

Agency Collaboration for UNCCD Implementation: Current Situation and Lessons Learned

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
COP 6: 25 August – 5 September 2003, Havana, Cuba



A Joint Publication of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism



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Introduction



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is “designed to forge a new deal between governments, the international community, development practitioners and local people.”¹ Land degradation is a long-standing problem that countries working alone have not been able to address effectively since it has both poverty and global environment dimensions. Sustainable land management in the 21st century will require the adoption of more innovative, inter-sectoral strategies, and financing such programmes will be more effective when based on multi-agency partnerships.

Recommendation 3 of the CRIC-1 report stresses the importance of resource mobilization and coordination and stronger agency collaboration within the United Nations system to make it more responsive to supporting the CCD.² The aim of enhanced collaboration is to garner increased international attention for implementation of the UNCCD using sustainable land management as a tool to reduce poverty and achieve environmental sustainability.

Channels for combating poverty and simultaneously ensuring environmental sustainability have been created through a number of new initiatives in international development and cooperation. These include:

- The **Millennium Summit of 2000**, which introduced a new focus on environmental sustainability through Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 7;
- The **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)** in September 2002 reaffirmed land degradation

as one of the major global environmental and sustainable development challenges of the 21st century;³

- The **New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)** which reinforces country ownership of and commitment to the development process;
- The **Monterrey Consensus** which promises an increase in lending for agriculture and rural development, based on a commitment by donors to reverse the decline in lending over the last 20 years; and
- The **GEF Council decision of May 2003** which approved a new Operational Program 15 (OP 15), whose overall goal is to catalyse partnerships with other organizations working on land management, degradation and desertification issues.

These initiatives provide a frame of reference for our collaborative efforts and underpin the results-orientation that must form part of the UNCCD implementation agenda. The initiatives also set the stage for creating new funding pathways for the implementation of the CCD. Our collective challenge is to come up with high quality interventions that can demonstrate benefits to local, national and global stakeholders.

The Global Mechanism (GM) was established as per Article 21 of the UNCCD, with a mandate to “increase the

¹ UNCCD Secretariat 1995. Down to Earth – A Simplified Guide to the CCD, Why It Is Necessary and What Is Important and Different About It.

² See CRIC.2003. Report of the Committee on its First Session, held in Rome from 11 to 22 November 2002. ICCD/CRIC(I)/10, pp 27-29 UNCCD 2003.

³ See GEF OP 15, p. 2.

effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis and/or on concessional terms, to affected developing country Parties.” The GM Facilitation Committee (FC) comprises IFAD, UNDP, and the World Bank as the three founding members; these were subsequently joined by the UNCCD Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, FAO, UNEP, the African, Asian and Inter-American Development Banks, and CGIAR. The FC of the GM is mandated to provide advice and guidance on securing funding for the implementation of the Convention, and to support policy-oriented global or regional initiatives, as well as increased mainstreaming of UNCCD concerns, including the allocation of resources within country co-operation frameworks.

Although these agencies have collaborated well in the past, the Members of the Facilitation Committee strongly feel that enhanced partnerships are essential for the inter-sectoral collaboration and efficiency required to achieve the goals and objectives of the new frameworks (MDGs, WSSD’s WEHAB, NEPAD, GEF’s OP 15 and the Monterrey Consensus) so as to support CCD implementation. This refocused partnership would also address the priority activities and outcomes as agreed to in the GM’s 2003-2006 Business Plan. The Business Plan is designed with specific indicators and benchmarks that would measure and report on agency collaboration for enhanced UNCCD implementation.

In view of this realigned international context, this brief publication, aims to:

- a) provide a limited overview of existing partnership initiatives among the agencies (especially those activities that have direct bearing on CCD implementation);
- b) provide a preliminary report to CCD COP 6 on inter-agency collaboration for enhanced CCD implementation; and
- c) demonstrate that there are existing efforts that need to be strengthened based on the principle of value-adding and recognizing that successful CCD implementation efforts go beyond FC members’ activities.

