

II. SUMMARY

For " fights against the desertification " are understood each other the activities that form part of an integrated use of the soil of the arid, semi-arid areas and subhumid dry for the sustainable development and that they have as aims:

- (i) The prevention or the reduction of lands degradation in inhabitants' benefit.
- (ii) The rehabilitation of partially degraded lands, in their inhabitants' benefit.
- (iii) The recovery of desertificated lands in their inhabitants' benefit.

Seven processes that are responsible for the desertification, exist that is:

Degradation of the vegetable cover, erosion hydric, eolic erosion, salinization, reduction of the organic substances of soil, incrusting, compactation of the soil and the accumulation of toxic substances for the plants or the animals. Of these, the four first primary are considered processes of desertification and the three last ones are considered secondary. The primary processes are called this way because their goods are wide and they have a very significant impact on the production of soil.

It is necessary to point out that the desertification process is evaluated based on three approaches: current state, speed and risk, and for each one of these approaches it is considered four kinds of desertification: slight, moderate, severe and very severe.

The deterioration of land the resources in the arid, semi-arid regions and dry sub-humid of the world, is one of the most serious problems that faces our planet and its population.

Bolivia does not escape to this reality, since the desertification process affects approximately to 40% of the national territory, where millions of tons of arable soil have gotten lost, causing incalculable losses in the productive capacity of the lands; this situation meant a severe decrease in the offer of allowances that threatens the alimentary security and consequently it increases the levels of malnutrition and poverty.

The Government of Bolivia concerned for the seriousness of this process, inside their priorities of half environmental policies and of administration of the natural resources, framed in the structural reforms of the State and the General Plan of Economic and Social Development (PGDES), it has assumed with responsibility, the task of consolidating the National Program of Fight against the Desertification (PANLCD).

A sample of it is the inclusion of considerations on Desertification in the strategies, political, plans and national, regional, departmental and municipal programs of the last two government administrations. Among these we can mention the Strategy of Technological Transformation of the Agriculture, the Plans of Departmental Development, The Plans of Use of the soil in the Departments affected by this phenomenon and specific programs, such as the National Program of Climatic Changes, the National Program of Watering, the National Program of Emergency, current Phenomenon "EL NIÑO" and especially the National Program of Prevention and Mitigation of risks.

The sum of policies and above captioned strategies were promoted starting from an institutional base that has been changing according to the transformations in the structure of the executive power and interventions the civil corporation aiming to improve the participation of it in their different instances.

The consolidation of this institutional base (Organ of National Coordination) in charge of planning and implementation of the PRONALDES had two important stages. The first one, characterized by a dynamic institutional frame, formed by a National Commission that consolidated the legal juridical status of the Program, a Focal Point located in the Undersecretary of Natural Resources and Environment that promoted the participative activities of planning, and Departmental Committees that

committed their human and economic resources to promote and to facilitate the participation of the civil corporation.

This institutional frame was effective until June of 1998, time in which concludes the execution of pre-investment funds facilitated by USAID / PL-480, and is faced a process of renovation of PRONALDES, with the denomination of National Program of Development of Dry Areas, reorienting the politics of Fight against the Desertification toward the improvement of the environmental conditions of the geographical spaces affected by this phenomenon, in parallel form to the improvement of the conditions of life of its inhabitants and fight against Poverty.

In the second stage, the structure of the OCN disappears when being changed the Government's structure and begins a process of construction of a more dynamic institutional frame and participative that this according to the requirements of the implementation of the PANLCD.

This way, improvements are promoted in the existent structure, starting from a bigger participation of the Civil corporation in all the instances of the OCN and the formulation of a proposal of Strategy for starting the Implementation of the PANLCD.

On the other hand, the consolidation of the Focal Point is demanded like a shared instance is demanded between the DGCTC and the RIOD, able to promote changes in the government policies and to coordinate the activities between the national Commission and the Departmental Committees.

At the present time, the Focal Point is represented by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Planning (MDSP) that delegates this responsibility to the General Direction of Classification of Lands and Basins (DGCTC), the same one that has three specialized professionals, but a Consultant in Desertification; basic equipment (computer teams and furniture).

Among the adopted measures to strengthen the institutionality of the Focal Point, practically has been null, since at the present time it is supported thanks to the request of the base organizations.

It should also be mentioned that it is continued discussing where the focal point should reside, since a Ministerial resolution exists the was signed in 2001 for the Secretary of Sustainable Development and the Vice-minister of Environment which grant to the agrarian superintendence, to be taken charge of helping in the technical part to the Focal Point. This cannot to be possible since the law establishes that the agrarian Superintendence makes execute the norms and policies that settle down through the Ministries, this has caused a great uneasiness in the international community, for this reason this Ministerial Resolution is being revised to be annulled.

The introduction of the program in the political calendar of the State is being supported by the base institutions, especially for the peasants of the Bolivian moor and of the Bolivian Chaco, especially in coordination especially with the cooperation of the GTZ and the influence of the International Cooperation demanding the workers stability.

As is seen the institutional measures have been several, this has hindered the continuity of the stocks in the program, being able to identify three periods in this process. A first period (1994-97), quite dynamic, characterized by a wide participation of the departmental actors in workshops, stocks of sensitization and agreement meetings that finally was reflected in the document of the PRONALDES, 26 profiles of unconcluded projects to pre-feasibility level and the national participation in the COP I and COP II.

