's internal monitoring and evaluation processes**: beyond communication through a website and registration on multi-stakeholder portals, *Réseau Action Climat-France* has attempted to identify **whether and with what tools the coalition communicates the ensemble of its activities and their results**.

Information sources

Information is collected from multi-stakeholder portals such as the Global Climate Action Portal, Climate Initiatives Platform, the One Planet Summit website, as well as **coalition websites and publications**. If the information on the platforms and the websites/publications of the coalitions is contradictory, this will be noted and the information directly from the coalition will be preferred. Information was accessed on January 15, 2021, except for that communicated during exchanges between *Réseau Action Climat-France* and the coalitions.

Réseau Action Climat-France contacted the three coalitions in November 2020, which led to interviews with two of them and an email exchange with the third in early 2021[6]. **Apart from the information gained during exchanges, assessment of the coalitions is based on information they make publicly available**: it is therefore based largely on their communication, and less on internal operating information.

The rating system

Once the fact sheet and evaluation grid are complete, the coalition is rated. For each indicator in the evaluation grid, there are three possible answers: Yes, Incomplete, No. If the information available is more than two years old, it will not be considered. Absence or lack of information is counted as a "No". **A score is attributed for each area on a basis of 2.5 points in order to balance overall ratings, despite the unequal number of indicators per area. The overall score of the coalition is on a scale of 10 points**: 10 points will be considered excellent (represented by four stars). 9 or 8 points is a good score (three stars), 7 or 6 is acceptable (two stars), 5 or 4 is insufficient (one star), and any score under 4 is mediocre (dotted star)[7]. **Within each area**, a total score of 2 points or more will be represented by a gold star, a score between 1 and 2 points by a silver star, and below one point with a dotted star.

Finally, **the scoring will be adjusted based on exchanges with the three coalitions**: if missing information requested by *Réseau Action Climat-France* was published online before March 1st, the scoring will be completely recalculated. If the information is not online but was delivered in full during the interviews, the coalition will receive a bonus point on its final score. If the coalition did not respond to requests for exchanges or was unable to deliver any actionable information, no bonus points will be issued and the score will remain unchanged.

6. See Annex A

7. See rating details by coalition in Annex D

Overview of the evaluation grid

Areas of Evaluation	Indicators for satisfactory governance, monitoring, and evaluation
Objectives	Quantitative objective, with timeframe
	Communication about achievement of objectives
	The coalition's activities and objectives are sustainable: they do not have negative environmental, social, or economic consequences
Inclusiveness	Online publication of coalition members and their roles in the coalition
	At least two different types of stakeholders represented among members
	Representation of civil society
	Balanced representation of developed and developing countries
Governance	All coalition bodies are clear and their functions are explicit
	The decision-making body meets at least once a year (e.g., General Assembly) and records of decisions are published and publicly available
	At a minimum, the coalition has a coordinating body (with its own support team), a decision-making body, a charter, and a work plan. It holds regular meetings and releases its financial statement.
	Decisions and minutes from coalition meetings are accessible
	Information about the coalition's funding and its use of those funds is accessible
Evaluation	The coalition communicates through a website
	The coalition reports its activities and tracks its projects It must provide the following information: sources, amounts, and dates of funding; reports or briefing notes on the project or activity; participants and/or beneficiaries; objectives and outcomes
	The coalition provides information on the achievement of its objectives. It must provide the following information: results achieved each year; real impact of its activities (number of beneficiaries; reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; number of events organized and number of participants; impacts of campaigns; number of partners receiving its label; records of institutional advocacy meetings), according to its activities
	The coalition is registered on at least one UN platform, and all requested information is provided

analysis of the three coalitions selected for this report

1. Breakthrough Energy Coalition

The Breakthrough Energy Coalition was founded during the COP21 in 2015. It brings together investors, companies, and one university from developed countries. Its ultimate goal is to achieve a net-zero emissions trajectory by 2050. The coalition and its members focus on research, innovation, and investment in technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The concrete activities of the coalition are not well documented, nor are its operations and results. In the presentation of its activities, it mentions research, fundraising, establishing pilot projects for technology development, and advocacy. Email exchanges with the secretariat clarified that the coalition focuses its investments in certain regions, particularly in Canada and Europe[8].

The coalition was contacted in November 2020, and a reply was received in February 2021. The coalition's secretariat did not have the capacity to answer questions from Réseau Action Climat-France during a meeting. Only a few answers were provided by email, specifically regarding the coalition's bodies and its impact. Since that information is online, it was included in the coalition's evaluation. However, the coalition does not receive any bonus points because it did not take the time to answer most of the questions asked by Réseau Action Climat-France.

8. See Annex A

Breakthrough Energy Coalition

FACT SHEET

	Information	Responses
Presentation	Name	Breakthrough Energy Coalition
	Field of action	Energy
	Founding date	2015
	Founding place	COP 21
	Geographic area	Worldwide
	Number and type of members	This information is not available on the coalition's website. The Climate Initiative Platform announces 32 actors, but only 16 are visible[9]. The Global Climate Action Portal lists 48 actors but only 14 are visible[10]. The One Planet Summit website does not name the members of the coalition, specifying only a few partners, including France[11]. Based on this information, companies (such as ENGIE and Total) seem to be the most represented, along with one bank (BNP Paribas) and one university (University of California).
	Links with other coalitions	*Oil and Gas Climate Initiative,* which is a member of the coalition
Objectives	Website	*Breakthrough Energy is a network of entities and initiatives, including investment funds, nonprofit and philanthropic programs, and policy efforts linked by a common commitment to scale the technologies we need to achieve a path to net zero emissions by 2050. We are encouraging the development of new net-zero energy technologies, championing policies that speed innovation from lab to market, and bringing together governments, research institutions, private companies, and investors to expand and enhance clean-energy investment*[12].
Activities	Exchange and dialogue	Yes
	Awareness raising	No
	Expertise / Consultation	Yes
	Labelling	No
	Advocacy	Yes
	Campaigns / Declarations	No
	Fundraising	Yes
	Implementation projects	Yes
French members	Gouvernement	France is presented as a partner in the coalition's investment fund, according to the website of the One Planet Summit
	Subnational authorities	No
	Companies	Total, BNP Paribas, Engie, Xavier Niel (based on the information from UN platforms)
	Others: NGOs, Think Tanks, Universities...	Non

9. See http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Breakthrough_Energy_Coalition, accessed on 15 January 2021
10. See https://climateaction.unfccc.int/views/cooperative-initiative-details.html?id=10, accessed on 15 January 2021
11. See https://www.oneplanetsummit.fr/les-coalitions-82/breakthrough-energy-venture-bev-98, accessed on 15 January 2021
12. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/our-story/our-story, accessed on 15 January 2021

