

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REPORT OF THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK
ON MEASURES TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CCD)
IN AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES**

Prepared for the fourth Conference of the Parties
Adelaide, Australia

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Summary

Denmark has a strong and long lasting tradition within international development co-operation, poverty reduction being the overriding objective in the efforts to promote sustainable development.

Denmark is dedicating 1 per cent of its GNP to official development assistance. This effort is supplemented by the Danish Environment, Peace and Stability Fund part of which supports programmes promoting the environmental aspect of environment and sustainable development in developing countries. At present, this support amounts to a further 0.08 per cent of the Danish GNP.

Following the report of the UN Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, Denmark has worked hard to further develop the concept of 'sustainable development' and mainstreamed environment as a cross cutting issue for Danish development assistance.

Denmark has for many years supported activities to combat desertification bilaterally as well as multilaterally, especially in Africa.

Denmark has also rendered financial support in order to help further the process leading to the framing of the CCD.

Furthermore, at the political level the promotion of sustainable management of natural resources and other environmental issues is an integral part of the annual multilateral and bilateral consultations with major development partner countries and provide an opportunity to discuss the problems of desertification and land degradation.

Denmark has engaged in debates concerning the best way to promote the effective and timely implementation of the CCD within the frameworks of the European Union, the GEF and the OECD.

The bilateral assistance is concentrated on a number of selected sectors in each of the 20 development partner countries in order to achieve maximum development impact. In 16 countries Danish support is directly focusing on environment as a sector with an emphasis on capacity building in environment. Furthermore within sectors such as agriculture, water and energy a large number of concrete activities directly aiming at promoting the objectives of the CCD is supported. Support for sustainable agriculture is growing both in absolute and relative terms in the bilateral assistance. Denmark favours a gradual integration of these activities in the National Action Plans (NAP) with a view to ensuring a corresponding increase of the necessary capacity in developing countries.

An important feature of the Danish development assistance is the contribution made by members of the Danish resource base in a continuous and fruitful dialogue. Thus, Danish NGO's

are involved in the combat against desertification along with members of the Danish research community and private sector.

Denmark is providing support for a wide array of measures supporting the fight against desertification. Besides support to the preparation of National Action Plans in several African countries (e.g. Eritrea, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Uganda), Denmark has been supporting a number of projects which are directly linked to the CCD. Among the more prominent programmes are an agricultural programme in Eritrea aimed at counteracting land degradation processes, a programme supporting the sustainable use of traditional energy resources in Burkina Faso, an agroforestry programme in Ghana, afforestation and agricultural programmes in Kenya and Tanzania aiming at furthering sustainable use of natural resources and programmes in Niger aimed at promoting sustainable use of firewood and sustainable agriculture in order to prevent desertification.

Furthermore, Denmark has supported programmes administered by Danish NGO's (the Danish Red Cross, Dan Church Aid, Care Denmark and DOF-Birdlife Denmark) focused on agroforestry and agriculture and/or natural resource management in general in drought stricken areas in Africa.

Research into the nature, causes and effects of desertification is important for an effective implementation of the CCD. Therefore, Denmark is an active partner and supporter of research activities within this field. Support has been rendered through international research centres as CGIAR, through the official Danish research assistance programme ENRECA (Enhancing Research Capacity in developing countries) and partly as direct technical support including technology transfer from the Danish research environment to scientific institutions in developing countries.

Denmark recognises the importance of awareness raising and facilitation of public debate and implementation. Therefore, Denmark has supported awareness raising initiatives concerning the problems of desertification and promotion of the CCD both in Denmark and abroad. Thus support has been given to awareness raising activities targeting owners of small family based farms in areas affected by desertification and through an international network of NGO's. In Denmark, the awareness raising effort has been developed as a two-pronged strategy aiming at raising awareness both within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and among the general public as well as among opinion makers.

Through the multilateral development co-operation Denmark has made substantial donations to several international organisations and programmes acting on desertification and drought. Danish support has been rendered to concrete projects implemented by organisations such as UNDP/UNSO, FAO or the World Bank but also to regional organisations.

Among the international organisations that have received major support from Denmark, especially GEF and UNEP should be mentioned along with international NGO's like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Institute of Environ-

ment and Development (IIED). Simultaneously, Denmark has been active within the framework of the European Union in the combat against desertification.

At the regional level Denmark has supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (ICAD), South African Development Community (SADC) and Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Secheresse au Sahel (CILSS) in developing regional action plans for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Sahel region.

National Report

This report gives an overview of the measures taken by Denmark in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The report has been prepared for presentation at the fourth Conference of the Parties in Adelaide, Australia, October 2000.

While desertification and drought has long been prominent considerations in Danish development assistance, the present report only focuses on Danish efforts since 1994, the year the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) was adopted.

Danish Development Assistance

In both relative and absolute terms, Denmark is a major contributor of development assistance. Denmark is presently dedicating 1 per cent of its GNP to development assistance. Approximately half of the Danish development assistance is bilateral, the other half being multilateral assistance.

In addition to the development assistance, the Danish Environment, Peace and Stability Fund EPSF – which also supports environmental programmes in developing countries – is expected to provide 0.125 per cent of GNP in environmental support by 2005. See box on p. 2.

Following the report of the UN Commission on Development and Environment in 1987, Denmark has worked hard to further develop the concept of ‘sustainable development’ and to mainstream environmental concerns into its overall development assistance as a cross-cutting theme in Danish development co-operation. See box.

