



**European Commission**

**Report on activities undertaken, and support provided, by the European  
Community to combat desertification in countries in Asia, Latin America and  
Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe  
in the period  
January 2001 – December 2005**

**submitted to UNCCD CRIC-5**  
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## **Table of Contents**

<b>Executive summary</b>	
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 'The bigger picture' and linkages with EC policy themes</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 <i>Introduction</i>	3
2.2 <i>Trade and economic development</i>	4
2.3 <i>The social dimension of land degradation</i>	5
2.4 <i>Institutional dimension</i>	7
<b>3 European Community institutional relations to the regions</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 <i>Partnership Agreements and support to the regions</i>	10
3.2 <i>Asia (including the Newly Independent States of Central Asia)</i>	10
3.3 <i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	12
3.4 <i>The Pacific region</i>	14
3.5 <i>Central and Eastern Europe regions</i>	14
3.6 <i>South and East Mediterranean and the Middle East</i>	15
<b>4 Portfolio Analysis and synthesis of support to the UNCCD</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 <i>Introduction</i>	16
4.2 <i>Support by the EC in the respective regions</i>	18
4.3 <i>Support by the EC to region-wide and worldwide projects</i>	23
<b>5 Analysis of the contribution to CRIC key themes</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1 <i>Participatory processes involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs</i>	25
5.2 <i>Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements</i>	26
5.3 <i>Resource mobilisation and co-ordination</i>	27
5.4 <i>Synergies with other environmental conventions and national development strategies</i>	29
5.5 <i>Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought</i>	30
5.6 <i>Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment</i>	31
5.7 <i>Access by affected country parties (particularly affected developing countries) to appropriate technology knowledge and know-how</i>	32
<b>6 Findings and conclusions on the EC contribution to the UNCCD implementation</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>7 EC input to CRIC-5 discussions</b>	<b>38</b>

## **List of Figures, Boxes and Tables**

### **Annexes**

- I. Table of countries and their institutional relations with the EC
- II. Tabular overview of EC supported projects (part A and B)
- III. Methodology
- IV. Concise definition desertification and land degradation

### **End Notes**

#### ***Guide to the reader***

This report provides quantitative and qualitative information on actions carried out by the European Commission and the support it has given to projects that address issues of desertification in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe.

Chapter 1 gives a general overview of the general support that the Community provides. The second chapter illustrates how land degradation is a development issue and discusses the linkages between land degradation and broader developments issues. Several related EC priority themes are discussed in this chapter. Chapter 3 presents the EC's institutional relationships with the regions. Chapter 4 offers an analysis of the portfolio of EC sponsored projects and programmes that support the UNCCD. Chapter 5 analyses the EC's contribution to the themes of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The findings and conclusions on the EC's contribution to the UNCCD process are presented in chapter 6, followed by the EC input to the discussions at the 5<sup>th</sup> CRIC meeting (chapter 7).

Annex I provides a summary overview of the EC's relationships with the regions within the context of the UNCCD. Annex II contains a synthesis of the portfolio of EC supported programmes and projects which contribute to the UNCCD objectives. Annex III describes the methodology employed for the portfolio analysis that forms the basis of this report. The last annex (IV) provides a concise definition of terms relevant in the discussion about land degradation. More detailed background information and substantiation can be found in the end notes.

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## Executive summary

*This report provides a comprehensive review of the policies, financial instruments and projects of the European Community that have contributed to, and are currently supporting, the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The report describes activities in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East Regions in the period January 2001-2005. In 2002 the EC submitted a report for CRIC-1 that- as far as regions other than Africa- provided partial quantitative information on desertification-related activities. This report augments that information and has been timed so it can be submitted for the current CRIC round and provides the most up to date information on EC policy developments relating to the UNCCD.*

*In terms of **resource mobilisation**, the EC has, between 2001 and 2005, provided an estimated €338.3 million to some 128 projects that address issues covered by the UNCCD in the regions mentioned. This funding has been provided through different sources of funding (geographic and thematic). Of this total, 102 projects (with an estimated expenditure of €322 million) were targeted (directly or indirectly) at land degradation abatement. The remaining 26 projects (totalling €15.7 million) supported scientific work pertaining to the UNCCD objectives. This quantitative information has provided the basis for an in-depth analysis of EC interventions, according to the seven key- thematic topics referred to in Decision 1/COP5. These are considered to be meaningful indicators for assessing UNCCD implementation. In addition the report explores broader EC policy themes and other linkages with sustainable land management. EC interventions have predominantly targeted the integrated use and management of land and water resources, and livelihoods improvement (80% of the projects and 72% of the funding).*

*Given the complexity of issues surrounding land degradation, the many different forms that it takes and the multifaceted Community policy responses it is increasingly difficult to identify projects and activities that are carried out with the sole aim of combating desertification. Integrated project design (i.e. the currently acknowledged method for shaping projects and programmes so that they simultaneously address complex issues, such as natural resource management) makes it difficult to disaggregate the exact value of funds committed by the EC.*

*On **participatory processes**: the Community has a positive record of providing extensive support to various CBOs and NGOs to develop local strategies to address desertification in line with national development agendas. Such experiences have been positive and may inspire similar dialogues between governments and civil society.*

*On **legislative/institutional frameworks**: the analysis concludes that the UNCCD National Action Programmes are often not integrated into the EC Country Strategy Papers or other national development frameworks. Thus there is a disconnection between the “drylands agenda” and the national social-economic agenda within national political discourses. There is a need for specific new tools to address this situation, including making the costs of land degradation explicit.*

*On **synergies** with the other Rio conventions: Community projects implemented at field level often meet the objectives of more than one Rio Convention. This illustrates the added value of an integrated approach to poverty reduction and land use management.*

*As to the measures for the **rehabilitation of degraded land/ early warning systems**: the findings highlight promising experiences in linking interventions carried out under the UNCCD and UNFCCC frameworks. These synergies between sustainable land management and climate change adaptation should be enhanced.*

*The Community is playing a leading global role in **drought and desertification monitoring and assessment**. The results of this work should be increasingly integrated in policy processes and dialogue with affected countries.*

*Finally in regard to **appropriate technology knowledge within affected countries**, several EC supported initiatives illustrate the important role that Traditional Knowledge (TK), particularly in sound land-use techniques, can play in poverty alleviation.*

# 1 Introduction

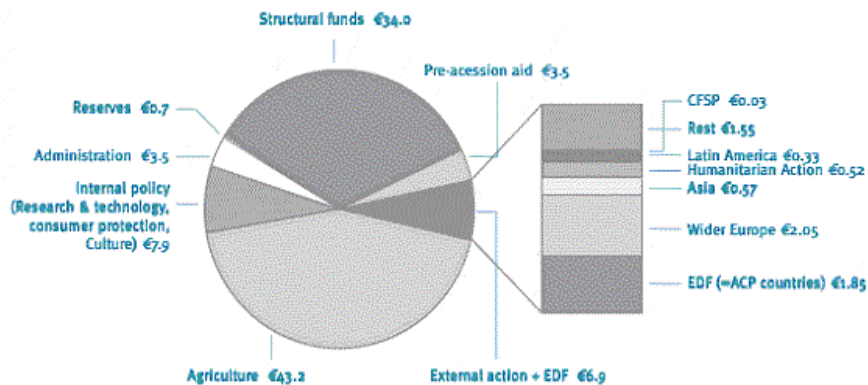
This report describes how the European Community has been supporting the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).<sup>1</sup> The report describes the EC's activities in this sphere in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East Regions in the period January 2001-2005. It describes the support provided by the Community for the implementation of the UNCCD and key policy themes relevant to the issue of land degradation.<sup>2</sup>

The European Union's current commitment to supporting development in less developed countries is stated in the 2005 European Community Development Policy (Joint Declaration "The European Consensus"<sup>3</sup>; see Box 2 in paragraph 2.1). This document sets out a harmonisation agenda designed to encourage donors to work together with partner countries on the basis of their poverty reduction strategies or equivalent national strategies. The EC believes that the UNCCD will be most successfully implemented through effective mainstreaming of sustainable land management issues within the strategies of partner countries.

### *External assistance: Budget and European Development Frameworks<sup>4</sup>*

The EU is the world's largest provider of development assistance and the largest trading partner of developing countries<sup>5</sup>; collectively the EU provides 52.32% of worldwide official development assistance, amounting to €44.8 billion (US\$55.7) in 2005.<sup>6</sup> The Commission manages part of this aid on behalf of the European Union. The distribution of this is shown in the figure below.

**Figure 1: External relations in EU spending in 2000 (€bn).**



Source: ODI (2004): *European Development Co-operation to 2010*

External assistance to developing countries is provided through two different systems. Aid to developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) is predominantly channelled through the European Development Fund (EDF), which is the main financial instrument for providing Community Aid for development co-operation to states in these regions. Each EDF is concluded for a period of around five years. Since the conclusion of the first partnership convention (Yaoundé) in 1964, the EDF cycles have generally followed the partnership agreement/convention cycles. The 9<sup>th</sup> EDF covers the period 2000-2007 and is the financial instrument accompanying the Cotonou Agreement (see Box 7). The 9<sup>th</sup> EDF 2001-2006 receives total funding of €13.5 billion. In addition, outstanding funds from previous EDFs can also be used (approximately €10 billion). Aid to countries outside the ACP region is managed exclusively according to general budget regulations.

### *Why desertification and land degradation are development issues*

The degree to which people can and do take good care of their natural resources will make or break short and long-term sustainable political and economic development. Effective interventions in land use management can unleash significant positive economic and social opportunities. Thus the UNCCD is arguably very much a convention for sustainable development (see also Annex IV).

Land degradation can no longer be perceived as being a mere environmental problem: it is also a driver of economic loss and stagnation, poverty, insecurity and migration. In most countries, a high proportion of income, employment and export earnings stem from agricultural production and other land-based activities. Despite growing urbanisation, the majority of poor people still live in rural areas. In the absence of significant economic diversification, access to land and the sustainable management of natural resources are preconditions for improving the livelihoods of poorer groups. They are also a precondition for greater social security. Land degradation abatement is of importance to prevent and alleviate poverty, ensure local food security, and for agricultural growth. It is a means to avoid conflicts over scarce resources and to cut migration from rural areas to over-crowded cities. In the face of climate change and climatic variations, investment in land-use based coping strategies by local populations is a matter of survival. As the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment<sup>7</sup> shows, it is no overstatement to conclude that land policy lies at the heart of economic and social life in all countries.<sup>8</sup>

**Box 1: Environmental Integration or "mainstreaming" in practice.**

EC Development Co-operation is based on partnership with developing countries and nationally owned strategies developed in Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Regional Strategy Papers (RSPs). EC funding for the environment usually takes place within this context, i.e. assistance is given to those countries and regions that have prioritised and requested such assistance within their CSPs/RSPs.

Funding for the environment can also be allocated under multi-regional instruments, for example for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, or the Asian and Latin American Countries (ALA), as well as other groups of countries or within the ENRTP (the Thematic Programme for the Environment and sustainable management of Natural Resources including energy). In accordance with the new European Development Policy, environment and sustainable management of natural resources can be addressed both as a crosscutting issue, which needs to be integrated into all development activities in order to promote sustainable development, or as an action theme<sup>9</sup> in the Country and Regional Support Strategies. The Environment Integration Strategy "Integrating the Environment into EC Economic and Development Co-operation", adopted on 10 April 2001 by the European Commission outlines how, in the overall context of poverty reduction, EC economic and development co-operation can best assist developing country partners to respond to the environmental challenges that they face. The Environment Strategy will be reviewed and updated in 2007. The Commission has developed a comprehensive Environmental Integration Manual in order to assist staff and partner countries to mainstream environmental issues. The manual, which is still in draft form, offers advice on tools such as Country Environmental Profiles (CEPs), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) at the policy and sector programme levels, and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) at the project level. The manual also includes procedures for policy formulation, programming of aid, and implementation of projects linked to potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures. The manual was finalised in 2006.

Source: <http://www.environment-integration.org>

***The Community supports the UNCCD at different levels***

The Community supports the UNCCD at different levels and in various regions. Firstly, the EC is a Party to the Convention and is actively engaged in all UNCCD fora. Secondly, the Community supports the implementation of UNCCD objectives at regional and national levels, through dialogue and bilateral development co-operation assistance. Lastly, the Community supports programmes promoted by non-governmental actors, that both directly and indirectly support UNCCD objectives. This report analyses the key themes dealt by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), relevant EC priority themes and the support provided by the Community. These latter themes are elaborated upon in chapters 4 and 5.

## 2 'The bigger picture' and linkages with EC policy themes

### 2.1 Introduction

Land degradation is a social-economic problem. The underlying causes are directly related to human activities that often produce and use natural resources in unsustainable ways. Organisation and practice play key roles in influencing the degree of pressure that human activities place on nature. Thus, ecological degradation and impoverishment are the products of social and economic interventions and the institutional context. They stimulate competition among diverse actors at local, national and global levels. This in turn gives rise to overexploitation of resources and exclusion from assets (productive, environmental, or cultural). These social-economic interrelations, including the micro, meso and macro-level linkages, make dealing with the agricultural economies in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas complex.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) stated that: "the changes made to ecosystems contributed to substantial net gains in human well-being and economic development. But these gains have been achieved at growing costs in the form of the degradation of many ecosystem services, increased risk of non-linear changes, and the exacerbation of poverty for some groups of people". The MA made it clear that the degradation of ecosystem services could grow significantly worse in the next decades. It reiterates that this degradation is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Community also recognises this in its new 2005 Development Policy (see box 2) where it acknowledges that ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, combating climatic change, deforestation and desertification and halting biodiversity loss are essential steps for achieving the MDGs. In most developing countries large numbers of people depend on subsistence agriculture and derive their income and basic needs from their immediate natural environment, thus land degradation may affect these countries' food security and increase poverty. It could trigger large-scale internal migrations, intra-regional conflicts and social instability.

#### **Box 2. The European Consensus on Development.**

The *European Consensus on Development* is a policy statement jointly adopted by the Council and the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, who jointly signed this in December 2005. It reflects the European Union's willingness to make a decisive contribution to the eradication of poverty in the world and to help build a more peaceful and equitable world. The Declaration is divided into two parts.

**Part I**, named the *European Union Vision of Development*, sets out common objectives and principles for development co-operation. It reaffirms EU commitment to poverty eradication, ownership, partnership, delivering more and better aid and promoting policy coherence for development. It will guide Community and Member State development co-operation activities in all developing countries, in a spirit of complementarity.

**Part II**, entitled *The European Community Development Policy*, defines how the Community will implement the vision set out in the first part, with the resources with which it is entrusted. The European Commission provides added value through its global presence and expertise as a delivery agent, its role in promoting policy coherence and best practices, as well as in facilitating co-ordination and harmonisation.

The Community will be primarily active in nine areas: trade and regional integration; the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources; infrastructure, communications and transport; water and energy; rural development, territorial planning, agriculture and food security; governance, democracy, human rights and support for economic and institutional reforms; conflict prevention and fragile states; human development; social cohesion and employment. It will strengthen its approach to mainstreaming democracy, good governance, human rights, the rights of children and indigenous peoples; gender equality; environmental sustainability; and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

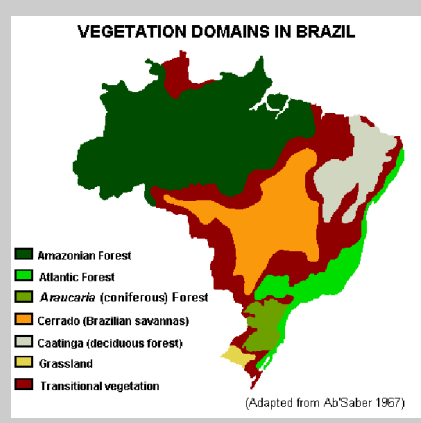
## 2.2 Trade and economic development

Many countries still have agricultural-based economies. Under such conditions, economic growth strategies are often based on agricultural production. Three-quarters of the world's food supply consists of five crops: potato, manioc, wheat, maize and rice; all of which are grown in dryland regions.<sup>10</sup> In addition, forage for livestock is an important product of drylands. Land degradation directly affects all these. The FAO estimates that the annual economic costs of land degradation worldwide exceed US\$ 42 billion. This includes both forgone output and damage to natural resources.<sup>11</sup> The costs of combating desertification are estimated to be in the range of US\$ 10 to 22 billion per year.<sup>12</sup> Land degradation marginalises efforts at all levels to secure an affected country's long-term food security, economic growth, rural land-use productivity, and ecosystem services.

Small farmers tend to be vulnerable to structural transformations of agriculture resulting from trade liberalisation. The shift from food to cash crop production can raise incomes and improve food security. But the export sector can also displace and marginalise small farmers (e.g. by reducing access to land, water, farm inputs, and state support). Large-scale agricultural developments may push small farmers onto marginal lands, thereby exacerbating the land degradation / poverty spiral. Secondly, large-scale monoculture plantations may be an unsustainable land-use practice leading to erosion of productive areas. One such recent development is the use of biomass and biofuel for energy purposes. The effects and impacts of increasing demand for these products merit attention, particularly in regard to competition with food production. If such developments are not embedded in adequate land use planning and subjected to social and ecological guidelines, they may trigger deforestation, land degradation and aggravate rural poverty.

The inter-linkages between trade, land degradation, and poverty in the world's rural drylands are many.<sup>13</sup> The Community Development Policy recognises that the benefits and costs of globalisation are presently unequally distributed. It assumes that globalisation also offers considerable opportunities. Box 3, below, describes an example of the interrelations between agricultural expansion, trade and degradation. The Community shall take account of all the objectives of development co-operation in all policies that it implements that are likely to affect developing countries. Assistance will be provided to developing countries to assist them to decide and reform their trade policy in line with their broader national development plans. It will assist in building these countries' capacity to trade. Regional economic integration, which stimulates trade, is a major subject in political dialogues and (economic) agreements.<sup>14</sup> Trade related assistance<sup>15</sup> involves support for (1) trade policy and regulatory measures and (2) trade development. The EU is the largest contributor to Trade-Related Assistance initiatives worldwide. It provided nearly €4.3 billion in 2001-2005.<sup>16</sup> The direct relation of this expenditure with dryland areas cannot be assessed. To promote coherence, the EU has also defined a renewed framework for its Common Agricultural Policy in which the EU will substantially reduce the level of trade distortion related to its support measures to its agricultural sector. It will also facilitate agricultural development in developing countries.

### Box 3: Brazil: agriculture, globalisation and degradation.



Besides the Amazon rainforest, Brazil also has an extensive savannah area, called the Cerrado. The Cerrado high plateau contains the head-waters of major rivers of the Amazon Basin and the São Francisco Basin. The rate of deforestation is higher in the Cerrado and the transition zone than in the Amazon basin itself, and 70% of its original forest cover has already been lost. The main causes of deforestation in the Cerrado and the Cerrado-Amazon transition zone are soy plantations and cattle ranching. Soy plantations expanded to 21.1 million hectares (now 30% of the total area used for agriculture) in 2004 with an export value of US\$ 6 billion. The world demand for agricultural products is of major economic importance to Brazil but raises concerns for its sustainable



development. Current deforestation is the first stage of land degradation, desiccation and erosion<sup>17</sup> (Future increased demand for agricultural products such as soy in Europe is likely to trigger more monoculture agricultural expansion. For example, the expansion of soy agriculture is the main reason for paving the road BR163 and opens up a new area for large-scale soy agriculture).

In 2000, the EU was Brazil's leading trade partner, accounting for around 30% of Brazilian external trade. EU companies were then by far the leading foreign investors in Brazil. The EU is the biggest importer of soy from Brazil. The EC country strategy identifies several priority areas: (1) Economic reform; (2) Social development; (3) the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources; and (4) Democratic and Institutional Strengthening. Under the Pilot Programme for the Conservation of Brazilian Tropical Forests of the G7 (PPG7), which is supported by the EC, Brazil's capacity for spatial planning has increased. For example, PPG7 supported the spatial planning of BR163 to mitigate effects on the environment and the rural population. The experience was of major value for the planning of other roads. In addition, the EC has also supported the project implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature Brazil: "Building consensus on access to natural resources in the Brazilian Amazon". The project focuses on the transition zone of the Cerrado and the Amazon ("Terra do Meio", in the states of Pará and Mato Grosso) where the region's natural resources are threatened by logging, intensive agribusiness and planned infrastructure projects. There is no consensus among stakeholders on access and use of this area. The EC supported programme builds dialogue between the various stakeholders and enhances the planning of the sustainable use of the area and its forests.

*Sources: NAP Brazil, CSP Brazil, WRI, 2006*

In addition to macro-level support, the EC also provides support at the micro and meso levels, within the framework of CSPs. The EC supports projects and programmes intended to improve land management and agricultural practices. This involves providing assistance to small farmers, pastoralists and other rural communities. Support focuses on ways to secure their resource base, to build their capacity, and to improve and diversify agricultural and agro-forestry practices. It also facilitates improved access to inputs, financial resources and markets. Most of these projects are geared towards – or at least likely to be influenced by – local market conditions.

## **2.2 The social dimension of land degradation**

Currently, two thirds of the world's undernourished people live in the rural areas of developing countries. About half of these live on marginal lands. Land degradation is potentially the most threatening ecosystem change directly impacting the livelihoods of the rural poor. Many marginal and degraded lands cannot, or can no longer, sustain the number of people living in the area.<sup>18</sup> Competition over resources, as a result of degradation, may also lead to conflicts. These internal conflicts, and rural poverty in itself, lead to rural-urban migration and internal displacement.<sup>19</sup> Off-farm employment, seasonal migration and settlement in urban areas are common responses. New imbalances are created in both origin and destination areas. In most areas of urban Asia, Africa and Latin America, this is manifested in high unemployment and growing social unrest. Migration is also one of the 12 'Policy Coherence for Development' commitments of Community Development Policy. The Community will promote the synergies between migration and development, to make migration a positive factor for development.

Income from ecosystems – or environmental income – can act as a fundamental stepping-stone in the economic empowerment of the rural poor. This is also shown in the size of the informal economy<sup>20</sup> in many countries. In all developing countries, self-employment (including resource users like farmers) makes up a larger share of informal employment than wage employment. The interrelations between the informal economy and the issue of land degradation are diverse. Productive ecosystems provide the basis for a sustainable income stream.<sup>21</sup> Degraded ecosystems imply a diminished income stream. Growth in the agricultural sector and off-farm employment (especially in small and medium enterprises) has a crucial role to play in improving the livelihoods of rural poor people. However, agricultural growth alone will not alleviate rural poverty.

Rural women are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80% of the food in most developing countries.<sup>22</sup> Rural women and women farmers are often land managers in their own right and often exclusively responsible for food production and processing and feeding their families.<sup>23</sup>

***Food Security, rural development and agriculture***

Food security<sup>24</sup> is typically constrained by environmental degradation, unproductive systems, badly functioning markets, and limited human capacity (strongly reinforced by inequalities affected by gender, age and ethnicity).<sup>25</sup> In relation to agriculture, the Community will focus on access to resources (land, water, finance) and new opportunities (markets and technology), particularly for women.<sup>26</sup> The Community will also strengthen its initiatives to ensure that natural resources (e.g. forests, fisheries etc.) are properly preserved and sustainably managed, as among things they are an important source of income. In other words, the approach to food security and rural development has to be pro-poor, gender-sensitive and sustainable.

The EC Food Security policy has evolved from the delivery of food aid<sup>27</sup> to the support of broad based food security strategies at the national and regional levels. However, the objective to eradicate food insecurity will only be met through nationally owned and developed poverty reduction strategies. The EC approaches rural development as an overarching concept, not as a sector. This requires the integration of the multiple factors that affect livelihoods in rural areas. In 2002, following an extensive and participatory exercise, the Commission presented the Communication "Fighting Rural Poverty"<sup>28</sup> which describes the EC's approach to rural development in developing countries. The policy coherently integrates the objectives of poverty reduction, food security and sustainable natural resource management. It identifies six policy areas that need to be addressed: (i) supporting economic policies to enable broad-based growth, (ii) ensuring more equitable access to productive assets, markets and services; (iii) investing in human capital, (iv) promoting more sustainable natural resource management, (v) managing risks and providing safety nets, and (vi) building more effective, accountable, decentralised and participatory institutions.<sup>29</sup> The EC also supports interventions at a local level. These interventions often match local populations own risk aversion and survival strategies ('diversification').<sup>30</sup> Between 2001 and 2005, the Community has supported a very broad range of programmes addressing food security in the context of rural development. They include applied research and projects at field and institutional levels.

**Table 1: EC Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by sector 2001-2005 (M€).**

<i>Commitments in M€</i>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<i>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</i>	473.68	359.84	252.20	237.77	164.98

*Source: Annual Report 2006 on the European Community's Development Policy*

***Security and migration, political and social stability***

Poverty and conflict are two of the main reasons for people migrating. Many of the 200 million people who migrate each year - sometimes crossing national borders - originate from conflict areas. These areas are also sometimes badly affected by desertification and degradation of (land) resources. Land degradation and scarcity of productive land and resources may be both cause and result of a conflict (e.g. massive migration by refugees to specific areas often leads to over-exploitation of surrounding resources and land degradation). The abandonment of areas also means that people lose their cultural and historical relationships with their land. Consequently, valuable traditional knowledge and social and economic capital rapidly disappears.

Security and migration and the related effects on political and social stability form a highly complex issue that also has national and international dimensions. "Poverty, conflict and instability, wherever that may happen, affect us all. It is both the responsibility and interest of Europe to address these issues".<sup>31</sup> The EC's external assistance programmes contribute to such an endeavour.<sup>32</sup> For the rural poor in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas, the first line of defence of that development co-operation can provide is options for sustainable livelihoods. This involves the diversification of the

rural economy and thereby providing alternatives to rural-urban migration (e.g. development of jobs and small enterprises, and increasing social security). Projects designed to reduce migration from marginal rural areas to cities (often related to the theme 'social stability') may also contribute to mitigating the effects of land degradation. However, it may be difficult to assess such contributions to UNCED objectives because of the complexity of such interrelations.

***Social and Human development (health, education etc.)***

In almost all arid, semi-arid and sub-humid regions in developing countries, people's lives and livelihoods are based on their natural surroundings. Their major preoccupations include getting food, clean water and medicines. It has been estimated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that 80 per cent of the developing world's population meets its primary health care needs through traditional medicines derived from the natural environment. Therefore, the provision of services such as health and education to the rural poor is more effective if it takes into account local peoples' environmental realities. In the field of education, various EC supported programmes establish a close link between education and the enhancement of people's dry land management capacities – aiming to enhance the skills of local people, including children, who have to make a living from land under drought prone conditions.

**Table 2: EC Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by sector 2001-2005 (M€Euro).**

<i>Commitments in M€</i>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<i>Education &amp; health</i>	520.91	465.87	738.17	670.10	1.151.29
<i>Water supply and sanitation</i>	224.27	100.91	310.75	332.56	565.49

*Source: Annual Report 2006 on the European Community's Development Policy*

Gender is particularly relevant in this respect. In general, girls enjoy less access to basic and advanced education than boys,<sup>33</sup> partially because of the division of labour in the household and cultural customs. At a later age, women are often left out of training and extension services. The EC pays particular attention to enabling women to benefit from educational opportunities. In April 2004, the EC approved a new Regulation (EC 806/2004) on the promotion of gender equality in development co-operation,<sup>34</sup> and made a total of € million available for this specific purpose between 2004 and 2006.