Breakthrough Energy Coalition

EVALUATION GRID

Areas evaluated	Stars
1. Objectives	

The coalition deals with many issues essential to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, but does not provide any data on its impact: it is therefore difficult to know whether its objectives are being met or not. Additionally, its activities are not visible, with the exception of a few events.
However, in some of the articles published on its website, the coalition mentions carbon storage and sequestration, as well as advanced nuclear power, as solutions to the "five grand challenges" it intends to address[13]. The challenges identified concern the manufacturing, electricity, agriculture, transportation, and building sectors. According to Réseau Action Climat-France, the above-mentioned technologies are not the ones that will facilitate the ecological transition[14]. In the IPCC Global Warming of 1.5o report[15], scientists applied themselves to assessing climate change mitigation options in terms of their contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their conclusions are clear: even if these technologies can lead to emissions reductions, especially in emitting sectors such as industry, their social and environmental impacts are more unfavorable than other solutions such as energy-efficient renovation of buildings or renewable energies. Indeed, carbon storage and sequestration imply that fossil fuels will continue to be used. Moreover, these practices have not been shown to be reliable on a large scale: the risks of leakage are real[16]. The use of land for carbon storage can lead to the loss of agricultural land while hunger in the world is not decreasing fast enough. As for nuclear power, in addition to its high cost and the risks inherent in the technology, the storage of waste remains a problem[17]. Finally, some of the coalition's concrete investment projects are presented on its website and also on the Canadian government website[18]. We rarely see the technologies mentioned above, but rather companies working in the renewable energy sector. A lack of clarity persists between the coalition's investments and the solutions it promotes on its website.

2. Inclusiveness

For this area, the coalition receives no points: it provides almost no information about its members. It only states that it includes innovators and investors. No names are given on its website, except that of Bill Gates, co-founder of the coalition[19], and of the companies that receive investments. However, UN platforms mention some large companies such as Microsoft, Total, and Engie, which are not on the beneficiaries page of the coalition's website[20].

3. Governance

Like the question of membership, that of governance is minimally addressed on the coalition's website. It is impossible to identify the different bodies that make up the coalition, or to understand how they function, except for the secretariat. It is run by a dedicated team, which is divided into different themes and regions[21]. There is no charter or action plan, making the functioning of the coalition very non-transparent.

13. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/our-challenge/the-grand-challenges, accessed on 15 January 2021

14. To learn more about the positions of *Réseau Action Climat-France* on nuclear energy, please see (in French) *Le nucléaire, un paris risqué face à l'urgence climatique*, February 2021, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/reseau-action-climat-livret-nucleaire-final.pdf. As for its positions on carbon capture, *Réseau Action Climat-France* published (in French) a summary of current knowledge about carbon capture in farmland: *Séquestration du carbone dans les sols agricoles en France*, November 2019, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/carbone-v5-web.pdf

15. Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.), *Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*, in particular chapters 2, 4 and 5 (starting from page 480 with chart *Table 5.2 | Mitigation – SDG table)*, 2018, https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

16. To learn more, also see the note (in French) *Les avis de l'Ademe - Le captage et stockage géologique de CO2 (CSC) en France : un potentiel limité pour réduire les émissions industrielles*, July 2020, https://www.ademe.fr/sites/default/files/assets/documents/avis-ademe-csc_france_2020-011234.pdf

17. See the diagram of the report in Annex B

18. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/investing-in-innovation/bev-portfolio et https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/funding-opportunities/funding-grants-incentives/energy-innovation-program/breakthrough-energy-solutions-ca/breakthrough-energy-solutions-canada-finalists/22522, accessed on 3 March 2021

19. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/our-story/our-story, accessed on 15 January 2021

20. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/investing-in-innovation/bev-portfolio, accessed on 3 March 2021

21. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/team/our-team, accessed on 3 March 2021

Breakthrough Energy Coalition

EVALUATION GRID

4. Evaluation

Information on the monitoring and evaluation of the coalition's impact is insufficient to score well on this axis. The coalition does have a website dedicated to its activities, though it presents only the companies in which it invests in the United States[22]. No data is provided on the amount of funding or the exact projects that the coalition supports. Concerning the initiative in Canada, it is the official website of the Canadian government[23] that gives a very brief overview of the projects supported by the coalition. Finally, no information on the coalition's activities on the European continent is available, except for an article on the European Commission's website mentioning the creation of Breakthrough Energy Ventures Europe in 2019[24]. Monitoring is therefore weak and scattered across several sources. The coalition is registered on three multi-stakeholder platforms, but the information provided there is incomplete, especially regarding governance and impact assessment issues.

Final results

The Breakthrough Energy Coalition does not set an example in terms of transparency: though a website exists and the coalition is registered on multi-stakeholder portals, transparency about its membership, governance bodies, and activities is almost non-existent. Evaluation of its impact is also lacking. There is a disturbing lack of clarity about the technologies that the coalition seeks to promote. Alongside renewable energy and energy efficiency, the coalition is promoting nuclear power and carbon sequestration. These technologies present significant environmental and social risks, and delay the implementation of more viable and sustainable solutions for fighting climate change.

22. See https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/investing-in-innovation/bev-portfolio, accessed on 3 March 2021

23. See https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-and-data/funding-partnerships/funding-opportunities/funding-grants-incentives/energy-innovation-program/breakthrough-energy-solutions-canada/21913, accessed on 3 March 2021

24. See https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/IP_19_2770, accessed on 3 March 2021

2.
Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture

Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture coalition was founded during the 2014 Climate Summit in New York. It brings together more 500 members from many sectors all over the world (sovereign states, companies, NGOs, Think Tanks, etc.). Its main objective is to promote climate-smart agriculture while addressing issues such as food security, nutrition, and resilience to climate change in the agricultural sector. The coalition mainly organizes awareness-raising events and training programs, and produces publications. Its most recent study was produced in November 2020[25]. The coalition also undertakes advocacy activities to convince governments and other actors to invest in climate-smart agriculture.

The coalition was contacted in November 2020, and a response was received in January 2021. A Zoom call took place in February with the coalition's Communications Officer. Several responses were contributed during that conversation. However, most questions had to be addressed by other secretariat staff, so Réseau Action Climat-France sent them via email. The secretariat was unable to answer due to lack of time. The information provided during the conversation not being available online, and not all of the questions being addressed, the coalition did not receive any bonus points, and its evaluation was not adjusted after the exchanges.