Fundamental Principles of Danish Development Assistance:

Poverty orientation constitutes a fundamental principle of Danish development assistance. The poverty alleviation strategy of Danish official development assistance can be condensed into three main points:

- promotion of sustainable and socially balanced growth;
- the development of the social sector, including the promotion of education and health services as prerequisites to the development of human resources;
- promoting popular participation in the development process, the development of a society based on the rule of law and good governance as prerequisites to stability and economic, social and political progress.

In addition to poverty alleviation three *cross-cutting themes* are pursued within all levels of the assistance programme:

- The role of women in development
- Environmental concerns
- Promotion of good governance and human rights

The Danish Strategy for Danish Development Policy will be updated in 2000.

At the Rio Conference in 1992, Denmark worked hard to obtain effective agreements and credible commitments within the field of development and environment. The above mentioned Environment, Peace and Stability Fund was the concrete Danish follow-up on the recommendations of Rio and the calls for “new and additional funds”, for sustainable development.

Denmark supported the call for a global convention to combat desertification and was actively involved in the process of drafting the document, both politically and financially. Denmark was among the first countries to ratify the CCD.

Denmark is involved in a wide array of activities related to the combat against desertification and mitigation of the effects of drought. The main emphasis is on the African continent, as called for in article 7 of CCD, and on bilateral development co-operation. Danish development assistance has always had a strong emphasis on issues related to land degradation and desertification, because some of the poorest people in the developing world live in semi-arid and arid ecosystems. The interrelationships between wealth, poverty and environmental degradation is at the very centre of Danish development assistance.

The following provides an overview – but by no means an exhaustive list - of the measures which the Danish Government, in keeping with article 6 of the CCD, has undertaken within the field of combating desertification and drought. The first part of the report provides a description of the consultative processes and partnership agreements in which Denmark is involved. The second part gives an overview of measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources provided by Denmark both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Consultative Processes and Partnership Agreements

Along with its staunch political support Denmark has contributed financially to help further the process leading to the framing of the CCD and its subsequent implementation. In 1994, Denmark gave DKK 1.5 million (USD 200,000)¹ in support of three projects which were to form an input for the negotiations later leading to the CCD. The projects in question were a study of fresh water resources in Africa (executed by WMO), an evaluation of the use of sun and wind technology in Africa (executed by UNIDO) and a world wide study of the effects of desertification and drought on the biological diversity in arid areas executed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) among others.

¹ The exchange rate used in the report is DKK 750 to USD 100.

The Environment Peace and Stability Fund (EPSF)

The EPSF was set up in 1993 as the Danish response to the call for substantial new and additional financial resources. Part of the fund is follow-up to UNCED in RIO de Janeiro. Part of the fund is set aside for environmental support including support to developing countries and makes up 0.08 per cent of the GNP at present growing to 0.125 per cent in 2005.

The overall goals of the environmental assistance under the EPSF are to:

- Promote environmentally sustainable utilisation of natural resources
- Prevent and limit air, water and soil pollution
- Promote sustainable use of energy.

Within this framework efforts focus on seven activity areas reflecting the international priorities from the Rio Conference, international environmental conventions, experience gained and Denmark's expertise in the field. These areas are: urban development and industrialisation, sustainable energy use, agriculture, water resources, forest and wood resources, biodiversity and coastal zones.

The assistance rendered within the above framework is concentrated on global programmes and on selected countries in two regions: Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam).

The CCD rests on principles that are essentially democratic and places much emphasis on the involvement of women and civil society in the fight against desertification. Denmark strongly supports these goals that are integral parts of the Danish development assistance. The Danish support to the goals is expressed in substantial contributions. These contributions, furthermore, facilitate awareness raising and eventually a broader general support for the objectives of the CCD.

In 1995, Denmark gave DKK 3 million (USD 400,000) in support of capacity building of African NGO's and the participation of the least developed countries and NGO's in the INCD. The same amount was donated in 1996 to support capacity building among NGO's and the participation of the least developed countries and NGO's in the INCD and the first Conference of the Parties (COP 1) in Rome in 1997. In 1997, the participation of NGO's in the COP 1 was facilitated with DKK 375,000 (USD 50,000), in 1998 Denmark donated DKK 750,000 (USD 100,000) from the EPSF in support of the participation of the least developed countries and NGO's in Dakar and in 1999 DKK 187,500 (USD 25,000) in support of the participation of NGO's from the least developed countries in COP 3.

In 1998, Denmark supported the holding of COP 2 in Dakar by covering part of the administrative costs through the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Protection of Natural Resources. The support, which amounted to DKK 750,000 (USD 100,000), came from the EPSF.

The promotion of sustainable management of natural resources and other environmental issues are increasingly being integrated into the Danish sector support. Environmental concerns and issues are an integral part of the annual bilateral consultations between Denmark and several of the programme countries on development co-operation.

Denmark is engaged in a number of ongoing debates concerning how best to promote the effective and timely implementation of the CCD. Denmark is a strong supporter of the GEF and has favoured more focus on Africa within the GEF. For many years Denmark has been supportive in active dialogue with UNSO. Within the framework of the European Union and the OECD, Denmark is also actively participating in efforts to map out sensible strategies for supporting the implementation of the CCD.

Preparation and Implementation of Action Plans

Bilateral assistance

While the present report primarily focuses on efforts since 1994, the background and historical experience should be kept in mind. Denmark has for many years been actively engaged in the prevention of soil erosion and land degradation.