**2.3 Institutional dimension**

The institutional dimension (as extensively described in Chapters 3 and 5 of this report) encompasses numerous elements, ranging from a country's institutional context and strategic environment to organisational structures and administration. The specific mix of formal and informal institutional characteristics strongly influences who gets control over particular resources. As outlined above, natural resource problems cannot be considered independently from other social, economic, commercial, legal, policy and institutional dimensions. General constraints in the development of arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid areas include: (i) lack of investment in technology and people; (ii) insufficient knowledge of marketing opportunities; (iii) lack of institutional arrangements to plan finance and administer production systems; (iv) inadequate spatial planning; (v) inadequate communication between technical administrators and rural people; (vi) and legal conflicts, including over land tenure.<sup>35</sup> Many existing institutions seem to respond inadequately to the challenge of resource sustainability. It is important to consider how institutions whose decision-making has an impact on natural resource management (NRM) can be encourage to engage more on this issue. This especially includes governmental institutions and semi-government institutes that manage natural resources. Institutions specifically promoting sustainable NRM face the challenge of influencing other institutions that may negatively affect NRM.<sup>36</sup> Such institutional constraints can be met through institutional reform, good governance, capacity building and institutional frameworks for (decentralised) natural resource management. The Community recognises the importance of the institutional dimension. It is committed to improving environmental and social governance by strengthening the effective participation of institutional actors in charge of these issues in the political decision-making process as well as by strengthening the role of non-governmental actors.<sup>37</sup>

### ***Governance***

It is acknowledged that development co-operation did not sufficiently meet its targets in reducing poverty during the '80s and '90s. Poor governance has been identified as one of the fundamental reasons. Governance is about the state's ability to serve the broad interests of its citizens. It refers to the rules, processes, and behaviour by which interests are articulated, resources managed, and power exercised in society (see box 4). It includes the ways in which public functions are carried out, public resources managed and public regulatory powers exercised. These are all areas that need addressing. Good governance is key to the sustainable achievement of development and poverty reduction objectives.

#### **Box 4: Governance in the European Consensus for Development .**

Within the framework of the new European Consensus – the European Community Development Policy – and in the follow-up to the Africa Strategy, the European Commission is proposing a common approach on governance.<sup>38</sup> The EC and EU Member States have agreed to strengthen harmonisation in the area of governance. Other donors and partners are invited to join.

The EC regards the Governance Initiative as a concrete and innovative way of implementing EU policy principles on governance (ownership, reform through dialogue and incentives instead of through sanctions and further conditionality) in its partnerships with ACP countries, particularly in Africa.

The Governance Initiative is a new incentive mechanism that will give ACP partner countries access to additional funding, according to their commitments to achieve concrete results in their democratic governance reform programmes. €2.7 billion from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund will be reserved for such incentives.

The EC and EU member states have established a "governance profile" that can be applied to each ACP country. This is an analytical tool that gives an overview of nine areas<sup>39</sup> and facilitates a structured assessment of the governance situation, identifying the main weaknesses, priority areas and needs for reform. The profile's conclusions are shared, as appropriate, with the partner government and the partner country is expected and encouraged to undertake relevant, ambitious and credible commitments for reform. An "evaluation grid" will provide the quantitative elements to assess the present situation and its trends as well as the commitments for reform. These will be used to decide the amount of incentive allocation provided to each country.

Furthermore, the EU will also use the Governance Initiative to provide political and financial support for the African Peer Review Mechanism, while paying due regard to African countries' ownership of the process. It will be used as a participatory self-assessment tool for encouraging reforms, mutual learning and strengthening ownership. The EU is ready to continue support to the process and the reforms that this generates at the national level.

In line with the harmonisation commitments stemming from the Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness, the EU and other donors need to align their support to national processes and strategies on democratic governance and use national systems and procedures to the maximum extent possible. Close co-operation with the leadership of partner countries and building on existing mechanisms within the donor community are both necessary to provide effective support.

### ***Financial mechanisms***

Private entrepreneurs may often be put off from investing in the development of low rainfall areas because of the, often, low intrinsic productivity, inadequate infrastructure and numerous social constraints within such areas. Incentives and other forms of external assistance are often required to increase productivity, diversification, value addition and access to markets. Incentives may include monetary policies (investment, credit, subsidy); fiscal policies (tax policy, the public finance system, public expenditure policy); and trade policies. These influence crop prices, access to inputs, labour, availability of credit, and the organisation of markets. When such constraints are addressed, there are valid economic reasons for investment. With further integration of crops with livestock, forestry, wildlife, and industries, investment will also become more profitable. The Community Development Policy announced the re-launch of "investments in agriculture and rural development by supporting country-led, participatory, decentralised and environmentally sustainable territorial development, aimed at involving beneficiaries in the identification of investments and the management of resources

in order to support the emergence of local development clusters, while respecting the capacity of ecosystems".

### ***Land tenure***

Since the 1970's secure access to land has emerged as a decisive factor in poverty reduction, food security and sustainable natural resource management. The importance of this has been confirmed in the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention to Combat Desertification. Improved security of access to land has been shown to reduce levels of food insecurity, improve incomes and economic security, increase investment, reduce levels of conflict and increase the adoption of more sustainable resource practices. By contrast without secure land access, poor rural people lack the incentives to conserve or invest in the productive qualities of the land. There is growing consensus internationally that secure access to natural resources, especially land, benefits the wider economy and the environment.

*Security of land tenure is the incentive for the rural poor to invest in the long-term sustainability of the resource base - in the land, water, forests and coastal areas. The restorative investments by peasants in marginal or degraded lands, following land distribution and tenure programmes, confirms these beneficial effects. These actions point to the developmental and environmental role of public policies that provide and protect the resource rights of existing land users, near landless and landless households.*<sup>40</sup>

An increasing number of developing countries are engaged in formulating land policies and land reform/redistribution programmes. At the same time strategies to land reform have changed substantially over the last decade from an approach that aimed at "privatising" land by providing titles and full ownership, to one that respects the large set of rights which are tied to land in traditional societies (through customary tenure).

It is clear that land issues are politically highly sensitive as they require wide ranging and, sometimes, controversial political decisions. In societies that are primarily agrarian, modifying the pattern of land ownership raises ethical issues as well as those relating to the social and ethnic redistribution of wealth. The consequences of these factors need to, and can be, properly taken into account. In 2004 the European Commission, working in close collaboration with EU Member States, formulated operational guidelines (EU Land Policy Guidelines) on how best to support land policy development and land reform programmes, including their technical and political implications. These Guidelines are intended to provide conceptual and methodological support to staff, both in headquarters and field offices.<sup>41</sup> By providing a common understanding of land policies and reform processes, the Guidelines are intended to provide the basis for greater and deeper co-ordination in donor support to land reforms. The Guidelines are intended to apply to all developing countries and therefore cover the range of issues arising in different parts of the world and provide for regional differentiation. In 2004, the EU Council of Ministers stressed the political significance of such an undertaking- particularly in terms of developing a co-ordinated and harmonised practical framework of reference for interventions over rural land use in developing countries.

#### **Box 5: Guatemala, Gender and Land.**

Guatemala's transition to peace and sustainable development has offered the country an enormous opportunity to improve the marginalised position of women - particularly indigenous women - who have historically had limited access to education, health services, factors of production and democratic institutions. For example, the Land Trust Act, 1999, clearly defines the right of peasant women to own land. Women tend, however, to be excluded from decision-making, including over matters of land ownership. In 2001, the EC Delegation set up a multidisciplinary network of gender specialists from delegations, government and civil society, with the task of helping to improve the gender equality aspects of EC co-operation. The network has developed into an Alliance between these partners and ownership has shifted to the Women's Presidential Secretariat of the government. As a result, there is a heightened awareness of the need to increase spending on gender issues and to create new policies and programmes to promote gender equality.

### 3 European Community institutional relations with the regions

#### 3.1 Partnership Agreements and support to the regions

The European Community has a longstanding tradition of concluding Partnership Agreements with developing countries.<sup>42</sup> These Agreements offer an opportunity to fulfil one of the most important principles of the UNCCD: namely to foster partnership arrangements.<sup>43</sup> In this regard the Community is in a unique position, since it does not need to conclude new partnership agreements for the purpose of the Convention. 2005 saw major steps in strengthening these partnerships with the Western Balkan countries, Russia, Latin America and countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) (see also box 6).

##### Box 6: New geographic instrument.

The Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI) of 2006 provides the legal framework for the EU's co-operation with countries from Asia and Latin America, as well as some countries of the Middle East and South Africa. The DCI opens a new chapter in the EU relations with developing countries in those regions, provides the orientation for the EU's co-operation with these countries and identifies the processes under which the planning of this co-operation takes place. A planning process has been undertaken to programme the EU's co-operation with each country for the period 2007-2013. This process is supposed to go through a number of stages, including an assessment of the implementation of past co-operation; an assessment of the political, economic and social situation of the country concerned, which together will lead to an identification of the countries' needs.

*The ALA Agreements:* The Community's designation of Asian and Latin American countries as "ALA" serves to group its diverse aid recipients in Asia and Latin America into one category. Thirty-three countries in Asia and Latin America have signed Co-operation Agreements with the European Union, some at the bilateral level and others at regional level. Funds are made available under these agreements and are renewed every four years.

**Table 3: Regional breakdown of development assistance 2001-2005 (payments €million).**

	Balkans	NIS	Latin America	Asia	Mediterranean	South Africa	ACP(*)	Thematic	Total
2001	845	402	152	383	488	99	1 814	771	4 109
2002	619	384	182	455	707	119	1 968	815	4 630
2003	425	396	290	470	700	118	2 366	851	5 191
2004	510	359	314	526	1 125	116	2 472	790	5 701
2005	345	432	376	681	1 122	138	2 468	932	6 149

Source: Annual Report 2006 on the European Community's Development Policy<sup>44</sup>

#### 3.2 Asia (including the Newly Independent States of Central Asia)

Out of a total land area of 4.3 billion hectares reaching from the Mediterranean coast to the shores of the Pacific, Asia contains some 1.7 billion hectares of arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid land. This continent is also facing very critical degradation of its natural wealth. Desertification and land degradation manifests themselves in many different forms across the continent. Asia is the most severely affected continent in terms of the number of people affected by desertification and drought. China is one of the major affected countries in Asia and its case illustrates the need to make combating dryland degradation a long-term strategic goal. It is estimated that some 27% of the country's land mass is desertified and an average of 2,460 square kilometres of land is lost to advancing deserts each year. Nearly 400 million people live in these areas. The economic loss to China has been estimated at around US\$ 6.5 billion a year.<sup>45</sup>



There is massive socio-cultural, political and economic diversity across Asia.<sup>46</sup> It is home to two-thirds of the world's poor, with 800 million people living on less than \$1 per day, facing problems of food insecurity, health, and access to basic services. At the same time, the region is experiencing rapid economic and demographic transformation. This is leading to the improvement of the living standards of hundreds of millions of people. Such rapid development is accompanied by large social and environmental costs in terms of energy consumption, efficiency and climate change,<sup>47</sup> forest and watershed protection and loss of biodiversity. It is essential that the countries of the region address these social and environmental problems. They need to face the challenge of building a sound policy framework that maximises the opportunities offered by globalisation and avoids the risks.

There are several inter-regional fora in which Europe and Asia interact. The EU has a longstanding relationship with South-East Asia, through the EU's partnership with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) dating back to the late 1970s. Since the 1990s, the EU has worked to intensify its relations with the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). Two main dialogue frameworks are the Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI) and the Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI) for non-trade sector policies.<sup>48</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal dialogue process initiated in 1996. EU Member States, the European Commission and Asian countries<sup>49</sup> participate in the process, which provides an open forum at a high level to discuss any political, economic and social issue of common interest.<sup>50</sup>

In July 2003, the European Commission adopted a Communication<sup>51</sup> on a "New Partnership with South East Asia", setting out a comprehensive strategy for future relations with the region. The Communication identifies several priority intervention areas such as peace and security; human rights, good governance; global partnerships and alliances with Asian countries to address the challenges and the opportunities offered by globalisation together with global environmental and security issues.<sup>52</sup> This overall strategic framework is implemented through specific sub-regional strategies, through the relevant Country Strategy Papers and the revised ALA Regulation (2002).<sup>53</sup>

**Table 4: Country breakdown of EC development Aid (ODA and OA) Commitments in 2001-2005 (in M€) to the countries of South & Central Asia and the Far East & Southeast Asia.**<sup>54</sup>

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
South & Central Asia	466.67	625.02	583.73	517.17	858.44	3.051.03
Far East & Southeast Asia	217.23	311.36	196.38	390.74	213.85	1.329.56
						<b>4.380.59</b>

External assistance for developing countries in Asia amounted to an average €876 million per year in the period 2001-2005, totalling €4.38 billion (see table). Taking EC and Member States aid efforts together, the EU continues to account for 30% of total ODA flows to Asia. The EC also provides substantial humanitarian assistance in Asia. Based on the priorities of governments of the partner countries themselves, indicative resource allocations are drawn up (National Indicative Programmes). These also reflect the priorities contained in the Country Strategy Papers.

As well as bilateral initiatives, the EC has five Asia-wide programmes: Asia Pro Eco<sup>55</sup>, Asia Invest, Asia IT&C, Asia Urbs and Asia Link (see chapter 5). Commitments under the ALA Agreement for Asia<sup>56</sup> during 2001-2005 amount to €2,986 million.

A number of specific partnership and co-operation agreements determine the support that the EC provides to the region of Newly Independent States (NIS)<sup>57</sup>. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan are partners in TACIS (Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States), which was set up to help countries meet the difficulties faced as a result of the break up of the Soviet Union.<sup>58</sup> Since 1991, the EC has granted €5 billion to 3,900 projects. Given its size, TACIS could be an important instrument for managing changes in land use and management and to address the damage inflicted by the collectivisation of agriculture.

### 3.3 Latin America and the Caribbean

Although well known for their rainforests, Latin America and the Caribbean are actually about one-quarter desert and dry lands (20.5 million km<sup>2</sup>). The hyper-arid deserts of the Pacific coast stretch from southern Ecuador to the entire Peruvian shoreline and northern Chile. Further inland, at altitudes of 3,000-4,500 metres, high and dry plains (the Altiplano of the Andean mountains) cover large areas of Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. To the east of the Andes, an extensive arid region extends from the Chaco's northern reaches in Paraguay to Patagonia in southern Argentina. North eastern Brazil contains semi-arid zones dominated by tropical savannah. Large parts of Colombia and Venezuela are highly degraded. The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica all contain arid zones. Erosion and water shortages are noticeably intensifying in the Eastern Caribbean. Most of Mexico is arid and semi-arid, notably in the north. Land degradation and severe droughts make Central American countries vulnerable to extreme climatic events, providing obstacles to their sustainable development.

#### *The Cotonou Agreement: ACP countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.*

##### **Box 7: EU-ACP relations: the Cotonou Agreement and its revision.**

Relations between the European Union and the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states are a particularly important aspect of EU development co-operation policy and of its wider action. From 1975 until 2000 these relations were governed by the **Lomé Convention**, which was regularly adapted and updated. However, major upheavals on the international stage, socio-economic and political changes in the ACP countries, the spread of poverty and resultant instability and potential conflict all highlighted the need for a re-think of co-operation.

The expiration of the Lomé Convention in February 2000 provided an ideal opportunity for a thorough review of the future of ACP-EU relations. Against a background of intensive public debate, based on a Commission Green paper (1996)<sup>59</sup> and a discussion paper,<sup>60</sup> negotiations started in September 1998 and were successfully concluded in early February 2000. The new ACP-EC agreement was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin, to run until February 2020.

The **Cotonou Agreement** introduces radical changes and ambitious objectives while preserving the 'acquis' of 25 years of ACP-EU co-operation. It is based on five interdependent pillars with the underlying objective of overcoming poverty: an enhanced political dimension, increased participation, a more strategic approach to co-operation focusing on poverty reduction, new economic and trade partnerships and improved financial co-operation. A clause provides for revision of the Agreement every five years. The latest negotiations to revise the Agreement were launched in May 2004 and concluded in February 2005.

As part of the agreement on the 2007-2013 Financial Perspectives, the European Council agreed to establish a 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to provide development assistance to African, Caribbean and Pacific signatories to the Cotonou Agreement. The EDF is the main instrument for Community aid for development co-operation in the ACP countries and the Overseas Countries and Territories. The EDF does not come under the general Community budget but is financed by the Member States, is covered by its own financial rules and managed by a specific committee. Each EDF runs for a period of five years. In December 2005, the European Council adopted a financial envelope for the 10th EDF of €22.7 Billion for the period 2008-2013. The 9th EDF, which covers the period 2002-2007, is worth €13.5 Billion.

#### *Latin America (non-ACP countries)*

In the 2002 Madrid Commitment the Heads of States and Governments of EU and Latin American countries expressed their support for their common political values and economic interests.<sup>61</sup> In December 2005 the European Commission<sup>62</sup> gave the strategic partnership with Latin America new impetus by adopting a specific Communication extracts of which are quoted below: "...On the economic front, Europe is a key trading partner for Latin American economic and industrial development and is set to play a major role in science and technology. The region's wealth in terms of human resources and raw materials and the increasing importance of Latin America's role in



supplying the EU with agricultural products are just some of the reasons for strengthening the Partnership". "...With proper management these resources may strengthen the economies of the region. Their mismanagement in some countries, on the other hand, serves only to hasten environmental degradation and health and social problems". "...The Commission considers that the long-term prosperity of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean is largely dependent on good management of their natural resources and their ability to ensure sustainable economic development".<sup>63</sup> In view of this, one of the objectives of the Partnership is to develop effective sectoral dialogues (e.g. on social cohesion or the environment) with a view to substantially addressing issues of inequalities and promoting sustainable development.

Five key regional political dialogues (called 'Specialised Dialogues') govern the Community's relations with Mercosur,<sup>64</sup> Mexico, the Andean countries, Chile and Central America. Priorities such as poverty reduction within the context of sustainable development (Andean Community and Central America), environment and sustainable resource use (Mercosur and Chile), and the fight against poverty (Mexico) all appear highly relevant for combating desertification. On a national level, bilateral development co-operation is based on the Country Strategy Papers, which are, based on the countries' poverty reduction strategy or national development plan.

### ***The Caribbean region***

#### **Box 8: EU and the Caribbean: a new partnership for growth, stability and development.**

In March 2006, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU Strategy for the Caribbean.

The Caribbean region has embarked on a path of regional integration and economic diversification, restructuring and reform. The Commission supports this development as a means for the mostly small and economically vulnerable Caribbean states to seek to harness the opportunities of globalisation. The communication highlights how the right policy mix can transform the challenges facing the Caribbean into opportunities.

The Commission proposes a number of concrete actions around three major lines:

1. *A political partnership based on shared values:* The development of a strong political partnership between the EU and the Caribbean is a new and central element of the EU's Caribbean Strategy. A political partnership, in particular on good and effective governance, is the key to the consolidation of democracy, respect of human rights, and improvements in gender equality, social cohesion, security, stability, conflict prevention, migration, drugs and regional integration. The EU will systematically support the key institutions needed to achieve good governance, such as parliaments, the judiciary and public financial management systems. To help these institutions work effectively, the EU will also promote transparency and exchange of information to fight corruption as well as corporate and financial malpractices.
2. *Addressing economic and environmental opportunities and vulnerabilities:* In an increasingly interdependent and globalised world, a major objective of the Development Policy is to assist developing countries to better harness the globalisation process. To this end, the EU will support regional integration efforts in the Caribbean and help increase competitiveness, diversify exports and support the establishment of regional markets. The EU will also step up its trade related assistance and support small and medium sized enterprises.
3. *Environment and natural resources* represent an important asset, particularly for the poorer part of the local population. Caribbean States face many environmental challenges, all of which impact strongly on their economic and social development. The EU will contribute to increasing the region's capacity in Natural Disaster Management, with emphasis on risk reduction, preparedness, early warning, prevention and mitigation.
4. *Promoting Social Cohesion and Combating Poverty:* The EU will support the Caribbean's efforts to respond to chronic poverty and improve sustainable basic livelihoods. In close co-operation with Civil Society, the EU will support national strategies to support social safety nets and income generation for the poorest. The fight against HIV/AIDS and the strengthening of health care systems, with special emphasis on human resources and fair access, is also a priority. The EU will focus on a drug prevention policy, with emphasis on education and awareness, training and

support of co-ordination between institutions. Brain-drain, socio-economic alienation and weak social cohesion are realities in the Caribbean region. Providing the skill base and 'know-how' to take advantage of economic diversification is a key mechanism for overcoming the social and socio-economic challenges faced by the Caribbean today.

### 3.4 *The Pacific region*

#### **Box 9: New strategy to strengthen EU partnership with the Pacific islands**

In May 2006, the European Commission adopted a proposal to deepen the EU's relations with the Pacific Islands, in particular the 15 Pacific ACP countries<sup>65</sup>. This is the first formal strategy in 30 years of EU-Pacific relations, and it aims to strengthen political dialogue, provide greater focus to development co-operation and improve the effectiveness of aid delivery.

The strategy makes three main proposals:

- i Building stronger political relations around interests of common concern such as global political security, trade, economic and social development and the environment;
- ii Focusing development co-operation on areas where the Pacific has important needs and where the EU has a comparative advantage and a good track record, such as the sustainable management of natural resources, regional co-operation and good governance (for example, addressing the root causes of instability in the region, and reducing corruption);
- iii Increasing the efficiency of aid delivery including using more direct budgetary aid and working more closely with other partners, in particular Australia and New Zealand.

The Pacific islands are mostly, small, remote, and vulnerable to natural disasters. In addition, some of the islands face the challenges of state fragility and weak governance. The region's political and economic importance continues to grow due to increasing demand for its substantial natural resources (fish, timber, minerals, oil, gas). The proposed EU strategy takes this into account by focusing on sound management and protection of the environment, crucial to the prosperity of the Pacific region.

The EU's aid will help the islands preserve the biodiversity of their forests and fish, deal with the consequences of climate change, and develop disaster preparedness programmes. The strategy will bring the EU's relationship with the Pacific in line with the new EU development policy statement, adopted in December 2005, and the revised Cotonou Agreement of 2005. It will also help turn the EU's commitments on aid effectiveness into practice in this particular region.

### 3.5 *Central and Eastern Europe regions*

The climate in much of this region is dry or sub-humid (notably in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine), or semi-arid (as along the northwest coasts of the Black and Caspian Seas).

Soil degradation (erosion, loss of organic soil horizons, compaction and salinity) affects large areas of these regions. For example, large-scale irrigation led to the unsustainable exploitation of water resources, which also suffer from chemical pollution, salinisation and the exhaustion of many aquifers. Forest soils are polluted and frequent forest fires remain a serious problem. The countries are also interested in solving specific trans-boundary problems, in particular related to the management of drought in the region. Activities are being undertaken, particularly through establishing regional networks for scientific co-operation and sharing of technology and knowledge.

As mentioned in paragraph 3.2, TACIS was set up to help NIS countries meet the difficulties faced as a result of the break up of the Soviet Union.<sup>66</sup> The EU is spending over €13 million between 2000 and 2004 to support the development of environmental policy and infrastructure in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. Part of this support is provided through the CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation) programme. In total, during the period 2000-2006, the EU has provided €4.8 billion to the Western Balkans.

### **3.6 South and East Mediterranean and the Middle East**

The countries bordering the southern and eastern coast of the Mediterranean are severely affected by land degradation and large areas suffer serious soil erosion. The region is an area of vital strategic importance to the European Union. Currently, relations with the countries in the region are defined through Association Agreements within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership adopted in July 1996. The Partnership is a wide framework of political, economic and social relations between the Member States of the European Union and Partners of the Southern Mediterranean. The latest EU enlargement, in 2004, has brought two Mediterranean Partners (Cyprus and Malta) into the European Union. The EMP comprises 35 members, 25 EU Member States and 10 Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). Libya has had observer status since 1999.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (MEDA)<sup>67</sup> is the principal financial instrument of the European Union for the region. MEDA offers technical and financial support to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the Mediterranean countries. Strategy papers covering the period 2000-2006 are established at national and regional level. The priorities for MEDA resources at the bilateral level are: i) support to economic transition: the aim being preparation for the implementation of free trade through increasing competitiveness with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, in particular through the development of the private sector; and ii) strengthening the socio-economic balance: the aim of which is to alleviate the short-term costs of economic transition through appropriate measures in the field of social policy. Regional and multilateral co-operation complements and reinforces the bilateral approach. Regional programmes operate in all three domains of the Barcelona Declaration, namely the political and security dimension; the economic and financial dimension; and the social, cultural and human dimension. MEDA includes the Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP). This is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment.<sup>68</sup> One of the priority areas is combating desertification in the region. The review of SMAP I (until 2001) gave some important recommendations including the integration of environmental considerations within EMP policies, programmes and projects at regional and national levels. Integration will be of particular importance in other priority sectors of the second chapter of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with special emphasis on water, industry, transport and energy.

## 4 Portfolio Analysis and synthesis of support to the UNCCD

### 4.1 Introduction

The Community's aid portfolio was analysed for the purpose of this report to CRIC-5. Over 600 EC supported programmes and projects were assessed (see Annex III on methodology). This chapter gives an analysis of the results per region, and of projects that directly or indirectly contributed to combating land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas (for details and a complete list, see Annex II, for the classification see Annex III. This latter Annex explains also the distinction between direct and in-direct contributions). In addition a quantitative analysis has been made of projects, according to CRIC's key themes. Of the 71 countries listed in Annex 1, 31 have received EC supported projects that can be classified as contributing to land degradation abatement.

The total Community contribution was €338.3 million made through 128 projects (see table 5 below). The Community directly or indirectly supported 102 bilateral, region-wide and worldwide projects that contribute to land degradation abatement, contributing approximately €22.6 million. In addition, 26 research projects were supported totalling €15.7 million.

**Table 5: Breakdown of Community support per region (# projects direct and indirectly contributing to land degradation and total amount of funding in million €).**

Region	Contribution to UNCCD:					
	# proj. direct	amount	# proj. indirect	amount	Total proj.	Total amount
Asia (incl. Central Asia & Caucasus)	23	19.0	37	139	60	158
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	10.3	17	61.9	27	72.2
South & East Med., Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe.	3	6.6	5	68.6	8	75.2
Regional and World Wide projects	5	7.6	2	9.6	7	17.2
Research projects	10	7.8	16	7.9	26	15.7
<b>Total</b>	51	51.3	77	287	128	338.3

**Figure 2: Community Support for Desertification and Land Degradation in the world's regions.**

Distribution of projects per region (%):

Related financial support per region - (%):



In terms of projects and expenditure the majority of EC contributions (outside sub-Saharan Africa) went to Asia followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Figure 2 shows that fewer projects were supported in the other regions, although the EC's contribution was broadly similar.

The majority of projects have been supported under the former budget lines for the 'Environment and Tropical Forests' and 'Co-financing of actions undertaken by European NGOs in developing countries'. Other interventions under different regional and thematic budget lines also include measures to prevent or mitigate the degradation of environmental resources. It is difficult to assess the extent to which such interventions contribute to land degradation abatement in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

In addition to this aggregate assessment, the projects were classified in terms of various focal themes (for more details see Annex II-B):

**Sector specific activities:**

1. Sustainable livelihoods and smallholder production
2. Sustainable land use management
3. Water management and irrigation
4. Drought mitigation and food security
5. Reforestation and revegetation
6. Soil conservation and erosion abatement

**Non - Sector specific activities:**

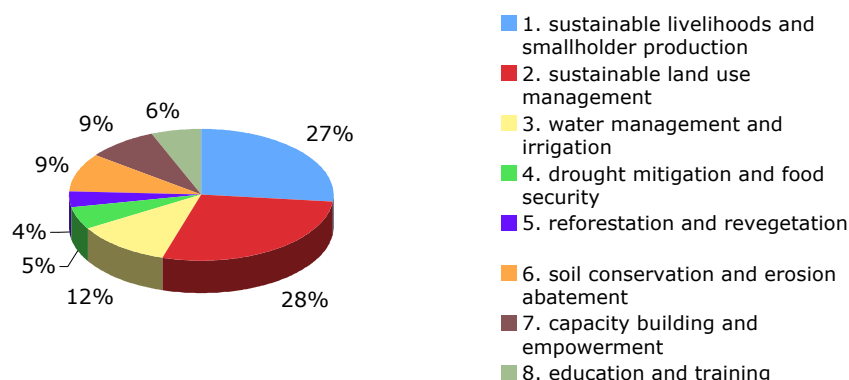
7. Capacity building and empowerment
8. Education and training

**Table 6: Breakdown of Community financial support per focal theme.**

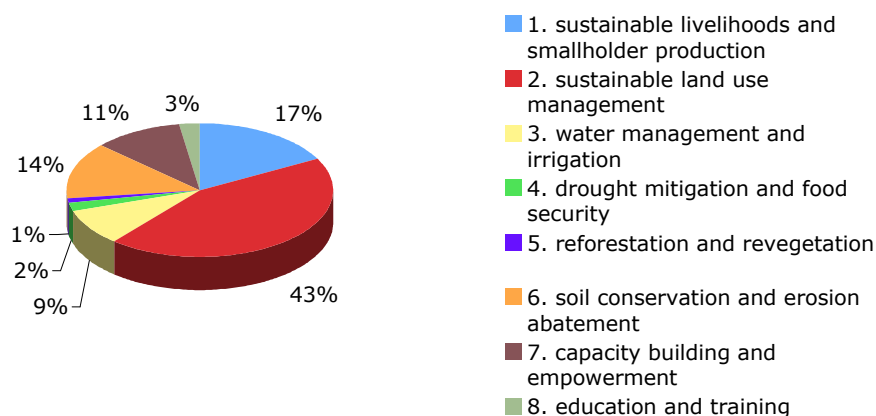
Commitments in M€	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Total projects supported	34	36	15	7	5	12	11	8	128
Total financial support	58.4	148.6	29.5	6.9	4.1	45.7	36.3	8.8	338.3

Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.

