

United States of America FY 2003 Activities in Support of the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead USG agency implementing the UNCCD overseas. The tenets of the Convention, calling for a bottom-up and participatory approach to combating desertification, echo the focus of USAID's approach to natural resource management (NRM), improved agriculture practices, and integrated water resource management (IWRM). The mainstay of USAID's involvement in the CCD is carried out through its Mission and Washington-based activities that address the root causes of desertification.

USAID addresses the goals of UNCCD through programs that address sustainable agriculture, improved agricultural practices, natural resource management, conservation of natural resources and integrated water management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub humid habitats.

USAID and its partner organizations focus on building the capacity of communities and local institutions to utilize new technologies and tools to improve management of agricultural lands and natural resource areas. Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) promotes the devolution to, and capacity of communities to effectively manage their resources.

The information in this report is representative of U.S. activities that support the tenets of the UNCCD in FY 2003. The funding levels in the report are conservative approximations of the agriculture and environment programs that are attributable to combating desertification.

USAID bilateral programs are developed in consultation with host country government officials and civil society stakeholders. In FY 2003 USAID contributed \$29,093,000 to fund activities in support of combating desertification in Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

In addition to bilateral activities, USAID supports efforts to combat desertification through its contribution to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). In FY 2003 CGIAR received approximately \$7,000,000 to support its work in addressing desertification. In a world where 75 percent of poor people depend on agriculture, new knowledge must be mobilized for creating agricultural technologies that promote growth, reduce poverty, and make more prudent use of the earth's dwindling natural resources. For over 30 years, CGIAR scientists and their collaborators have demonstrated the value of science-for-development partnerships. In addition to CGIAR, other regional or global programs addressing desertification in Africa received over \$5,000,000 in USAID funding in FY2003.