Given time constraints, not all FC Members have been able to contribute to this joint publication. A more detailed publication that would chart progress based on this preliminary report, and also define the comparative advantages and responsibilities of the FC members, would be prepared for CCD COP-7.

This Joint Publication presents short briefs by FC members highlighting their commitment to CCD process and its implementation. It concludes by providing some lessons learnt from collaboration between FC members through a matrix of successful collaborative efforts to date.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

UNCCD Secretariat



Main Activities

Based on the mandate entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, UNCCD Secretariat operations focus on four major areas of activities, as follows:

- 1) Services to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
- 2) Policy advocacy and awareness raising;
- 3) Facilitation of priority implementation processes and progress made by affected country Parties; and
- 4) Monitoring and assessment.

As one of its core mandates, it services the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies by assisting them to discharge their institutional functions, including in matters related to logistical arrangements for statutory meetings and official documentation for consideration by the Parties. The Secretariat efforts are also directed towards the promotion the Convention, focusing on policy advocacy, information exchange with relevant stakeholders for institutional liaison and coordination, awareness raising and networking, and advisory support in policy and legislative matters. As part of its mandate under facilitation of priority implementation processes, the Secretariat provides support to

mainstreaming of National Action Plans (NAPs), and partnership and institutional capacity building. The Secretariat is not directly involved in programme implementation, but has a comparative advantage in supporting country Parties in monitoring and evaluating the process and the policies and methodologies they have developed. As a result, despite limited resources, a comprehensive national reporting process was successfully completed at the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in November 2002. In addition, the Secretariat develops and supports through its joint programme with the Global Mechanism, the formulation and implementation of National, Sub-regional and Regional Action Programmes.

NGO Involvement

The UNCCD, as well as several decisions of the Conference of the Parties, stresses the importance of involvement of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in the implementation of the Convention at all levels. In this regard, the Secretariat assisted some NGOs in several Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan) to build a broader awareness of the UNCCD process, and encouraged networking and the exchange of information. Support has also been provided to national NGO networks such as the NGO Coordinating Committees on Desertification (NCCD), which aims at bringing together and coordinating the work of organizations carrying out UNCCD-related activities.



Networking

Several networks are operational under the UNCCD implementation process, being actively managed by the Secretariat. Among these, four Regional Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) have already been launched in Africa and Asia, and TPNs are being developed for Latin America and the Caribbean. DESELAC, a website network dedicated to desertification and drought in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), was launched on the occasion of the ninth LAC regional meeting in June 2003 and is administered by the Secretariat. Two major NGO networks on desertification, the RIOD (Réseau International des ONG sur la Désertification) and Djomga 21, are fully operational and service civil society in the UNCCD process.

Institutional arrangements

Institutional arrangements exist within various international organizations, mainly conceived as a tangible way to capitalize on these partners' comparative advantages in the implementation of the Convention. For example, the joint UNDP/UNCCD "Youth Corps Projects" was launched in Africa with very positive feedback, and other similar initiatives are envisaged for other regions. The Secretariat is equally instrumental in liaising and building upon synergies with the conventions on climate change and biodiversity through its Joint Liaison Group (JLG), established in 2000 between the Secretariats of the three Conventions.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

Global Mechanism



Mobilizing Resources in an Innovative Way

Based on the principles underpinning the CCD, the Global Mechanism (GM) was established in 1997 under the authority of the Conference of the Parties and became operational in 1998. The GM is designed to rationalize the allocation of existing aid to combat land degradation and mobilize additional funding for CCD implementation. In response to the multi-sectoral dimensions of the CCD, the GM acts as a broker and a catalyst, drawing on and adding value to the interventions of development partners by performing the following key functions:

Promoting cooperation and coordination:

A meaningful policy dialogue leading to broad operational collaboration between development stakeholders is essential for CCD implementation. The GM, with its partners, informs and engages national stakeholders – particularly ministries of finance and planning, and developed country agencies – in order to leverage resources for the effective implementation of national action programmes for the CCD.