In bilateral under the ODA-frame development co-operation Denmark is working to counteract some of the processes leading to desertification and has been doing so for more than 35 years. In some of the programme countries (e.g. Bolivia, Egypt and Nepal), Danish sector programme support is directed towards the environment as such. In other countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sydafrika, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe in the southern part of Africa Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam in Southeast Asia) special environmental support has been rendered from the Danish Environment, Peace and Stability Fund. Water and agriculture are also highly relevant sectors where efforts to combat desertification are pursued. Likewise, promotion of sustainable energy can help counter unsustainable use of firewood, thereby diminishing land degradation.

The Danish approach to bilateral assistance:

In order for Denmark to amass more in-depth knowledge on recipient countries and to be a more visible and competent partner, the Danish bilateral efforts are concentrated in 20 so-called *programme countries*. The programme countries are: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

For each of these countries an overall 5 year development assistance strategy for Danish Development Assistance is formulated in co-operation with the recipient country. The implementation of the strategy is negotiated at annual consultations.

Development activities are concentrated on 3-4 *sectors* in each country where to the extent possible sector wide approaches are being promoted. Key objectives and principles include poverty alleviation, promotion of ownership, capacity building and donor co-ordination. Denmark offers to assist the recipient countries in drawing up coherent sectoral strategies. This is instrumental in consolidating the countries' administrative capacity in the longer run.

The bilateral efforts are rarely exclusively focused on combating desertification per se, but are often part of the support for the development of sustainable agriculture.

In most countries bilateral assistance for sustainable development needs to be long-term effort. The results of the efforts may not always be as visible in the short run as, for instance, disaster relief. The long-term effort is, however, a precondition for sustainable solutions to the problems connected with desertification and land degradation. By promoting economically, socially and environmentally sustainable use of natural resources, Denmark contributes to preventing drought and desertification and preventing environmental disasters.

Danish NGO's are involved in the fight against desertification along with members of the Danish research community and there is a continuous and fruitful dialogue between Danida and

the resource base illustrated for instance by the participation of NGO's in the Danish delegation at the Conferences of the Parties. The involvement of the Danish resource base promotes the effective use of Danish knowledge of desertification issues is used and helps maintaining and improving support for development assistance among the general public and opinion makers as well as in research communities.

On a more concrete level Denmark is providing support for a wide array of measures supporting the combat against desertification:

Project support

As shown below, Danish support directly referring to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification is - with a single exception - concentrated in Africa. As mentioned above the Danish bilateral development assistance is concentrated on 20 programme countries and outside Africa only three of the Danish programme countries (Bolivia, India and Nepal) are at the same time affected by land degradation and situated in arid, semi-arid or dry subhumid parts of the world.

Denmark supports a number of projects which directly concerns the implementation of the CCD, specifically the preparation and implementation of National Action Plans. The bulk of Danish support for the combat against desertification is not directly related to the CCD. This is however to be expected since it will take time before the NAP's are formulated through a participatory process and before capacity has been build to integrate into the NAP ongoing implementation of strategies, programmes and projects within relevant fields such as agriculture, forestry, water and energy.

AFRICA

SUPPORT FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NAP'S

BURKINA FASO

In 1996 and 1999, Denmark provided a total of DKK 727,000 (USD 97,000) to assist in preparing and holding two sessions of the National Forum of Burkina Faso on implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification. At the second of these sessions, in July 1999, the National Action Plan of Burkina Faso on combat against desertification was approved.

ERITREA

Denmark supported the preparation of National Action Programmes (NAP's) in Eritrea with DKK 262,500 (USD 35,000) in 1996 through the secretariat of the UNCCD and DKK 825,000 (USD 110,000) through UNSO in 1997. In 1999, Denmark supported the recruitment of a senior advisor and furthermore provided two advisors from Danida to actively support the completion of the Eritrean NAP.

In support of Eritrea's preparation and implementation of the National Action Plan envisaged within the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Denmark has supported a one year (1999-2000) transitional project of DKK 2.9 million (USD 0.4 million) in order to establish by the end of the year 2000 a facilitative framework to ensure effective implementation of the CCD/NAP in Eritrea including the second five-year phase of the Danish-Eritrean agricultural sector support programme, 2001-2005. The facilitative framework will be established through (a) suitable organisational/institutional structures, (b) a NAP further developed, (c) improved human resources capacity, and (d) a village-directed implementation of initiatives that addresses sustainable land development and management whilst improving household economy.

KENYA

Denmark supported the preparation of a National Action Plan in Kenya with approximately DKK 1.6 million (USD 210,000) through UNSO in 1997.

UGANDA

Denmark supported the preparation of a National Action Plan in Uganda with approximately DKK 975,000 (USD 130,000) through UNSO in 1997.

ZIMBABWE

During the period 1999-2001, Denmark contributes DKK 18.6 million (USD 2.5 million) from the EPSF in order to underpin the sustainable use of natural resources in four rural districts of Zimbabwe. It will be attempted to achieve this through support for more effective environmental planning and management concentrated on four districts. The project includes funds for implementation of the district environmental action plans (DEAP) including smaller projects in areas such as silvicultural rehabilitation, soil erosion, rehabilitation of wetlands etc. As part of the project a study will be carried out on possible support to the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and possible linkages to the national DEAP program.

OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COMBAT OF DESERTIFICATION

BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso, Denmark has given DKK 19.9 million (USD 2.7 million) in support of sustainable use of traditional energy resources. The first phase of the project was initiated in 1997 and is expected to be finalised in 2000. The purpose was to strengthen the capacity of the rural population to manage the use of fuel wood which is an important element in combating soil erosion and land degradation. This is done by improving the methods and organisation of the production and marketing of fuel wood and by strengthening capacity of the involved govern-

mental and private organisations in order to ensure a more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agro-forestry. A second phase is under preparation.

Agricultural sector support for Burkina Faso includes support for a number of components aiming at increasing the effective and durable exploitation of the land, for to increase the living standards of the farmers and to contribute to the improvement of the very vulnerable and dry environment.

- Since 1997, Denmark has contributed DKK 24.4 million (USD 3.3 million) to the natural resource management in the Sèno and Yagha provinces in the Northern Burkina Faso.
- Since 1997, Denmark has contributed DKK 20.3 million (USD 2.7 million) to rural development in the Boulgou province in the Western Burkina Faso.
- Since 1997, Denmark has contributed DKK 5 million (USD 0.7 million) to the overall natural resource management project in Burkina Faso (PNGT). PNGT intervenes in nearly all provinces in Burkina Faso. Support to the PNGT will continue with a budget of DKK 25 million (USD 3.3 million) from 2000-2004.
- In 2000, a new component for the management of natural resources within the Danish agricultural development programme is planned to start in the Komandjari province in the North Western Burkina Faso with a budget of DKK 50 million (USD 6.7 million) from 2000-2004.

Since 1997, Denmark has been supporting the Burkina Faso part of the Regional Program for Traditional Energy Sources (RPTES), a program which is being implemented in several mainly West African countries. The long term objective is to strengthen the rural population's ability to manage the use of wood resources which account for about 85% of the energy supply in Burkina Faso, and are being used for cooking in almost every household. The so far uncontrolled cutting of trees causes depletion of already fragile natural resources and leads to increased risk of desertification. In total, the allocation is DKK 42 million (USD 5.6 million). Results under phase one that runs from 1997 to 2000 are still limited, but a process has been initiated which will continue to receive support in 2000 to 2004.

For a 12 year period from 1989-2000 Denmark has financed a *Danish Red Cross* programme: "A hope in the desert – environment and education programme" with DKK 42.5 million (USD 5.7 million). The programme is located in Burkina Faso and the purpose of phase 3 is raising the consciousness of children, young people and women in 133 villages of the risks and effects of degradation of the natural environment. The programme contributes to the strengthening of the capacity of the local population to manage their natural resources and supports the development of the local chapters of the Red Cross. Credit schemes for women and young people are developed, levels of health and literacy are raised, and information is being disseminated. Workshops on the non-use of wood in construction are held.

Since 1993, the Danish government has financed a *Dan Church Aid* project with DKK 9.4 million (USD 1.3 million). The project is located in Burkina Faso and concerned with the prevention of desertification. The goal is to increase the agricultural production per hectare while reducing erosion and soil degradation through the introduction of water catchment techniques, dams, training in agro-forestry and planting of trees.

ERITREA

The co-operation between Eritrea and Denmark in the Agriculture Sector Support Programme (ASSP) was initiated in 1995. It consists of four components (i) National Tree Seed Project; (ii) Integrated Watershed Development; (iii) National Seed Development; and iv) Dairy Development. All components have a duration of five years for their first phase. The total programme grants amount to DKK 112 million (USD 15 million). As an overall consideration, the project is designed to support environmental protection and poverty alleviation. The ASSP is principally designed to boost sustainable primary production and its contribution to the national economic development. There are clear linkages between these production oriented interventions and the tackling of the political, institutional, socio-economic and biophysical issues that must be addressed in the alleviation of environmental degradation. Next phase of the ASSP co-operation is expected to start in 2001, and is expected to be an integral part of the Eritrean NAP as mentioned above.

GHANA

Since 1994, Denmark has contributed DKK 24.7 million (USD 3.3 million) to a land and water management project in Ghana. The development objective of the project is the sustenance of rural livelihoods through the prevention of land degradation in agricultural communities, achieved by the introduction of improved land and water conservation practices. This objective is being pursued through building the capacity of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to carry out planning and implementation of community based improved land management practices. The project has been prolonged to 2003 through an additional grant of DKK 11.8 million (USD 1.6 million).

From April 2000 to April 2002, Denmark will support the development and management of traditional energy resources through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Lands and Forestry in Ghana with a grant of DKK 19.7 million (USD 2.6 million). The objective of the component is to support the environmentally sustainable and equitable use and management of off-reserve savanna woodlands and plantations. This will help securing a sustainable supply of woodfuels to meet current and future demands for firewood and charcoal. The component's other objective is to strengthen the capacities of both the Government of Ghana and NGO's by supporting the emergence of new policy, institutional and strategic frameworks which will facilitate a progressive transfer of responsibilities for sustainable wood-fuel production, to decentralized levels and communities.

From April 2000 to April 2002, Denmark will support the development and management of renewable energy resources through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Energy Commission in Ghana with a grant of DKK 12.9 million (USD 1.7 million). The objective of the component is to strengthen governmental institutions and NGO's involved in the process of developing a national Renewable Energy Strategy. This strategy seeks, inter alia, to improve the efficiency in production, as well as the conversion and use of woodfuel in a sustainable manner.