25. Chatrchyan Allison, Berkowitz-Sklar Danielle, Bouchard Sierra, Chan Kelsey, Langley Aaron, Matteoli Federica, Mosquera Losada Maria Rosa, Song Claire, *Scaling-Up Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Globally Through GACSA*, November 2020, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gacsa/GACSA_Survey_Report_FINAL.pdf

Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture

FACT SHEET

	Information	Responses
Presentation	Name	Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture
	Field of action	Agriculture
	Founding date	2014
	Founding place	UNSG Climate Summit – New York
	Geographic area	Global
	Number and type of members	The coalition's website lists 500 members and 15 observers. Many types of actors are represented, including states, companies, NGOs, and actors from research and think tanks. Other categories such as "Inter-Governmental groups" and "Farmers Organizations" are specified[26]. The coalition is only registered on the Climate Initiative Platform, where 456 members are declared, though their names are not provided[27].
	Links with other coalitions	Partner of the Climate Smart Agriculture Booster coalition and 12 regional alliances
Objectives	Website	*GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). Our vision is to improve food security, nutrition and resilience in the face of climate change. GACSA aims to catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of CSA[28].*
Activities	Exchange and dialogue	Yes
	Awareness raising	Yes
	Expertise / Consultation	Yes
	Labelling	No
	Advocacy	Yes
	Campaigns / Declarations	No
	Fundraising	No
	Implementation projects	No
French members	Gouvernement	Yes
	Subnational authorities	No
	Companies	Danone
	Others: NGOs, Think Tanks, Universities...	Cirad, INRAE, Université de Lyon, Terre et Humanisme

26. See http://www.fao.org/gacsa/members/members-list/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021
27. See http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Global_Alliance_for_Climate-Smart_Agriculture, accessed on 15 January 2021
28. See http://www.fao.org/gacsa/about/en/ accessed on 15 January 2021

Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture

EVALUATION GRID

Areas evaluated	Stars
1. Objectives	☆

The Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture scores zero points in this area. Climate-smart agriculture has limitations that call into question its effectiveness in reducing emissions. It can create debt situations for farmers and does not necessarily address their needs. Climate-smart agriculture is primarily based on the search for agronomic optimization at the plant level (in particular thanks to new technologies). However, to fight climate change, a systemic approach involving agroecology is essential, as demonstrated by the report of the High Level Expert Panel on Food Security and Nutrition[29]. Thus, in the view of Réseau Action Climat-France, climate-smart agriculture is not a sustainable response[30]. Réseau Action Climat-France is not the only organization to highlight these limitations. The IPCC report Climate Change and Land[31] summarizes criticisms of this system of agriculture. It addresses the lack of a clear definition of climate-smart agriculture, and the techniques and technologies included in this concept remain unclear. Climate-smart agriculture can be applied on a very small scale, as close as possible to the needs of the farmers, and in that case certain practices may be interesting to test, such as reducing the use of pesticides through advanced measuring systems. However, this model is still used by the industrial agricultural system, and therefore does not really lead to changes in practices, but rather to optimizations. The example of pesticides is a good illustration: their use is merely reduced, not eliminated.
On another scoring point, information on the website and in the coalition's publications is too dated to determine whether objectives have been achieved. Most (meeting minutes, activity reports etc.) are from 2017 at best, though the coalition remains active, organizing webinars in 2020, and producing a recent study.

2. Inclusiveness	★

The coalition brings together a large number of members, with very different types of actors from around the world. The Strategic Committee is led by two individuals, one from the Netherlands and one from Zimbabwe[32], demonstrating an effort to represent both developed and developing countries. Civil society as well as communities impacted by climate change, notably farmers, are represented within the coalition. However, their role and especially their weight in decision-making is not visible, and during the discussion with the coalition, it was recognized that civil society involvement could be improved. It is interesting to note that NGOs, as well as think tanks and other types of actors have strongly opposed this coalition due to its lack of transparency but also for the solutions it proposes in the agricultural sector[33].

29. See Annex C

30. To learn more about the positions of *Réseau Action Climat-France* on climate-smart agriculture, see the note (in French): *L'agriculture de précision: un modèle aux antipodes de la transition écologique et sociale*, 2 September 2020, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/notes-rac-agriculture-de-precision.pdf

31. P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.), *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*, 2019, in particular chapters 5 (page 500) and 7 (page 733), https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/

32. See http://www.fao.org/gacsa/about/co-chairs/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

33. These are a few examples of critical articles: *Corporate-smart greenwash: why we reject the global alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture*, 2014 https://www.cidse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/open_letter_against_GACSA.pdf, *Don't be fooled! Civil society says NO to "Climate Smart Agriculture" and urges decision-makers to support agroecology*, 2015, https://www.cidse.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/GACSA_statement_FINAL_17-09-2015_English_1.pdf, *Ensuring transparency and accountability of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture in the perspective of COP21*, 2015, https://www.iddri.org/sites/default/files/import/publications/pb0315.pdf

Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture

EVALUATION GRID

3. Governance

In the early years of the coalition's existence, there was a detailed communication about meetings, activities, and decisions made. In particular, a charter and an action plan were available[34]. However, since 2017, communication has significantly decreased, for example notes on Strategic Committee meetings are no longer provided[35]. As for annual reports, only the one for 2015 is complete, including information on the coalition's funding[36]. For 2016, the coalition produced action plans by working group that provide information on the year's activities (for example for the "Creating an Enabling Environment" group[37]), but information about the coalition's financial support is lacking. The last report is from 2017 and is only a few pages long, with few details[38]. Information is therefore neither up-to-date nor complete[39].
The composition of the working groups[40] and the strategic committee is not provided. It would be important to know if all geographical areas are represented, as well as all types of actors, including civil society and farmers' representatives.

4. Evaluation

As for the previous area, information on monitoring and evaluation has not been updated since 2017. Among the coalition's activities, the production of reports is the most visible[41], along with the organization of webinars[42]. According to the exchange with the coalition, the lack of monitoring is explained by the lack of secretariat capacity to perform the work. However, an activity report should be published in 2021. What's more, the coalition has never measured its real impact. Indeed, until 2017, it listed its activities without communicating the number and types of beneficiaries. For example, in the 2017 Status Report, the coalition informs about the expansion of its communication, notably through the creation of a YouTube channel and a Newsletter[43]. It does not specify who the expansion has served, how many have benefited, and how it contributes to meeting the coalition's goals.
It is important to mention that the coalition is only registered on the Climate Initiative Platform, and does not provide all of the requested information. To establish a link with the UNFCCC, it should also report its results on the Global Climate Action Portal.

Final results

The transparency and monitoring of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture have declined over the years: after a rather promising start, especially in terms of governance, it has not updated its information since 2017. Yet the coalition is indeed active: it published a report in November 2020, has held webinars, and its YouTube channel[44] is regularly updated. The coalition has rarely provided accurate measurements of its impact, not even the number of beneficiaries of its projects. Finally, the solutions it seeks to develop carry risks, including that of perpetuating the current system of industrial agricultural. It promotes new technologies and techniques for soil use, fertilizers, and crop management instead of implementing a systemic transformation towards agroecology.