**Figure 3: Distribution of Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community – by focal theme.**



**Figure 4: Related financial support by the Community per focal theme.**



The majority of projects supported by the Community focused on integrated use and management of land and water (nos. 1, 2 and 3: accounting for 80% of the projects and 72% of the funding). Mitigation of drought and food security account for only a small percentage of the projects and the funding.

## 4.2 Support by the EC in the regions

### Asia

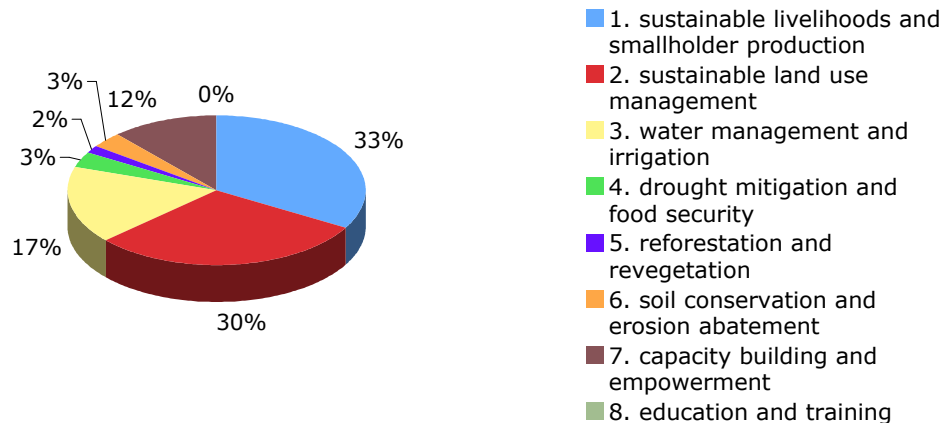
The Community made approximately €58 million in grants available for 60 bilateral projects in Asia<sup>69</sup> (see table 5, for more details see also Annex 2). Twenty-three of these projects, totalling €19 million, were related directly to the UNCCD objectives. A further 37 projects, totalling €39 million, indirectly supported UNCCD objectives. (Annex 3 explains the distinction between direct and indirect contributions). Furthermore, one region-wide project, the Tropical Forestry Small Grants Programme for South and –South East Asia (contract nr. 3607) which indirectly supports the objectives of the UNCCD, received €6.3 million in funding. The Community also committed €2.6 million to four regional research projects in Central Asia between 2001 and 2005. Bilateral support was also given to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

**Table 7: Breakdown of Community financial support in Asia per focal theme.**

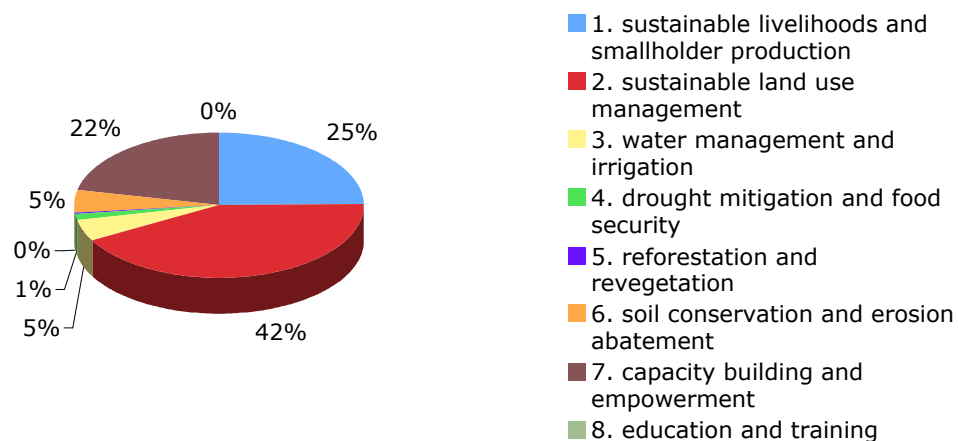
Commitments in M€	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Total projects supported	20	18	10	2	1	2	7	0	60
Total financial support	39.1	66.5	7.5	2.2	0.4	8.1	34.1	0	158

Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.

**Figure 5: Distribution of Bilateral Projects relating to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in Asia (incl. Central Asia & Caucasus) - per focal theme.**



**Figure 6: Related financial support by the Community per focal theme in Asia (incl. Central Asia & Caucasus).**



The pie charts show that the majority percentage of projects and funding are related to integrated land and water management (nos. 1, 2 and 3). In comparison with the global distribution of funding more support in Asia was provided for capacity building and empowerment. As discussed in Chapter 2, land degradation can also be strongly related with larger issues, such as conflict and migration as illustrated in box 10, below.

**Box 10: Afghanistan: security, social stability and land degradation.**

In Afghanistan an estimated 153,000 people remained internally displaced in 2005 as a result of years of conflict and the ongoing insecurity.

Successful parliamentary elections in September 2005 and a gradual improvement of the security situation in many parts of the country have raised hopes. However, the massive destruction of housing and property hinders the return and successful reintegration of internally displaced people (IDPs). The grabbing of land left behind by IDPs is a common phenomenon, creating tensions and compromising their return. Many of those who returned to houses and land in 2002 and 2003 did not manage to reintegrate successfully. Apart from insecurity and a lack of economic opportunities, the returnees and displaced people faced problems related to land and property. Having lost their livelihoods, many find themselves in precarious conditions, deprived of access to food and means of production, such as arable land. The four-year drought has aggravated environmental degradation and been a further blow to Afghanistan's agriculture system, which had made a good recovery from the war-related loss of productive capacity in the 1980s and early 1990s. Since 1979, 30% of forests have been lost, and many of the agricultural regions are now vulnerable to desertification. However, subject to water availability and management, it should be possible for Afghan agriculture to recover again. On the other hand, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime stated that opium cultivation in Afghanistan rose 59 per cent in 2006, largely due to a dramatic increase in the troubled southern provinces. Opium is now the country's main cash crop.

Against this background, it is important for all donors to work closely with the Afghanistan Transitional Authority to ensure that aid flows are used efficiently and effectively and have a tangible impact as quickly as possible. In 2002, the Commission channelled some of its funding directly to NGOs - especially those in hard to reach localities, and sectors with a strong NGO presence. The projects that the EC supported in Afghanistan are a good example of how rural development projects contribute to social stability and - in this case - the rehabilitation of a country. Under the theme "Rural development and food security", over €100 million has been earmarked to tackle rural poverty through labour intensive work schemes, including irrigation, promoting alternative livelihoods, improving access to local markets, and promoting women's active participation in the rural economy. In the period 2001-2005 the EC supported 12 projects, which contribute directly or indirectly to the objectives of the UNCCD. The projects vary from livelihood support and drought mitigation, irrigation, water and sanitation in drought-affected areas to poverty reduction, food security, rural recovery and rehabilitation.

*Sources: IDMC Global Overview 2005, CSP Afghanistan, CRIS database.*

Basic health services and primary education, rather than environment and dry land management, are priorities in the EC's bilateral co-operation with India (CSP India). However, dryland management is addressed as a crosscutting issue through the Community's support to many co-financed NGO projects (EC Delegation India)<sup>70</sup>. Box 11 (below) illustrates the way in which the Community endeavours to incorporate land degradation abatement within the confines of the political dialogue with partner countries in Asia.

**Box 11: Land degradation in the Philippines and EC-Philippines dialogue.**

In the Philippines land degradation is not a prioritised development issue, although soil erosion has accelerated dramatically (in some areas 50% of the fertile top layer has been lost during the last 10 years). The National Government has put in place the necessary structures for the application of the UNCCD. Positive trends can be seen at the local level: in some municipalities, appropriate land use management systems and soil conservation techniques have been developed to minimise land degradation. Although it is not formally one of the priority topics in the bilateral political dialogue

with the Philippine Government, land degradation is included in the informal dialogue on environmental issues. As a result, the NAP is not used as a framework for priority setting. Notwithstanding that, soil erosion protection is one of the key components in various environment and rural development projects supported by the EC in the Philippines. The Delegation has also supported direct dialogue with the House of Representatives for the adoption of legislation to encourage sustainable agricultural practices in upland areas. This is proposed in the context of the EC supported Upland Development Project (UDP) and is meant to include soil protection measures. UDP has also been supporting the local governments to come up with a comprehensive framework on sustainable upland development. A draft Executive Order endorsed by the League of Municipalities has been prepared and will be forwarded to the President for adoption in the comprehensive framework on sustainable upland development. Finally, the Delegation has been actively involved in the self-assessment process conducted by the Government of the Philippines on national capacities to meet the country's obligations to the three main environmental Conventions, including UNCCD.

*Based on the EC Delegation's response to questions posed in preparation of this report.*

Under the separate Asia Link budget line for research, six projects totalling €1.79 million were supported. An interesting example of the complexity of dryland management is reflected in support for another research project (DARCA, €0.98) that looked at the impact of market reforms on Central Asian rangelands. Many EC supported projects deal with sustainable use and production, and most of these projects are geared towards, or likely to be influenced by, local market conditions.

#### ***Latin America and the Caribbean***

The Community committed €72.2 million to 27 projects in Latin America between 2001 and 2005. Ten projects, totalling €10.3 million, were related directly to the objectives of the UNCCD and seventeen projects, totalling €61.9 million, indirectly supported UNCCD objectives. Many projects reflect the raised awareness for an integrated approach to solving land degradation problems. Projects funded under the budget line 'Environment and Tropical Forests' address poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development. They emphasise income diversification, community participation, and market access, based on the principles and strategies of wise use of natural resources. Examples of such projects are:

- **Bolivia** - Forest management, sustainable use, participation and strengthening of local organisations of the Serrania del Aguague (contract no. 59130):
- **Brazil** - Sustainable use of forests in the Serra das Lontras—A forest complex in Bahia State: organic cacao production through farmers co-operatives (contract no. 61888):
- **Mexico** - Conservation and community development in the coastal zone of Oaxaca (contract no. 59144).

Twenty-six countries in the region received support, and UNCCD-related projects are implemented in half of them. The majority of projects are implemented in just four countries (Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela).

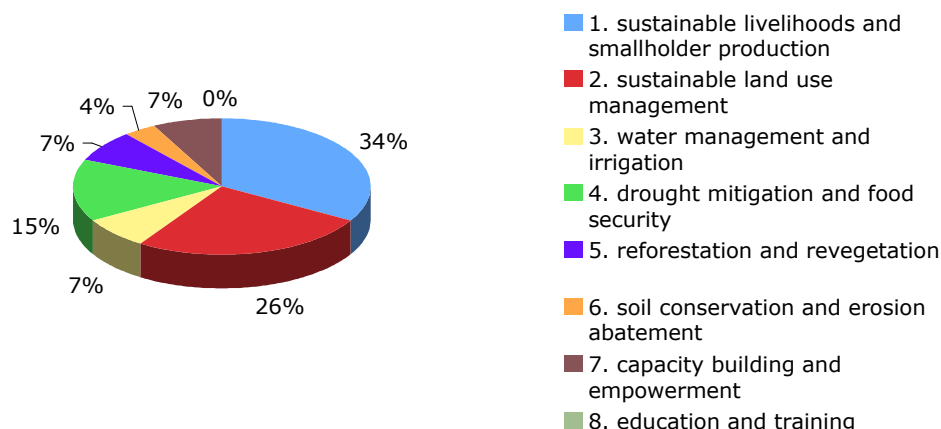
**Table 8: Breakdown of Community financial support per focal theme in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

<b>Commitments in M€</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Total projects supported</i>	9	7	2	4	2	1	2	0	27
<i>Total financial support</i>	11.6	9.5	21.3	1.4	2.2	25.0	1.2	0	72.3

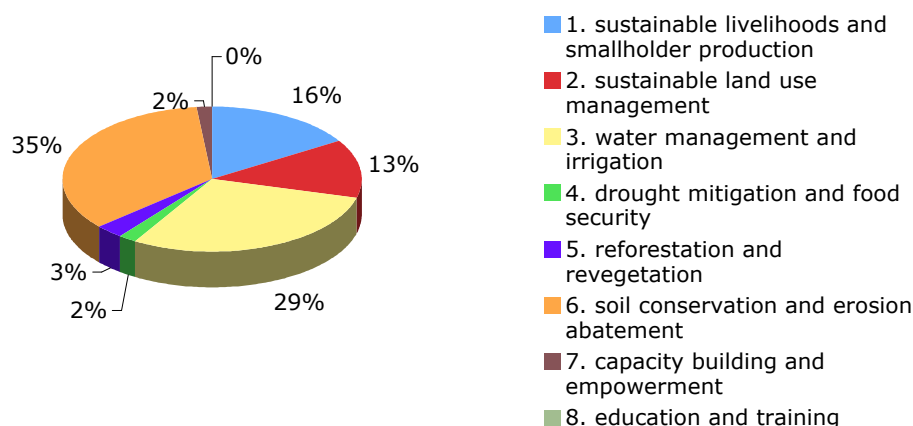
*Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.*



**Figure 7: Distribution of Bilateral Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in Latin America and the Caribbean - per focal theme.**



**Figure 8: Related financial support by the Community per focal theme in Latin America and the Caribbean.**



In this region the largest percentage of projects focus on integrated land and water management, and a large percentage of funding also goes to projects related to soil conservation and erosion abatement. This is due to a large (€25 million) project in Venezuela, which was established in response to floods and land slides in the country. Another large project (€20 million) in Venezuela focuses more on overall water management. Prevention and mitigation of such natural disasters are the priority of the Community's interventions in Venezuela.

The Community also supports activities related to the Amazon tropical forest in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. This support extends to activities in the transition zone with the Cerrado (Brazilian savannah, currently outside the UNCCD definition). The main area of concern is continuing deforestation, which may lead to significant land degradation and rural poverty. The massive deforestation of the Cerrado and Amazon has a direct link to local climate change and may in the future turn humid areas into sub-humid and semi-arid areas. In this respect, the EC supports various projects in the Amazon including a Pilot Programme to Conserve the Amazon and Atlantic Forests of the G7 (PPG7).

Of the 129 supported projects in Latin America that have a relation to land degradation (Annex II), 14 have a direct relationship with marketing agricultural products and trade issues. The Community's support also takes account of the important role of women in land use management, as is illustrated by the following example.

**Box 12: Striving towards gender mainstreaming in trade and development.**

The lack of a gender perspective in the EU–Latin America Agreements, the scarcity of information and tools to measure the effects of trade on gender relations and the lack of women’s participation in decision-making processes were all addressed by a project implemented by WIDE (Women in Development Europe). The project developed and proposed the use of analytical tools to measure the effects of international trade and trade policies on gender relations, including a set of indicators linking trade policy variables to the situation of women.

Source(s): Communication from the Commission on the Programme of Action for the mainstreaming of gender equality in Community development co-operation COM (2001) 295, and gender budget line

**The South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe**

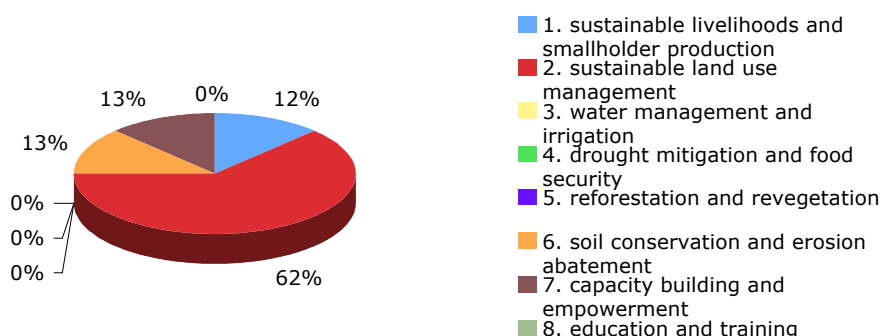
The Community committed €75.2 to eight bilateral projects in the region, (six in Morocco) in the period 2001-2005. Three projects (€6.6 million) are directly related to the UNCCD objectives and five make an indirect contribution (€68.6 million).

**Table 9: Breakdown of Community financial support in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.**

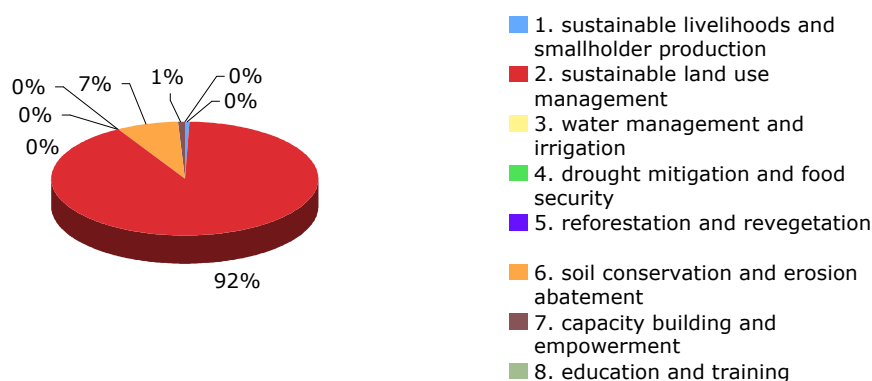
Commitments in M€	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Total projects supported	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
Total financial support	0.3	68.6	0	0	0	5.5	0.7	0	75.2

Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.

**Figure 9: Distribution of Bilateral Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe - per focal theme.**



**Figure 10: Related financial support by the Community per focal theme in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.**



The great majority of the financial support (92%) went to projects, some of them quite large, focusing on sustainable land management (most of them in Morocco and). Some support was also provided to soil conservation and erosion abatement.

In addition, some region-wide projects were supported. MEDA contains the Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP -see Chapter 3). This is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). Under *SMAP-I* one project in Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey (€0.9 million) that relates directly to the objectives of the UNCCD was supported. Under *SMAP-II* three region-wide projects, with a direct relation to the UNCCD objectives, were supported for a total amount of €6.3 million.

One project (€0.36 million) was supported under the LIFE programme, which includes a financial instrument for the Environment.<sup>71</sup> In total five region-wide projects were supported in this region for approximately €7.6 million. The EC also makes substantial financial assistance available to countries in Eastern through TACIS (see section 3.2 for details). An analysis of TACIS with regard to the UNCCD objectives was not undertaken within the framework of this report (see also paragraph 3.2).

### 4.3 Support by the EC to region-wide and worldwide projects

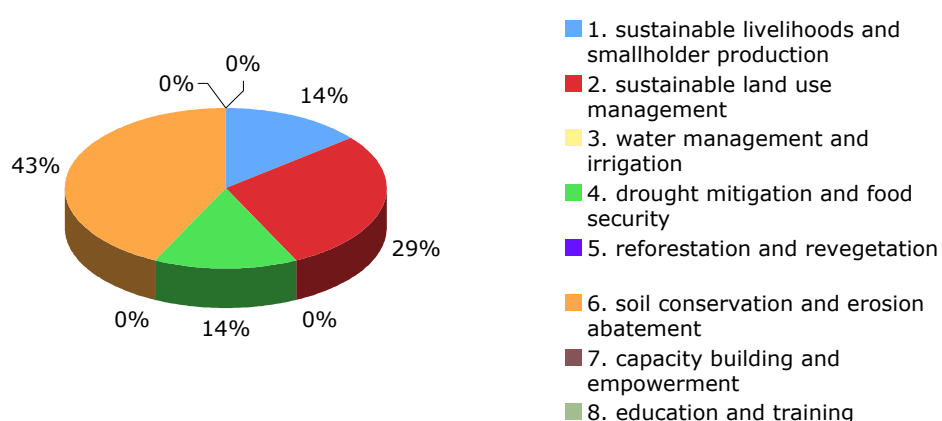
In addition to the bilateral projects described above, the Community also supported a number of region-wide and worldwide projects. The focus of these projects is described in the figure below (11) as well as by figure 12 which portrays the distribution of funding over the various focal themes.

**Table 10: Breakdown of Community financial support to region-wide and worldwide projects.**

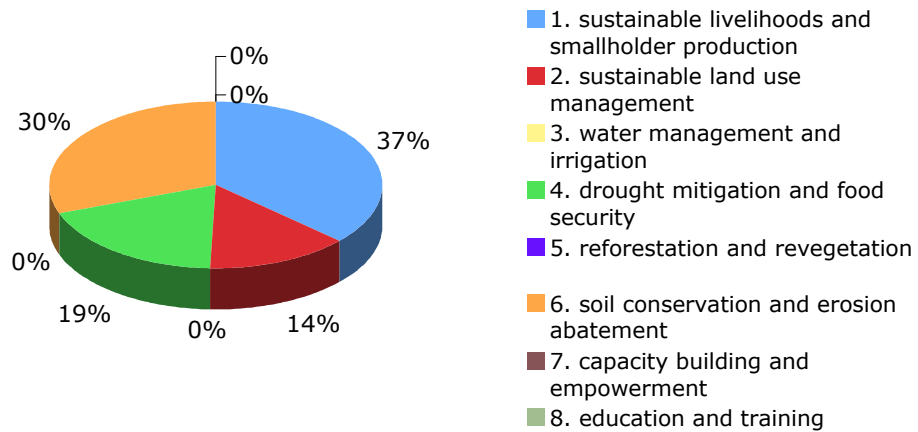
Commitments in M€	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Total projects supported	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	7
Total financial support	6.3	2.3	0	3.3	0	5.2	0	0	17.2

Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.

**Figure 11: Distribution of region-wide and worldwide Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community - per focal theme.**



**Figure 12: Related financial support by Community per focal theme.**

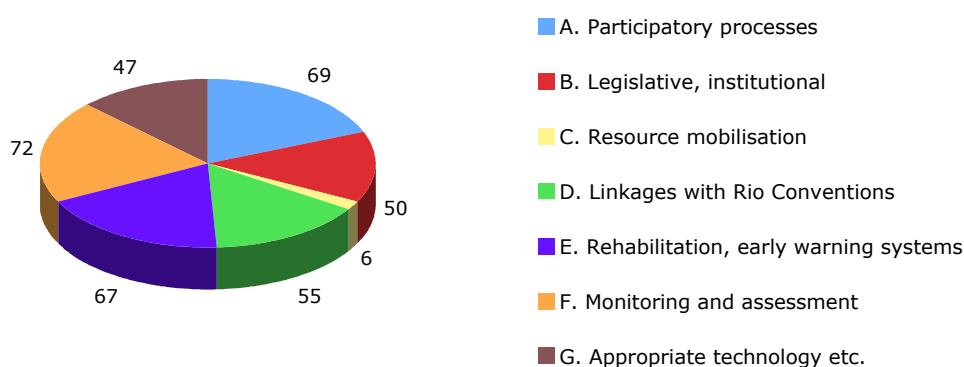


Compared to the bilateral projects the region-wide and worldwide projects focus more on soil conservation and erosion abatement, and on drought mitigation and food security (although the overall number of projects is small in comparison to the total number of bilateral projects). However, the largest single project is a small-grants fund for Asia, which has been classified as focusing mainly on sustainable livelihoods and smallholder production.

## 5 Analysis of the contribution to CRIC key themes

This chapter explains how the Community has contributed to the CRIC key thematic topics in the regions covered in this report. Annex II-A of this report offers an overview of Community supported projects that are relevant to these respective themes.

**Figure 13: Community support to the CRIC key themes** (*total number of projects contributing to a specific theme. One project can contribute to more than one theme*).<sup>72</sup>



### 5.1 Participatory processes involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs

The UNCCD puts strong emphasis on participatory processes and the creation of an enabling environment, which enhances action at local level.<sup>73</sup> A number of local, regional and international NGOs, working at different levels, have exerted much influence on global policy development over biodiversity management, food security and hunger, and human rights. Many grassroots CBOs<sup>74</sup> NGOs have made substantial contributions to setting grass-roots development agendas and drawing up strategies for achieving national development. CBOs are well placed to promote the application of traditional technologies in combating desertification because they are people-driven and are in a position to appreciate the role and potential of such technologies in development. They also play a key role in disseminating information about such technologies. NGOs also conduct training, advocacy or extension functions in desertification abatement, sustainable land development and related fields of production. In addition, some NGOs represent professional organisations and local governmental authorities. In this case, enabling local authorities to participate is important, whether they are appointed or elected. The organisations that represent them in the international arena, such as the International Union of Local Authorities and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives,<sup>75</sup> can be further encouraged to engage more deeply in land degradation abatement.<sup>76</sup>

The Community supports a broad range of bilateral projects implemented by NGOs and CBOs. In total, approximately 69 projects supported participatory processes involving civil society organisations (see figure 13). The Community also created a specific budget line called the '*Co-financing of actions undertaken by European NGOs in developing countries*' (ONG-PVD). Under this budget line support was provided to 37 projects in a range of countries for a total amount of €25.3 million (see Annex 2). There is a large number of projects under the NGO budget line, including the consolidation and up-scaling of viable appropriate technological and institutional traditional approaches. They cover the fields of agro-forestry, farming, grazing, landscape restoration and organizational, sharing and risk aversion arrangements. Such projects generate very tangible results at field level.

In addition to these projects, another estimated 32 bilateral projects have contributed to this CRIC theme with the majority (19) financed through the '*Environment and Tropical Forests*' budget line.

The European Commission also undertakes and supports participatory policy dialogues. For example, the EC regularly solicits the views and ideas of NGOs in Europe and elsewhere to inform its own priority setting and policy making.<sup>77</sup> Such inputs are reflected *inter alia* in the Community's contributions to the UNCCD discussions, its dialogue with national governments and in other fora. Civil society participation is also a priority area in the Community's Country Strategy Papers. As a rule, the Community co-hosts side events during the UNCCD, COP and CRIC meetings to meet civic society organisations (CSOs) to gather their perspectives on desertification and related technical and policy-institutional issues. In preparation for such fora, the Community has held meetings with the European Networking Initiative on Desertification (eniD) over the past five years<sup>78</sup>. The Community has also taken on board eniD's feedback on relevant policy developments, including the role and future of UNCCD's Committee on Science and Technology and the framework of meetings of desertification experts of the Working Party on International Environmental Issues at the level of the EU Council of Ministers.

Box 13 (below) highlights the linkages between international political priorities and local interventions.

**Box 13: Ecuador and Peru. Regional integration for sustainable environmental management and desertification control.**

The project is situated in Ecuador's Sierra region and Peru's Piura region, specifically in the arid zones of Zapotillo (Ecuador) and Lancones (Peru). The total budget is €2.9 million for a period of five years. The general objective is to contribute to a general improvement of the quality of life and sustainable management of the crossborder ecosystem by improving market opportunities for products with an ecological certification.

This project contributes to UNCCD objectives by improving land use practices and working towards sustainable use of arid areas. Although not identified as such, it also contributes to the objectives of the co-operation agreement between the EC and the Andean Community (Rome 15-12-2003). The focus is on political and social stability, regional integration, and on poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. Analysis of the extent to which such a project contributes to the more strategic objectives of regional integration and co-operation was not included.