Providing technical assistance and analysis

upon request: As governments move from planning to action, technical assistance is often required. Innovative approaches for the mobilization of financial and technical resources are developed through specific investment packages and the design of bankable projects.

Mobilizing and channeling financial resources:

The GM actively channels financial assets for CCD implementation by deploying voluntary resources provided by a variety of partners and by serving as a catalyst to mobilize additional financial and/or technical resources for the implementation of projects under national action programmes.

Collecting and disseminating information:

The GM maintains and regularly updates a comprehensive information system on the financial and technological resources available to fight land degradation and desertification.

Operational Strategy – Enabling Resource Mobilization

The operational strategy of the GM, implemented in collaboration with Facilitation Committee members and other partners, centers around three main principles – mainstreaming, partnership-building and the multiplier effect – which collectively support the formulation and implementation of national, regional and sub-regional action programmes (NAPs, RAPs and SRAPs) that incorporate the CCD objectives.

Mainstreaming: By working closely with FC members, the GM aims at mainstreaming the issue of desertification and land degradation into national frameworks and country assistance strategies so that it progressively becomes a priority in the countries that are parties to the Convention. These collaborative efforts seek to achieve



increased resource flows for implementation of the CCD. This applies both to allocations within the national budgets of affected countries and to allocations of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation funds.

Partnership Building: The GM fosters a strategy that brings together governments and development partners on the basis of a common understanding of how to address desertification. Based on systematic country analysis of land degradation issues and related financial needs, the GM encourages the establishment of country financing partnerships. Investment needs are identified and aligned in terms of national and donor priorities, providing a basis for achieving effective partnerships between governments, donors, the private sector and other development stakeholders.

The Multiplier Effect: The GM seeks to achieve a multiplier effect through two closely linked principles, based on the deployment of the GM's catalytic resources, its less tangible assets and its capacity for soft assistance. First, the collaborative mainstreaming and partnership building processes sets out to emphasize the significance of land degradation issues and ensure their incorporation into national development agendas. Second, based on this fundamental prerequisite, greater resource flows are mobilized both nationally and internationally in close collaboration with FC members. This leads to a considerable multiplier effect on GM's initial investment while addressing land degradation and desertification issues as set out by the CCD.

Mainstreaming the UNCCD in Uganda

As a party to the UNCCD, Uganda drew up a National Action Plan (NAP) and began its implementation in 1999. Based on a government request, the GM and the CCD Secretariat supported the focal institution for the CCD in preparing a partnership framework to guide the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention in Uganda.

The partnership framework provides a detailed analysis of the causes of land degradation, identifying thematic and resource gaps, as well as key linkages and synergies between existing and potential public and private funds. The draft framework was discussed in a workshop held in May 2002, and subsequently endorsed by Uganda's development partners at a donor consultation forum in February 2003.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

IFAD



IFAD's commitment to the UNCCD: As host agency of the Global Mechanism (GM), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has made a unique and ongoing commitment to addressing drought and desertification in impoverished dryland areas around the world. Over the past 20 years, IFAD has committed more than \$3 billion to support dryland development in developing countries.

IFAD's commitment to investing in areas prone to land degradation pre-dates the establishment of the UNCCD. In 1986, for example, in response to severe droughts in Africa, IFAD launched the Special Programme to Combat Drought and Desertification in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the ten years that followed, 47 projects and programmes worth more than \$750 million were initiated in 24 countries and, by the end of 1995, the programme was absorbed into IFAD's regular programme. At the same time, IFAD began a process of evaluation, drawing out lessons and innovations learned from its experience in Sub-Saharan Africa, to strengthen the organization's overall ability to respond to the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable land management.