34. See the charter here: http://www.fao.org/3/a-au667e.pdf. See the 2018-2022 action plan here: http://www.fao.org/3/CA1216EN/ca1216en.pdf. Finally, a document clarifying governance is also available here: http://www.fao.org/3/a-au668e.pdf

35. See the reports of the Strategic Committee here: http://www.fao.org/gacsa/about/structure/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

36. Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture Annual Report 01 January – 31 December 2015, page 4, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gacsa/AF/SC/GACSA_Annual_report_2015_final.pdf

37. *EEAG Work Plan 2016-2017*, http://www.fao.org/3/a-bp496e.pdf

38. *GACSA Status Report January – June 2017*, http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt172e.pdf

39. All of the coalition's internal reports can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/gacsa/resources/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

40. See, for example, the page of the Action Knowledge working group, as well as its reports: http://www.fao.org/gacsa/action-groups/kag/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

41. See http://www.fao.org/gacsa/resources/gacsa-csa-documents/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

42. See http://www.fao.org/gacsa/webinars/en/, accessed on 15 January 2021

43. *GACSA Status Report January – June 2017*, http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt172e.pdf

44. See https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCebFtfDlxLHId1aZqtliqfg/videos, accessed on 03.03.2021

3. International Solar Alliance

The International Solar Alliance coalition was founded at the COP21 in 2015 under the leadership of France and India. It brings together a majority of nations worldwide. The coalition aims to mobilize more than one trillion USD in investments for solar technologies by 2030. These investments serve to accelerate the development of solar energy through capacity building for members, research, exchange of best practices, and access to innovative and affordable financing. France's financial support for the coalition increased in 2019 from 1 to 1.5 billion euros, including an additional €500 million from the French development Agency for solar projects by 2022[45].

Exchanges were organized with experts from the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency) and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Those experts are responsible for monitoring the coalition's activities because France is co-chair. The exchanges were useful for understanding the functioning and dynamics of the coalition, but they did not provide information exploitable in this report because it is not official information reported by the coalition itself.
The coalition was contacted in November 2020, and a response was received in January 2021. Subsequently, exchanges were organized with the coalition secretariat, represented by the Director for Communication and Strategy. The form in Annex A compiles all of the discussion points that were addressed. Because the requested information was not put online after the exchanges, notably about the overall impact of the coalition, but also about the role of partners and the implementation of projects, the coalition receives only one bonus point in the final rating.

45. See the One Planet Summit commitment tracking page of *Agence Française de Développement* (including commitments to the *International Solar Alliance* coalition), https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/one-planet-summit-suivez-la-realisation-de-nos-engagements, accessed on 15 January 2021

International Solar Alliance

FACT SHEET

	Information	Reponses
Presentation	Name	International Solar Alliance
	Field of action	Energy
	Founding date	2015
	Founding place	COP21
	Geographic area	Global
	Number and type of members	The website lists 73 members states and 90 signatory states[46]. It also lists 41 different partners[47] (intergovernmental organizations, banks, research actors, companies, and UN agencies). On UN platforms, 121 members states are registered as members[48]. On the One Planet Summit website, 70 members states are mentioned, though which ones are not specified[49].
	Links with other coalitions	Partner of the Global Solar Council, SE4ALL, and R20Regions coalitions
Objectives	Website	• *Collectively address key common challenges to scale up solar energy applications in line with their needs* • *Mobilize investments of more than USD 1000 billion by 2030* • *Take coordinated action through programs and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonization, aggregation of demand, risk and resources for promoting solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, R&D, capacity building, etc.* • *Reduce the cost of finance to increase investments in solar energy in member countries by promoting innovative financial mechanisms and mobilizing finance from institutions* • *Scale up applications of solar technologies in member countries* • *Facilitate collaborative research and development (R & D) activities in solar energy technologies among member countries.* • *Promote a common cyber platform for networking, cooperation, and exchange of ideas among member countries*[50]
Activities	Exchange and dialogue	Yes
	Awareness raising	Yes
	Expertise / Consultation	Yes
	Labelling	No
	Advocacy	No
	Campaigns / Declarations	No
	Fundraising	Yes
	Implementation projects	Yes[51]

46. See https://isolaralliance.org/membership/countries, accessed on 15 January 2021

47. See https://isolaralliance.org/partners/organisations, accessed on 15 January 2021

48. See the page of the Global Climate Action Portal (https://climateaction.unfccc.int/views/cooperative-initiative-details.html?id=37) and that of the Climate Initiative Platform (http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/International_Solar_Alliance), accessed on 15 January 2021

49. See https://www.oneplanetsummit.fr/les-coalitions-82/alliance-solaire-internationale-asi-89, accessed on 15 January 2021

50. See https://isolaralliance.org/about/background, accessed on 15 January 2021

51. In discussions with the secretariat, the coalition's role was explained as accompanying governments in implementation rather than directly implementing solar projects. However, certain pages on the website mention concrete implementation measures such as solar pumps or mini solar electric networks (https://isolaralliance.org/work/scaling-solar-mini-grids). The objective of the coalition, "*To scale up applications of solar technologies in member countries*" implies implementation projects. The information on the website is therefore prioritized in the rating of this coalition, having not been clarified or updated following our exchanges.

International Solar Alliance

FACT SHEET

French members	Gouvernement	Yes, Co-Chair
	Subnational authorities	No
	Companies	No
	Others: NGOs, Think Tanks, Universities...	No

International Solar Alliance

EVALUATION GRID

Areas evaluated	Stars
1. Objectives	★
The coalition's goals are detailed, and include a time frame and numerical objectives to be achieved. These details can greatly facilitate assessment of whether the coalition is achieving its goals. However, the overall impact of the coalition remains difficult to determine. The annual reports do not allow for the identification or evaluation of all of the coalition's activities, and therefore the results. On the topic of sustainability, the coalition's work does not mention the use of materials whose impact must be assessed, such as rare metals for photovoltaics, for example. In addition, the involvement of the most vulnerable populations impacted by solar projects is not required, which could call into question the sustainability of these activities. The coalition works mainly at the state level, and not with local populations: this approach will not facilitate the ownership and acceptability of solar projects in the countries concerned.	
2. Inclusiveness	★
The coalition updates its members on its website and in its activity report. The Co-Chairmanship of India and France illustrates the will to balance the representation of developed and developing countries. Also, every region is represented in the Standing Committee (Latin America & Caribbean, Africa, Asia & Pacific, Europe & Others). Only member countries make decisions in this coalition because it has the status of an international organization[52]. The multi-stakeholder approach is encouraged by the link between the coalition and its partners. However, the exact role of partners remains unclear in the coalition's communication, which is a first weak point in its inclusiveness[53]. The second concerns the poor involvement of civil society. For example, in the Scaling Solar Application for Agricultural Use program, the visit to Niger illustrates this weakness: the report[54] indicates meetings with only one NGO, the Association des Professionnels de l'Énergie Solaire (Association of Solar Energy Professionals), which does not represent the beneficiaries of solar installations (farmers, residents, etc.), but professionals of the sector. The consultation should have been extended to the beneficiaries to ensure its quality. It is regrettable that the coalition, as an international organization, does not impose a framework on its member countries to require quality involvement of civil society in the energy transition. According to information gathered during the discussions with the secretariat, the coalition is carrying out more and more projects with its partners involving local populations, particularly through training[55]. It is regrettable that these programs are not very visible in the coalition's communication.	
3. Governance	★
The internal functioning of the coalition has been clear and detailed since its founding. It is made up of several bodies: a secretariat supported by a team, an Assembly, a Standing Committee that meets about twice a year, and regional committees. The charter of the coalition is available, as well as the amendment to the framework agreement[56]. The coalition communicates its sources of funding in its annual reports. Decisions made by the Assembly are systematically reported, as we see in the report of the most recent Assembly (October 2020)[57]. The governance of this coalition is therefore very well managed. Several aspects could however be improved. The notes of the Standing Committee meetings are not accessible, while those of the Steering Committee, in effect until 2018, are[58]. Furthermore, the roles of the regional and thematic committees are not explained[59]. During discussions with the secretariat, it became apparent that the thematic committees were abolished in October 2019. The mission of the regional committees is to identify common needs and activities for member countries, but no notes of their meetings are available.	