*Source: CRIS database contract no. 114783.*

There are obstacles to meaningful civil society participation in achieving the UNCCD's objectives. CSOs indicate that these include the lack of outreach to, and financial means for, enabling civil society engagement together with a lack of political support for and mainstreaming National Action Programmes and integrating them with other development strategies.<sup>79</sup> The private sector, NGO and research sectors see a need to work together to share information and engage governments on these issues. The EC is open to explore avenues to foster further dialogue<sup>80</sup>. Experiences with CSO participation in EC UNCCD related policy development have so far been positive.

In general, women are still not properly represented as civil society players in resource management issues (or as innovators in developing local technologies). This is an obstacle to genuinely successful land management policies and often hampers economic development.<sup>81</sup> The Community aims to promote gender mainstreaming in projects and programmes at country levels through political dialogue and development co-operation. It also supports gender capacity building in decision making at local, national and international levels (see example in box 5 in paragraph 2.4).

## **5.2 Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements**

The EC Communication on Governance and Development<sup>82</sup> states that governments must ensure steady investment – not disinvestment – in rural productivity (see also para. 2.4, box 4 on governance). The policies and incentives designed to attract a steady stream of financial, technical and human resources to rural areas and political structures, need to ensure that rural populations and rural issues are better represented. Parliaments can contribute enormously in providing effective policy processes and monitoring these processes for sustainable human development<sup>83</sup>. Long-term

development strategies are needed for the sustainable development of dry land regions. The integration of the social-economic and environmental development agenda of drylands within national agendas is primarily a governance issue. Governments and parliaments need to face this challenge and take the lead in this process<sup>84</sup>.

Consistent with its belief in stakeholder ownership, the Commission strives to integrate its support, as outlined in its Country Strategy Papers (CSPs), into a wider framework.<sup>85</sup> The Community seeks to actively promote participatory in-country dialogues on governance and public reform.<sup>86</sup> The Commission's contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD objectives within the legal-institutional context at country level thus gives rise to closer scrutiny of the role of other development strategies, such as PRSPs and long term planning frameworks such as Comprehensive Development Frameworks<sup>87</sup>, in relation to CSPs. It has been observed that, although the UNCCD links land improvement, environmental protection and the fight against soil erosion to poverty eradication through its sustainable development focus, this is often not reflected in PRSPs, related World Bank Country Assistance Strategies and CSPs (see also Annex I). The Community reiterates the crucial interrelationship between poverty alleviation and environment.<sup>88</sup>

In dryland areas most communities have established or are developing governance structures, often with well-articulated customary laws and institutions governing inter-personal relations, property ownership and protocols for resource use. Institutional reforms must allow the rural poor to increase their control over, and access to, natural resources in the areas in which they live. Meaningful delegation of power to grassroots structures requires that the state, donors and other interested parties devolve a substantial portion of authority and responsibility to concerned CBOs. This report has outlined challenges including the development of legislation and regulations, and harmonisation with customary law over such issues as land use rights, liberalisation of land markets, water markets, production subsidies and gender equity.<sup>89</sup> As stated in the Community Development Policy, the Community will actively promote a participatory in-country dialogue on governance and public sector reform.

Through its support to a range of projects and programmes, the Community contributed to decentralisation of Natural Resource Management, capacity building of local authorities, the strengthening of the role of Parliaments, and the social security of the poor in drylands. In the period 2001-2005, an estimated 50 EC supported projects dealt with (although in most cases not exclusively) with the strengthening of legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements.

### **5.3 Resource mobilisation and co-ordination**

Most aid activities are co-ordinated through the CSPs, as described in the previous section. The Community has taken steps to substantially increase aid levels and to ensure faster and adequate delivery: see box 14.

#### **Box 14: Concrete measures to deliver better and faster aid.**

In June 2005, in the light of limited progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, the EU agreed on an ambitious initiative to increase aid to the developing world (to 0.56% of Gross National Income by 2010 or approximately € 20 billion a year extra by 2010). This effort also aims to increase the efficiency of EU aid through co-ordination and harmonisation between Member States and to focus on Africa, with a commitment that the African continent should receive at least 50% of the aid increase.

Three Communications approved in March 2006 show how the Commission intends to deliver on the 2005 commitments and meet the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. They propose an action plan, including joint programming of assistance with Member States, and see the EC on track to deliver on its financial commitments.

- "Delivering more, faster and better"<sup>90</sup> presents a concrete action plan. For each action, it deploys an operational working agenda for 2006-2007.
- "Joint multi annual programming"<sup>91</sup> represents one of the first concrete deliverables of the

action plan. It proposes a joint EU framework to programme development aid so as to improve its effectiveness.

- “Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness”<sup>92</sup> monitors the EU’s performance against its commitments, in terms of the volume of aid and the effectiveness of its delivery. The communication states that the EU is collectively on track to deliver on its financial commitments for the period 2003-4. However, the individual performance of some Member States is still lacking. The ability of the new Member States to meet their commitments is evaluated very positively.

In support of the three communications, the Commission has revised and updated the “EU Donor Atlas 2006”, which maps EU assistance globally. Additional volumes focusing on particular regions will facilitate more specific analysis of EU donor co-operation in a regional context and facilitate the division of labour within the EU. A first volume on Western Africa is already available.

An analysis of Community supported projects and programmes shows that most UNCCD related initiatives have been funded through two thematic budget lines, those on ‘Co-financing with European NGOs’<sup>93</sup> and ‘Environment and Tropical Forests’ (see below). In addition, environment is also treated as a cross cutting issue and mainstreamed within the sectoral budgets.<sup>94</sup> The thematic budget lines characteristically have lower budgets and tend to promote pilot projects, small-scale NGO projects or research. They are generally focused on particular sectors rather than geographical areas:

- The budget line for ‘Environment and Tropical Forests’ (ENV, ex B7-6200)<sup>95</sup> has funded 19 projects to a total amount of €19.9 million in the reference period (2001-2005).
- The budget line ‘Co-financing of actions undertaken by European NGOs in developing countries’ (ONG-PVD, ex B7-6000)<sup>96</sup> has given support to 37 projects in a range of countries for a total amount of €25.3 million.
- The budget line for ‘Food Aid and Food Security’ (ex B7-20)<sup>97</sup> supported nine projects relating to UNCCD objectives to a total value of €9.3 million.
- Another potentially relevant thematic budget line is ‘Decentralised Co-operation’ (ex B7-6430). In this reporting period, no UNCCD-related projects were supported under this budget line.

In the coming years financial resources for the fight against desertification will be provided under the new thematic programme (‘Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources’).

**Box 15: The thematic programme for the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.**<sup>98</sup>

Within the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI), a thematic programme for the environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy (ENRTP) will, from 2007, address the environmental dimension of development and other external policies as well as promoting the EC’s environmental and energy policies abroad<sup>99</sup>.

The programme addresses challenges that have a profound effect on the lives of poor people: rapidly degrading key ecosystems, climate change, poor global environmental governance and inadequate access to, and security of, energy supply. The main components can be summarised as follows:

- Assisting developing countries to make better progress on integrating environmental sustainability in decision making and thus underpin achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by building capacity, supporting the involvement of civil society and developing innovative approaches;
- Promoting implementation of Community initiatives and agreed commitments on the environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy;
- Improving environmental integration and promoting coherence in EU policies affecting third countries through methodological work and enhancing expertise;
- Promoting EU environmental policies abroad by strengthening international environmental governance, negotiation and monitoring, assisting the operation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the UNCCD and promoting EU energy policies abroad, in particular sustainable energy options in partner countries and regions by support for policy development and innovative funding mechanisms.



### ***Local-level mechanisms for making aid available***

The UNCCD calls for the creation of innovative and flexible mechanisms for channelling resources to local levels. In 2005 the Commission published a working paper called 'New Sources of Financing for Development: A Review of Options'.<sup>100</sup> This document investigates various options for innovative sources of financing. It also stresses the importance of looking at innovative mechanisms for aid delivery, to ensure the greatest possible effectiveness of additional resources.

Many Community supported projects follow an integrated approach, simultaneously addressing technical-environmental, economic and social aspects. A common factor to many of these projects is that the applicant, often an NGO, can make funds available to various local-level institutions. A special feature of this is that it creates a financial mechanism that makes small grants available on a local level to poor people. In this way the Community is helping to create flexible financial mechanisms that reach out to the local level. The EC supported Tropical Forestry Small Grants Programme for South and South-East Asia, hosted by UNDP, works in this way. In total 6 bilateral projects focused on establishing such a small-grants mechanism (3 in Asia and 3 in Latin America) for a total amount of approximately €14.7 million.

### ***5.4 Synergies with other environmental conventions and national development strategies***

The drafting and endorsement of the 'Rio Conventions' (the UNCCD, the Convention on Biodiversity –UNCBD, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNCCC) was extremely important in encouraging countries to make commitments and develop national plans to address environmental issues. Other international and national policy frameworks, such as the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), offer a reference framework, and enable donor coordination.<sup>101</sup> At the same time, the multiplicity of texts, regulations and obligations may undermine productivity and lead to contradictions and 'fatigue' at national and international levels.

During the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of environment ministers in 2003, the Community, EU member states and Asian countries underlined that more efforts are required to build stronger synergies between the Rio Conventions and follow up activities. The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) for climate change under the UNFCCC, with the involvement of the UNCCD and UNCBD focal points, provides a good example of this. The same meeting recognised that integrated projects – with a focus on land use planning, agricultural management, watershed management, soil and water conservation, drought preparedness and adaptation, renewable energy, sustainable forest management or reforestation schemes and local institutional strengthening – offer a way to implement the Conventions at concrete levels. They show that it pays to choose an integrated approach to reducing poverty and achieving better land use management. Evaluations of Community supported programmes at both field and institutional levels have shown there are often tangible economic spin-offs. This in turn triggers more opportunities for poverty reduction and economic progress.

The Community believes that more co-ordination and coherence at the national level are essential. The 2003 ASEM Meeting concluded that: '... Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Frameworks and equivalent macro-level planning processes should better take into account issues of sustainability, such as topics agreed upon at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. National planning frameworks at the national level such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, equivalent macro-level planning processes and Agenda 21 provide opportunities to integrate issues of environmental sustainability in poverty reduction'.

Over the past five years, the Community, and EU member states have supported a very broad range of programmes at the local, national and international levels. An estimated 55 Community-supported projects are considered relevant to enhancing synergy and coordination between the three Rio Conventions. Projects implemented at field level often meet with the objectives of more than one Convention or other policy framework, as illustrated by the following example.

**Box 16: EC supported programme in Karnataka, India.**

This programme aims to restore watersheds and strengthen livelihoods in drought prone areas, generating cash income and enabling people to meet their basic needs. Even though this case does not mention any Convention<sup>102</sup>, the methods employed meet the goals of several policy frameworks. This local community oriented programme restores degraded lands by stopping (illegal) logging and encouraging local people to replant tree species (UNCCD). It raises the number of species by planting various species, incorporating local knowledge and customs, and attracting flora and fauna with the renewed forests, thus restoring degraded ecosystems (CBD). It generates alternative and extra sustainable income by growing products for self-consumption and for the market (PRSP). It could even address other Conventions or policy frameworks, such as the UNFCCC through the storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in carbon sinks.

Source: CRIS database (Contract no. 112627)

**5.5 Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought**

Most Community supported projects have as their main objectives securing livelihoods, improving water quality and/or protecting biodiversity. Much of the support given is co-ordinated through NGOs working with local land owners/users. For example, in Gujarat, the Community continued to support a programme of the Aga Khan Foundation (€25.5 million; project 34385) in which land rehabilitation is part of the overall strategy. An estimated 67 projects, which are being supported by the Community address rehabilitation of degraded lands and/or mitigation/adaptation in the face of (the possible threat of) drought. Most of these projects were funded under the *Environment and Tropical Forests* and *Co-financing with European NGOs* budget-lines (see Annex II).

**Early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought**

Remote sensing and early warning systems can be used for mitigating the effects of drought. The Community is supporting the development of systems to assess and communicate trends and risks related to desertification. An example is the Community supported project on the development of indicators in the Mediterranean (DESERTLINKS), described in box 18, below.

**Box 17: DESERTLINKS**

DESERTLINKS will support the UNCCD Annex IV National Committees and other stakeholders at the local, sub-national and national level in combating desertification. It will bring the results of past research on the physical and socio-economic aspects of desertification to bear on the identification and use of desertification indicators at various geographical scales from the local to the European. It will combine a range of indicator types into a desertification indicator system for Mediterranean Europe. It will evaluate the use of the indicator system in new regions and the identification of high-risk areas under different scenarios. It will provide guidelines on the use of indicators to the Annex IV National Committees and the Committee for Science and Technology.

The project has three principal objectives.

1. To work with local stakeholders to identify impact indicators relating to land function; driving force and pressure indicators relating to decision making; and response indicators relating to land management measures taken to combat desertification. To provide a conceptual framework for the indicators of different types and scales. (Part 1).
2. To develop composite indicators, combining those stakeholder-identified ones with a number of bio-physical and socio-economic indicators already developed for Mediterranean Europe at the sub-national scale.
3. To develop composite indicators at the Mediterranean-wide scale. (Part 2). To combine the indicators of different scale and type into a desertification indicator system for Mediterranean Europe, which can be used to explore different management options. To work with both local stakeholders and the National Committees to test and validate the indicator system. To develop guidelines for the UNCCD on the development and use of indicators to manage desertification elsewhere. (Part 3).

Source: website DESERTLINKS: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/projects/desertlinks>

Research groups like MEDRAP have been funded to support the Northern Mediterranean Regional Action Programme to combat desertification. In addition, studies from China have demonstrate the use of a water use efficiency index for this purpose<sup>103</sup> and community supported projects have developed an indicator system that can be consulted online.

### ***Matching rehabilitation<sup>104</sup>, mitigation and adaptation***

The growing calls to harness society's capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change present many opportunities to match such interventions to the frameworks of the UNCCD and the UNFCCC. Firstly, deforestation and other forms of land degradation (such as the burning of peat swamps) are one of the main causes of greenhouse gas emissions and resulting climate change and related droughts and floods. Secondly, land rehabilitation – e.g. through afforestation, promoting natural regeneration and soil restoration – is a vital means of sequestering carbon. Thirdly, rehabilitation of degraded lands is often a prerequisite to enhance local populations' coping capacity in the face of erratic climatic variations and drought. Agroforestry systems, for example, offer local people a means to reduce risk by avoiding dependence on single crops and can have some influence on micro-climate. This is just one example that shows how successful rehabilitation gives added economic value in line with the objectives of adaptation. In other words, by addressing the UNCCD objectives one can simultaneously, and in a cost-effective manner, serve the purpose of 'adaptation' as formulated by the UNFCCC. Likewise, endeavours to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC can generate positive outcomes that serve the priorities set by the UNCCD.

Public funds will be never be sufficient to meet the costs of mitigating against climate change through land rehabilitation and curbing land degradation (and adaptation). Measures therefore need to be economically viable within the market context. This requires that public policies – notably macro-economic policies – favour interventions that bring about the win-win outcomes. Interventions could include water recharge areas, areas of carbon sequestration, nature and biodiversity and areas for tourism and production of organic food. The value of environmental services must be acknowledged and appear in economic cost and benefit analyses. Marketing and sound policies can add great value and restore livelihoods to people living in degraded areas. All of this requires good governance.

### ***Rehabilitation of degraded land***

Rehabilitating degraded land and improving the quality and health of the soil are necessary in order to restore its productivity. As illustrated above, the Community has supported a range of projects where land is being rehabilitated through afforestation or revegetation. Other projects have established communication networks between people affected by land degradation so that they can share experiences and get access to knowledge. Another effective intervention has been developed through a Community supported project that uses local labour and raw waste material to produce geo-textile mats, which are placed on bare soil to halt erosion. These mats lower soil surface temperature, improve shade, and enable plants to rehabilitate the sites. This approach not only provides jobs for local people but products that can be marketed and even exported. Tangible environmental improvements can sometimes be detected within as little as several months. Most rehabilitation schemes however require commitments over several decades for them to bear fruit.

## ***5.6 Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment***

The Community is supporting seventy-two projects that address the monitoring and assessment of drought and desertification. These projects deal with both causes and trends of land degradation/desertification. Large programmes include, firstly, the integrated project DESURVEY. DESURVEY aimed at developing enhanced early-warning capacity, and was funded through the EC's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (approximately €10 million).<sup>105</sup> Partners from China, Chile and North Africa are partners in this European project. The project developed indicators<sup>106</sup> (e.g. water use efficiency of the vegetation) and also monitored socio-economic aspects of desertification on the ground.<sup>107</sup> For example, one research component in China addresses the expansion of cropland into grassland and how this is leading to soil degradation in both the cultivated areas and in the rangeland.

The Community has supported the development of capacity in monitoring land degradation and desertification, in support of UNCCD's objectives, as illustrated by the following examples:

- The Community supported the Remote Sensing and Geo-information Processing project for the assessment and monitoring of Land Degradation.<sup>108</sup> This project entailed a state of the art conference on remote sensing and geomatics. This enabled scientists in affected countries to interact and share experiences, in a context that specifically focused on UNCCD thematic priorities and related information needs. The design of early warning systems takes into account both the spatial and temporal reactions of ecosystems to physical and socio-economical management interventions. Community supported programmes on remote sensing and geo-information processing can then be used to apply the required assessment, monitoring and modelling approaches. With EC support the Remote Sensing Department of the University of Trier facilitated scientific exchange between specialists working on the interface of remote sensing, geo-information processing, desertification/land degradation research and its socio-economic implications. Although targeted at the scientific community, operational opportunities were also presented.
- Desertification and land degradation are caused by natural conditions, overgrazing and over cultivation. The Community supported programme DESURVEY explores the relations between land degradation, land use vulnerabilities, agricultural policies, farmers' attitudes and the growing impact of the market in driving changes in land use.
- The Community also supported the European Network for Research into Global Change (EU ENRICH) programme. This deals with UNCCD related information management and exchange in a global perspective and involves all regions (i.e. Annexes I-V) in promoting and enabling the sharing of information and experiences, for example with regard to desertification benchmarks and indicators, prevention and mitigation activities. It offers a platform where experts from these regions can meet.

In addition the EC has supported research projects in the Central and Eastern Europe region and provided funds to many visiting scientists. The Joint Research Centre has also many programmes that support the collection of the basic data and indicators that are necessary for supporting the monitoring of desertification in the region.

### **5.7 Access by affected countries y (particularly developing countries) to appropriate technological knowledge and know-how**

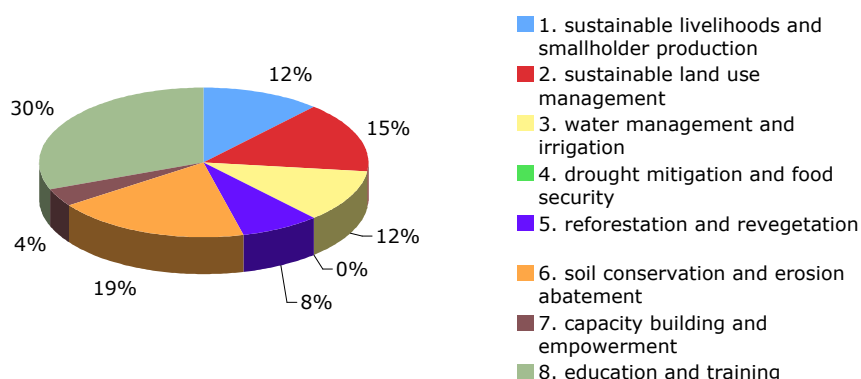
The main financial instrument for supporting research and knowledge sharing is the current Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) for Research and Technological Development (2002-2006).<sup>109</sup> Under the FP6, the programme for International Scientific Co-operation Activities (INCO), and more specifically its sub-programme DEV (development), has defined 'sustainable development, global change and ecosystems' as a thematic priority (budget €2,329 million).<sup>110</sup> Within this framework the Community continues to provide research opportunities on appropriate natural resource use in arid and semi-arid ecosystems in most regions outside Europe that are affected by desertification (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Russia and the NIS). Supported Research projects typically involve more than one country, thus supporting the UNCCD objectives of regional co-operation. In addition to funding co-ordinated research projects, the Commission directly carries out research activities through its Joint Research Centre (JRC).<sup>111</sup>

**Table 11: Breakdown of Community financial support to research projects.**

<b>Commitments in M€</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Total projects supported</i>	3	4	3	0	2	5	1	8	26
<i>Total financial support</i>	1.0	1.6	0.7	0	1.5	1.8	0.3	8.8	15.7

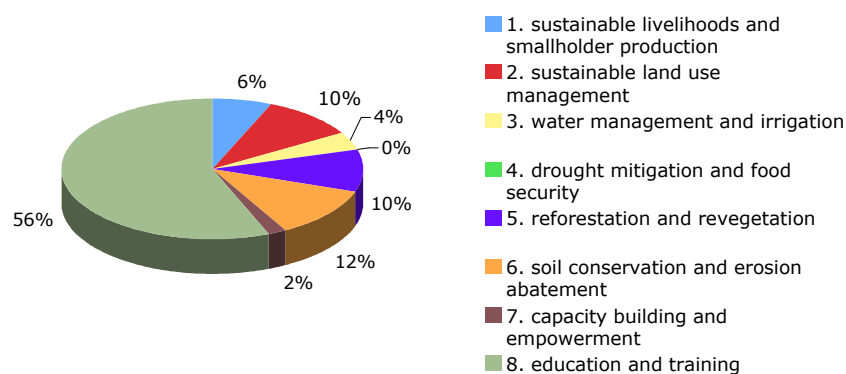
*Source: CRIS database and Table Annex II-B.*

**Figure 14: Research projects supported by the Community.**



As can be seen from the pie chart a large percentage of projects focus on education and training, which includes the sharing of information. In contrast with the bilateral projects in the various regions, where the focus is mainly on integrated land and water management, research projects focus more on soil conservation and soil erosion abatement. The figure below (15) shows that the largest percentage of funding goes to education and training: i.e. the transfer of knowledge.

**Figure 15: Distribution of Community contribution to research projects per focal theme.**



A number of Community supported projects address local-national linkages, aiming to inspire national policy making on the basis of local concrete examples. This is illustrated by the Community's support for the National Wood Energy Programme in Cambodia.

**Box 18: Implementation of the Cambodia National Wood Energy Policy.**

Fuel wood is Cambodia's principal energy source; in 1995 wood accounted for 82% of the country's energy consumption. Fuel wood exploitation has a great impact on natural forests and watersheds, resulting in poorer soil quality, erosion and increased flooding. This EC funded project (€ 1.5 Million) supports the implementation of a national wood-energy strategy and will also support the formulation of a sustainable forest management plan. The project's main elements are: (a) widespread dissemination of improved stoves and kilns; (b) introduction of firewood saving equipment and training at household and small-scale industry level; and (c) assistance to all actors and partners in defining the national management of the strategy.

The impact of the activities is manifold. Households' firewood consumption is reduced and less time is spent on wood collection. People's health will improve from the reduction in toxic smoke and risk of burning, which particularly affects children. The risk of injuries to women and children from anti-personnel mines while collecting firewood is also reduced. The scheme also benefits small businesses which save money through reduced firewood consumption, can better control their manufacturing processes, develop of new products and respond to emerging new markets. A profitable and

sustainable approach to wood-energy management consolidates the organisation of forest communities through small and medium scale processing and marketing of wood and non-timber forest products, sustainable use of wood as an energy source and the promotion of alternatives to agricultural practices based on forest clearing.

Source: CRIS database (contract nr. 59135)

The EU has a large research capacity in the field of desertification, land degradation and water resource management in dry areas.<sup>112</sup> Many students or young scientists from developing countries have been able to study or do research at specialist centres, particularly in Spain, Italy and Greece. The Community also supported the S. de Boker Research Station in the Negev Desert (under its programme of access to infrastructure). Community support enables young scientists from developing countries to visit the Station, follow courses and do research.

At the beginning of 2002 the Asia-Link Programme was launched to promote regional and multilateral networking between higher education institutions in Europe and those in developing countries in Asia.<sup>113</sup> Six projects, which support the objectives of the UNCCD, were committed for a total amount of €1.7 million (see also Annex II).

The Community spends a substantial amount of ODA on research into desertification and land degradation abatement. The challenge is to ensure that research – in line with the Convention – is action oriented, and that the research agenda is jointly set by the scientific community, its clients, namely land use managers, particularly local people, and decision makers. It also implies that results from research become readily applicable for and available to these actors. This was the spirit of the EU 5th Action Programme, and all the EU desertification research projects, including Medrap, Medalus, Medaction, SCAPE and DESERTLINKS, are based on these goals.

#### ***Appropriate Technology, Traditional Knowledge***

Besides supporting hi-tech technology and research, the Community has also stressed the value of Traditional Knowledge (TK, sometimes known as indigenous knowledge, local technology, native know-how or farmers' practices), which is a key area of attention for the UNCCD (2005).<sup>114</sup> Technology and TK can impart much added value and are of enormous economic importance for both developed and developing countries. TK can involve very refined technologies or very simple ones, which are appropriate, ecologically compatible and locally manageable. TK is often the subject of 'scientific study', but does not so often provide an input into science, or decision-making based upon scientific information. In a technologically driven, fast-changing environment, it may not always catch the attention of decision-makers. In Europe there has been a great loss of traditional knowledge, including that which relates to desertification and sustainable land management. It is important that Europe and other countries collaborate to benchmark, archive and use the common knowledge of the present and the past.

An estimated 47 Community supported programmes, directly or indirectly focus on Traditional Knowledge (TK): through land based production systems, manufacturing practices and artisan capacities of traditional technologies (see box 19).

#### **Box 19: Appropriate technology: marrying traditional knowledge<sup>115</sup> and modern know-how.**

Many Community supported programmes (notably under the co-financing with European NGOs budget line) support communities that have evolved sound land use techniques that may involve control of wind and water erosion; water conservation; improvement of soil fertility; plant protection; forestry; social structures; and energy.<sup>116</sup> *Livestock* keeping is the most widespread form of land use in many dryland regions, with crop cultivation being limited to irrigated, riverine agriculture and water harvesting systems. The wetlands that are dotted around dryland landscapes provide water for livestock and wildlife<sup>117</sup> as well as for irrigation. Dryland communities have often developed sustainable wetland management practices that constitute valuable drought-coping strategies.<sup>118</sup>

Although agricultural production in drylands is limited to relatively moist pockets, dryland farmers have managed to expand their cropping fields through *diversification* of crop species and varieties, integration of crops with livestock and other strategies that help secure food, other basic needs and income. This is often accompanied by water and soil management techniques that address water deficiency and soil infertility and which involve both *structures and practices for surface and ground water management*.<sup>119</sup> Such structures and practices are appropriate<sup>120</sup> to given terrains, soils and production systems. The structures are predominantly built with local materials.<sup>121</sup> *Technologies* often include conservation tillage, nutrient management, and complex agro-pastoral-forestry systems. *Forestry* can play an integral part in the farming system and plays a central role in supporting all aspects of vulnerable lands. Tree planting and management of existing natural vegetation support food security, provide fodder for livestock, act as defence lines against sand dunes, protect against dry or cold winds, and provide wood, fuel, and non-timber forest products such as gums and resins, honey, wax, fruits.

Community support includes the funding action research and programmes at field level. Projects being supported aim to consolidate, adjust and up-scale dryland resource management based on TK, often in combination with modern knowledge.