KENYA

Denmark has supported the South Nyanza Afforestation programme in Kenya. The project commenced in 1991 and was terminated in 1996. During that period Denmark gave DKK 19.5 million (USD 2.6 million). The purpose of the project was to increase vegetation in the area to improve the quality of the soil and its ability to retain water. Both are important for promoting the foundation for a sustainable use of the natural resources in the area while at the same time securing an improved living standard for the local population. This is to be accomplished by afforestation, the establishment of nurseries and the dissemination of agro-forestry techniques.

As a continuation of previous support to the agricultural sector Denmark has since 1997 contributed DKK 58.5 million (USD 7.8 million) to an agricultural project in the arid and semi-arid districts of the Eastern regions of Kenya (Kitui, Makueni and Taita-Taveta). The aim of the project is to support demand-driven sustainable management of soil, water, vegetation and animal resources, thereby improving the standard of living among farmers. Through improved farming practices, enhanced water supply and production of seedlings, the project has contributed to prevent soil erosion and thus indirectly to the implementation of the Convention.

MALAWI

From 1998 to 2001, Denmark is contributing DKK 4.9 million (USD 653,000) from the EPSF to a project for environmental rehabilitation of former refugee sites. The project activities fall under two main headings: Environmental rehabilitation concentrated on woodland conservation and tree planting and the introduction of sustainable farming techniques. The project is implemented by Dan Church Aid in cooperation with the Lutheran Church Council in Malawi.

From 1998 to 2001, Danida supports the development of a decentralised natural resource administration in six districts near Lake Malawi with DKK 18.2 million (USD 2.4 million) from the ERDF. The project includes drawing up of District Environmental Action Plans (DEAP) and a fund for implementation of specific activities such as tree planting, prevention of soil erosion etc. to support the DEAP.

In connection with the Danish support to the agricultural sector in Malawi, 8.5 mill. DKK (1.1 million USD) has been allocated to support the development of The District Environmental Action Plans (DEAP) for Karonga/Chipata during the period 1998-2000. The development objective of the support is to raise farmers' incomes and promote economic growth while conserving natural resources. One of the immediate objectives is to reinforce the capacity of the rural population of Karonga and Chipata Districts enabling them to organise themselves through the DEAP for sustainable management and natural resources. The second objective is to increase smallholder rural productivity through improved environmental management. Pilot activities within natural resources protection will be implemented during the support period.

NAMIBIA

In Namibia, Denmark has granted DKK 10.5 million (USD 1.4 million) in support of a project in the northern part of Namibia, which – in co-operation with selected schools and natural history teachers - will give the local population knowledge of the problems associated with deforestation. The grant, which covers the period from 1996 to 1999, was donated from the EPSF.

Denmark has also supported a project aimed at consolidating know-how about and insight into sustainable forestry by means of training and hands-on activities on farms in Namibia's woodlands in order to address the applied agricultural methods and the problems of overgrazing. The aim was to achieve close co-operation with inter alia educational institutions, agricultural consultants and NGO's within the field of forestry. The support, which was rendered from the EPSF, amounted to DKK 10 million (USD 1.3 million) and covered the period from 1996 to 1999.

NIGER

Since 1998, Denmark has contributed DKK 3 million (USD 0,4 million) to an innovative firewood project which aims to develop a sustainable system for the production and distribution of firewood around larger cities in Niger. The system induces the production of firewood from regulated areas where the forest/trees are replanted, thereby contributing to the halting of desertification and deforestation. The practices developed in Niger have been copied by several other African states. From 2000-2002, Denmark will contribute DKK 22.3 million (USD 3 million).

Also in Niger, Denmark has been supporting an agricultural programme aimed at combating desertification in the eastern regions of Zinder and Diffa since 1998. The purpose of the project is to raise the living standards of the population in the regions in question by ensuring the sustainable management of the natural resources, improving methods and productivity in the agricultural sector and diminishing the economic vulnerability. Simultaneously the programme aims at strengthening the efforts of local NGO's within the same fields in preparation for a long-term support to the rural population. The effort in ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources is to be done by informing the local population about the need for and training in the conservation of natural resources, planting sand dunes to protect agricultural areas, establishing livestock corridors in order to avoid conflicts between animal husbandry and agriculture and furthering a more rational integration of animal husbandry and agriculture. The Danish support for the project, which is expected to continue until 2003, will amount to DKK 45.2 million (USD 6 million).

For a seven-year period (1996-2003), Denmark will support a *CARE Danmark* project in Baban Raffi, Niger. The project is concerned with the management of natural resources and is granted DKK 25.5 million (USD 3.4 million). The purpose of the project is to improve the living conditions and food security of rural communities living around the Baban Rafi forest, in the southern part of Maradi Department, South Eastern Niger. Strategies to reduce and manage conflicts over access to and management of natural resources as well as the development of capacity of village-based organisations will be developed and implemented. The first phase of the

project has succeeded in introducing new agricultural techniques reducing the afforestation in the area.

TANZANIA

From 1999 to 2001, Denmark supports the sustainable village-based exploitation and management of miombo (dry woodlands) forests with DKK 16.3 million (USD 2.2 million) from the EPSF for the benefit of the environment and with a view to improving the standard of living for the village population in the rural district of Iringa. The project includes funds for micro-projects to improve the sustainable management of the forest resources as well as efforts aimed at securing sustainable land-use in the area.