There is a notable diversity in IFAD's investments in support of UNCCD implementation, reflected in its investment programmes, grants and work at the policy level. These investments are in line with IFAD's firm belief that people living in dryland areas must take a lead role in combating desertification, if lasting solutions are to be found. About 70 per cent of IFAD's rural poverty alleviation projects are in ecologically fragile, marginal environments, while all projects entering IFAD's pipeline are screened for potential adverse affects on the environment, natural resources and local populations.

IFAD's Technical Assistance Grant Programme has provided \$5.05 million in direct support to the GM. Many of IFAD's research grants have focused on dryland areas. For example, IFAD has given grants to ICARDA and ICRISAT in the Near East and North Africa, and Asia and Pacific regions respectively.

IFAD has also provided direct support to National, Sub-regional and Regional Action Programmes, mobilizing substantial grant funds, actively supporting selected governments in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and mobilizing resources from bilateral and multilateral donors.

In addition, IFAD hosts the International Land Coalition, which was established after the 1995 Brussels Conference on Poverty Eradication. The Coalition aims to increase poor rural people's access to land and other natural resources, by building alliances with development partners, including non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and international organizations.

IFAD and the Global Environment Facility (GEF): Both the GEF and IFAD have a proven record of innovative, cost-effective and replicable programmes. As an executing agency of the GEF, IFAD is uniquely placed to link projects addressing land degradation, which have global environmental benefits, to poverty reduction and development concerns. IFAD continues to evolve with the adaptation of new and innovative programmes to support land degradation and desertification.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

UNDP



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported 59 countries affected by desertification and drought in the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). During the 1990s, most efforts went into helping countries to prepare National Action Programmes (NAPs) to Combat Desertification and to sub-regional organizations to prepare Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs). UNDP is also an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility, and is thus at the forefront of activities being developed under the new GEF land degradation operational program (OP 15).

In 2002, UNDP launched a new **integrated drylands development programme** to build upon achievements in the implementation of the Convention. The integrated programme, coordinated by UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC) located in Nairobi, is now being piloted in 16 countries in Africa and the Arab States. The programme focuses on helping countries in: (i) ensuring that issues that affect the drylands are addressed by macro-economic policies; (ii) reducing vulnerability to climatic shocks and improving adaptation to climate change; and (iii) improving local governance for natural resource management. Discussions are ongoing with fifteen additional countries to extend the programme.

Global advocacy and analysis of land management issues: UNDP is championing the building and broadening of the knowledge base on drylands to enable decision-makers reach critical decision-making on drylands development issues. As part of the Global Dryland Imperative,

UNDP spearheaded the development of a series of challenge papers to be presented and discussed at UNCCD COP 6, on “Land Tenure Reform and the Drylands” and on “Pastoralism and Mobility in the Drylands.” The issues and challenges raised by these two papers are being transformed into concept notes for funding consideration by GEF and other partners. Furthermore, the SADC Food Security, Agriculture and Natural Resources sector development unit (SADC/FANR), with support from the DDC and in partnership with UK DFID, is setting up a sub-regional facility to assist member states through establishing a regional pool of expertise to help in land policy analysis, capacity building and information exchange.

Integrated Rural Sustainable Development:

At WSSD, UNDP committed itself to the UN Secretary General’s WEHAB framework (Water and Sanitation, Energy, Health, Agriculture/Drylands and Biodiversity) so as to assist countries in their efforts towards sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As part of UNDP’s streamlining process, sustainable agriculture was dropped as a priority area in recognition that other organizations such as the FAO, CGIAR and IFAD have a comparative advantage in this area. However, rural poverty reduction is a priority for UNDP, and sustainable rural development is therefore an essential aspect of UNDP’s work. UNDP is recruiting a Senior Policy Advisor on Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods and Land Tenure, and is developing a policy guidance note on sustainable rural development.