52. See Annex A for information on the status of the coalition

53. See https://isolaralliance.org/partners/organisations, accessed on 15 January 2021, as well as the information available in Annex A: it was explained that partners support the coalition's activities and participate in exchanges, but are not involved in the coalition's decision making.

54. ISA, "*Aide-Mémoire for Expert Level Visit to Niger for Pre-Feasibility Study of Solar Pumps, Rooftop and Mini-Grid Projects by International Solar Alliance Secretariat held from 05-09 August 2019*", 2019, P.1, https://isolaralliance.org/uploads/docs/b9602cf0073ce891902a04aba1d1ef.pdf.

55. See the information in Annex A about the involvement of civil society and local populations.

56. ISA, *Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance*, 2015, https://isolaralliance.org/uploads/docs/04519cec12c15e9bc80ad92b3cb10e.pdf

57. See https://isolaralliance.org/governance/third-assembly, accessed on 15 January 2021

58. See https://isolaralliance.org/about/steering-committees, accessed on 15 January 2021

59. See https://isolaralliance.org/governance/committees, accessed on 15 January 2021, as well as the information in Annex A about the role of the regional committees.

International Solar Alliance

EVALUATION GRID

4. Evaluation

This coalition uses several monitoring tools, starting with monthly or quarterly activity reports between 2016 and February 2019[60]. Those reports detail the coalition's activities but do not measure the impact of outcomes. The coalition also provides reports of its field visits, which are more or less exhaustive depending on the mission, and are mostly descriptive[61]. The annual reports for 2019 and 2020 attempt to evaluate beyond simple descriptions of activities, but the information is mostly quantitative and not very qualitative[62]. It is unfortunate that this coalition, despite its detailed governance and a well-documented website, does not sufficiently address the impacts it generates. It could communicate data on its beneficiaries, or on the greenhouse gas emissions avoided by its pilot projects. In addition, the coalition should more accurately track its flagship activities, such as capacity building with member states, the impact of which is not measured. Finally, the information provided to multi-stakeholder portals is not complete. Monitoring and governance are not sufficiently detailed.

Final results

This coalition receives a score considered acceptable, as its governance is almost fully detailed. Some details on the functioning of the thematic and regional committees are missing. The coalition attempts to track its activities, reports on the events it organizes, and makes activity reports available.
However, two points of vigilance should be highlighted, and ideally improved. First, the coalition does not sufficiently include civil society in its functioning. Renewable energies cannot be deployed without the involvement of local populations, and this should be a priority for any activity of the coalition.
The second point concerns evaluation: even if several monitoring tools are used, such as the annual report, there is a lack of overview on the concrete impact of the coalition. The total number of beneficiaries, for example, is not provided. The coalition's communication is even confusing at times, as the focus is on field studies and tests of solar technologies. But the coalition's main activities – awareness raising and capacity building of its member countries, development of innovative financing models, and demand aggregation to reduce the costs of solar projects – are not very visible. The impact of these activities should be measured more thoroughly and, more importantly, be the priority in communication.

60. See https://isolaralliance.org/publications/activity-reports, accessed on 15 January 2021

61. See https://isolaralliance.org/publications/team-mission-reports, accessed on 15 January 2021

62. ISA, *ISA annual report 2019*, https://isolaralliance.org/uploads/docs/c0541cff095d89defcc0d03c1e767a.pdf, and ISA, *ISA Annual Report 2020*, 2021, https://isolaralliance.org/uploads/docs/f01746dcca18e5c5f2ffd9206f76ed.pdf

conclusion

This second publication only reinforces the risks highlighted in the November 2020 overview. The lack of transparency and evaluation among multi-stakeholder coalitions is not only evident on multi-stakeholder portals, but also in their own communication materials. Although the selected coalitions were willing to discuss with *Réseau Action Climat-France*, none of them published the missing information after our discussions. The quality of their transparency is therefore still not satisfactory.
Based on the information available, only one coalition even partially monitors and communicates on its governance: the International Solar Alliance. However, it still needs to make progress: the lack of civil society participation weakens the coalition's real contribution. The results are less good for the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, and frankly mediocre for the Breakthrough Energy Coalition. The former does present a more elaborate governance system, even if it is not sufficiently updated. Its main problem is that it encourages solutions that *Réseau Action Climat-France* and other institutions do not recognize as sustainable. The Breakthrough Energy Coalition presents the same problem, in addition to a total lack of communication about its governance, membership and results.

These findings demonstrate how essential multi-stakeholder portals are for providing a comprehensive view of the actions and impacts of coalitions. It is very difficult to force a coalition to set up a monitoring system on its own or to be transparent about its operations. However, it is the opinion of *Réseau Action Climat-France* that it would be easier for multistakeholder tracking portals to make the visibility of their members conditional on full disclosure of the information they require. Without assessment, states will not be able to use the potential contributions of coalitions to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Accountability is a key concept for the new phase of implementation that will begin with COP26.

Beyond COP26, the establishment of the 2023 Global Stocktake within the UNFCCC is an important date for coalitions and non-state actors: if a global stocktaking on the implementation of the Paris Agreement is to be done, the contributions of coalitions that register with the UN platforms must be assessed. Their results are essential in order to support states in raising the ambition of their NDCs, the main objective of the Global Stocktake. It is necessary to quickly determine how this review can integrate multi-stakeholder coalitions. An accountability framework needs to be developed before 2023 in order to be usable in time and to shed light on which coalitions are and are not contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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annexes

1.
Exchanges with secretariats of the three coalitions

Breakthrough Energy Coalition

Due to time constraints, the Breakthrough Energy Coalition did not respond to most of the questions from Réseau Action Climat-France. However, some official answers were communicated via email and included in the evaluation of the coalition.