UGANDA

Since 1996, Denmark has contributed DKK 65.3 million (USD 8.7 million) to a project for support to the management, assessment and monitoring of Uganda's water resources. The project, which is a component of a larger water sector programme, aims at improving the Ugandan capacity to ensure appropriate and sustainable use of existing water resources. Through developing a monitoring system for ground and surface water, the project has improved the knowledge of conservation of water resources. The project contributes significantly to improved water and natural resource management in Uganda and is as such indirectly supporting the Convention to Combat Desertification.

ZIMBABWE

From 1997 to 2001 Denmark is co-financing (together with the Netherlands) a project with DKK 14.6 million (USD 2 million) from the EPSF aimed at reinforcing local institutions in planning and securing local communities rights to utilise natural resources. A fund has been set up to support, inter alia, specific economic activities based on forests and trees, micro-irrigation, and eco-tourism. The project will also support the screening and implementation of projects aimed at e.g. restoration of degraded land areas financed through the District Environmental Fund.

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In addition to the NGO projects already mentioned the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported a number of NGO-projects and -programs contributing to the prevention of desertification and to the sustainable management of natural resources in arid and semi-arid areas. These projects and programs include inter alia:

The *Danish Red Cross* project "A hope in the desert – environment and education programme for children and youth" takes place in Mali. During a four-year period from 1995-1999, the Danish government granted the project DKK 12.2 million (USD 1.6 million). The purpose is to raise the consciousness of children, young people and women of the risks and effects of degradation of the natural environment and provide the target group with the necessary knowledge

and tools to manage their natural environment in a sustainable manner. Training seminars and workshops were held, educational material was developed and a number of activities were carried out in Mopti and Bamako; workshops on the non-use of wood in construction being one.

In Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, the Danish government finances a *Dan Church Aid* soil and water conservation programme (1993-2002) with a budget of DKK 17.0 million (USD 2.3 million). The purpose is to increase the agricultural production through the development of irrigation systems and soil conservation techniques. The project activities have led to increased income for the local pastoral and nomad population, increased food security and improved the nutritional situation in the area. Soil degradation and erosion have been halted, and a study shows a general and marked improvement in living conditions.

During the period 1997-2001, the Danish government is financing an environmental project in Etiopia, administered by Dan Church Aid, with DKK 5.0 million (USD 0.7 million). The goal is to halt the degradation of the natural environment and further develop agricultural production systems based on self-supply of forest products, fruit and coffee trees in the area of Gimira Aeraja. The project benefits 33.000 families of the ethnic groups Bench, Manja and Kaffa.

Also the Dan Church Aid programme 'Bugna River Diversions' in Shallo-Dirwoha, Etiopia, is supported by the Danish government. It is a one-year programme (1999-2000) and is granted DKK 4.0 million (USD 0.5 million). The goal for this programme is to conserve natural resources and improve the health situation of the population. Water irrigation systems are introduced which will ease the access to water and fuelwood, 110 hectares of land is being irrigated and beans planted. Furthermore, 115.000 trees are planted to stabilise the soil condition.

ASIA

OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COMBAT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

INDIA

In 1994 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted DKK 68.5 million (USD 9,1 million) to a second phase of a comprehensive watershed development project in the district of Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu, India. The project is planned to be completed by March 2003. The development objective of the project is to enable land users in priority watersheds to practice dryland agriculture, range management, horticulture and forestry, including conservation and use of natural resources on a sustainable basis. A review of the project took place in January 1999, and recommended concrete steps to ensure full integration of the project into the systems of the Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure sustainability of the project activities.

In 1993 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted DKK 26.4 million (USD 3.5 million) to a comprehensive watershed development project in the district of Ramnathapuram of Tamil Nadu, India. The project is planned to be completed by December 2001. The development objective of the project is to enable land users in priority watersheds to practice dryland agriculture, range

management, horticulture and forestry, including conservation and use of natural resources on a sustainable basis.

In 1997 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted DKK 46.7 million (USD 6.2 million) to a second phase of a watershed development project in Karnataka, India. The development objective of the project is to enable land users in selected watersheds to practice sustainable management of natural resources on private and common land.

In 1997 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted DKK 21.9 million (USD 2.9 million) to a watershed development project in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. The project is planned to be completed by March 2002, but may be followed by a final phase. The development objective of the project is to enable land users in priority watersheds to practice dryland agriculture, range management, horticulture and forestry on private and common land.

NEPAL

In 1997 DKK 140 million (USD 18.7 million) was granted to a five-year (1998-2002) Natural Resource Management Sector Programme in Nepal. The immediate objective of the programme is improved management of the natural resources of Nepal based on local participation and using sustainable social, economic and environmental practices. Through its focus on forestry, soil conservation and watershed management the sector program thus supporting the combat against land degradation and desertification.

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE COMBAT OF DESERTIFICATION

BOLIVIA

The Danish support to the environmental sector in Bolivia was initiated in December 1999 with an overall budget frame of DKK 180 million (USD 24 million). One of the four components amounting to DKK 53.3 million (USD 7.1 million) consists of support to environmental management in Potosí and Chuquisaca which among other aspects are expected to address problems concerning desertification, erosion and sedimentation, through support for watershed management.

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Research activities

Substantial Danish support has been given to the Senegalese Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE). The original purpose of the centre was to contribute to a more efficient utilisation of farming and forestry areas of Senegal and to improve the living conditions of the local population while

maintaining the ecological balance. However the Centre has gradually evolved into an organisation, with a strong regional focus. The centre collects information and puts it at the disposal of the Senegalese authorities, thereby enabling them to have the best possible basis for making decisions concerning the management and development of resources.