A second period (1997-99), characterized by the finalization of the processes begun in the previous period, the destruction of the OCN and reduced advances in the consolidation of the Convention.

A third period (2000-2002), characterized by the participation of the Focal Point in the events promoted by the UNCCD, holding in the COP-4 and COP-5, financing managements for new programs and projects generated with support of the German Government's cooperation through the GTZ and the

Institutional Invigoration to the Focal Point. At the end of this period, have been distinguished a series of steps guided to renovate the political priority of the Program and to reopen the participation of the civil corporation.

In these three periods that have characterized the life of the program, the international tallies have participated in a diverse and discontinuous way, in the first period, we will be able to notice the effective participation of different agencies (PNUMA, CAM, Embassy of Holland, USAID/PL 480, UNCCD; in the second period, the support of these finished, therefore conversations began with the Club of Paris and the governments from Denmark and England, without tangible results; finally, in the third period, participation stands out the of the GTZ and the effective support of the World Mechanism, the institutional invigoration of the IDB that never arrives and the renovated trust of PNUD/UNSO that also collaborates very slightly, is necessary to mention that the Secretariat of the Convention has always supported all initiatives of Bolivia.

When we still observe a dynamic trajectory, a bit disordered in the implementation of the PANLCD, each one of the periods of this has quoted with important contributions, among those we highlight:

- A National Program of Action (PRONALDES), legal and legally grateful.
- A document of PRONALDES elaborated and diffused.
- Materials of diffusion of PRONALDES.
- 26 profiles of projects at pre-feasibility level
- Identification methodologies and selection of high-priority areas of Fight against the Desertification.
- Preliminary maps of Erosion and Desertification (that are being corrected).
- The strategy for the Implementation of the PANLCD.
- The bases line established for the PAS-PUNA
- The bases line established for the Synergies of the conventions of Rio and Ramsar
- The establishment of the PAS-CHACO (still without line bases).
- The declaration of the authorities would originate of the American Moor.
- The request of the mayors of the PUNA Paceña to fight against the Desertification.
- The setting in march of the RIOD-BOLIVIA

On the other hand, bonds have settled down mainly with the different Ministries of the Executive Power that have relationship with the sustainable development, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle raising and Rural development. Simultaneously the different General Directions of Biodiversity, Environmental Quality, Territorial Classification, Sustainable Forestry development, Strategic Planning and Popular Participation and the National Service of protected areas (SERNAP) exchange information in reference to the protection of the biodiversity in the dry areas, the monitoring of the environmental contamination, the forest handling and the social control on the resources.

At the level, of Departmental Prefectures, it is being exchanging information with the Directions of Natural Resources and Environment. At Municipal level, has a reception and total support of the Convention of Fight Against Desertification.

The relationship with the civil corporation means the institutional linking with the RIOD Bolivia that joins more than 40 ONG's that work in the field of the fight against desertification and drought.

At sub-regional level, are kept relationships with the PAS CHACO and PAS PUNA with which information is exchanged and they meetings are held for the implementation of combined steps.

The national contribution of the general Treasure of the National one to PRONALDES from 1994 to the present ascends to an approximate amount of 3'101.278 Bolivians (550.000 \$US), the same ones that have been contributed in form to regulate for the operation of the government instances that have operated as Focal Point, considering that, only a proportion of this amount has been exactly assigned to its operation.

The implementation of operative steps in municipalities and communities, according to the financial strategy of PANLCD, is being agreed since a great problem exist with the National Government's compensatory policies.

In this sense, the efforts in the financing administration have been addressed to the canalization of more resources for the Program of Development in dry areas, carried out by the GTZ of Germany.

Being achieved an investment in the region affected by the phenomenon of desertification and drought, in the period 1994. 2000 of approximately 12'458.000 \$US for the FDC and 1'456.000 \$US for the FONAMA. Also, it is necessary to add the contribution of other programs in the region, such as the RAISIN, PRODIZAVAT, PERTT, PROVEDAT and others with an approximate investment of 8'000.000 \$US.

Around the existence of a System of Information, the FOCAL POINT until the moment, does not have a System of Information that allows to evidence in direct form the advances of the Fight against Desertification, however, through the CANADIAN cooperation it has been possible to carry out a small pilot project on the monitoring of the degradation of soil in two geographical areas with great impact and vulnerability such as: CORQUE in the department of ORURO and RUJERO in the Department of TARIJA there are also systems that manage indicators that can be good to infer these advances, such systems as that of the Program of Climatic Changes, National Service of Hydrology and Meteorology; and the National System of Early Alert (SINSAT). That it exists only in theory.

The implementation of the UNCCD in Bolivia, has been quite dynamic, and it has had a period of very active planning and participative, accompanied by an institutional frame that called attention of the international cooperation, their implementation has been hindered by changes in the political priority and it structure of the executive power in the beginning of this government administration, up to date a quite interesting phenomenon has been had the case since it has even been given a change to the current Focal Point for strictly political reasons; on the other hand the aforementioned Focal Point has been defended by the indigenous population and the support of the Net of existent ONG's. Changes that fortunately up to date have consolidated and that allow to recapture the low implementation process under a renovated focus.