Knowledge Networking: The DDC is establishing an external “community of practice” in Africa on land tenure, so as to create a forum for interested parties to discuss land reform and influence decision-makers. UNDP/GEF has developed several thematic networks, including: IW:LEARN, Forestry and Coral Reef Networks; Eastern Europe Biomass; SGP Network; and Solar PV network. UNDP/GEF will continue to focus on the development of project learning networks for clusters of projects facing similar problems, objectives and strategies. It will involve project staff, UNDP decentralized systems, plus other individuals and organizations (e.g., UN Agencies and CGIAR) as appropriate.

GEF and OP 15: UNDP is responding quickly to the approval of the new GEF Operational Programme in Land Degradation (OP 15) and is preparing projects for submission for funding. A few projects are already under preparation that have anticipated the approval of OP 15, such as the “Coping with Drought and Climate Change”, which supports sustainable livelihoods of African drylands populations through better use of local and scientific knowledge on climate effects in farming and herding. Other projects under preparation will assist countries to mainstream and build capacity for UNCCD implementation in countries such as Argentina, Cuba, Moldova, Pakistan and Uganda. UNDP/GEF has recently established and filled a new headquarters position of “Senior Technical Advisor on Sustainable Land Management”, to be the focal point for all land management, degradation and desertification activities, and to help UNDP/GEF meet the challenges of UNCCD implementation.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

World Bank



There is a strong correlation between the degree of poverty and the geographic dominance of drylands degradation. Improved management of these areas is critical for low-income or least developed countries. Within the World Bank's **global public goods priorities, addressing land degradation is viewed as a key element under the environmental commons component.** Therefore, the Bank's operations and strategic instruments on environment, rural development, water resources, forests, and energy all stress the importance of sustained measures aimed at combating desertification through sustainable land management and poverty alleviation.

Direct investments: As of the end of fiscal year 2002, the World Bank had invested \$1.82 billion in land management operations in member countries. Because land degradation and desertification issues are complex, cross-cutting and long-term in nature, these investments are increasingly adopting a deliberate **programmatic approach** intended to provide long term engagement and investments for both short- and long-term results (see for example Box 2).

Implementing global agreements: The Bank, as an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is accelerating the development of projects that would directly respond to the GEF's Operational Program (no. 15) on Sustainable Land Management with the aim

of: a) mainstreaming UNCCD issues into national land management and development strategies; b) designing high-impact interventions that **add value** to on-going initiatives while providing tangible and measurable local and global benefits; and c) providing significant co-financing from the institution's lending envelope.

Direct support to UNCCD processes and organs:

In responding to the 3rd Conference of the Parties inviting all agencies and institutions to provide financial and technical support to the then newly established Global Mechanism (GM), the World Bank has so far provided direct grant financing of **\$2.5 million** to the GM to support the efforts of affected member countries in implementing CCD activities. In addition, the Bank is the current **Chair of the Facilitation Committee (FC) of the GM.** During this period, the FC has been able to re-energize this partnership and refocus the GM's business towards tangible on-the-ground CCD implementation. The Bank will continue to actively collaborate with partners to ensure results-orientation in implementing the CCD.

Emerging and innovative approaches: The World Bank's Carbon Finance Program has demonstrated the potential of market-based public/private initiatives to invest profitably and significantly in sustainable land management interventions that provide measurable local and global benefits (and contribute to synergistic implementation of the three key conventions, UNCBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC). Other market-oriented approaches to sustainable land management such as



Payment for Environmental Services (PES) are being piloted in various countries. In these areas, the Bank will continue to work with partners to ensure robust intellectual conceptualization, operationalization, piloting, scaling up, monitoring and evaluation of market-based sustainable land management results.