The Centre has since 1987 received Danish support through UNSO. The Danish support given since 1994 amounts to DKK 26 million (USD 3.5 million). Simultaneously, since 1987 the CSE has received technical support, including technology transfer, from the Institute of Geography, University of Copenhagen, which is the hub of Danish research in the field of desertification and land degradation. It is an active research centre, which has conducted research in this field for more than 20 years. Especially the problems of desertification in Western Africa has had the attention of the Institute.

In 1997, DKK 3.9 million (USD 0.5 million) was granted in support of the continued co-operation between the CSE and the Institute of Geography and in 1998 a further DKK 1.7 million (USD 0.2).

Denmark is, along with more than 50 organisations and other states, a member of CGIAR, which consists of 16 international research institutions one of which, IGADA, has done extensive research within the field of desertification. For many years CGIAR has received considerable Danish support and received in 2000 DKK 70 million (USD 9.2 million) in support of its activities.

Since 1992, the universities of Senegal and Burkina Faso have been participating in a co-operation involving the Danish universities of Aarhus and Copenhagen. The co-operation aimed at building research capacity enabling local researchers and institutions to monitor the developments in vegetation in Western Sahara. The co-operation is part of the Danish Research Assistance Programme ENRECA. From 1994 to 1999, DKK 7.8 million (USD 1.0 million) has been donated to this particular part of the ENRECA-programme.

Awareness raising

Denmark has supported awareness raising initiatives concerning the problems of desertification and promotion of the CCD both in Denmark and abroad. In 1998, Denmark gave DKK 75,000 (USD 10,000) from the EPSF in support to the Senegalese National Council for Co-operation and Co-ordination in Rural Areas (CNCR) in order to facilitate the holding of a Pan-African conference on smaller family-based farms and sustainable utilisation of the natural resources with a special focus on implementing the CCD. As small farmers play a vital role in the management of the land in arid areas, they are evident partners in implementing the CCD.

In 1998, Denmark rendered DKK 450,000 (USD 60,000) from the EPSF in support of a meeting in the RIOD-network (Réseau International des ONG sur la Desertification). The meeting was intended to form the basis for restructuring the RIOD in order to strengthen the international co-operation between NGO's that are active in the combat against desertification. The Danish NGO focal point on desertification is in contact with the RIOD-network in preparation for becoming a member.

In Denmark, the awareness raising effort has been developed as a two-pronged strategy. *Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida)* a major effort has been made in order to sensitise key decision makers as well as technical and administrative personnel. The aim is to further improve the general knowledge of the CCD and how it can act as a framework for addressing the problems of desertification. The overall aim is that the fight against desertification gradually becomes a mainstream concern at all relevant levels of Danish development assistance. The basic philosophy flows from one of the central tenets of the CCD, namely the need to avoid unnecessary duplication. In the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD, Denmark participates particularly in the Working Party on Environment, including efforts undertaken to improve the mainstreaming of the multilateral environment agreements.

In order to improve the knowledge about desertification among the *general public* as well as among opinion makers, information about the CCD has been distributed to a wide range of journalists specialising in environment and development, NGO's, consultants etc.

Recently a number of initiatives have been taken by Danish NGO's in order to raise the awareness regarding the CCD among the NGO's. A focal point has been appointed to serve as the more permanent contact to Danish authorities, organisations, NGO's in other countries and the CCD-secretariat. At the same time activities (e.g. briefings etc.) aiming at further mainstreaming the CCD among Danish NGO's are being planned by the NGO's.

Multilateral assistance

International co-operation plays an important role in the combat against desertification and international organisations can make a significant contribution in that respect. Besides being reflected in the active Danish participation in 'desertification related' work within the framework of the European Union, Denmark has as part of the multilateral development co-operation made substantial donations to international organisations and programmes operative within the struggle against desertification and drought.

Danida is supporting a number of projects implemented by the UN's Sudan Sahel Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO). Since 1994, Denmark has supported projects executed by UNSO with a total amount of DKK 82.5 million (USD 11 million). Apart from the support for the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) in Senegal (mentioned above) the contributions from Danida have been used in support of four UNSO-projects:

1.

Since 1994, Denmark has contributed DKK 14.3 million (USD 2.3 million) to a fuelwood plantation project in the North West Zone of Ethiopia. The project, which came to an end in 1998, aimed at afforestation of the Northwest Zone of Ethiopia in order to meet the needs for fuelwood. This also contributed to stopping soil erosion and led to the creation of new jobs in the area. To ensure an effective afforestation, seedlings were distributed to farmers free of charge. An evaluation of the project in 1997 concluded that the project had significantly altered the landscape in parts of the area and that farmers' interest in afforestating their soils had increased steadily.

2.

Since 1994, Denmark has contributed DKK 5.3 million (USD 0.8 million) to a tree seed project in Sudan which has now been closed. The purpose of the project was to promote supply of good quality tree seed and plant material of different types of wood to help meet Sudan's tree afforestation programmes.

The Danish approach to multilateral assistance:

Denmark attaches high priority to the multilateral development activities of the UN system, international financial institutions and the EU development programme. Consequently, a large proportion of Denmark's development assistance is channelled via international organisations, making Denmark one of the countries which grant the largest proportion of their development assistance multilaterally (44 per cent in 1998). Denmark granted more than 2.2 billion DKK (298 million USD) to the UN system alone in 1998, equivalent to more than 29 per cent of the total development assistance.