*Source: Promotion of Traditional Knowledge, UNCCD CST, 2005. CRIS database.*

It is recognised that traditional and modern knowledge are complementary and can strongly stimulate bottom-up sustainable development. It is also recognised that men and women often have very distinct roles in managing natural resources in areas affected by desertification. More attention must be paid to the role women play as innovators in developing local technologies. Much depends on how government agencies, donors, scientists, NGOs and other stakeholders succeed in creating an enabling environment in which traditional knowledge can be maintained, revitalised and further developed. It is often also crucial to enable local land managers to adjust their traditional practices in response to changing circumstances.<sup>122</sup> This calls for marrying traditional and modern knowledge. There is a need, for example, for more joint efforts between farmer-innovators and researchers to further improve modern and traditional land and water management practices. Community supported programmes illustrate that TK plays a primary role in bottom-up, land degradation abatement and poverty alleviation. Equally important is the monitoring and assessment of the current and future effects of these traditional, modern and combined systems in combating land degradation. “Many of the issues surrounding the promotion, protection and use of traditional and local knowledge are being addressed through international collaborative efforts. Yet, it is at the local level that the ultimate benefits of such work should be realised”.<sup>123</sup>

## **6 Findings and conclusions on the EC contribution to implementing the UNCCD**

### ***Community support in figures***

Between January 2001 and January 2005 the Community supported a total number of 128 projects in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Northern Mediterranean regions, with an estimated total contribution of €338.3 million. Out of this total 102 projects (for an estimated amount of €322 million) directly or indirectly targeted land degradation abatement. The remaining 26 projects (totalling €15.7 million) supported scientific work pertaining to the UNCCD objectives. The majority of the 128 projects were supported under two thematic budget lines, those for the "Environment in Developing Countries" and for "Non-Governmental Organisations").

These interventions predominantly focussed on the integrated use and management of land and water and on improving livelihoods (80% of the projects and 72% of the funding).

Given the complexity of the land degradation (the number of very different forms that it takes) and the multifaceted Community policy responses it is increasingly difficult to identify projects and activities that are solely carried out with the aim of combating desertification. Integrated project design (i.e. the current acknowledged method for shaping projects and programmes that address complex issues, such as those involved in natural resource management) makes difficult to disaggregate the exact value of funds committed by the EC.

### ***I. Participatory processes involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs***

1. The Community has supported various CBOs and NGOs in developing local strategies to address desertification, which were in line with national development agendas. Experiences with such participation in policy processes have been positive and may inspire similar dialogues between governments and civil society. Civil society participation is particularly effective in addressing issues related to gender. Dealing with the gender issues that permeate desertification has been found to be an efficient and effective way of overcoming barriers to sustainable dryland management.

### ***II. Legislative and institutional frameworks***

2. Analysis of the CSPs and feedback received from the EC Delegations, revealed that, for various reasons, the UNCCD National Action Programmes are often unheard of and rarely play a role during the bilateral dialogue between the EC and partner countries. As a consequence they are not integrated in the EC Country Strategy Papers or other national development frameworks. Hence the "drylands agenda" is disconnected from the national social-economic agenda and the national political debate (at parliamentary level). To address this situation, more analytical work is needed to establish and make visible the social and economic costs of land degradation. Moving the drylands agenda more firmly into the rural development agenda establishing the appropriate linkages between natural resources management, land degradation and the fight against rural poverty appears a necessary step at this stage.

### ***III. Resource mobilisation and co-ordination***

3. As a result of the considerations detailed under point 2.2, land degradation does not appear as a priority sector for intervention in CSPs or other national development frameworks. This hampers the allocation of resources to land degradation abatement. In addition, most Community supported projects that relate to UNCCD implementation have been funded through the thematic budget lines and not through the geographical instruments. This is a further indicator of the limited success of mainstreaming environmental issues (sustainable land management in this case) within development co-operation.
4. The emphasis laid by the EC on a multidisciplinary approach to food security and sustainable rural development, through the promotion of 'diversification' of the rural economy is an avenue with enormous potential. In this respect the Community's commitment to a substantial increase in support to rural development, food security and agriculture is



promising. The Community has also invested in some flexible mechanisms and budget lines to enable resources to be channelled to the local level. It appears that by making small grants available locally, the EC has made significant and tangible progress towards meeting several UNCCD objectives.

#### ***IV. Synergies with other environmental conventions and national development strategies***

5. Community projects implemented at field level often comply with the objectives of more than one Rio Convention or other policy framework. This illustrates the added value of an integrated approach to poverty reduction and land use management. Such interventions should be enhanced.

#### ***V. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought***

6. Societies increasingly need to adapt to the effects of climate change. Community supported projects show that there are significant opportunities to link interventions within the frameworks of the UNCCD, the UNFCCC with poverty reduction strategies and the rehabilitation of degraded land. Such projects exemplify that synergies and win-win situations can be promoted. Since the EU has much experience and capacity in the rehabilitation of degraded land, there is an enormous opportunity to support the NAPs to stimulate synergy with climate change adaptation.

#### ***VI. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment***

7. The Community is playing a leading global role in monitoring and assessing desertification. The results of this build up in expertise and knowledge still have to be more integrated in policy processes and dialogue (both on a country level as well as within the UNCCD). More attention is needed to ensure that the data and knowledge are passed on and applied in action-oriented mitigations.

#### ***VII. Access by affected country parties (particularly affected developing countries) to appropriate technology knowledge and know-how***

8. Various Community supported projects in different regions illustrate that sound land-use techniques based on Traditional Knowledge (TK) play a primary role in poverty alleviation. It is recognised that traditional and modern knowledge are complementary and can often provide a strong stimulus for bottom-up sustainable development. Such elements deserve to be further scaled-up. Clearer recognition also needs to be given to the often very distinct roles of men and women in managing natural resources in areas affected by desertification.

## **7 EC input to CRIC-5 discussions**

This Chapter is intended as a possible contribution to the CRIC-5 discussions from the EC perspective and its own experience, and builds on the findings of this report. This input is presented and structured according to the key-themes/headings of CRIC.

### ***I. Participatory processes involving civil society, NGOs and CBOs***

1. Meaningful participation of grass-roots structures could be enhanced if more attention is given to sharing and/or transferring authority, responsibility and resources to a more local level. Supporting the decentralisation of Natural Resource Management and, where appropriate, strengthening the role of Parliament, should be necessary components of this process. Support and political commitment (both domestic and from the international community) to institutional reforms, democratic governance and gender issues in affected countries appears key.
2. Local institutions would also benefit from specific capacity building and experience-sharing programmes for effective dryland management.
3. The importance of gender needs to be more continuously addressed, especially in country level programmes and political dialogues, in order to achieve an equitable and effective division of responsibilities and benefits in dryland management.

### ***II. Legislative and institutional frameworks***

4. Governments and donors face a challenge in raising the profile of the inter-linkages between social and economic progress and dry land management and highlighting the specific needs and potential of dryland areas. National parliaments and local, decentralised administrations have a key role in shaping sustainable development strategies for drylands. Consideration should be given as to how these actors can be empowered to play a more pro-active role in policy formulation and the implementation and monitoring of activities that promote sustainable human development. Governance and decentralisation processes will contribute in raising the political profile of resource management issues such as, access rights, tenure, and gender.

### ***III. Resource mobilisation and co-ordination***

5. The degradation of land and other natural resources and its relation to social and economic development deserves more attention in the programming dialogue. Because of, often, low intrinsic productivity, inadequate infrastructure and numerous social constraints, private entrepreneurs are not attracted to invest in the development of low rainfall areas. Hence it is crucial to establish incentives to help investors and entrepreneurs to become catalysts for sustainable economic development in these areas.
6. Instruments such as tri-partite partnerships between government, the private sector, and NGOs should be explored as ways of addressing the needs of local communities within rural development programmes. More resources should be made available through flexible small grant schemes, which enable a better outreach to local communities, their intermediary organisations, small-scale entrepreneurs, local governments and applied action research.

### ***IV. Synergies with other environmental conventions and national development strategies***

7. The majority of the rural poor in dryland areas rely on subsistence farming and natural resources for their basic needs. Subsistence farmers are not, and are unlikely in the near future, to become linked to world markets. At most, they can expect to derive their income from local markets. Community supported projects and research indicate that the expansion of the production of commodity products for global markets has (or will have) a substantial impact on dryland areas.

8. Although land degradation is mainly seen as an environmental issue (and programmes to address it are often financed under environmental budgets) it is above all a development and poverty issue that has significant economic and social implications. The experience of the EC is that providing the rural poor with access to alternative sustainable livelihood options is a first line of defence against migration and in achieving social security. This involves diversifying the rural economy, which provides people with options other than rural-urban migration. Enabling people in drylands to restore the vegetation and the productive capacity of their environment supports their livelihoods and makes a significant contribution to maintaining and restoring the fragile environmental balance.

***V. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought***

9. Adequate policies and planning instruments are needed to add economic value to the goods and services provided by drylands. Ideally these should take into account future adaptation needs to climate change.
10. National programmes in the fields of (primary) education and health could be more beneficial if squarely placed within the context of local peoples' daily environmental realities. A closer link between education and enhancing people's capacities to manage dryland environments will enlarge local (young) people's coping capacities in the face of adverse conditions (such as drought) and new opportunities (such as trade and market developments). The chances of children living in drylands could be substantially enlarged by primary education that emphasises vocational training geared towards local conditions.

***VI. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment***

11. A vast amount of Traditional Knowledge and information is being lost. Similarly, there are often problems with accessing and transmitting scientific knowledge. Land degradation and restoration involve long-term commitments and this implies the need for an organised and institutionalised information management. Land degradation abatement would benefit from data monitoring and sharing, and/or a structured archiving function.

***VII. Access by affected countries (particularly affected developing countries) to appropriate technological knowledge and know-how***

12. One of the biggest emerging challenges is ensuring that research on sustainable land management is action oriented and that the research agenda is defined on the basis of users' needs, particularly those expressed by local people and vulnerable communities. Equally results from research activities should be readily applicable and available to these actors and decision makers and land use managers in dryland areas. This implies the need for building stronger alliances between the scientific community and practitioners pursuing UNCCD objectives.

## List of Figures, Boxes and Tables

### A. Figures

- Figure 1: External relations in EU spending in 2000 (€bn)
- Figure 2: Community Support for Desertification and Land Degradation in the world's regions
- Figure 3: Distribution of Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community – by focal theme.
- Figure 4: Related financial support (M€) by the Community per focal theme.
- Figure 5: Distribution of Bilateral Projects relating to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in Asia (incl. Central Asia & Caucasus) - per focal theme.
- Figure 6: Related financial support (M€) by the Community per focal theme in Asia (incl. Central Asia & Caucasus).
- Figure 7: Distribution of Bilateral Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in Latin America and the Caribbean - per focal theme
- Figure 8: Related financial support (M€) by the Community per focal theme in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Figure 9: Distribution of Bilateral Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe - per focal theme.
- Figure 10: Related financial support (M€) by the Community per focal theme in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.
- Figure 11: Distribution of region-wide and worldwide Projects related to Desertification and Land Degradation supported by the Community - per focal theme
- Figure 12: Related financial support (M€) by Community per focal theme.
- Figure 13: Community support to the CRIC key themes (*total number of projects contributing to a specific theme. One project can contribute to more than one theme*)
- Figure 14: Research projects supported by the Community.
- Figure 15: Distribution of Community contribution to research projects per focal theme.

### B. Boxes

- Box 1: Environmental Integration or "mainstreaming" in practice
- Box 2: The European Consensus on Development
- Box 3: Brazil: agriculture, globalisation and degradation
- Box 4: Governance in the European Consensus for Development
- Box 5: Guatemala, Gender and Land.
- Box 6: New geographic instrument
- Box 7: EU-ACP relations: the Cotonou Agreement and its revision
- Box 8: EU and the Caribbean: a new partnership for growth, stability and development.
- Box 9: New strategy to strengthen EU partnership with the Pacific islands
- Box 10: Afghanistan: security, social stability and land degradation
- Box 11: Land degradation in the Philippines and EC-Philippines dialogue.
- Box 12: Striving towards gender mainstreaming in trade and development
- Box 13: Ecuador and Peru. *Regional integration for sustainable environmental management and desertification control.*
- Box 14: Concrete measures to deliver better and faster aid.
- Box 15: The thematic programme for the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- Box 16: EC supported programme in Karnataka, India.
- Box 17: DESERTLINKS
- Box 18: Implementation of the Cambodia National Wood Energy Policy.
- Box 19: Appropriate technology: marrying traditional knowledge and modern know-how.

## **C. Tables**

- Table 1: EC Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by sector 2001-2005 (M€Euro).
- Table 2: EC Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by sector 2001-2005 (M€Euro).
- Table 3: Regional breakdown of development assistance 2001-2005 (payments €million).
- Table 4: Country breakdown of EC development Aid (ODA and OA) Commitments in 2001-2005 (in M€) to the countries of South & Central Asia and the Far East & Southeast Asia
- Table 5: Breakdown of Community support per region
- Table 6: Breakdown of Community financial support per focal theme
- Table 7: Breakdown of Community financial support in Asia per focal theme
- Table 8: Breakdown of Community financial support per focal theme in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Table 9: Breakdown of Community financial support in the South and East Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central and Eastern Europe.
- Table 10: Breakdown of Community financial support to region-wide and worldwide projects
- Table 11: Breakdown of Community financial support to research projects

**ANNEX I - Countries, their institutional relations with the EC and # bilateral projects.**

Region, Countries	Political dialogue	Agreements	NAP	CSP/NIP or RSP	Remarks & linkages	# proj.	Total € EC contr.
<b>ASIA</b>							
Afghanistan	EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration, 2005; Afghanistan Compact	ALA, EC/Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement 2005		2003-2006	Natural resources, agriculture and rural development and economic alternatives for farmers and labourers in the context of comprehensive rural development are key areas within the agreed objective of economic and social development. Concentrating on those areas of greatest immediate need where the drought continues (Southern Afghanistan).	16	16.361.214
Azerbaijan				2002-2003	Azerbaijan is Europe's major partner in the Caucasus and the EU has given support through TACIS in a wide range of areas. Transport and Oil and security are priority concerns. The CSP does not refer to the Environment. Nevertheless the CRIC report stresses the urgency of dealing with land degradation and the need for resources for managing the environment. It is a barrier to economic development.	1	511.000
Bangladesh		ALA, EC/Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement 1999		2002-2006	Priority interventions in the following sectors: health, population and nutrition; education; food security & rural development; and employment creation.	1	229.780
Cambodia	ASEM	ALA, EC/Cambodia Cooperation Agreement 1999		2000-2003	Amongst the most important environmental challenges in Cambodia are deforestation, overfishing, siltation, overuse of pesticides, waste management, and environmental problems related to the Mekong River. Deforestation is currently the most serious environmental problem leading to land degradation. The woodfuel exploitation has a great impact on natural forests and watersheds, resulting in poorer soil quality, erosion and increased flooding. Another point to be taken into account in Cambodia is the real risk related to the anti-personnel mines, the wood collection by women and children for domestic purpose is the first reason of injuries caused by the mines. The EC addresses environmental issues in Cambodia through support to NGO projects based on the relevant horizontal budget lines.	3	3.338.460
China	ASEM	ALA	2000	2002-2006	The CSD with China is very wide ranging and it does include land degradation. However, no development projects were funded, only a few small research projects. The EU and China have a large joint Biodiversity Programme awarded to the UNDP. The NAP is very comprehensive and a good basis for support. Thirty four per cent of China is affected by desertification according to the CRIC 5 report and it is now receiving priority from the Government.	1	244.871
India		ALA	2001	2002	In the CSD, the central cross-cutting themes for the EC's co-operation strategy comprise improved governance, devolution of decision making and management and the participation of stakeholders, in particular upholding the interests of women and traditionally disadvantaged population groups. The EC also assists communities at risk to be better prepared for natural disasters. The EC will share its expertise, including scientific and technological, to help India unlock the full potential of its economy, induce better returns on its vast economic assets through regulatory and fiscal reform together with privatisation. However, land degradation and desertification are not on any agenda. In comparison with other countries the Official documents suggest a very low priority.	19	66.445.546
Indonesia	ASEM	ALA	2002	2002-2006	Natural Resources Management (NRM) was a priority sector of the EC CSP 2002-2006. Land degradation is therefore a topic of the dialogue on forestry cooperation and regarding Aceh's reconstruction. It is not a priority focus of the overall policy and poverty dialogue with Indonesia. Substantial efforts have been made by the EC to contribute to address land degradation through its forestry programme.	6	12.863.347
Kazakhstan		PCA 1999	2001	RSP 2003	In the CRIC 5 report Land degradation is estimated as costing 6.5 billion dollars and it is a major factor hindering sustainable development. The CSP is focussed on the economic and security interests and environmental damage is not an issue.	1	1.799.562
Kyrgyzstan		PCA 1999	2000	RSP 2003	The CRIC 5 report shows that sustainable land management in most of the country is suffering from desertification. The country has good plans and support. The CST for Central Asia includes supporting poverty relief but in general environmental concerns have a low profile.	1	988.013
Laos		ALA	2000		The CSP prioritizes rural development, with an emphasis on up lands and ethnic minorities, the social sector and trade sector development. Laos, endowed with a rich natural environment is facing a critical challenge to sustainably employ its resources.		
Malaysia		ALA					
Mongolia		ALA	2000	2004-2006	Joint Committee: Focus on the fight against poverty. The CSP has a.o. water management, solar and wind power, and education as focal areas.	1	1.635.588
Myanmar		ALA					
Nepal		ALA	2004	2002-2006	Priority areas for EC-Nepal collaboration include support for sustainable economic development and environmental protection with gender, good governance and civil society as cross cutting themes.	1	374.074
Niue	ACP	ACP	2004	2002-2007	There are several resource and environmental issues affecting sustainable development on Niue e.g. issues relating to climate change and sea-level variability, environmental degradation, coastal erosion, water quality, and water availability. Environment is a cross-cutting issue in the CSP. Resource degradation and environmental issues are tackled through the EC supported South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.		
Pakistan	3rd Generation Agreement, 2004; ASEM	ALA	2002	2002-2006	Land degradation is not a priority theme of cooperation though there are manifold problems regarding desertification as indicated in the NAP. The political dialogue on cooperation emphasized addressing environmental related issues in the frontier regions of NWFP and Balochistan, with a focus on poverty alleviation, social uplift and economic development including environmental improvement. Under the new NIP 54% of budget will be allocated for rural development and NRM.	4	31.500.000
Palau	ACP	ACP	2005	2002-2007	Protection of the natural environment is part of the national development strategy. The environment and resources are still relatively unspoiled but impact is growing. However, the environment is fragile and needs protection and requires careful planning. Environment is a cross-cutting issue in the CSP.		

Philippines			2004	2005-2006	Land degradation is not formally a priority topic in the EC-Philippines political dialogue. The EC supported Upland Development Project (UDP), promotes the adoption of legislation to encourage sustainable agricultural practices in upland areas, including soil protection measures. The Delegation has been involved in the self-assessment process by the Government of the Philippines on national capacities to meet the country's obligations to the UNCCD and other MEAs.	3	20.389.269
Sri Lanka		ALA	2002	2002-2006	EC support focusses a.o. on migration, security and support to civil society groups.		
Tajikistan			2001	RSP 2003	The EU has been present with four particular instruments: humanitarian assistance through its ECHO aid office, the Food Security Programme,	1	119.000
Thailand			2004	2002-2006	The EC-Thailand Country Strategy Paper, which sets out a five year (2002-2006) strategy for EC-Thailand co-operation, and a National Indicative Programme for the next three years (2002-2004) included two focal areas: trade and investment, and public health and health services. Environment is identified as one of the other areas of co-operation.		
Turkmenistan			1997	RSP 2003	From 1991 to 2001, €41 million were allocated to TACIS National Programmes in Turkmenistan, with priority given to the food sector, enterprise restructuring and human resources. The national indicative programme for 1996-1999 focused on structural and institutional reform, agriculture and agro-industry development, and infrastructure development. Desertification and land degradation are not issues.		
Uzbekistan			1999	RSP 2003	Turkmenistan NAP is receiving some support from the UNDP, GEF and Germany but there is a great need for assistance. Desertification processes and causes are well documented and explained.	1	1.200.000
Vietnam			2002	2002-2006	The overarching objective of EC-Vietnam cooperation is poverty reduction in a sustainable manner, with two focal areas for action: enhancement of human development and integration of Vietnam into the international economy. Cross-cutting themes include environmental protection, culture and education, gender equality, the promotion of human rights, and good governance.		
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>						<b>60</b>	<b>157.999.724</b>

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN						
Antigua and Barbuda	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	2005	2001-2007	The CSP gives priority to the education sector and unforeseen events like emergency assistance and instability of export earnings. The NAP indicates that most region fall under the semi-arid and sub-humid regions and a major cause is sugar plantations on hillsides and affects agriculture and farming. It also mentions the increasing impact of tropical storms and hurricanes on vegetation and the coast.	
Argentina	Mercosur	ALA, IFCA 19-03-1996: Trade, economic cooperation, integration. Specific mention of environment and sustainable use (Art. 17)	1997	2000-2006	Potential linkages to agriculture (sheep ranching, soja), poverty, environment. LD mentioned in CSP.	4 8.321.789
Barbados	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	2001 (draft)	2002-2007	Barbados is a dry country and depends on rainfall for its water supply. The frequency of drought in about 3 in 10 years and has been related to El Nino occurrences. Land degradation as a result of the large scale clearance of the natural vegetation, abstraction of mineral resources and poor farming practices have along with settlements (focus on Scotland district). National and regional EC support to human resource development ralted productive sectors, private sector development and the challenges of globalisation and trade.	
Bolivia	Andean Community	Rome 15-12-2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context	1997	2002-2006	Strong linkages between environmental degradation and poverty. EU focuses on PRSP. No priority to drylands.	1 676.296
Brazil	Mercosur	ALA, IFCA 19-03-1996: Trade, economic cooperation, integration. Specific mention of environment	2004	2001-2006	Degradation and deforestation threaten natural resources. In Northeast strong linkage between poverty and dryland management. Environment and Northeast poverty priorities of EC support.	7 5.988.172
Chile	Association Agreement	Environment and natural resources are a priority for Chile	1997	2002-2006	EU development policy is subordinate. Erosion and overexploitation are major problems. .	1 845.071
Colombia	Andean Community	ALA, Rome 15-12-2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context	2004	2002-2006	NAP: issue in dry tropical forest and Adean region (80% affected by erosion). CSP: EU development policy focuses on a.o. poverty reduction and alternative development. Impact on environment is a cross-cutting issue. No priority.	
Costa Rica	Central America	Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement have been launched.	2004	2002-2006	Costa Rica has some dry marginal areas where bad planning, illegal deforestation and hunting, roads and cities has led to soil degradation and poverty. The NAP promotes a.o. research, new sustainable practices and PES. Ec cooperation focuses on modernization & decentralization, economic coop., and scientific co-operation.	
Cuba	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world	2003	see remark	Cuba is guided by the EU Common Position of 2 December 1996, which is updated every year following regular evaluations. The NAP defines action on themes such as social-economic development, instutional instruments and institutional strengthening.	1 195.275
Dominica	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	2004	2002-2007	14% of the land area is vulnerable to land degradation. The NAP stresses the need for coordinated planning and a land use plan. The NAP does not have a budget because this within control of other institutions and agencies. Agriculture is the most important economic sector (esp. banana). The CSP recognises that any development programma should be aligned with sustainable use of the environment (incl. land degradation).	
Dominican Rep.	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world	SRAP proces	2001-2007	The main objectives of the CSP are good governance and poverty reduction. The chosen sectors are education and water & sanitation. Land degradation is not mentioned. A Subregional Action Programme (SRAP is being developed for the Dominican Republic and Haiti.	
Ecuador	Andean Community	Rome 15-12-2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context	2004	OPIN 1999	NAP identifies a.o. linkages with lack of enforcement to regulate resource use, lack of education and lack of participation by civil society. CSP: Priority to poverty reduction (health, education, public services), institutional development and law, environment and economic cooperation. For environment priority is given to Galapagos islands, Amazon and the Guayas coastal region (affected by land degradation).	3 5.417.356
El Salvador	Central America	Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement have been launched.	2000	2002-2006	The NAP indicates that subsistence farming and inadequate practices on hill slopes are the main reasons for degradation and soil erosion. Funding was not available. The CSP states "El Salvador is at grave risk of progressive environmental degradation and destruction, as demonstrated by its high indices of deforestation, soil erosion and loss of biodiversity, and levels of water pollution among the worst in Latin America". Drought is also significant. The focus however is primarily on modernisation and decentralisation of government, local development and support to the productive sector. Environment is supported as a theme (focus on watershed management, drinking water).	2 1.545.707
Guatemala	Central America	Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement have been launched.	2001	2002-2006	The NAP is put in the overall framework of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development, national environmental policies and some other sectoral policies. The role of women in NRM is recognized. Degradation is linked to overall pressure on the land and poverty situation (tenure system and avialbility of land, deforestation, firewood collection). The CSP recognises that the natural resources of Guatemala are very fragile (e.g. forests) and vulnerability to natural disasters increased due to land degradation. This vulnerability has priority and environment is treated as a cross-cutting issue for other interventions.	
Guyana	Cariforum		2006		Land degradation is not a priority issue for the country (NAP). The main problems are associated to coastal zone, mining and natural resource use. Financial resources are integral part of general budget. Awareness on drought should be raised. In 2006 a new NAP has been approved and the need for a Land Policy mentioned. There is CSp for Guyana.	



Haiti	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	SRAP proces		- A Subregional Action Programme (SRAP is being developed for the Dominican Republic and Haiti. There is no NAP. Haiti is very poor and heavily logged and farmed beyond its capacity. 70% of population uses firewood as its energy source. The EU considers Haiti as non-complying with the democratic principles of the Cotonou agreement and as a result aid has been suspended between 2001 and 2004. Some support is now directly provided to civil society	1	699.964
Honduras	Central America	ALA, Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement started.	2000	2002-2006	The NAP dates from 2000. Honduras has some severe drought problems. Land use planning and decentralisation became more important after hurricane Mitch. However, the policy framework was considered very sectoral (2002). This has been approved since then. The CSP recognises the importance of forest destruction. The interrelation between poverty and environment is strong. The NAP is not mentioned but the CSP identifies the same priorities: proper land use planning, integrating poverty & environment, and reduce vulnerability to disasters.	1	1.623.838
Jamaica	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	2002	2001-2007	Causes are poverty-related (e.g. logging, firewood). Jamaica has very limited resources, a large foreign debt and depends on external assistance for implementation (NAP). The main economic activities are based on natural resources. Rural poverty is rampant. The CSP supports a non-focal programme on poverty reduction which includes environmental issues.		
Mexico	Association Agreement + MoU	ALA, Agreement on Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Co-operation (the "Global Agreement", 1 October 2000).	2000	2002-2006	A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed for the years 2001-2006 which includes 4 priority action lines: (1) the fight against poverty and for social development, (2) co-operation in the economic sector, (3) scientific and technical, educational and cultural co-operation, and (4) consolidation of the rule of law and institutional support. The CSP cites the degradation of the environment (costs: 10% of GDP) unsustainable use of resources and refers to the National Programme on Environment and natural resources (which also addresses reforestation and erosion) and forestry. NAP UNCCD is not mentioned. The NAP relates degradation to farming practices and identifies linkages with poverty, social marginalisation and internal migration.	2	949.216
Nicaragua	Central America	ALA, Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement have been launched.	2000	2002-2006	The NAP identifies the drought zone of Nica including relations to El Nino and poverty. The plan promotes alternative sustainable uses and institutional strengthening. The PRSP analyses the rural and agricultural problems and the need for a comprehensive rural policy. Environment and forests are non-focal areas in the CSP. The CSP identifies the environmental pressures including the degradation of land and soil quality. It also specially mention the occurrence and effects of droughts and its impact on rural poverty.	1	634.300
Panama	Central America	Cooperation Agreement, Rome 2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context. In 2006 negotiations on an Association Agreement have been launched.	2004	2002-2006	The NAP identifies an 'Arco Seco' where inappropriate water use (ground- and surface water) is a major problem (besides unsustainable land use practices). In line with this analyses various programmes are formulated targeting these problems. The CSP analysed that small farmers are marginalised in the current production and trade system. The main environmental problems mentioned are pollution (water and air), deforestation and land degradation.		
Paraguay	Mercosur	IFCA 19-03-1996: Trade, economic cooperation, integration. Specific mention of environment and sustainable use (Art. 17)	2000	2002-2006	Priorities of CSP are human development and poverty reduction (E24 million), modernization of the state (E6 mill.), and productive development (E21,7 mill.). Overall 1% on environment. Main environmental problems are massive deforestation, degradation of soils and related to inland water sources caused by agricultural activities and timber extraction. The EC recognizes that environment has to be integrated in its co-operation strategy. However, UNCCD or NAP are not mentioned. NAP raises the same issues and identifies the Chaco-region as the most vulnerable.		
Peru	Andean Community	ALA, Rome 15-12-2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context	1996	2002-2006	Priorities of the CSP are the State of Law and institutional reform, social-economic development and regional integration, with the integration of the horizontal themes gender, disaster preparedness and environment.	1	966.787
Surinam	Cariforum	ACP, the central objectives are poverty reduction, sustainable development, and integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.	2002	2001-2007	CSP emphasizes good governance and the macro-economy. Specific attention is given to sustainable development, i.e. establishing an explicit link between economy and environment, sustainable mining, agricultural and tourism development. Land degradation or desertification is not mentioned. The NAP raises attention to the issue and the (future) impacts of droughts and land degradation. Degradation is the result of inappropriate land-use.		
Uruguay	Mercosur	ALA, IFCA 19-03-1996: Trade, economic cooperation, integration. Specific mention of environment and sustainable use (Art. 17)	2002	2001-2006	EC focuses on improving the conditions for sustainable development: economic reform, modernization of the state, and social development. A major problem is inadequate natural resource management which could jeopardise the otherwise promising performance of the livestock and agricultural sectors during the last decade. NAP also identifies the problems with farming, forestry, and irrigation.		
Venezuela	Andean Community	ALA, Rome 15-12-2003: Political and social stability, regional integration, poverty reduction in a sustainable development context	2004	2001-2006	For the EC-cooperation avoiding natural disasters, i.e. the floods and land slides, has priority. The country lacks: sound land planning, management policies/instruments, and early warning systems (for floods). Desertification, degradation and erosion are mentioned. Desertification mainly affects regions in the north of the country, and Guajira in particular, on the Colombian border. The areas affected by erosion and potential deterioration include the coastal cordillera (Estado Miranda, Caracas), which suffered the above-mentioned floods. NAP provides an extensive analysis of the estimated affected areas and focuses on sustainable development, education, institutional strength., research and co-operation.	3	45.025.842
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>						<b>28</b>	<b>72.889.613</b>
<b>NORTHERN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION</b>							
Algeria	Mediterranean		1999	2002-2006	The EU has a wide ranging agreement with Algeria but in practice political and security conditions mean that not much is done. Environment is not specifically mentioned. Algeria has a solid NAP and is undertaking many interesting projects. It is active in the UNCCD, recently organising an important conference on desertification policy and actively participating in regional cooperation.		