Kenya Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ARLMP) I and II

The ALRMP I (1995; \$22 million) and II (2003; \$60 million) aim to build the capacity of communities in the arid districts of Kenya to better cope with drought through strengthening and institutionalizing drought management and empowering communities. While ARLMP II is set to begin in 2003, so far some of the successful outcomes and innovations of ALRMP I include: a coordinated drought monitoring system in eleven districts respected by all key local and international stakeholders; targeted unified famine relief distribution; over 1000 micro-projects financed with substantial economic gains at community level; drought response now focused on mitigation rather than emergency activities with critical market-oriented elements involving livestock offtake, disease control, and reliable water supply; capacity and institutions built and enhanced at local and national levels; natural resource management principles and plans articulated at the local level through pastoral associations.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

CGIAR



Research-for-development to combat desertification: Under the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a number of CG Centers have long been active on specific dryland regions and/or topics. ICARDA and ICRISAT are the two Centers that have a primary focus on the drylands, mainly on the temperate and tropical areas, respectively. ICARDA represents the CGIAR Centers in the Facilitation Committee of the GM and participated on their behalf in the 8th, 9th, and 10th Meetings of the Facilitation Committee of GM. ICRISAT has numerous research activities on desertification-related issues, such as breeding new export crops adapted to the harsh drylands, and improved dryland watershed management and seed systems to cope with and recover from droughts. All these programs are carried out in close association with local, national, regional, and international partners. Five other CGIAR Centers also conduct substantial dryland and desertification-related activities. ICRAF develops improved agroforestry systems for the drylands, as well as other zones. IFPRI addresses policy and institutional issues that affect agricultural development, including much work on the drylands. In addition to its humid-zone work, IITA, headquartered in Nigeria, studies the dry savanna ecosystem and breeds improved cowpea, a critical crop in this environment. Livestock are of enormous value to peoples on the desert's edge, and this is the special focus of ILRI. TSBF-CIAT concentrates on soil management and soil fertility improvement, including the drylands.

A new CGIAR “Challenge Program: Desertification, Drought, Poverty, and Agriculture: Building Livelihoods, Saving Lands (DDPA)”, links seven CGIAR Centers (ICARDA, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IFPRI, IITA, ILRI, and TSBF-CIAT), to NARS and regional networks, in a global, integrated partnership to conduct leading-edge research-for-development to combat desertification, with support from the GM, UNEP and IFAD.

Activities in Support of International and Regional Processes: ICARDA has participated in all UNCCD COPs and helped West Asian and North African Countries develop their national reports, NAPs, SRAPs, and RAPs. ICARDA is also a member of and contributes to TPN-3 and TPN 4 in Asia and Africa.

Under the SRAP West Asia, ICARDA is developing pilot projects on water and vegetative cover jointly with ACSAD and UNEP/ROWA, with resources mobilized by the GM from the OPEC Fund totaling \$350,000. Pilot project activities with GEF funding will cover three thematic areas: (1) Mountain Agriculture (Lebanon, Oman, and Yemen), (2) Salt-Affected Areas (Bahrain, Kuwait, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates), and (3) Rangelands (Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Saudi Arabia). The Ministerial Meeting on Opportunities for Sustainable Investment in Rainfed Areas of West Asia and North Africa, held in Morocco during 25-26 June 2001, was organized and co-financed by the GM in partnership with the World Bank, IFAD, AFESD, OPEC, IsDB and the Morocco Government. The Rabat Declaration, endorsed by Ministers of 12 countries and the Palestinian Authority, calls for the creation of an enabling environment for addressing issues of poverty



and desertification. Subsequently, the GM developed a framework proposal entitled “A Regional Programme for Sustainable Development of the Drylands of West Asia and North Africa” (WANA Program), for which ICARDA was selected as interim Secretariat. The GM has provided resources for the operationalization of the Secretariat and to help it undertake initial activities.

ICARDA participated in the GM organized Sub-regional Partnership Building Forum for Central Asian Republics held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and at the meeting became a formal member of the GM spearheaded Strategic Partnership for Implementation of UNCCD in Central Asian Republics (SPA). ICARDA has also been providing support to the GM and IFAD through the hosting of a Regional Environmental Management Officer co-financed by both the GM and IFAD in its Field Office in Tashkent.