Topics covered	Answers
History of the coalition / objectives	*Breakthrough Energy was founded in 2015 and the first BE initiative was a fund called Breakthrough Energy Ventures, which seeks to invest in groundbreaking companies that have the potential to help the world economy decarbonize. Since the creation of Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Breakthrough Energy has been developing more initiatives, both across the United States as well as in Europe (for example Breakthrough Energy-Ventures Europe) and in Canada (for example Breakthrough Energy Solutions Canada, and more information here as well). Breakthrough Energy Ventures-Europe is about to announce its first investment. Two others should follow soon after, and several more are in the pipeline before the end of the year*[63].
Lists of coalition investments	https://www.breakthroughenergy.org/investing-in-innovation/bev-portfolio
Governance	*As for governance, we operate as a network of initiatives with staff and leadership whom you can see on the staff page on the website*[64].

63. Email, 12 February 2021
64. Email, 12 February 2021

Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

Réseau Action Climat-France was able to exchange via Zoom with the coalition's Communications Officer. Because not all of our questions about governance and evaluation were addressed, *Réseau Action Climat-France* provided a questionnaire to be transmitted to the entire coalition secretariat team. Due to time constraints, the questionnaire was not returned with answers. Here are the questions asked as well as the initial replies supplied by the coalition's Communications Officer during the Zoom meeting

Topics covered	Réseau Action Climat-France Questions	Answers/Comments
Links with civil society	How do you organize civil society participation in the coalition? Do you ensure it is represented in each working group and meeting, and in the coalition's decision-making processes?	*Involvement of civil society in decision-making within the coalition could be improved. The secretariat is currently working on a new strategy to involve it more.*
	Which civil society organizations do you involve in the coalition's activities: international NGOs, local NGOs, local community representatives?	No answer
	In addition to the civil society organizations that are members of the coalition, there are also NGOs that are mobilizing externally against climate-smart agriculture. In its early days, the coalition held meetings with those opposing NGOs. Since 2017/2018, there is no more dialogue. Is there a willingness within the community/coalition secretariat to revive that dialogue?	*The coalition also wants to revive that dialogue, at issue is more the capacity of the secretariat: there was no assurance that the team will have time to coordinate dialogues this year.*
Content	How do you define climate-smart agriculture?	*The coalition uses the three pillars defined by the FAO, but the answer needs to be completed by the rest of the secretariat.*
Governance	Does the following statement adequately summarize the different bodies of the coalition and their functions? • Facilitation Unit: coordinate and organize the coalition's activities • Annual Forum: guidelines and key decisions for the year • Strategic Committee: day-to-day decision-making body • Working groups: allow members to participate in discussions/activities on specific themes. They are led by "co-leaders" who are responsible for the progress of the work of the groups	This information was drawn from the discussion with the Communications Officer and was to be confirmed by the rest of the secretariat.
	Which members are part of the strategic committee, and which members are in each working group?	No answer
	Are there criteria for selecting members of the coalition? How do you ensure that new members are consistent with the vision and work of the coalition?	No answer
	Are there criteria for excluding members who no longer respect the coalition's vision or objectives?	No answer
	Who funds the coalition? Do you have a financial report more recent than 2015?	Funding is based on voluntary contributions from members. The answer was to be completed by the rest of the secretariat.

Activites	Is it correct that the coalition's activities are primarily organizing events, awareness raising and training, expertise development, and advocacy?	No answer
	What are the coalition's concrete deliverables, in addition to webinars, events, and reporting?	No answer
Evaluation	In its early days, the coalition demonstrated a fairly robust monitoring system, with activity reports for each working group and an overall annual report. These documents have not been renewed since 2017/2018. Why?	*The secretariat lacks capacity to coordinate monitoring of all of the coalition's activities. An annual report is planned for 2021.* *Some information is, however, available on the coalition's YouTube channel[65] (notably the various public events organized by the coalition).*
	Concerning the working groups, are the "co-leaders" responsible for monitoring the activities of their group? Why did this follow-up stop in 2017? For example, has the *Enabling Environment Action Group* attempted to measure whether, since 2014, the coalition has been able to create environments favorable to the development of climate-smart agriculture? If so, how?	No answer No answer
	In addition to attempts to monitor the coalition's activities, do you have a system to evaluate its impact? If so, what are the results and are they available online? If not, why is this evaluation work not being done?	No answer
	The coalition is registered on the multi-stakeholder Climate Initiative Platform: why is it registered on that platform, and do you update its information every year, for example?	No answer

65. Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture YouTube channel, *GACSA Channel*, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCebFtfDlxLHId1aZqtliqfg/videos, accessed on 3 March 2021