Armenia			2002	2002-2006	PCA provides a framework for wide-ranging cooperation in the areas of political dialogue, trade, investment, economic, legislative, and cultural cooperation. Land Degradation and desertification is not mentioned. The EU is the prime trading partner (38 per cent). The NAP is very comprehensive and demonstrates that desertification is a major environmental problem limiting sustainable economic development. It calls for government support but this is not part of the dialogue with Europe.		
Egypt	MEDA		1999	2002-2006 RSP	Egypt has been the major beneficiary of EU financial co-operation dedicated to the Mediterranean Partners. The EC funds large-scale programmes in selected sectors, such as for Integrated Local Development – South Sinai. Within the framework of the Association Agreement, the EIB provides interest rate subsidies for environmental projects.		
Gaza/West Bank	MEDA			2002-2006 RSP	The West Bank/Gaza has been granted so far €387.7 million for all kinds of support, including a small amount for water and sanitation. Mostly support is for food security and democracy. Desertification problems also result from the impacts of occupation on land management and from the loss of control over water.		
Georgia			2003	2003-2006	The CRIC 5 report shows that Georgia is doing much to implement the Convention and TACIS is mentioned as one of the several sources of support. However the environment an important issue and desertification related issues are not mentioned in the CSP.		
Iran			2000		The EU does not have any agreements with IRAN. IRAN is doing much to combat desertification and has an excellent technical capacity.		
Israel	MEDA		2004	2002-2006 RSP	Israel participates in the EU framework programmes and there is collaboration in the area of research. Israel is active inside the UNCCD which offers therefore an exchange of ideas with the neighbouring countries.	1	776.112
Jordan			2006	2002-2006 RSP	The NAP includes five major programmes that are mainly "project-based". The programmes include several projects related to desertification monitoring and control, capacity building, natural resources rehabilitation and development. However, these programmes and the proposed projects provide framework for an action plan to combat desertification.	1	451.542
Lebanon			2003	2002-2006 RSP	The CSP mentions environmental degradation as one of the major challenges but in fact relatively little support goes to desertification.		
Libya					Libya is not party to the Barcelona Convention and has not joined any of the co-operative programmes. It does report to the Convention and collaborating with neighbouring countries in UN initiatives.		
Morocco	MEDA		2001	2002-2006	Being a threat for over 90% of the national territory, desertification ranks high in the development agenda of Morocco, as reflected in the NAP, the strategy 2020 on rural development, the national action plan on environment, the 5-year forestation programme, the strategy on oasis protection.	6	73.945.378
Moldova			2000	2004-2006	The PCA with Moldova does not include any specific concerns about the environment and no use is made of TACIS for this purpose. However in the CRIC 5 report of Moldavia, which describes many valuable initiatives, the PCA is actually mentioned as an instrument that is helping with implementing the convention, there is therefore a good link.		
Oman			2005		The Agreements with OMAN do not include desertification. The NAP, revised in 2005 is thorough and a useful source of information. Collaborating with could be beneficial for the regional programs.		
Russia			guidelines are developed	2002-2006	The PCA with Russia is wide ranging and it includes the environment. It does not mention desertification. However, from the CRIC 5 report it is clear that Russia is implementing many projects and that Desertification could be one of the main areas of future environmental policy.		
Saudi Arabia			2005		Land degradation is an issue for the country. The CRIC 5 report describes rehabilitation work.		
Syria	MEDA		2002	2002-2006 RSP	Under Meda, wide ranging support was given to Syria but not in the area of desertification. The NAP says that the doubling of the population since 1980 is a major factor in the degradation of the natural resource.		
Tunisia	MEDA		2000	2002-2006 RSP	Neither the Environment and Desertification are included in the CSP or Mediterranean partnership agreements. Tunisia is very active in combating desertification and has a state-of-the-art research station. Tunisian scientists participate in several EU research projects, It fulfill an important role regionally. The NAP is substantive, but there are very many problems that it has to address.		
Turkey	MEDA		not yet available	2002-2006 RSP	Turkey is a partner with the Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece and there is much collaboration. Turkey has many operational activities and a strong research and knowledge base. Desertification is not an important issue in the agreements with the EU.		
United Arab Emirates			2003		The PCA with the Ukraine does not include special mention of the environment or desertification. There is little information about the application of the Convention in the Ukraine.		
Ukraine				2002-2006	Environmental issues are not a priority in the agreements, Ukraine has not reported much on the work it is doing under the convention.		
Yemen			2000	2002-2006	The Environment is mentioned in the Cooperation agreement with the Yemen. However, the CRIC 5 report (2006) explains that desertification is a serious problem. It seems to have a clear plan and has received support from the UNDP. It has not received support from other donors.		
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>						<b>8</b>	<b>75.173.032</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>96</b>	<b>306.062.369</b>

**ANNEX II A - Overview Community supported projects.**

Assessment of relevance of project for land degradation/desertification issues in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas:

2 = relevant, i.e. directly contributing to CCD objectives

1 = partially relevant: (a) indirect contribution through enabling conditions (b) only part of the project contributes to abatement of land degradation

\* = dubious whether it falls within contract period, but indicated as relevant by feedback delegations

Region, Countries	CRIS contract number	Assessment of relevance	Description	Budget Line	Total € EU contribution	UNCCD Key Themes:						
						A. Participatory processes	B. Legislative and institutional	C. Resource mobilization.	D. Linkages Rio Conventions.	E. Rehabilitation, and early warning systems.	F. monitoring and assessment	G. Access to appropriate technology etc.
<b>ASIA (including CENTRAL ASIA &amp; CAUCASUS)</b>												
Afghanistan	54476	1	Livelihood Support and Drought Mitigation Project.	ASIE - RELEX	1.000.000	1						1
Afghanistan	70881	2	Capacity and Institution Building for environmental management in Afghanistan Phase I.	ASIE - RELEX	973.000	1	1					1
Afghanistan	84419	1	Provision of Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment for the implementation of the Food Security/Water Management Project in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar Provinces.	FOOD AID	2.143.620		1			1		
Afghanistan	88074	2	Capacity and Institution Building for environmental management in Afghanistan Phase II.	ASIE - RELEX	3.000.000	1	1		1			1
Afghanistan	101165	1	Poverty reduction in Ghor through sustainable socio-economic interventions. Consolidation	ASIE - RELEX	779.869	1			1			1
Afghanistan	101169	1	Consolidating the sustainable rural recovery programme in Bala Murghab.	ASIE - RELEX	445.000	1			1	1		
Afghanistan	101820	1	Kunduz - Takhar - Baghlan Provinces, People for environment - Environment for people - GAA & PIN - Upstream Water Catchment Protection and Forest Regeneration (Grant contracts with NGOs).	FOOD AID	2.000.000					1		1
Afghanistan	103355	1	Rural recovery programme in Western Afghanistan, Districts of Taywarah and Pasaband - Consolidation Phase, Afghanistan.	ASIE - RELEX	699.084	1			1	1		
Afghanistan	103845	1	Support to Rural Water and Sanitation in Drought affected Areas of Afghanistan.	FOOD AID	472.674	1				1	1	
Afghanistan	105198	1	Drought Relief through Support to the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector in the North of Afghanistan.	FOOD AID	560.000	1				1	1	1
Afghanistan	105202	1	Mitigation of Water Insecurity in Daikundi Province of Afghanistan.	FOOD AID	363.752					1		1
Afghanistan	105372	1	Rural Recovery Kandahar and Zabul - Consolidation Phase.	ASIE - RELEX	702.037	1						1
Afghanistan	107192	1	Baghlan (areas of Qela Gai & Sirkaray canals) - Takhar (areas of Nahr-e Sayed & Zargar canal), Participatory Management of Irrigation Systems (PMIS) in the Kunduz River Basin - AKF & URD.	FOOD AID	1.000.000					1		1
Afghanistan	108400	2-b	Food security, standard of living enhancement and market formation programme, Badghis Province.	ASIE - RELEX	680.000	1				1	1	1
Afghanistan	108700	1	Kunduz (areas of Qala-e Zal, Ashqalan & Safi-e Qarya Yatim canals) - Takhar (areas of Sharawan canal), Social Water Management in Afghanistan (Kunduz River Basin Programme) - GAA & ZEF.	FOOD AID	1.500.000		1					1
Afghanistan	110201	1	Issa Khel canal rehabilitation project in Kunduz (project KRBP-1) in the food security/water management project in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar Provinces.	FOOD AID	42.178		1					1
Azerbaijan	112039	1	Community based project to improve access to drinking water for vulnerable men and women from Agjabedi to Beylagan.	ONG-PVD	511.000	1	1			1		1
Bangladesh	103548	2-b	Chittagong Hill Tracts Improved Natural Resources Management (CHARM).	ASIA - PRO	229.780				1	1		
Cambodia	59135	2-b	National Wood energy policy implementation in Cambodia.	ENV	1.541.640		1		1	1		1
Cambodia	62067	1	Water, sanitation and food security in Oddar Meanchey.	ONG-PVD	497.997	1	1			1		
Cambodia	81410	1	Promoting Community Forestry.	ENV	1.298.823	1						1

China	98495	2	Land Amelioration and Desertification Alleviation by Short-Rotation-Plant Using Saline/Brackish Water (LADAS).	ASIA - PRO ECO	244.871						1	1
India	?	1*	Ravine Stabilization in Uttar Pradesh.	ASIE - RELEX	7.900.000						1	1
India	2618 etc	1*	Haryana Community Forestry Project.	ASIE - RELEX	23.300.000	1	1		1	1		
India	11044	1	Development of Drought Prone Area of Marungapuri Andthiruvarangulam Blocks,Tamil Nadu.	ONG-PVD	427.237						1	1
India	11063	2-a	Integrated rural development programme in desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.	ONG-PVD	500.000	1			1	1		
India	11715	1	Integrated watershed management for equitable, productive and sustainable village ecosystem development in Vedasandur block of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu.	ONG-PVD	557.025	1	1		1	1	1	
India	11776	1	Small credit support to self-help groups of poor women through women's joint committees in rural areas of Maharashtra.	ONG-PVD	999.373	1		1	1	1		
India	11847	1	Community based natural resource management along watershed lines for sustainable rural livelihoods in the districts de Nasik, Dhule and Nankurbar.	ONG-PVD	1.000.000	1					1	
India	11850	2-a	Co-operative natural resource management for sustainable agriculture and poverty alleviation in dry areas of Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh.	ONG-PVD	1.000.000	1	1			1	1	
India	34385	1	Sustainable Community-based Approaches to Livelihoods Enhancement.	ASIE - RELEX	25.500.000	1	1		1	1		
India	54477	2-b	Restoration of the tropical dry evergreen forest of the Coromandel coast.	ENV	414.632	1			1	1		
India	59138	2-a	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal and aromatic plants in the cold deserts of the Indian Himalayas.	ENV	1.042.598	1			1	1		
India	63675	2-b	Participatory rural livelihood development programme in drought prone regions of Karnataka State.	ONG-PVD	431.959	1	1					1
India	68528	1	Protection and Promotion of forest for economic security among tribes, Jharkhand State.	ENV	654.798	1			1		1	
India	96823	1	Sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and strengthened institutions, Karnataka and Orissa	ONG-PVD	321.909	1	1				1	
India	109921	1	Two-way communication between rural communities in India & knowledge centres & expert networks in India & EU (TELE-SUPPORT).	ASIE - RELEX	386.326	1					1	1
India	112366	2-b	Improved Livelihood for Dalits and other marginalised communities, Uttar Pradesh.	ONG-PVD	150.502	1	1				1	
India	112627	2-a	Block Grant, in total 11 projects; a.o. Community Empowerment Action - Belgaum, Karnataka; Integrated Dry Land Development Action,Kolar, Karnataka; Integrated Community Development Action, Bikaner, Rajasthan.	ONG-PVD	980.655	1		1			1	1
India	113202	2-b	Integrated Rural Development Programme in Ahmednagar, India.	ONG-PVD	367.385	1	1					1
India	113376	2-b	Community Based Natural Resource Management for Drought Proofing and Livelihood Security in Chamarajanagar District, The action aims to improve community based and sustainable natural resource management for enhancing livelihoods in 5 poor and drought prone areas.	ONG-PVD	511.147	1					1	
Indonesia	47285 etc.	1	South Sumatra Forest Fire Management Project.	ASIE - RELEX	8.500.000		1		1		1	
Indonesia	54224	1	Underlying causes and impacts of fires.	ENV	834.241		1				1	
Indonesia	59131	2-b	Participatory land use planning for sustainable forest resource management in the Tanimbar Island, Eastern Indonesia.	ENV	983.741	1					1	
Indonesia	68519	1	Levelling the Playing Field: fair partnership for local development to improve the forest sustainability in Southeast Asia.	ENV	1.410.715	1	1		1	1		
Indonesia	69440	1	Communal Management of Tropical Forests and Reforestation of Degraded Grasslands as an Integrated Strategy for Rural Development.	ENV	836.365	1	1		1	1		
Indonesia	79071	1	Indonesian smoke induced by drought episodes (INSIDE).	ASIA - PRO	298.285		1		1	1		
Kazakstan	30596	2-b	Environmentally friendly development in Kyzylorda region (North Aral Sea).	TACIS	1.799.562	1			1	1		
Kyrgyzstan	69435	2-b	Introduction of Sustainable Multipurpose Management in Juniper Forests in South Kyrgyzstan.	ENV	988.013		1				1	1

Mongolia	65439	1	Development of agricultural services, activities include policy advice on rural development issues, development of new on-farm and non-farm enterprises, better animal husbandry, esp. veterinary issues, development of new arable crops, improved irrigation etc.	TACIS	1.635.588	1	1				1	1
Nepal	11658	2	Sustainable Rural Livelihood in Sankhuwa Sabha District, Arun Valley.	ONG-PVD	374.074	1	1		1	1		
Pakistan	2621	1	Palas Conservation and Development Project (PCDP): Support integrated participatory environmental, social economic development programme in the Palas Valley of the West Himalayas (1998-2005): The project aims to safeguard the biodiversity of the Palas valley by enabling local communities to tackle the linked causes of poverty and incipient natural resource degradation.	ASIA - PRO ECO	4.800.000	1	1	1	1		1	
Pakistan	2681	1	Environment Rehabilitation in NWFP and Punjab (ERNP): Improve national resource management and assist environmental rehabilitation through village organisation/ community mobilisation approach. (Kotli Satian, Murree-Kahuta, Galiat and Dir-Kohistan)(1996-2005).	ASIE - RELEX	25.200.000	1	1				1	
Pakistan	94712	2	Sustainable livelihood initiatives in disaster prone areas of Pakistan, this project aims to reduce poverty, vulnerability, & gender imbalance & improve the livelihoods of disaster-affected communities, particularly women, by creating the critical links between relief, rehabilitation & sustainable development continuum at policy & practice level.	ONG-PVD	750.000	1	1			1	1	
Pakistan	96479	2-b	Integrated development programme for AJK and Balochistan (IDPAB): to rehabilitate and develop the capacity of the targeted communities of AJK and Balochistan by providing them with the means of improving their livelihoods through an integrated developmental approach.	ONG-PVD	750.000	1					1	
Philippines	2733	1*	Upland Development Programme for Southern Mindanao (UDP).	ENV	18.300.000	1			1		1	
Philippines	69421	1	Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape Bio-diversity Conservation and Community Poverty Reduction Project.	ENV	650.000	1			1	1		
Philippines	81910	1	Governance and Local Development for Endangered Forests (GOLDEN Forests).	ENV	1.439.269	1			1		1	
Tajikistan	103427	2-b	Support to the land reform in Northern Tajikistan through local extension and support services.	TACIS	119.000	1	1		1		1	
Uzbekistan	48433	2-b	Uzbekistan : Food and water security in the drought struck regions of North Western Uzbekistan.	FOOD AID	1.200.000	1	1		1	1		
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>				<b>157.999.724</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN</b>												
Argentina	11320	1	Lotta alla Desertificazione e Sostegno All'agricoltura allevamento dei Produttori dell'alto Chubut, Argentina.	ONG-PVD	149.321	1				1	1	
Argentina	16705	1	Apoio a la mejora de la productividad de las PyMES del Sector Forestal Industrial.	ALA - RELEX	6.000.000		1	1	1		1	
Argentina	59120	1	Cambios climáticos y sumideros de carbono: Centro de Investigación, Observación y Monitoreo Ambiental (CIOMTA).	ALA - RELEX	997.447				1		1	
Argentina	63645	1	Preservación y gestión participativa de los recursos naturales de la región Interfluvio Teuco-Bermejito en el marco del Plan de Desarrollo Sostenible/ CHACO/ Argentina.	ALA - RELEX	1.175.021	1	1			1		
Bolivia	59130	2	Manejo de bosque, uso sostenible, participación y fortalecimiento de las organizaciones locales de la serrania del aguarague.	ENV	676.296	1	1		1	1		
Brazil	11340	2	Promoção de Micro-Empreendimentos na Área de Serviços, Artesanato e Agricultura do Setor Informal e Apoio na Construção e Estabilização de Estruturas de Auto-Ajuda, Nordeste do Brasil.	ONG-PVD	1.000.000	1		1	1		1	
Brazil	11825	1	Promoción del Desarrollo Local Sostenible y la Equidad de Genero en Asentamientos Rurales y Zonas Urbano Marginales de la Micro Región de Mata Sul.	ONG-PVD	457.412		1		1		1	
Brazil	81688	2	Sustainable use of forests in the Serra das Lontraa, a forest complex in Bahia State, organic cacao production through farmers cooperatives.	ENV	1.526.819	1			1		1	
Brazil	112055	2	Desenvolvimento sustentável da agricultura familiar, Nordeste do Brasil.	ONG-PVD	749.999	1					1	
Brazil	63127	1	Construindo comunidades sustentáveis no sertão da Bahia.	ONG-PVD	379.401	1			1	1		
Brazil	94651	1	Improving the living conditions of families farmers from the sertão do São Francisco region through the promotion of a sustainable development model, Bahia.	ONG-PVD	750.000	1	1				1	
Brazil	94767	1	Segurança Alimentar e Acesso a Mercado para Agricultores Familiares do Araripe, Pernambuco.	ONG-PVD	1.124.541	1	1				1	
Chile	62355	2	Rio H - Agenda Civil, contra la pobreza et la desertificación. Empoderar a la gente, para la proteccion ambiental B7-6200/2002/0668.	ENV	845.071	1	1			1	1	



Cuba	11527	1	Participatory and sustainable use of bamboo with environmental and socio-productive objectives in Cuba.	ONG-PVD	195.275		1			1									
Ecuador	59124	2	Gestion concertada para el control de la desertificacion y la regeneracion del bosque seco.	ONG-PVD	1.763.086	1				1	1								
Ecuador	11686	1	Proyecto de riego y desarrollo local Pilaro Ramal Norte, Appui a un projet d'irrigation a Tunhuragua.	ONG-PVD	1.298.490	1				1	1								1
Ecuador & Peru	114783	2	Integración Regional para el Manejo Ambiental Sostenible y el Control de la Desertificación en Ecuador y Perú.	ONG-PVD	2.355.780	1	1			1									1
El Salvador	11217	2	Apoyo a la introduccion de practicas de diversificacion pro-ductiva, a la conservacion de los suelos y del agua y a la reforestacion en cuatro municipalidades del departamento Demorazan.	ONG-PVD	445.707	1													1
El Salvador	81820	1	Gestión comunitaria para la conservación y uso sostenible del Bosque de Cinquera, El Salvador.	ENV	1.100.000	1				1	1								
Haiti	11669	1	Programme agroforestier de stabilisation de la production dela petite paysannerie.	ONG-PVD	699.964														
Honduras	81261	1	Proyecto de comanejo sustentable de la biosfera Tawahka Asangni (BTA) y parte Sur de la biosfera de Río Plátano.	ENV	1.623.838					1	1								
Mexico	10999	2	Tecnología di Lavorazione del suolo con il sistema deltaglio orizzontale.	ONG-PVD	299.222														1
Mexico	59144	2	Conservación y Desarrollo Comunitario en la Costa de Oaxaca.	ENV	649.994	1													1
Peru	96911	1	Block Grant, Reducir la vulnerabilidad de las personas afectadas por desastres naturales, conflictos civiles y degradación ambiental, Propósito : fortalecer la capacidad de los pobres para disminuir los riesgos de desastres.	ONG-PVD	966.787	1	1	1											1
Venezuela	11703	1	Reconstrucción y Rehabilitación Social, Ambiental y Económica Post-Catástrofe de las Comunidades de la Zona de Barlovento del Estado Miranda.	ONG-PVD	25.842														1
Venezuela	120404	1	Proyecto "Programa de Prevención de Inundaciones en los Estados Falcón, Yaracuy y Miranda.	LAT AMERICA	20.000.000														1
Venezuela	120492	1	Proyecto "Prevención de desastres en el Estado Vargas."	LAT AMERICA	25.000.000														1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>				<b>72.255.313</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>						
<b>SOUTH AND EAST MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION</b>																			
Israël	11887	1	GD Development plan 2001-2003 Golan Heights.	ONG-PVD	776.112		1												1
Jordan	113071	1	A Pilot Programme in the Ajloun forest Region as a Replicable Model of Sustainable Resource Management and fight against povert in the conflict affected Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.	ONG-PVD	451.542		1			1									1
Morocco	3324	1	Développement rural participatif dans le Moyen Atlas Central.	MEDA	15.000.000	1	1												1
Morocco	3409	1	Développement participatif des zones forestières et péri-forestières de la province de Chefchaouen.	MEDA	24.000.000	1	1												1
Morocco	3420	2	Aménagement anti-érosif du bassin versant de Sidi Driss.	MEDA	5.500.000					1	1								
Morocco	4579	1	Appui au développement rural intégrée.	MEDA	28.400.000	1	1												1
Morocco	11132	2	Programme d'appui aux initiatives participatives locales degestion des ressources naturelles, et de lutte contre la desertification et le deboisement.	ONG-PVD	339.144	1				1	1								
Morocco	81284	2	Renforcement des capacités nationales en matière d'éducation et de sensibilisation à l'environnement dans les domaines de la biodiversité, des changements climatiques et de la désertification.	ENV	706.234		1			1	1								1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>				<b>75.173.032</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>						

REGIONAL AND WORLD WIDE PROJECTS											
World wide	81719	1	Tropical forests and climate change adaptation: Criteria and indicators for adaptive management for reduced vulnerability and long-term sustainability.		3.295.049				1		1
South-East Asia	3607	1	Tropical Forestry Small Grants Programme South-SE Asia.		6.334.550				1		1
North Africa		2	Mise en place de systèmes pilotes de suivi de la désertification dans deux pays de la rive sud de la Méditerranée : Tunisie et Maroc.	LIFE	355.400						1
North Africa		2	Mise en place de systèmes de suivi: évaluation des programmes d'action de lutte contre la désertification dans les pays maghrébins.	MEDA-SMAP	1.438.945				1		1
North Africa		2	Demonstration Project on Strategies to combat desertification in arid lands with direct involvement of local agropastoral communities in North Africa.	MEDA-SMAP	3.446.678	1			1	1	1
North Africa		2	Plan d'Action contre la Désertification dans les Pays du Maghreb.	MEDA-SMAP	1.438.945		1			1	1
Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey		2	Promouvoir l'exploitation durable des terres arables par l'introduction des méthodes de culture biologiques.	MEDA-SMAP	910.310	1				1	1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>				<b>17.219.877</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>				<b>322.647.946</b>						

RESEARCH PROJECTS												
												proj. code
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10023	1	ARUL KUM Desertification in the Aral sea region : a study of the natural and anthropogenic impacts.	INCO-MED	409.202							
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10015	1	DARCA Desertification and regeneration : modelling the impact of market reforms on Central Asian rangelands.	INCO 2	980.620		1				1	1
Central Asia	ICA2 – CT-2000 –	1	CIRMAN ARAL: Crop irrigation management for combating irrigation induced desertification in the aral sea basin.	INCO-MED	652.632						1	1
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10001	1	PLADADINFIS: Prevention of land degradation in the Aral sea region undergoing disastrous desertification by increasing tolerance of symbiotic nitrogen fixation (snf) to salinity.	INCO	600.000					1		1
Mediterranean	ICA3-CT-2002-10002	1	MEDCOASTLAND NET; Mediterranean co-ordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean coastal zone.	INCO 2	1.305.001					1		1
Mongolia	ICA2-CT-2000-10022	1	GOBI Desertification Assessment and monitoring of desertification processes in Mongolia using remote sensing.	INCO 2	518.150					1	1	1
Uzbekistan		2	INTAS 2005 Microbial plant growth stimulation and control of plant fungal diseases for sustainable production of healthy food, focused on Uzbekistan.							1		1
China	ICA4-CT-2002-	1	IACDWORKSHOP2003China/eu workshop on integrated approach to combat desertification, 16-17 october 2003, Beijing.	INCO 2							1	1
Mediterranean	EVK2-CT-2002-80006	1	CLEMDES Clearing house mechanism on desertification for the northern mediterranean region.	EESD					1		1	1
	HPCF-CT-2001-00003-01	2	Human Potential Photosynthesis in a changing world.								1	1
	ICA4-CT-2001-10040	2	WERRD Water and ecosystem resources in regional development balancing societal needs and wants and natural resources systems sustainability in international river basin systems.				1		1	1		1
Pacific region	ICA4-CT-2001-10048	1	CROPPO Development of integrated farming approached for sustainable crop production in environmentally constrained systems in the Pacific Region.						1		1	1
Himalaya	ICA4-CT-2001-10049	1	Himalayan Degradation An interdisciplinary approach to analyse the dynamics of forest and soil degradation to develop sustainable agro-ecological strategy for fragile Himalayan watersheds.	INCO 2	1.070.000				1		1	1
	ICA4-CT-2001-10051	1	ELNINO Regeneration of semi-arid plan communities: the role of El Nino southern oscillation.	INCO 2							1	1
Mexico/Chile	ICA4-CT-2001-10052	1	REVOLSO Alternative agriculture for a sustainable rehabilitation of deteriorated volcanic soils in Mexico and Chile.		1.500.000					1		1
	ICA4-CT-2001-10095	1	Biodiversity Conservation, restoration and sustainable use in fragmented forest landscapes.	INCO-DEV					1		1	1
	ICA4-CT-2001-10092	2	Safods Smallholder agroforestry options for tree establishment in cropped fields.				1				1	1
Worldwide	JRC Peogramm e	2	Global environment information system GEIS.	JRC Enhancing sustainability	6.300.000				1		1	1
Israel	HPRI-CT-1999-00073	1	NEGEV DESERT ARI Access to Infrastructure.	Human Potential	300.000						1	1
Mediterranean	ICA3-CT-2000-50006	1	DEMOS INCO DC Desertification in the Mediterranean drylamds: results and perspectives in monitoring and application AM.	INCO 2	230.000				1		1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>			<b>13.865.605</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>



