

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND
Department for Global Affairs
Unit for International Environment Policy

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

5TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

NATIONAL REPORT OF FINLAND

July 2006

The purpose of this report is to present a brief up-date to the previously submitted national reports pertaining to the support provided by Finland towards the implementation of the Convention.

In general, Finland has not received new proposals or requests for support by affected country Parties with regard to UNCCD implementation.

GENERAL POLICY SUPPORT

In 2006, Finland continues to support the UNCCD process by making voluntary contributions to the order of 250 000 € (with carry-overs from 2005) to support the following:

- work of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group for the preparation of a new 10-year strategic plan and framework for the UNCCD
- regional cooperation
- IYDD: Youth Congress, Bamako, Mali in September, 2006
- Global Mechanism: facilitation of mainstreaming, partnership building and contribution towards the work of the IIWG

ASIA

As to Asia, this report provides up-dated information on two on-going collaborative programmes being carried out by a number of affected country Parties, which are supported by Finland.

Summaries of these programmes are given below.

Name: Programme of Catalytic Support to Implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in West Asia and North Africa

Main sector: environment; **sub sectors:** poverty reduction, good governance and participatory development

Duration: 2005-2008 (III-phase)

MFA's budget: 1,5 milj. €

Target countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, Palestinian Authority Area; Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

The project is executed in collaboration with UNDP/DDC. General development objective for the programme is to improve the capacity of target countries in implementation of the UN's Convention to Combat Desertification. The aim is to produce sustainable solutions in the fight against desertification in the countries. With the help of the programme, the implementation of national action programmes (NAPs) has started and the capacity of governments and NGOs was strengthened. In addition, the programme promotes the development of fund-raising strategies. A Coordination Unit is in UNDP Regional Office, Beirut. The project is executed with the UNDP's country offices.

Name: Environmental Monitoring and Management Capacity Building, 2nd Phase, Kyrgyz Republic

Duration: 2004-2006

Main sector: Environment, **sub sectors:** participatory development/good governance

MFA's Budget: 889 882 €

The objective for the programme is to improve the capacity of the environmental institutions in Kyrgyzstan.

During the phase one (1998-2000) a Finnish adviser participated in creating a monitoring system in the Kyrgyz Republic, which was designed to assess the state of the environment. In addition, the adviser contributed to the development of the administrative system. The second phase concentrates on supporting a vertical chain of information in environmental monitoring in the local, regional and national level. This is done by supplying necessary equipment and educating local workforce.