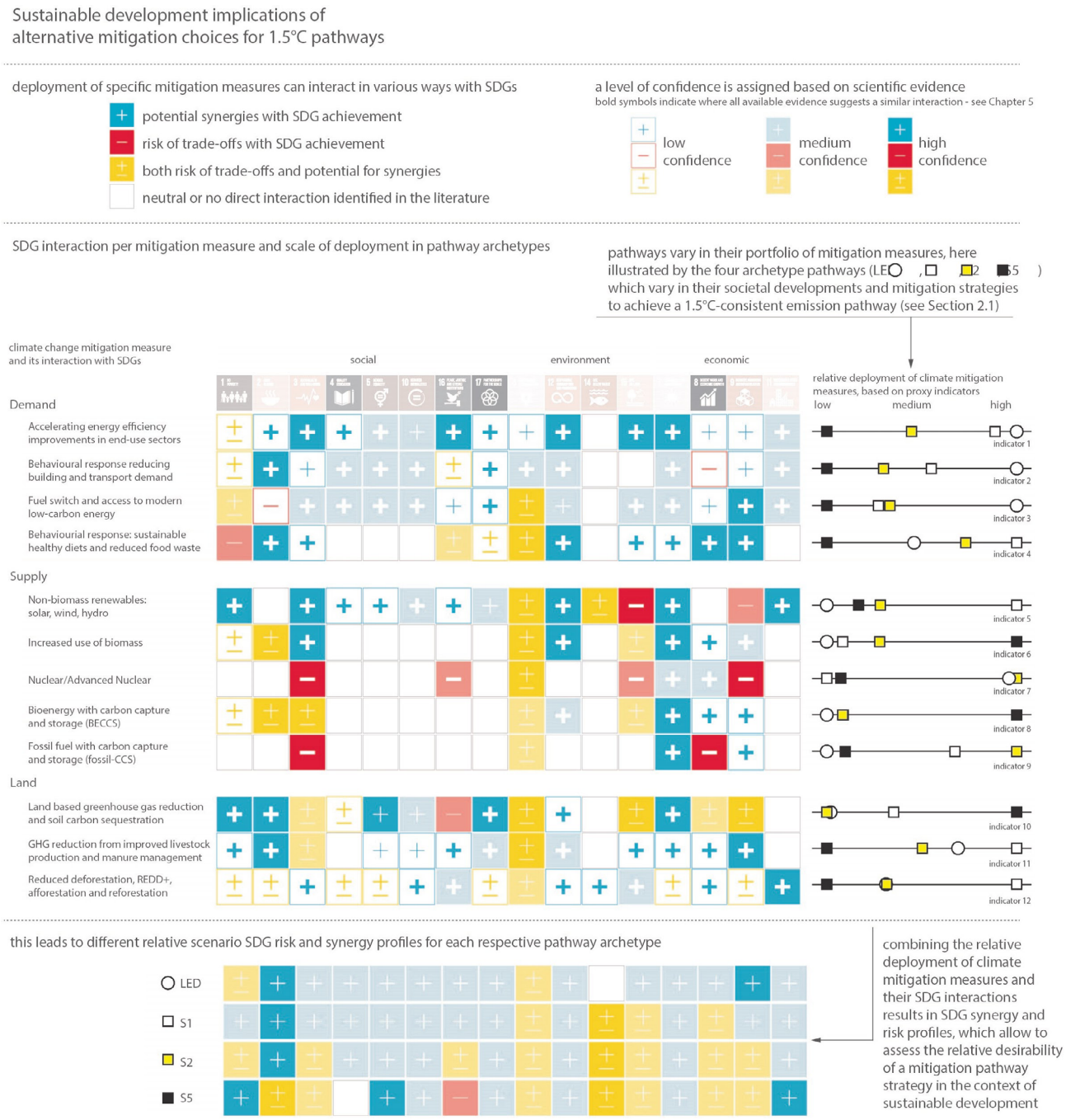
International Solar Alliance

Exchanges with the International Solar Alliance took place during January and February 2021, between the head of multi-stakeholder international initiatives at *Réseau Action Climat-France* and the Director of Communication and Strategy with the coalition's secretariat.

Topics covered	Réseau Action Climat-France questions	Answers
Status of the coalition	The coalition is only composed of sovereign countries as members and signatories. Why not integrate other stakeholders, as it is a multi-stakeholder coalition?	The International Solar Alliance is often cited alongside multi-stakeholder coalitions, but it is in fact an international organization: its status is therefore different from most coalitions, and decisions can only be made by states. However, we work with many stakeholders as partners.
Decision-making process	How do the different bodies of the coalition (Secretariat, General Assembly, Standing Committee, regional and thematic committees) work together?	The Secretariat coordinates the work of the coalition and organizes meetings and collective work. The General Assembly takes place once a year and allows member countries to set the main priorities and work areas of the alliance. The Standing Committee is the day-to-day decision-making body. Finally, the regional committees identify needs by region, and organize specialized events and trainings. The thematic committees were discontinued in 2019, as they had more of an effect of scattering than coordinating efforts.
Role of partners	What exactly is the role of coalition partners?	Partners do not make decisions for the coalition, but support our programs. We organize events and trainings with many institutional partners, such as the National Institute of Solar Energy, the European Union, and the European Investment Bank. We are also in partnership with the private sector, notably through a task force that works with the International Committee of Chambers of Industry and Business, co-managed by the MEDEFF and the *Syndicat des* Énergies *Renouvelables* for the French stakeholders. On the Indian side, the co-managers are the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. For the moment, it is mainly a question of exchanges and dialogues. Finally, we have links with a few foundations (such as the Rockefeller Foundation, the Shakti Foundation, the Schneider Electric Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation).
Civil society participation	1) Is civil society present in the coalition's decision-making? How is it involved in the coalition's activities? What kind of civil society organizations are represented/consulted by the coalition? Are there consultations with groups representing local communities? 2) Is the Alliance planning to impose a clearer framework on member countries for their solar projects, and to require the integration of local civil society demands in their public policy?	1) As explained above, the Alliance is an international organization and only countries can make decisions within it. We must admit that civil society is not very involved in the Alliance's activities. The coalition only came into force in December 2017: since then, it has been a lengthy process to establish governance, and to mobilize financial and technical contributions to set up the Alliance. Additionally, the conditions for implementing solar projects are decided by the states themselves, not by the alliance. But civil society remains a key actor for the energy transition and we want to work more closely on its involvement. Moreover, we have started cooperating to support the involvement of local populations, in particular with Barefoot College, which trains illiterate women to become solar technicians in more than a hundred countries 2) This is precisely one of the axes we wish to develop, because the Alliance may well have more recommendations for its members on this subject.

Implementation projects	It is difficult to understand the impact of the Alliance's solar projects. What are they? How many have been completed to date?	The Alliance is not designed to implement solar projects directly. It accompanies country efforts to raise funds for such projects. For example, the solar technology feasibility reports on the website were part of a support program for states. The goal was not for the Solar Alliance to then implement the project, but rather to show the beneficiary countries what is and is not feasible. It is then up to the country itself to decide whether to implement the solar project, with which partners, etc.

2.
Diagram from *the Global Warming of 1.5°C* report on links between UN Sustainable Development Goals and various mitigation efforts



Caption: Interactions between mitigation measures and Sustainable Development Goals, available on the IPCC website (https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/graphics/#cid_457) and in chapter 2 of the *Global Warming of 1.5°C* report, page 156.

The limitations of carbon sequestration and storage technologies are detailed throughout chapters 2 and 5 of the report, notably on page 125, where it is explained that they require land use (which could encroach on agricultural land and have social impacts for local populations) and also risk carbon leakage. In general, as noted on page 157, climate plans that include a relatively small use of carbon capture and storage technologies show more synergies with the SDGs. They prioritize energy demand reduction, behavior change, sustainable consumption patterns, healthy diets, etc. In Chapter 5 of the report, starting on page 481, the effects (positive and negative) of each technology are detailed. The question of dangers to human health is mentioned, particularly concerning localized increases in greenhouse gas emissions in the coal sector (page 485).

With regard to nuclear power, Chapter 5 of the report (especially page 461) demonstrates that this technology will have negative impacts on several of the SDGs, for example SDG 16, and increases the risk of nuclear proliferation and therefore poses a threat to world peace. This is also the case for SDG 3 because of the risks to human health linked to radioactivity and nuclear disasters. These risks are also detailed on page 485.

These findings are illustrated in the diagram above by red minus symbols in front of these technologies. *Réseau Action Climat-France* has, in its assessments, not given points for the sustainability indicator if the coalition support these technologies. The reduction of energy consumption and behavioral changes do not receive red symbols and demonstrate almost total synergy with the SDGs. These measures are therefore to be favored, as are renewable energies.

Réseau Action Climat-France invites readers to examine in detail Chapters 2, 4 and 5 of the *Global Warming of 1.5°C* report for more clarity on the negative effects of certain climate change mitigation measures. As mentioned earlier in the text, the network's position papers on soil carbon sequestration, nuclear power and climate-smart agriculture can be found online[66].