It is, however, crucial that the Danish contribution channelled via international organisations is applied in line with the overall objectives set for Danish development assistance. Therefore, a programme was drawn up defining the frameworks of a more manifest policy on multilateral organisations, namely *The Plan of Action for Active Multilateralism*. The concept of Active Multilateralism means that Denmark works largely to encourage multilateral organisations to focus on poverty reduction, regard for environmental safeguards, women's participation in the development process and promoting human rights and democratisation. This takes place at yearly bilateral negotiations with the most prominent organisations.

Danish humanitarian assistance includes emergency relief and contributions to international refugee work. Humanitarian assistance is channelled largely through international organisations.

3.

Denmark contributed from 1994 to 1996 DKK 17 million (USD 2.3 million) to an integrated rural development project in Seno Province, Burkina Faso. The project was an integral part of the "Programme Sahel Burkinabe" (PSB) which was the first and most important programme prepared in order to implement the National Plan to Combat Desertification in Burkina Faso. The project was based on a learning process approach and aimed at developing a workable and replicable approach to natural resources management, improvement and intensification of the production systems through agro-forestry techniques, soil/water conservation and water harvesting, mixed farming practices and small scale irrigation.

4.

Since 1994, Danida has contributed DKK 17 million (USD 2.3 million) to Sand Dune Control and Agro-sylvo Pastoral Development in Mauritania, a project which has now come to an end. The project aimed at planting trees in areas threatened by sand drifts through an integrated effort, which included strengthening of farming production and breeding of livestock.

The involvement of women in the combat against desertification is crucial. In 1998, Denmark supported a UNDP/UNSO initiative to strengthen the role of women in the implementation of the CCD. The initiative aimed at strengthening the role of women at all levels in the planning and decision-making phases of the implementation of the CCD. The initiative stemmed from the fact that though women play a crucial role as stewards of arid areas, they often find themselves marginalised in the relevant political processes. The Danish support to this initiative amounted to DKK 375,000 (USD 50,000) and came from the EPSF.

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In collaboration with FAO (first phase, 1994-1998) and the World Bank (second phase, 1999-2001), Danida is supporting a global livestock and environment initiative. The Danish support will have a special focus on the creation of a global network to improve decision making on the management of livestock and environment interaction including pilot-projects in areas of particularly sensitive livestock and environment interaction (the so-called "hotspots"). The project is thus expected to have a direct influence on limiting desertification. The total Danish contribution (first and second phase) is DKK 24 million (USD 3.2 million).

Furthermore, Denmark has supported a number of regional and international organisations that have the fight against desertification among their tasks.

At the regional level Denmark has supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (ICAD), South African Development Community (SADC) and Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Secheresse au Sahel (CILSS) in developing regional action plans for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Sahel region. The support, which was given in 1997, amounted to approximately DKK 1 million (USD 135,000).

Another example of Danish support to a regional initiative in the combat against desertification is the contribution of DKK 19.5 million (USD 2.6 million) to the Agro-Water-Meteorological Centre (AGRHYMET) under The Inter-State Drought Committee in the Sahel (CILSS) for the years 1998-2000. The purpose of the contribution is to reinforce the capacity to manage the use of natural resources in the Sahel region, on the brink of the Sahara desert. The centre has acquired a level of information, knowledge and intellectual capacity unmatched in the region. The centre trains and educates candidates from the nine Sahelian countries, so they can use their knowledge to strengthen concrete efforts and policy formulation in their mother countries. A concrete impact evaluation is about to be carried out.

At the international level Denmark has supported a number of organisations involved in the combat against desertification.

Denmark has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which also funds the fight against desertification as an integral part of activities within the field of combating deforestation and desertification and drought. As member of the GEF Council, Denmark has consistently supported calls for inclusion of still more desertification projects within the GEF Work Program. Since the establishment of the GEF in 1991, Denmark has pledged 562 million (75 million USD).

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which is active within the field of desertification, has previously received support from Denmark (DKK 12 million (USD 1.6 million) in the period 1995-1997), and Denmark has rendered DKK 15 million (USD 2 million) in support of the organisation's work in 1998 to 2000.

The IUCN, which has supported the combat against desertification for example in the SADC region, has received substantial support from Denmark over the years. The Danish contribution to the IUCN core budget for the years 1997-1999 amounted to DKK 54 million (USD 7.2 million). IUCN is also active in West Africa, where the Woodless Construction programme in Niger implemented by the IUCN was supported by Danida with approximately DKK 1.8 million (USD 238,000) in 1998. The project has previously received DKK 12.3 million (USD 1.6 million) in support covering the period from 1993 to 1997.

Denmark ranks among the major contributors to the UNDP which is actively participating in the combat against desertification (DKK 3.1 billion (USD 416 million)).

Finally, the Danish support to the UNEP deserves mentioning. The contribution to the UNEP Environmental Fund alone amounted to DKK 58.6 million (USD 7.8 million) for the period from 1997 to 1999. The UNEP acts as centre of excellence and supplier of technical and scientific expertise, not least within the area of desertification. This is reflected in the fact that the UNEP – amongst others supported by Denmark - has been publishing the periodical “Desertification Control Bulletin” and was chosen by the first COP of the CCD to conduct a survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies within the field. The survey, which is presently being conducted, received in 1998 DKK 375,000 (USD 50,000) in support from the Danish EPSF.

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In conclusion Denmark has been and will continue to be supporting concrete programmes and activities that help fight desertification. This has not least been possible through the EPSF that contributes significant additional and supplementary funds for sustainable development.

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