ICRISAT continues to convene the Desert Margins Program (DMP), a partnership among nine African countries: (Burkina Faso, Botswana, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe), UN Agencies (UNEP and UNDP) and donors including \$16 million from the GEF, to help arrest dryland degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The DMP emphasizes partnership-building, priority identification, the sharing of indigenous and scientific knowledge, the demonstration of improved techniques, and capacity-building.



Facilitation Member Commitments to UNCCD

Interagency Collaboration and Linkages



Annex 1 provides examples of existing partnerships and collaborative arrangements between FC members. However, we recognize that the current (baseline) situation is characterized by ad-hoc thinking on partnership development, based on immediate needs. FC members are committed to moving towards a coordinated, coherent and long-term view of partnership building.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

A true partnership is a long-term sharing and exchange of resources between organizations thereby enabling each to better meet stated goals. In a successful partnership, the resource exchange should be strategic, efficient and mutually beneficial to all parties.

Partnership building is labor and time intensive, requiring regular communication and confidence building efforts. Hence there is a strong need for prioritization to ensure that adequate resources be available to materialize strategic partnerships. Different partners are best accessed through different entry points and a clear coordination of efforts is required. For example, some partnerships (particularly those with thematic focus) are better developed at headquarters level, and then rolled out at a regional or local level. Others are better developed through local offices first and then scaled-up.

Partnerships should be analyzed and established on the basis of clear objectives, among which are:

- **Provision of technical services by specialist institutions**, within a framework of complementarity and comparative advantages;
- **Strengthening of implementation capacity**, through partnerships between institutions that pursue common objectives; in other words, joining forces for economies of scale;
- **Provision of co-financing for projects**, where each partner brings in resources that match its core mandates;
- **Demonstrable results-orientation and value-adding**;
- **Advocacy, networking and public image**, through jointly sponsored events and publications, for greater impact and support to the UNCCD implementation process.

Partnership efforts can be hampered by a lack of a central database to facilitate the coordination of partnership development. The new GM Business plan explicitly contains a provision for developing a database of donor activity. The GM's Information, Knowledge and Communication (IKC) Strategy will work in a collaborative manner with the CCD I&C Strategy and the FC Member networks and databases, for enhanced coordination and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention.

Annex I

Examples of Activities where two or more FC Members have worked together to contribute to CCD Priorities

CCD thematic priorities (as developed by COP 5 and reported at CRIC 1)	FC members' collaborative contributions	2004-2006 Financial allocation in US dollars (actual or pipeline)
1. Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental and community based organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM and the GEF Small Grants Program (implemented by UNDP) working together to support the GM launched Community Exchange and Training Programme (CETP) in up to 16 countries. • UNDP worked with FAO Farmer Field Schools in projects on promoting farmers' innovation. • UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP and UNV – projects in countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia that target job creation for unemployed youth by engaging them and local communities in anti-desertification activities. 	<p>\$0.42 million</p> <p>\$1 million</p> <p>\$ 2.5 million</p>
2. Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP and WB, with some GEF funding, working to implement the Strategic Action Plan as recently developed for the Niger River Basin, which includes institutional and policy frameworks related to reducing land degradation in the basin. • ICARDA contributed to the development of the GM spearheaded Regional Programme for Sustainable Development of the Drylands of West Asia and North Africa (WANA Programme). • GM and UNCCD Secretariat work together in the preparation and completion of NAPs. 	<p>\$30.277 million</p> <p>\$5.5 million</p>
3. Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, and partnership arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WB and UNDP working together to leverage additional donor commitment to the effective management of shared waters in the Senegal River Basin. • WB, UNDP, GEF, CIDA, and AfDB working together on the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) to facilitate dialogue among the riparians on cooperative water resources management in pursuit of common and long-term development and management of Nile waters. 	<p>\$20.5 million</p> <p>\$107.9 million</p>