66. To learn more about the positions of *Réseau Action Climat-France* on nuclear energy, see the publication (in French) *Le nucléaire, un paris risqué face à l'urgence climatique*, February 2021, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/reseau-action-climat-livret-nucleaire-final.pdf. For positions on carbon sequestration, *Réseau Action Climat-France* published a state of knowledge on carbon sequestration in farmland (in French): *Séquestration du carbone dans les sols agricoles en France*, November 2019, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/carbone-v5-web.pdf To learn more about the positions of *Réseau Action Climat-France* on climate-smart agriculture, please see the following note (in French): *L'agriculture de précision: un modèle aux antipodes de la transition* écologique *et sociale*, 2 September 2020, https://reseauactionclimat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/notes-rac-agriculture-de-precision.pdf

3.
Chart from the report *Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition* on the characteristics of major agricultural models

Table 4 Comparison of different innovative approaches towards SFSs for FSN

Characteristic	Agroecological and related approaches					Sustainable intensification and related approaches			
	Agroecology	Organic Agriculture	Agroforestry	Permaculture	Food sovereignty	Sustainable intensifica-tion	Climate smart agriculture	Nutrition sensitive agriculture	Sustainable food value chains
Resource efficiency									
Regenerative production, recycling and efficiency								No evidence	No evidence
Biodiversity, synergy and integration									
Resilience									
Economic diversification versus specialisation									
Climate adaptation and mitigation									
Social equity/responsibility									
Knowledge generation and technology transfer									
Human and social values: *Equity*									
Human and social values: *Labour versus capital intensification*									
Connectivity (value chains/circular economies) versus globalization									
Governance: rights, democratization and participation									

Note: The table uses the characteristics as defined in previous **Table 3**. The grey-scale intensity of the cells represents the evaluation of the HLPE based on the evidence about the approaches set out in this chapter and in Appendix 1. This gradient does not convey any value judgement, but simply locates where along a defined continuum each approach lies. The methodology is explicit and could be repeated by others or against different evidence bases resulting in different grey-scale intensity in the different cells.

Caption: Comparison of different approaches to agriculture and their characteristics, from the report *Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*, page 63.

This table helps to show which characteristics of each model of agriculture contribute to ecological transition. The left-hand column lists different characteristics, such as recycling, protection of biodiversity, knowledge transfer, and strengthening democracy. The other columns show different agricultural models such as agroecology or climate-smart agriculture. The darker the boxes, the more synergies there are between the agricultural models and the criteria for strengthening the ecological transition.

The agroecological model has more of these synergies than the climate-smart agriculture model. Beyond the issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation, agroecology is more relevant on questions of sustainability: it promotes the transfer of local knowledge, encourages the development of democracy, better protects biodiversity, and uses resources more efficiently.

Climate-smart agriculture provides short-term answers, with impacts that are not always positive and very local and limited. It can help farmers in some contexts, but it is barely a band-aid in their struggle to face climate change. We need to heal the wound, and for that, agroecology is a better solution that is based on sustainability, respect for local populations and their know-how, and the protection of biodiversity.

4.
Details of the rating of the three coalitions

Areas and Indicators	Breakthrough Energy Coalition	Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture	International Solar Alliance
AREA 1 : Objectifs			
Quantitative goal, with timeframe	Yes (0.83)	No (0)	Yes (0.83)
Communication about achievement of established objectives	No (0)	Not updated since 2016 (0)	Incomplete (0.415)
The coalition's objectives and activities are considered sustainable: they do not lead to negative environmental, social, or economic consequences	Little information about activities, and promotion of technologies considered unsustainable by *Réseau Action Climat-France* (0)	Climate-smart agriculture is not considered sustainable by *Réseau Action Climat-France* (0)	Not enough information on the beneficiaries of and populations impacted by the solar projects (0.415)
TOTAL AXE 1	0.83 points	0 points	1.66 point
AREA 2 : Inclusiveness			
Online publication of members and their roles in the coalition	No information (0)	Incomplete (0.313)	Yes (0.625)
At least two different types of stakeholders represented among members	No information (0)	Yes (0.625)	No (0)
Civil society representation	No information (0)	Yes (0.625)	No (0)
Balanced representation of developed and developing countries	No information (0)	Yes (0.625)	Yes (0.625)
TOTAL AXE 2	0 points	2.2 points	1.25 point
AREA 3 : Governance			
All coalition bodies are clearly presented and their functions are explicit	Incomplete (0.25)	Yes (0.5)	Incomplete (0.25)
The decision-making body (e.g.: General Assembly) meets at least once each year and records of its decisions are published and publicly available	No information (0)	Not updated since 2017 (0)	Yes (0.5)
At a minimum, the coalition has a coordinating body (with its own support team), one decision-making body, a charter, and a work plan. It holds regular meetings and presents a financial statement	No information (0)	Yes (0.5)	Yes (0.5)
Minutes and decisions from coalition meetings are accessible	No information (0)	Not updated since 2017 (0)	Incomplete (0.25)
Information about coalition funding and use of funds is accessible	No information (0)	Not updated since 2016 (0)	Yes (0.5)
TOTAL AXE 3	0.25 points	1 point	2 points
AREA 4 : Evaluation			
The coalition communicates through a website	Yes (0.625)	Yes (0.625)	Yes (0.625)
The coalition reports on its activities and monitors its projects It must provide the following information: dates, amounts and sources of funding, reports or summary notes on the project or activity, participants and/or beneficiaries, objectives, and results	Incomplete, only some of the funded projects are presented, and information is too limited (no amounts of funding, no updated follow-up, etc.) (0.313)	Incomplete, in particular with regard to amounts and sources of funding of each project, and no activity report since 2017 (0.313)	Incomplete, in particular with regard to the number of beneficiaries (0.313)

The coalition provides information about the achievement of its objectives It must provide the following information: results achieved each year, real impact of its activities (number of beneficiaries, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, number of events organized with number of participants, impacts of campaigns, number of partners who received its label, records of institutional advocacy meetings), according to its activities	No (0)	No (0)	Incomplete, in particular with regard to the impact of events organized, the number of beneficiaries, and emissions avoided thanks to the work of the coalition. (0.313)
The coalition is registered on at least one UN platform, on which all of the requested information is provided	Incomplete information (0.313)	Incomplete information (0.313)	Incomplete information (0.313)
TOTAL AXE 4	1.213 point	1.3 point	1.6 point
Bonus point for exchanges			1 point
TOTAL	**2,29 points**	**4,5 points**	**7,51 points**

Réseau Action Climat – France is an association under the French law of 1901 founded in 1996 and focused on climate change. It is the French representative of Climate Action Network International (CAN-I), a global network of more than 1,100 NGOs around the world. A federation of national and local associations, it fights the causes of climate change, from the local to the international level, and aims to encourage governments and citizens to take action to limit the impact of human activities on the climate.

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Le Réseau Action Climat fédère les associations impliquées dans la lutte contre le dérèglement climatique

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