ASIA LINK												
	proj. code											
South & Southeast Asia	679012	2	Geo-environmental Engineering Curriculum Development for the South and Southeast Asian Region.	ASIA	299.446		1		1		1	1
Sri Lanka	67929	2	Development of Human Resource Capacity for Teaching and Research on Restoration of Degraded Tropical Ecosystems.	ASIA	291.001						1	1
Philippines	67940	2	Strengthening of the Institute for Agroforestry and Watershed Management.	ASIA	300.000	1					1	1
China & Nepal	81468	1	Academic exchange of soil biophysics: the fundamental science behind the improvement of degraded soils.	ASIA	300.000						1	1
Indonesia	106837	2	AIR-CO / Asia-Europe Collaboration In Knowledge And Research On Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).		300.000				1		1	1
China	94556	2	Geo-environmental engineering training programme in China.		300.000						1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>				<b>1.790.447</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>				<b>338.303.998</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>47</b>

**ANNEX II B - Overview Community supported projects:**

Region, Countries	EC number (CRIS)	Description	Total €EU contribution	Classification of community supported projects by its main/focal theme:							
				1. sustainable livelihoods and smallholder production	2. sustainable land use management	3. water management and irrigation	4. drought mitigation and food security	5. reforestation and revegetation	6. soil conservation and erosion abatement	7. capacity building and empowerment	8. education and training
<b>ASIA (including CENTRAL ASIA &amp; CAUCASUS)</b>											
Afghanistan	54476	Livelihood Support and Drought Mitigation Project.	1.000.000				1				
Afghanistan	70881	Capacity and Institution Building for environmental management in Afghanistan Phase I.	973.000							1	
Afghanistan	84419	Provision of Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment for the implementation of the Food Security/Water Management Project in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar Provinces.	2.143.620							1	
Afghanistan	88074	Capacity and Institution Building for environmental management in Afghanistan Phase II.	3.000.000							1	
Afghanistan	101165	Poverty reduction in Ghor through sustainable socio-economic interventions. Consolidation	779.869	1							
Afghanistan	101169	Consolidating the sustainable rural recovery programme in Bala Murghab.	445.000	1							
Afghanistan	101820	Kunduz - Takhar - Baghlan Provinces, People for environment - Environement for people - GAA & PIN - Upstream Water Catchment Protection and Forest Regeneration (Grant contracts with NGOs).	2.000.000			1					
Afghanistan	103355	Rural recovery programme in Western Afghanistan, Districts of Taywarah and Pasaband - Consolidation Phase.	699.084	1							
Afghanistan	103845	Support to Rural Water and Sanitation in Drought affected Areas of Afghanistan.	472.674			1					
Afghanistan	105198	Drought Relief through Support to the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector in the North of Afghanistan.	560.000			1					
Afghanistan	105202	Mitigation of Water Insecurity in Daikundi Province of Afghanistan.	363.752			1					
Afghanistan	105372	Rural Recovery Kandahar and Zabul - Consolidation Phase.	702.037	1							
Afghanistan	107192	Baghlan (areas of Qela Gai & Sirkaray canals) - Takhar (areas of Nahr-e Sayed & Zargar canal), Participatory Management of Irrigation Systems (PMIS) in the Kunduz River Basin - AKF & URD.	1.000.000			1					
Afghanistan	108400	Food security, standard of living enhancement and market formation programme, Badghis	680.000	1							
Afghanistan	108700	Kunduz (areas of Qala-e Zal, Ashqalan & Safi-e Qarya Yatim canals) - Takhar (areas of Sharawan canal), Social Water Management in Afghanistan (Kunduz River Basin Programme) - GAA & ZEF.	1.500.000			1					
Afghanistan	110201	Issa Khel canal rehabilitation project in Kunduz (project KRBP-1) in the food security/water management project in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar Provinces.	42.178			1					
Azerbaijan	112039	Community based project to improve access to drinking water for vulnerable men and women from Agjabedi to Beylagan.	511.000			1					
Bangladesh	103548	Chittagong Hill Tracts Improved Natural Resources Management (CHARM).	229.780		1						
Cambodia	59135	National Wood energy policy implementation in Cambodia.	1.541.640		1						
Cambodia	62067	Water, sanitation and food security in Oddar Meanchey.	497.997			1					
Cambodia	81410	Promoting Community Forestry.	1.298.823		1						

China	98495	Land Amelioration and Desertification Alleviation by Short-Rotation-Plant Using Saline/Brackish Water (LADAS).	244.871							1		
India	?	Ravine Stabilisation in Uttar Pradesh.	7.900.000							1		
India	2618 etc	Haryana Community Forestry Project.	23.300.000		1							
India	11044	Development of Drought Prone Area of Marungapuri Andthiruarangulam Blocks, Tamil Nadu.	427.237	1								
India	11063	Integrated rural development programme in desert areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.	500.000		1							
India	11715	Integrated watershed management for equitable, productive and sustainable village ecosystem development in Vedasandur block of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu.	557.025			1						
India	11776	Small credit support to self-help groups of poor women through women's joint committees in rural areas of Maharashtra.	999.373	1								
India	11847	Community based natural resource management along watershed-lines for sustainable rural livelihoods, in the districts of Nasik, Dhule and Nankurbar.	1.000.000		1							
India	11850	Co-operative natural resource management for sustainable agriculture and poverty alleviation in dry areas of Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh.	1.000.000		1							
India	34385	Sustainable Community-based Approaches to Livelihoods Enhancement.	25.500.000	1								
India	54477	Restoration of the tropical dry evergreen forest of the Coromandel coast.	414.632				1					
India	59138	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of medicinal and aromatic plants in the cold deserts of the Indian Himalayas.	1.042.598	1								
India	63675	Participatory rural livelihood development programme in drought prone regions of Karnataka State.	431.959	1								
India	68528	Protection and Promotion of forest for economic security among tribes, Jharkhand State.	654.798		1							
India	96823	Sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and strengthened institutions, Karnataka & Sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and strengthened institutions, Orissa.	321.909	1								
India	109921	Two-way communication between rural communities in India & knowledge centres & expert networks in India & EU (TELE-SUPPORT).	386.326								1	
India	112366	Improved Livelihood for Dalits and other marginalised communities, Uttar Pradesh.	150.502	1								
India	112627	Block Grant, in total 11 projects; a.o. Community Empowerment Action - Belgaum, Karnataka; Integrated Dry Land Development Action, Kolar, Karnataka; Integrated Community Development Action, Bikaner, Rajasthan.	980.655								1	
India	113202	Integrated Rural Development Programme in Ahmednagar.	367.385		1							
India	113376	Community Based Natural Resource Management for Drought Proofing and Livelihood Security in Chamarajanagar District, The action aims to improve community based and sustainable natural resource management for enhancing livelihoods in 5 poor and drought prone areas.	511.147	1								
Indonesia	47285 etc.	South Sumatra Forest Fire Management Project.	8.500.000		1							
Indonesia	54224	Underlying causes and impacts of fires.	834.241		1							
Indonesia	59131	Participatory land use planning for sustainable forest resource management in the Tanimbar Island, Eastern Indonesia.	983.741		1							
Indonesia	68519	Levelling the Playing Field: fair partnership for local development to improve the forest sustainability in Southeast Asia.	1.410.715								1	
Indonesia	69440	Communal Management of Tropical Forests and Reforestation of Degraded Grasslands as an Integrated Strategy for Rural Development.	836.365		1							
Indonesia	79071	Indonesian smoke induced by drought episodes (INSIDE).	298.285		1							
Kazakstan	30596	Environmentally friendly development in Kyzylorda region (North Aral Sea).	1.799.562	1								
Kyrgyzstan	69435	Introduction of Sustainable Multipurpose Management in Juniper Forests in South Kyrgyzstan.	988.013	1								

Mongolia	65439	Development of agricultural services, activities include policy advice on rural development issues, development of new on-farm and non-farm enterprises, better animal husbandry, esp. veterinary issues, development of new arable crops, improved irrigation.	1.635.588	1															
Nepal	11658	Sustainable Rural Livelihood in Sankhuwa Sabha District, Arun Valley.	374.074	1															
Pakistan	2621	Palas Conservation and Development Project (PCDP): Support integrated participatory environmental, social economic development programme in the Palas Valley of the West Himalayas (1998-2005): The project aims to safeguard the biodiversity of the Palas Valley.	4.800.000		1														
Pakistan	2681	Environment Rehabilitation in NWFP and Punjab (ERNP): Improve national resource management and assist environmental rehabilitation through village organisation/community mobilisation approach (Kotli Satian, Murree-Kahuta, Galiat and Dir-Kohistan).	25.200.000														1		
Pakistan	94712	Sustainable livelihood initiatives in disaster prone areas of Pakistan, this project aims to reduce poverty, vulnerability, & gender imbalance & improve the livelihoods of disaster-affected communities, particularly women.	750.000	1															
Pakistan	96479	Integrated development programme for AJK and Balochistan (IDPAB): to rehabilitate and develop the capacity of the targeted communities of AJK and Balochistan by providing them with the means of improving their livelihoods through an integrated development strategy.	750.000	1															
Philippines	2733	Upland Development Programme for Southern Mindanao (UDP).	18.300.000		1														
Philippines	69421	Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape Bio-diversity Conservation and Community Poverty Reduction Project.	650.000		1														
Philippines	81910	Governance and Local Development for Endangered Forests (GOLDEN Forests).	1.439.269		1														
Tajikistan	103427	Support to the land reform in Northern Tajikistan through local extension and support services.	119.000	1															
Uzbekistan	48433	Uzbekistan: Food and water security in the drought struck regions of North Western Uzbekistan.	1.200.000					1											
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>157.999.724</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>								
<b>LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN</b>																			
Argentina	11320	Lotta alla Desertificazione e Sostegno All'agricoltura allevamento dei Produttori dell'alto Chubut.	149.321					1											
Argentina	16705	Apoyo a la mejora de la productividad de las PyMES del Sector Forestal Industrial	6.000.000	1															
Argentina	59120	Cambios climáticos y sumideros de carbono: Centro de Investigación, Observación y Monitoreo Ambiental (CIOMTA)	997.447		1														
Argentina	63645	Preservación y gestión participativa de los recursos naturales de la región Interfluvio Teuco-Bermejito en el marco del Plan de Desarrollo Sostenible, CHACO.	1.175.021		1														
Bolivia	59130	Manejo de bosque, uso sostenible, participación y fortalecimiento de las organizaciones locales de la serranía del Aguarague.	676.296		1														
Brazil	11340	Promoção de Micro-Empreendimentos na Área de Serviços, Artesanato e Agricultura do Setor Informal e Apoio na Construção e Estabilização de Estruturas de Auto-Ajuda no Nordeste do Brasil.	1.000.000	1															
Brazil	11825	Promoción del Desarrollo Local Sostenible y la Equidad de Genero en Asentamientos Rurales y Zonas Urbano Marginales de la Micro Región de Mata Sul.	457.412	1															
Brazil	81688	Sustainable use of forests in the Serra das Lontras–Una forest complex in Bahia State, Brazil: organic cacao production through farmers cooperatives.	1.526.819		1														
Brazil	112055	Desenvolvimento sustentável da agricultura familiar no nordeste do Brasil.	749.999	1															
Brazil	63127	Construindo comunidades sustentáveis no sertão da Bahia.	379.401															1	
Brazil	94651	Improving the living conditions of families farmers from the sertão do São Francisco region through the promotion of a sustainable development model, Bahia.	750.000	1															
Brazil	94767	Segurança Alimentar e Acesso a Mercado para Agricultores Familiares do Araripe, Pernambuco.	1.124.541	1															
Chile	62355	Rio H - Agenda Civil, contra la pobreza et la desertificación. Empoderar a la gente, para la proteccion ambiental B7-6200/2002/0668.	845.071															1	

Cuba	11527	Participatory and sustainable use of bamboo with environmental and socio-productive objectives in Cuba.	195.275	1														
Ecuador	59124	Gestion concertada para el control de la desertificacion y la regeneracion del bosque seco.	1.763.086					1										
Ecuador	11686	Proyecto de riego y desarrollo local Pilaro Ramal Norte. Appui a un projet d'irrigation a Tunhuragua.	1.298.490			1												
Ecuador & Peru	114783	Integración Regional para el Manejo Ambiental Sostenible y el Control de la Desertificación en Ecuador y Perú.	2.355.780		1													
El Salvador	11217	Apoyo a la introduccion de practicas de diversificacion productiva, a la conservacion de los suelos y del agua y a la reforestacion en cuatro municipalidades del departamento Demorazan.	445.707					1										
El Salvador	81820	Gestión comunitaria para la conservación y uso sostenible del Bosque de Cinquera, El Salvador.	1.100.000		1													
Haiti	11669	Programme agroforestier de stabilisation de la production dela petite paysannerie.	699.964	1														
Honduras	81261	Proyecto de comanejo sustentable de la biosfera Tawahka Asangni (BTA) y parte Sur de la biosfera de Río Plátano.	1.623.838		1													
Mexico	10999	Tecnologia di Lavorazione del suolo con il sistema deltaglio orizzontale.	299.222					1										
Mexico	59144	Conservación y Desarrollo Comunitario en la Costa de Oaxaca.	649.994	1														
Peru	96911	Block Grant, Reducir la vulnerabilidad de las personas afectadas por desastres naturales, conflictos civiles y degradación ambiental, Propósito : fortalecer la capacidad de los pobres para disminuir los riesgos de desastres.	966.787					1										
Venezuela	11703	Reconstrucción y Rehabilitación Social, Ambiental y Económica Post-Catástrofe de las Comunidades de la Zona de Barlovento del Estado Miranda.	25.842					1										
Venezuela	120404	Proyecto "Programa de Prevención de Inundaciones en los Estados Falcón, Yaracuy y Miranda.	20.000.000			1												
Venezuela	120492	Proyecto "Prevención de desastres en el Estado Vargas."	25.000.000									1						
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>			<b>27</b>					<b>72.255.313</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>SOUTH AND EAST MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION</b>																		
Israël	11887	GD Development plan 2001-2003 Golan Heights.	776.112		1													
Jordan	113071	A Pilot Programme in the Ajloun forest Region as a Replicable Model of Sustainable Resource Management and fight against povert in the conflict affected Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.	451.542		1													
Morocco	3324	Développement rural participatif dans le Moyen Atlas Central.	15.000.000		1													
Morocco	3409	Développement participatif des zones forestières et péri-forestières de la province de Chefchaouen.	24.000.000		1													
Morocco	3420	Aménagement anti-érosif du bassin versant de Sidi Driss.	5.500.000									1						
Morocco	4579	Appui au développement rural intégrée.	28.400.000		1													
Morocco	11132	Programme d'appui aux initiatives participatives locales degestion des ressources naturelles, et de lutte contre la desertification et le deboisement.	339.144	1														
Morocco	81284	Renforcement des capacités nationales en matière d'éducation et de sensibilisation à l'environnement dans les domaines de la biodiversité, des changements climatiques et de la désertification.	706.234												1			
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>			<b>8</b>					<b>75.173.032</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		

REGIONAL AND WORLD WIDE PROJECTS										
World wide	81719	Tropical forests and climate change adaptation: Criteria and indicators for adaptive management for reduced vulnerability and long-term sustainability.	3.295.049				1			
South-East Asia	3607	Tropical Forestry Small Grants Programme South-SE Asia.	6.334.550	1						
North Africa		Mise en place de systèmes pilotes de suivi de la désertification dans deux pays de la rive sud de la Méditerranée : Tunisie et Maroc.	355.400						1	
North Africa		Mise en place de systèmes de suivi: évaluation des programmes d'action de lutte contre la désertification dans les pays maghrébins.	1.438.945						1	
North Africa		Demonstration Project on Strategies to combat desertification in arid lands with direct involvement of local agropastoral communities in North Africa.	3.446.678						1	
North Africa		Plan d'Action contre la Désertification dans les Pays du Maghreb.	1.438.945		1					
Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey		Promouvoir l'exploitation durable des terres arables par l'introduction des méthodes de culture biologiques.	910.310		1					
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>17.219.877</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>		<b>322.647.946</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

RESEARCH PROJECTS	project code:											
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10023	ARUL KUM Desertification in the Aral sea region : a study of the natural and anthropogenic impacts.	409.202							1		
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10015	DARCA Desertification and regeneration : modelling the impact of market reforms on Central Asian rangelands.	980.620	1								
Central Asia	ICA2 – CT-2000 – 10039	CIRMAN ARAL: Crop irrigation management for combating irrigation induced desertification in the Aral Sea Basin.	652.632			1						
Central Asia	ICA2-CT-2000-10001	PLADADINFIS: Prevention of land degradation in the Aral sea region undergoing disastrous desertification by increasing tolerance of symbiotic nitrogen fixation (snf) to salinity.	600.000							1		
Mediterranean	ICA3-CT-2002-10002	MEDCOASTLAND NET; Mediterranean co-ordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean coastal zone.	1.305.001		1							
Mongolia	ICA2-CT-2000-10022	GOBI Desertification Assessment and monitoring of desertification processes in Mongolia using remote sensing.	518.150							1		
Uzbekistan		INTAS 2005 Microbial plant growth stimulation and control of plant fungal diseases for sustainable production of healthy food, focused on Uzbekistan.				1						
China	ICA4-CT-2002-50033	IACDWORKSHOP2003China/eu workshop on integrated approach to combat desertification, 16-17 october 2003, Beijing.			1							
Mediterranean	EVK2-CT-2002-80006	CLEMDES Clearing house mechanism on desertification for the northern mediterranean region.										1
	HPCF-CT-2001-00003-01	Human Potential Photosynthesis in a changing world.								1		
	ICA4-CT-2001-10040	WERRD Water and ecosystem resources in regional development balancing societal needs and wants and natural resources systems sustainability in international river basin systems.				1						
Pacific region	ICA4-CT-2001-10048	CROPPO Development of integrated farming approached for sustainable crop production in environmentally constrained systems in the Pacific Region.		1								
Himalaya	ICA4-CT-2001-10049	Himalayan Degradation An interdisciplinary approach to analyse the dynamics of forest and soil degradation to develop sutainable agro-ecological strategy for fragile Himalayan watersheds.	1.070.000									1
	ICA4-CT-2001-10051	ELNINO Regeneration of semi-arid plan communities: the role of El Nino southern oscillation.								1		
Mexico/Chile	ICA4-CT-2001-10052	REVOLSO Alternative agriculture for a sustainable rehabilitation of deteriorated volcanic soils in Mexico and Chile.	1.500.000							1		
	ICA4-CT-2001-10095	Biodiversity Conservation, restoration and sustainable use in fragmented forest landscapes.			1							
	ICA4-CT-2001-10092	Safods Smallholder agroforestry options for tree establishment in cropped fields.		1								
Worldwide	JRC Peogramme	Global environment information system GEIS.	6.300.000									1
Israel	HPRI-CT-1999-00073	NEGEV DESERT ARI Access to Infrastructure.	300.000								1	
Mediterranean	ICA3-CT-2000-50006	DEMOS INCO DC Desertification in the Mediterranean drylads: results and perspectives in monitoring and application AM.	230.000									1
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>13.865.605</b>									

<b>ASIA LINK</b>	<b>project code:</b>												
South & Southeast Asia	679012	Geo-environmental Engineering Curriculum Development for the South and Southeast Asian Region	299.446										1
Sri Lanka	67929	Development of Human Resource Capacity for Teaching and Research on Restoration of Degraded Tropical Ecosystems	291.001		1								
Philippines	67940	Strengthening of the Institute for Agroforestry and Watershed Management, Philippines	300.000										1
China & Nepal	81468	Academic exchange of soil biophysics: the fundamental science behind the improvement of degraded soils	300.000							1			
Indonesia	106837	AIR-CO / Asia-Europe Collaboration In Knowledge And Research On Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)	300.000										1
China	94556	Geo-environmental engineering training programme in China	300.000										1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>1.790.447</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>		<b>338.303.998</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>		



## **ANNEX III: METHODOLOGY**

### ***Step 1: Selecting potentially relevant projects.***

In preparing this report on the EC's activities in combating desertification in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East Regions, an analysis was made of about 600 projects within the internal EC database (CRIS) and a separate database of projects implemented between 2001 and 2005 and which contained activities that explicitly or implicitly addressed issues of desertification was constructed. Strict criteria were employed in that the date of signing the contract and the subsequent commitment of the EC both fell within the period 2001-2005. In a few noticeable exceptions projects that received follow-up EC funding were included. The following key words were used during the selection process:

- a) Combating desertification, land degradation and erosion
- b) Sustainable land use management including water (integrated water management), soil and vegetation in affected areas
- c) Management of drylands
- d) Sustainable land use
- e) Sustainable agriculture
- f) Development of sustainable ranching systems
- g) Development of new and renewable energy sources
- h) Launching of reforestation / afforestation programmes / participatory forestry
- i) Soil conservation programmes
- j) Food security, early warning systems for food security and drought forecasting
- k) Desertification monitoring and assessment
- l) Desertification/sustainable land management and poverty reduction
- m) Sustainable livelihoods
- n) IPM (Integrated Pest Management), appropriate technology

### ***Step 2: Assessment of the direct or indirect contribution to the UNCCD.***

Subsequently, the projects were assessed on their relevance and whether they made a direct or indirect contribution to the UNCCD. Two entry points were used to assess relevance: (1) the above key words and (2) the activity is related to or is situated in arid, semi-arid or dry sub-humid areas. The qualification of the direct or indirect relation to the UNCCD was based on the DAC criteria called 'Rio Markers'. Under this system an activity is classified as desertification-related (scored as principal or significant) if it aims at combating desertification or mitigating the effects of drought in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid areas through the prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land, or reclamation of desertified land:

#### **1. Related activities by sector:**

- o Integration of action(s) to combat desertification and land degradation within sectoral policy, planning and programmes (e.g. agricultural and rural development policy, plans and programmes).
- o Rehabilitation of land, vegetation cover, forests and water resources, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources.
- o Sustainable irrigation for crops and/or livestock to reduce pressure on threatened land; alternative livelihood projects.
- o Development and transfer of environmentally sound traditional and local technologies, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification, e.g. methods of conserving water, wood (for fuel or construction) and soil in dry areas.

#### **2. Typical non-sector specific activities include:**

- o Preparation of strategies and action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate against the effects of drought; establishment of drought early warning systems; strengthening of drought preparedness and management; observation and assessment of CCD implementation, including monitoring and evaluation of impact indicators.

- Measures to promote the participation of affected populations in planning and implementing sustainable resource management or improving security of land tenure.
- Support for population/migration policies to reduce population pressure on land.
- Capacity building in desertification monitoring and assessment; education, training and public awareness programmes related to desertification and land degradation.
- Research on desertification and land degradation.

As the UNCCD is often not specifically mentioned in project documentation, all activities that DAC classifies as 'principal' or 'significant' were considered to contribute to the UNCCD. Their contribution was considered to be direct if funds were made available to support projects / programmes addressing the above-mentioned topics. It was considered as indirect relation when funds were made available to activities that indirectly contributed to the above-mentioned topics (and already identified in relation to the 'key' words in Step 1). This would include, for example, an income-oriented project aimed at small agriculture-based enterprises in peri-urban areas in an arid region that will improve the marketing of sustainable agriculture products from the region, thereby improving land use.

***Step 3: Questionnaire to EC country delegations.***

Questionnaires about bilateral support for land degradation were sent to the EC Delegations responsible for the implementation of projects in partner countries. The questionnaire included questions on: (1) the (bilateral) political dialogue, (2) the partner country's priority setting regarding land degradation and (3) relevant bilateral projects. Under point 3 the Delegations were asked to verify that the projects mentioned did indeed contribute to the Convention and to provide information about other relevant actions.

The questions under (1) and (2) were more policy oriented. Thus analyses also included an assessment of priority setting between the countries and EC. Annex 1 provides a review of each country's priority setting. This includes: the partner country's institutional relation with the EC, the priorities of the National Action Plan and Country Strategy Paper and the actual projects implemented. At another level, the position and priority given to desertification in dialogues and strategy papers, between the EU and the countries concerned were also considered and discussed with the Commission and EC Delegations.

***Step 4: Qualification of main focus of the projects.***

These steps identified 128 projects with a direct or indirect link to desertification and the abatement of land degradation. These were classified according to their 'main focus' (using one unique classification) based on a set of focal themes (see Annex II-B):

**Sector specific activities:**

1. Sustainable livelihoods and smallholder production
2. Sustainable land use management
3. Water management and irrigation
4. Drought mitigation and food security
5. Reforestation and revegetation
6. Soil conservation and erosion abatement
- (-) Appropriate technology (CRIC theme)

**Non - Sector specific activities:**

7. Capacity building and empowerment
8. Education and training
- (-) Monitoring and assessment (CRIC theme)
- (-) Public participation (CRIC theme)
- (-) Research (CRIC theme)

This report also briefly discusses the direct support given by the EC to the Convention and other organisations that are addressing desertification / land degradation. These include earth observation and monitoring programmes supported by different organisations, including the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and GEO. The latter includes development in Earth Sensing that has the potential to provide affected countries with almost real-time information and knowledge about conditions and trends in their countries. The EU is also funding research projects on desertification in many countries and has contributed to the analysis and redefinition of the tasks of the UNCCD Commission on Science and Technology (CST). In this report, it is not possible to analyse information in detail at the level of individual countries and reports.

## ANNEX IV: CONCISE DEFINITIONS OF DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION

**Box: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, [www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int))**

"**Desertification**" means *land degradation* in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. While land degradation occurs everywhere, it is only defined as "desertification" when it occurs in those areas. Desertification affects 70% of the world's dry lands, amounting to one quarter of the world's land surface.

"**Land degradation**" means a reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands. Land degradation is often linked with food insecurity and poverty, in a cause-effect relationship.

"**Arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas**" means areas, other than polar and sub-polar regions, in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration is between 0.05 and 0.65.

Soil erosion is a major factor in land degradation and has severe effects on soil functions - such as the soil's ability to act as a buffer and filter for pollutants, its role in the hydrological and nitrogen cycles, and its ability to provide habitat and support biodiversity. The main causes of soil degradation are water erosion (56%), wind erosion (28%), chemical degradation, e.g. salinisation (12%) and physical degradation, e.g. loss of vegetative cover (4%).

The underlying causes of desertification are directly related to human activities, human pressures on the environment and resources, social, economic and productive organisation and practice and unsustainable ways of producing and using of natural resources and living. Causes of soil degradation include overgrazing (35%), deforestation (30%), agricultural activities (27%), overexploitation of vegetation (7%), and industrial activities (1%).<sup>124</sup> It should be noted that increasingly large areas, e.g. in Kalimantan, Indonesia, in the Western Ghats, India or the Brazilian Amazon, in regions which by and large can be classified as humid, are subject to serious land degradation, notably deforestation, with resulting micro climatic impacts which already now makes vast areas drought prone. This is exemplified in the case of Brazil (see paragraph 3.2).