CCD thematic priorities (as developed by COP 5 and reported at CRIC 1)	FC members' collaborative contributions	2004-2006 Financial allocation in US dollars (actual or pipeline)
3. Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, and partnership arrangements <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WB, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, GM supported Africa Land and Water Initiative that seeks to provide improved mechanisms and institutional incentives that promote integrated land and water management in Africa. • IFAD and GM are supporting the Government of Brazil in developing a GEF component linked to IFAD project for Agrarian Reform Settlements. • UNEP/GEF, FAO, IFAD, WB and the GM collaborating on the development of the Fouta Djallon Highlands Strategic Plan, which has resulted in a GEF planning grant of USD 350,000. • IFAD used the services of FAO for a GEF medium-size project "Poverty Reduction Project in Attout South and Karakoro, Mauritania". UNDP will implement the project. • ADB, WB, IFAD, UNDP and GM are working in partnership to support UNCCD implementation in China. 	\$1 million \$25 million \$10 million \$1 million \$1.45 million
4. Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICARDA's work with desertification links with projects on agrobiodiversity and the UN convention on biological diversity (UNCBD). • UNDP is supporting UNEP in the preparation of a keynote paper on ecosystems management in drylands and relationship to poverty for presentation at Global Biodiversity Forum and discussion at COP 6. • Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the secretariats of the UNCCD, CBD, and UNFCCC with a view to integrate the programmes of the three Conventions in order to enhance cohesion and strengthen synergy at the regional and national and local level in areas such as technology transfer and capacity building. • Synergy between the Ramsar Convention and UNCCD secretariat is being pursued at the local level in the Okavango Ecosystem and Lake Chad Basin. 	\$100,000 to establish a facilitation unit and inventory activities

CCD thematic priorities (as developed by COP 5 and reported at CRIC 1)	FC members' collaborative contributions	2004-2006 Financial allocation in US dollars (actual or pipeline)
5. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded lands and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of droughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICARDA, ICRISAT, UNEP, GM have prepared a Challenge Program on desertification, Drought, Poverty and Agriculture that includes the themes of rehabilitation and early warning systems with a focus on Africa and Asia. • UNDP is preparing an African regional drought monitoring and strengthening proposal for GEF and other partner funding. • UNDP and UNEP working together on a GEF and Netherlands funded project for rehabilitation of degraded land in the transboundary area of Senegal and Mauritania. 	\$10 million \$6 million \$12.76 million
6. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP is involved with FAO and other agencies in drought issues: specifically establishing drought networks in the Arab States and Africa. • FAO, UNEP, UNDP, GM and GEF collaborate on the Land Degradation Assessment for Drylands (LADA) programme as members of its steering committee. 	\$10 million expected GEF Full Project; resource mobilization in progress
7. Access by affected country parties, particularly affected developing country parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP is participating in World Bank initiated assessment of the role of agricultural science and technology in poverty reduction. • IFAD and FAO, with funding from WB, collaborated with the GM in the development and the implementation of the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD). • ICARDA participated in the development and launching of a regional network in Asia (TPN4) on water resources management in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat and funded by the GM. • UNDP is working with UNCCD, FAO, IFAD and WB to develop a Global Pastoral Capacity Building Program that would feature north-south and south-south exchanges of innovations in pastoral sustainable land management. 	\$15 million \$1 million

Acronyms



CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research	RAP	Regional Action Plans (of the UNCCD)
COP	Conference of the Parties	SRAP	Subregional Action Plans (of the UNCCD)
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CCD)	TN	Thematic Networks (of the CCD)
DDC	Dryland Development Center (of UNDP)	UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
FC	Facilitation Committee of the GM	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GM	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	WEHAB	Water and Sanitation, Energy, Health, Agriculture/Drylands, Biodiversity (pillars of WSSD)
MDC	Millenium Development Goals	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
NAP	National Action Plans (of the UNCCD)		
NGO	Non-governmental organizations		
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development		
OP	Operational Programs (of the GEF)		
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries		
RIOD	Réseau International des ONG sur la Désertification		



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