## END NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> *Obligation of the European Union and Commission (EC)*: The European Union became a party to the Convention to Combat Desertification in 1998. Article 26 Paragraph 1 of the UNCCD requires that each party shall communicate reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention. Paragraph 5 requires "that developed country parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention. Groups of affected countries may make joint reports on measures taken at the regional or sub-regional level in the framework of Action Programmes. These reports are to be presented at the Conference of the Parties (COP). The EU sees CRIC as a bottom-up regionally based forum (ToR 2006) that provides a review process that leads to recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 3 on 'Methodology' for a definition of 'direct' and 'in-direct' contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD

<sup>3</sup> SEC2005/929

<sup>4</sup> EC Communication: Towards the full integration of co-operation with ACP countries in the EU budget, (COM 2003/590).

<sup>5</sup> Commission Staff Working Document (SEC/2006/808): Annex to "Annual Report 2006 on the European Community's Development Policy and the implementation of external assistance in 2005"

<sup>6</sup> The 25 Member States' Official Development Aid (ODA) totalled €43 billion in 2005. The EU agreed to continue increasing its ODA budgets beyond the commitments made at Monterrey. In absolute terms, this commitment will mean that an additional €20 billion in ODA will become available annually by 2010. The current level of 0.39% of Gross National Income (GNI) in 2006 – will increase to a new interim minimum target for 2010 for each Member State of 0.51% of GNI (0.17% for the new Member States) in pursuit of achieving the 0.7% target fixed by the UN for 2015. This will take the Union's collective effort to 0.56% of GNI in 2010. EC Communication (COM/2005/133): "Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals-Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness". The EC reorganised its external assistance in 2001. The Commission started the process of decentralising management of external assistance to its delegations. Since 2001, the geographic Directorates-General (DG External Relations - RELEX - and DG Development) have been in charge of programming and strategy whilst the EuropeAid Co-operation Office (AIDCO) has been responsible for the remainder of the project cycle (from identification of projects to ex-post evaluation). This reorganisation has led to a corresponding transfer of staff numbers and responsibilities and is intended to lead to a more efficient and effective external assistance.

<sup>7</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Ecosystems and Human Well-being (2005)

<sup>8</sup> EC Land Policy Guidelines (2005).

<sup>9</sup> Environment and sustainable management of natural resources (management and protection of forests, water, marine resources and biodiversity, access to sustainable energies, climatic change, desertification and soil degradation, sustainable management of chemical products and waste, sustainable production and consumption methods).

<sup>10</sup> *Table: Land uses in drylands (source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, chapter 22 Drylands).*

	Rangelands <sup>a</sup>		Cultivated		Urban		Others <sup>b</sup>	
	Area (sq. km)	Share of Dryland Subtype (percent)	Area (sq. km)	Share of Dryland Subtype (percent)	Area (sq. km)	Share of Dryland Subtype (percent)	Area (sq. km)	Share of Dryland Subtype (percent)
Dry subhumid	4,344,897	34	6,096,558	47	457,851	4	1,971,907	16
Semiarid	12,170,274	54	7,992,020	35	556,515	2	1,871,146	8
Arid	13,629,625	87	1,059,648	7	152,447	1	822,075	5
Hyper-arid	9,497,407	97	55,592	0.6	74,050	1	149,026	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,642,202</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>15,203,818</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,240,863</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,814,155</b>	<b>8</b>

<sup>a</sup> Rangeland figures are based on available data on rangelands in drylands of developing countries (Reid et al. 2004; Thornton et al. 2002) and estimates for rangeland areas in the remaining drylands based on the assumption of uniformity in the rangeland's share of each dryland subtype.

<sup>b</sup> Inland water systems in drylands (3%) and other areas unaccounted for by the assessed land uses (5%).

<sup>11</sup> FAO; World Agriculture: towards 2015/30 (2006)

<sup>12</sup> Toulmin, C. in Bergesen, H.O. and G. Parmann (eds.). Green Globe Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development 1994. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 79-88.

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<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the Global Mechanism observes that ‘the potential of trade to mobilise additional resources to implement the UNCCD has never been addressed systematically, despite the references to trade in the Convention text (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/about-us/strategicprogrammes/market-access-trade>).

<sup>14</sup> At the macro level, the EC engages in bilateral, (sub) regional and international trade negotiations and trade facilitation, for example, EC-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements. Issues such as trade liberalisation for agricultural goods, for environmental services (e.g. water) and the clarification of the relationship between the trade-related provisions of MAs and WTO rules are particularly relevant.

<sup>15</sup> The EC is committed to the result of the Conference for Financing for Development (2002, Monterrey), and the “Barcelona commitments”. Both include commitments on trade-related assistance (TRA).

<sup>16</sup> Europeaid, Annual Report 2006 (SEC2006/808).

<sup>17</sup> EC Delegation Brazil, WWF Brazil: personal communication.

<sup>18</sup> The FAO suggests (World Agriculture: towards 2015/30; 2006) that *climate change* is not expected to depress food availability at the global level, but at the regional and local levels there may be significant impacts. Current projections indicate that the potential for crop production will increase in temperate and northerly latitudes, while in parts of the tropics and subtropics it may decline. This will affect the agriculture sector in developing countries and its potential to support the rural poor, and may further deepen the dependence of developing countries on food imports. Food insecurity for some vulnerable rural groups in developing countries may well worsen.

<sup>19</sup> Sudan has the highest number of DPIs (5.4 million). The International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) states that in the conflicts in Sudan, Colombia and Somalia, armed groups deliberately chase people off of their land to gain direct control over natural resources, IDCM: Global Overview, 2005.

<sup>20</sup> Which refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not, or insufficiently covered, by formal arrangements.

<sup>21</sup> WRI; The Wealth of the Poor (2005)

<sup>22</sup> FAO 2005

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.fao.org/gender/en/Facte/FL9806-e.htm> In South-east Asia, women provide up to 90% of the labour for rice cultivation. Women perform 25–45% of agricultural field tasks in Colombia and Peru. In contrast, fewer than 10% of women farmers in India, Nepal and Thailand own land. Only 15% of the world’s agricultural extension agents are women.

<sup>24</sup> About 850 million people suffer from hunger and an additional billion people experience chronic micronutrient deficiency. The number of undernourished has only fallen by 6 million per year instead of the 22 million needed to attain the objective pledged at the World Food Summit in 1996. At this rate, the target will be met 45 years behind schedule (FAO- World Food Summit, 2002). Improvements are slowest in the regions where the problems are greatest: South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. These areas include dryland areas, where an estimated 44% of the world’s malnourished children live. According to the Millennium Project’s Task Force on Hunger, about *half the undernourished* people in the world are *small-scale farmers*, *20% are landless rural dwellers*, *10% are pastoralists and fishermen*, and the remaining *20% are urban dwellers* (UN Millennium Project (2005a). Halving Hunger: It Can be Done. Task Force on Hunger).

<sup>25</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/food\\_security/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/food_security/index_en.htm)

<sup>26</sup> Community Development Policy SEC/2005/929

<sup>27</sup> Food Aid support by the EC: has ranged from €05.96 million in 2002 to €405.97 million in 2005.

<sup>28</sup> COM 2002/429.

<sup>29</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/ruraldev/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/theme/ruraldev/index_en.htm)

<sup>30</sup> The transfer of production technologies is still an important part of development strategies. Such technology transfers should reduce vulnerability and enhance employment and thereby benefit the poor, especially in areas that are poorly economically integrated. For this to occur in practice it is crucial to build on available traditional / indigenous knowledge, marrying modern science with local know how.

<sup>31</sup> Source: EuropeAid website.

<sup>32</sup> EC support through regional and thematic programmes. The EC migration policy (theme Migrations, AENEAS programme) is concerned with international migration and immigration to the EU. The AENEAS programme - established in 2004- is complementary to the geographic programmes: It provides financial and technical assistance to third countries to support their efforts to ensure more effective management of all aspects of migration flows. It does not address ways of avoiding the conditions that may reduce or avoid international migration.

<sup>33</sup> For instance, time consuming fuel and water collection is carried out mainly by girls and women and is a major obstacle to their school attendance (with time spent on fuel and water collection taking up 2 to 8 hours per day). WRI, 1994 in FAO: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/W8801E/w8801e04.htm>

<sup>34</sup> This strengthens the EC approach by implementing specific measures that favour women in developing countries and establishes a strong link with the Millennium Development Goals.

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<sup>35</sup> FAO Working Group Meeting on Pluralism and Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development, Rome (December 1997).

<sup>36</sup> Davidson and Stratford: Building the knowledge base of the social and institutional dimension of natural resource management (2000).

<sup>37</sup> On the basis of the common thematic framework. Community Development Policy 2005 (SEC/929, p17).

<sup>38</sup> Commission communication on "Governance in the European Consensus on Development– towards a harmonised approach within the European Union, COM(2006)/421.

<sup>39</sup> (1) Political governance: human rights, fundamental freedoms, electoral process, constitutional democracy; (2) The rule of law: judicial and law enforcement system; (3) Control of corruption; (4) Government effectiveness: institutional capacity, public finance management, (5) Economic governance: private sector/market friendly policies, management of natural resources; (6) Internal/external security; (7) Social governance: decent work, gender, HIV/AIDS; (8) International/regional context: regional integration, involvement in regional initiatives, migration; (9) Quality of the partnership: political and programming dialogue.

<sup>40</sup> Bruce Moore, Director, International Land Coalition. Presentation to the Mainstreaming Seminar of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, at the Conference of the Parties, Nairobi, 26 October 2005.

<sup>41</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament "EU Guidelines to support land policy design and reform processes in developing countries" COM(2004) 686 final of 19.10.2004.

<sup>42</sup> The precise framework in which assistance can be provided varies between geographical zones, since EC external assistance to different parts of the world is governed by different legal bases and administrative instruments. In the case of ACP countries, EC assistance is provided from the European Development Fund and on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement. In the case of countries in Asia and Latin America, the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, assistance is provided under specific Council Regulations (concerning, respectively, the ALA, MEDA, and TACIS programmes) and on the basis of specific budget lines established to that effect. The regions are: (a) South-East Europe; (b) Eastern Europe and Central Asia; (c) Southern Mediterranean, Near and Middle East; (d) Africa, Caribbean and Pacific; (e) Asia and (f) Latin America.

<sup>43</sup> These partnership frameworks provide affected developing country Parties with opportunities to seek Community assistance in implementing their national and regional action programmes to combat desertification.

<sup>44</sup> EuropeAid - Annual report 2006 - Highlights (2006).

<sup>45</sup> UNCCD National Action Plan China (2000).

<sup>46</sup> The region includes three of the five most populous countries in the world (China, India, Indonesia) and some of the smallest (Brunei, Bhutan, the Maldives). It also includes the most densely and the least densely populated countries in the world (Singapore and Mongolia respectively). It includes some of the world's richest countries (Japan, Singapore, Australia), and some of the poorest (from Afghanistan to North Korea).

<sup>47</sup> The region accounts for some 33% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

<sup>48</sup> The EU is also a dialogue partner to the *ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)*, the only Asia-wide multilateral forum on regional security (since 1994). The ARF consists of 24 members: the 10 ASEAN member states<sup>48</sup> and 14 ASEAN dialogue partners. The EC is supportive of strengthening ARF's role, in particular on security issues.

<sup>49</sup> Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat.

<sup>50</sup> In this way it complements work carried out in bilateral and multilateral fora, such as the UN and WTO.

<sup>51</sup> COM 2003 399/4.

<sup>52</sup> These general objectives and priorities are elaborated further in a series of specific action points for the region as a whole, and for each of the four key sub-regions: South Asia, South-East Asia, North-East Asia and Australasia.

<sup>53</sup> EC Communication: Europe and Asia: A Strategic Framework for Enhanced Partnerships (COM 2001/469)

<sup>54</sup> Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, North Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

<sup>55</sup> *Asia Pro Eco* (budget line ex-B7-301) is a five-year multi-country European Union initiative, launched in 2002. It is based on experience and inputs provided by the earlier Asia Eco Best Programme, and builds on growing concerns about environmental issues. *Asia Pro Eco* was designed to strengthen the environmental dialogue between Asia and Europe and is intended to be achieved through an exchange of policies, technologies and best practices that promote more resource-efficient, market driven, and sustainable solutions to environmental problems in Asia. With a budget of €31.5 million for Phase One (2002-2005) of the programme, the main target was to adopt policies, technologies and practices that promote cleaner, more resource efficient, sustainable solutions to environmental problems in Asia. The Programme provided support through grants to

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policy reinforcement, diagnostic studies, and technology partnership and demonstration activities in the field of environment.

<sup>56</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, and Sri Lanka. The co-operation includes technical and financial assistance as well as economic co-operation. Funding is geared towards encouraging democracy and human rights and all projects shall take sustainable development into account. The aid focuses on the development of rural areas and improving food security in the least developed countries and regions. Environment protection is mentioned as a long term priority and shall account for 10 percent of aid disbursed.

<sup>57</sup> The Partnership and Co-operation Agreements (PCA) concluded with the partner states of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (NIS) are the basis of the relations with these countries. The main objectives of the relationships are the reinforcement of democracy and the rule of law, the promotion of human rights and the transition towards a market economy. These objectives also form the basis of the TACIS Programme, which provides the framework for technical assistance to the NIS. The protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources are other main objectives of the relationship and assistance with the NIS. The PCAs include articles on environmental co-operation and the integration of environmental considerations in other sectors. Environmental co-operation is a priority area within the TACIS regional programmes.

<sup>58</sup> TACIS has six themes, namely: state and institutional reforms, regional co-operation, economic development, social development and democracy, infrastructure development and the environment: *“Environmental protection focuses on the development of sustainable environmental policies, promoting the harmonisation of standards with the European Union and the rational use and management of natural resources”*.

<sup>59</sup> COM(96)570 final of 20 November 1996 "Green Paper on relations between the European Union and the ACP countries on the eve of the 21st century - challenges and options for a new partnership".

<sup>60</sup> COM(97)537 final of 29 October 1997 "Guidelines for the negotiation of new co-operation agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries".

<sup>61</sup> Such as trade and investment, and other topics of shared concern (e.g. migration, HIV/Aids and access to medicines and preparedness for natural disasters).

<sup>62</sup> Following a meeting in May 2005 between the Foreign Ministers of the European Union and their counterparts from Latin America (the Rio Group).

<sup>63</sup> Communication “A stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America”, COM 2005/635. Quotes taken from pages 6, 9 and 15.

<sup>64</sup> Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay plus Bolivia and Chile ('political mercosur').

<sup>65</sup> Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

<sup>66</sup> These countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan

<sup>67</sup> The legal basis of the MEDA Programme is the 1996 MEDA Regulation (Council Regulation no EC/1488/96). This Regulation was amended in November 2000 and is now usually referred to as MEDA II. The main areas of intervention and objectives are directly derived from the 1995 Barcelona Declaration. MEDA offers technical and financial support measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in Mediterranean partner countries.

<sup>68</sup> Adopted unanimously by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Helsinki in 1997. The five priority areas of action are: integrated water management, integrated waste management, hot spots (covering both polluted areas and threatened bio-diversity systems), integrated coastal zone management, and last but certainly not least combating desertification. SMAP I covered the period 1997-2000 and SMAP II the period 2001-2005.

<sup>69</sup> Of which €84.71 million comes under the ALA regulation.

<sup>70</sup> EC Delegation, India: personal communication.

<sup>71</sup> Introduced in 1992, LIFE is one of the spearheads of the EU's environmental policy. Countries involved in LIFE receive technical assistance for activities that promote sustainable development. The objective is to contribute to the establishment of capacities and administrative structures needed in the environmental sector and in developing environmental policy and action programmes in countries bordering the Mediterranean.

<sup>72</sup> Because one project can contribute to more than one CRIC theme the project budgets were not added up. Often only part of the project deals with the CRIC theme and adding up the amount of funding would confuse the calculations. The only exception is the total amount of budget provided to participatory processes for which a specific budget line exists (see paragraph 5.1).

<sup>73</sup> The Convention repeatedly emphasises the importance of full participation, and specifically underlines the “special role of non-governmental organisations” (NGOs), giving them a strategic function in ensuring the implementation of the Convention. It notably calls for the formulation and implementation of National Action

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Programmes (NAP) through engaging the participation of the whole of civil society and explicitly states that this is a crucial step. The Convention also strongly emphasises that the people who bear the brunt of land degradation – and who best understand the fragile environments in which they live - must be fully involved and allowed to participate in decisions that shape their lives.

<sup>74</sup> At a local level, in all dry land regions one will find that communities have established grass-roots welfare and development groups such as landowners' associations or women's self-help groups (sometimes supported by the EC, such as the project in the Northeast of Brazil described in Box 1 in paragraph 2.2.). Ongoing drives to promote such informal movements, encouraged by leaders and aid agencies, have helped institutionalise CBOs as important entry points for development interventions.

<sup>75</sup> All affiliated with Agenda 21 Best Practices.

<sup>76</sup> John Muhammed Jamil Brownson, Geography, Fatih University, Turkey.

<sup>77</sup> For example, in May 2006 DG Development engaged in a dialogue with CBOs and a network of producers' organisations (POs) on the importance of agriculture to ACP countries and the crucial role of family farming. This recognised the importance of participation of POs in agricultural policy and dialogue (eCourier 13, July 2006).

<sup>78</sup> eniD was created in June 2001 by European NGOs involved in UNCCD. The initiative seeks to improve co-operation between civil society organisations (CSOs) at the European level to provide more support to civil society partners in affected countries, particularly in terms of their active involvement in the decision making, implementation and assessment processes of the UNCCD.

<sup>79</sup> Civil society participation in the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa, by eniD Contribution presented at CRIC3 on May 3rd 2005.

<sup>80</sup> The Community has also committed €2.5 million for the NGO-led DRYNET communication programme to strengthen civil society networks that address dry land degradation and poverty issues in the context of strategic development frameworks. Implementation of the programme started in January 2007.

<sup>81</sup> Communication from the Commission on the Programme of Action for the mainstreaming of gender equality in Community development co-operation COM (2001)

<sup>82</sup> COM 2003/615

<sup>83</sup> "Sustainable human development" can be defined as a process aimed at eradicating poverty and allowing human progress without compromising environmental and natural resources for future generations. Uwe Holtz (SID), 2003

<sup>84</sup> One of the conclusions reached at the first UNCCD-CRIC session in November 2002 was "whereas the mainstreaming of the fight against desertification into national development plans, key sectors or strategies has taken place in some countries, this does not appear to be a sufficient condition for securing the required national or external support".<sup>84</sup> In most countries legislation is a very visible element of a country's national government. The representation of society by parliament, as assigned by each country's constitution, should provide a crucial sense of ownership and legitimacy. However, the success of a country's poverty reduction interventions depends on actual budget allocations and the passage of appropriate supporting legislation. Therefore, parliaments and parliamentarians should be involved in the consultation, elaboration and decision-making process of any national development strategy (like PRSPs<sup>84</sup>). Even if parliamentary debate is motivated by geographic, or constituency, specific interests, the airing of such views still contributes to a more comprehensive national strategy.

<sup>85</sup> Annual Report on the EC Development Policy and the implementation of External Assistance (from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Com(2002) 490)

<sup>86</sup> Holtz, U., 2003.

<sup>87</sup> <http://web.worldbank.org>

<sup>88</sup> COM (2002) 490

<sup>89</sup> Gender inequalities, as argued in preceding sections, may have a legal basis. At the macro level the representation of women and men at the highest decision-making levels (in the public and private sectors) requires an adequate legislative basis to address gender inequalities. This is the point of departure of the national commitment to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It is also reflected at the level of CSPs.

<sup>90</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament "'Delivering more, better and faster'; COM(2006) 87 of 2.3.2006.

<sup>91</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Increasing the impact of EU aid: a common framework for drafting country strategy papers and joint multi-annual programming'. COM(2006) 88 of 2.3.2006.

<sup>92</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament 'Financing for development and aid effectiveness - The challenges of scaling up EU aid 2006-10'. COM(2006)85 of 2.3.2006.

<sup>93</sup> This budget line has the overall aim of directly addressing the fundamental needs of the most disadvantaged people in developing countries. Actions are implemented through partnerships between European and local



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NGOs and mainly include local rural development, human resource development and institutional support to local partners.

<sup>94</sup> Under the label 'general environmental protection' the total amount spent in the period 2001-2005 was €713 million (in 2005 €203 million). See EuropeAid - Annual report 2005, Financial table (2006).

<sup>95</sup> With total commitments for the period 2001 to 2006 of €242 million. Source: EuropeAid - Annual reports 2001-2005.

<sup>96</sup> The total amount committed under this budget line was €1,024 million for the period 2001-2005. EuropeAid Annual reports 2001-2005.

<sup>97</sup> The total amount committed under this budget line was €2,232 million for the period 2001-2005. EuropeAid Annual reports 2001-2005

<sup>98</sup> The ENRTP [COM (2006) 20 final of 25.1.2006] was adopted on 25 January 2006 by the European Commission following a consultation process with the main stakeholders. A thematic strategy, setting out the implementation arrangements for the period 2007-2010, is under preparation and will come into force in 2007, subject to adoption by the DCI. This process again includes consultation with civil society.

<sup>99</sup> The ENRTP builds on, and replaces the following budget lines: Regulations (EC) No 2493/2000 and (EC) No 2494/2000 on the Environment in Developing Countries and Tropical Forests and Other Forests in Developing Countries; The Life-Third countries part of Regulation (EC) No 1682/2004 and the International Environment budget line 07 02 01; Budget Lines 06.04.02 and 06.01.04.09 "COOPENER".

<sup>100</sup> SEC2005/467

<sup>101</sup> The PRSP is a prerequisite, set by the World Bank and the IMF to receive a debt reduction and/or a loan. These are aimed primarily at the 41 Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and take a 'pro-poor approach'.

<sup>102</sup> Not surprisingly, many government agencies do not refer to CCD, CBD or PRSP – mainly because local governments need to comply with state schemes, and to they find international conventions are remote and their relevance difficult to understand.

<sup>103</sup> <http://ubt.opus.hbz-nrw.de/vollext/2006/362>

<sup>104</sup> Land may require rehabilitation as a result of degradation caused by human interventions like farming, grazing, badly designed and un-surfaced roads, mining and quarrying, following landslides or gully incision and after wild fires, military or off road vehicles, or by non-sustainable irrigation and groundwater depletion. Degradation of some areas can have knock-on effects elsewhere. Research and practice has shown that as runoff in degraded areas increases, silt is displaced and groundwater aquifers are recharged. Without such degraded areas there would be less fertile soil in floodplains or water for irrigation in downstream areas (e.g. erosion in the Himalayas). Civilisation in the Middle East only developed after fires and grazing on the mountains and hills led to erosion that altered the hydrological cycle. Also in Europe, society has adapted to the land degradation and erosion that occurred in the Roman and Middle Ages and now values these 'degraded' landscapes. Therefore the concept of "rehabilitation" needs to be used in a site-specific context. This is not to say that the need to restore degraded lands in many regions is not urgent or a matter of survival and long-term social-economic security. It is and deserves the highest priority. However, applying the term more generally for long-term ecosystem and development planning can be more problematic.

<sup>105</sup> Full title: 'Mechanisms of desertification' and 'Assessment of the vulnerability to desertification and early warning options' within the 'Global Change & Ecosystems priority'.

<sup>106</sup> These include remote-sensing-based indices, including vegetation density, temperature and other variables.

<sup>107</sup> See also: <http://www.desurvey.net/>

<sup>108</sup> <http://ubt.opus.hpz-nrw.de/volltexte/2006/362>.

<sup>109</sup> The Community Research Programmes have been extended to include scientific co-operation with non-EU countries in order to strengthen and add value to ongoing research and provide training to scientists from developing countries (INCO).

<sup>110</sup> The activities under INCO are intended to lend support, in the scientific and technological fields, to the implementation of the Community's foreign policy and development aid policy and to strengthen, develop and consolidate our Partner countries' research systems as a means of reinforcing synergies with these external policies. Research must contribute to the solution of specific problems faced by third countries through equitable partnerships and should contribute to linking these to global commitments, in particular the fight against poverty, the EU Water Initiative, the Millennium Development Goals and the subsequent Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

<sup>111</sup> Part of the Sixth Framework Programme, the JRC implemented its multi-annual work programme for 2003-2006, which included a budget of €286 million for 'Environment and Sustainability'.

<sup>112</sup> This was justified on the basis of the support needed by the EU Annex 4 (Mediterranean) member countries at that time.

<sup>113</sup> The programme aims to promote the creation of new partnerships, to reinforce existing partnerships between European and Asian universities, and to create new sustainable links. The programme is funded by the EU budget, under the budget line for *Political, economic and cultural co-operation with Asian developing countries*

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(ex-B7-301, now 19.10.02). Four Calls for Proposals for partnership projects went out over the first four years of operation (2002 - 2005). Projects are designed and operated by a partnership that involves two or more European institutions and two or more from Asia. The total EC contribution to the 155 projects selected so far amounts to €53 million.

<sup>114</sup> ‘... Traditional knowledge can ... be regarded as a body of knowledge that has continuously developed over time without the assistance of formal science’ (COP/CST, 7<sup>th</sup> session, October 2005). ‘Traditional knowledge and local technology are part of social complex systems and represent far more than a simple list of technical solutions. Traditional knowledge can be an elaborate and often a multipurpose system that is part of an integral approach between society, culture and economy. It is grounded on the idea of the world based on the careful management of local resources. ... From its inception, the idea of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP) strategy was to build upon traditional technology, know-how and practices with the aim of increasing the ability of both government and stakeholders to control agricultural risk by improving techniques and restoring the degraded lands. It took the view, which subsequently became a guiding principle of the UNCCD, that the people who bear the brunt of desertification, and who best understand the fragile environments in which they live, must be the starting point for efforts to combat land degradation.’ (UNCCD, 2005, p.11).

<sup>115</sup> See the definition of Traditional Knowledge by UNCCD in paragraph 5.7.

<sup>116</sup> Specialist skills and norms that have been developed in such areas include the harvesting of game and non-timber forest products, the zoning of agricultural land, and matching crop varieties with sites - using rational indicators of climatic and weather variations, and site quality, and seed and food storage. Traditional biotechnology evolved in food preservation and fermentation, and through the application of traditional integrated pest management systems. Ethno-medicine is used to manage diseases both among humans and livestock. It is widely acknowledged as an area with potential for future scientific research and development. Many traditional/ indigenous communities maintain strict rules and cultural beliefs that regulate hunting or fishing.

<sup>117</sup> Animal production involves pasturage and water management, which is often guided by strict customary rules designed to avoid overexploitation of pastures. For example, pastoralists keep away from wetlands during the wet season to avoid cattle-foot fungal diseases and reserve these areas for dry season grazing, which allows off-season crops to mature. Integrated approaches have also been developed for establishing desert oases.

<sup>118</sup> Wetland farming increases food security by providing crops when other plots fail and also opens up opportunities for cash cropping of vegetables and other products.

<sup>119</sup> Such as cut-off drains, retention ditches sub-surface dams across the river bottom, shallow wells, permeable bunds (ridges) following contour lines, underground canals, and other retention and dispersion structures to intercept, divert and store water for drinking and irrigation, recharging ground water reservoirs and for checking gully erosion.

<sup>120</sup> For example modern development projects have introduced deep-tube wells that have enormously enhanced the availability of clean water, outside the normal range of traditional wells. Due to high construction, equipment and operational costs, communities can often not afford to sustain their management from their own resources. One advantage of a traditional dug well over a borehole is that the community’s involvement in digging the well creates a sense of identification with the well thereby establishing a sense of communal ownership that is vital for the sustainability of the water point. (UNCCD CST, 2005)

<sup>121</sup> The use of local (organic) materials and mechanical barriers is widely used in Latin America and the Caribbean to obtain more economical use of water, diminish soil erosion, control weeds, incorporate organic material into the soil, thereby ameliorating its chemical and physical consistency), capture nutrients and influence the thermo-regulation of the soil.

<sup>122</sup> An example is how traditional slash and burn (also know as jhum, ladang, shifting cultivation) is no longer sustainable in many areas, due to external and internal pressures on land.

<sup>123</sup> Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, in: Promotion of Traditional Knowledge, UNCCD CST, 2005.

<sup>124</sup> UNEP Global Environmental Outlook GEO 3 (2002).