

REPORT BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
(CCD)

IN AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES

WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

May 6, 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Summary 3
- 2. Introduction 4
 - 2.1 The German CCD network 5
 - 2.2 Special CCD Fund..... 6
 - 2.3 "Bonn Fund" 6
- 3. German involvement in consultative processes 6
 - 3.1 Consultative processes at the national level 6
 - 3.2 Consultative processes at the international and regional level..... 7
 - 3.3 Consultative processes, awareness raising and mainstreaming in Germany 8
 - 3.4 Contributions made by German NGOs 9
- 4. Measures taken to support the implementation of the CCD 10
 - 4.1 Activities at the country level in Latin America 10
 - 4.2 Activities at the regional level in Latin America 12
 - 4.3 Activities at the country level in Asia 13
 - 4.4 Activities at the regional level: Central Asian Region 14
 - 4.5 Multilateral activities..... 15
- 5. Future outlook 16
- Abbreviations 18
- Ongoing German Development Cooperation Projects to Combat Desertification 19
 - I. Criteria for selection of projects included in the list..... 19
 - II. List of projects relevant to desertification: Latin America, Asia and supra-regional..... 20

1. Summary

1. Since the beginning of the 1980s, support to resource management in arid zones and desertification control have played an important role within the framework of German development cooperation. Since the middle of the 1990s, this sector has become even more significant thanks to the CCD, which raised awareness among the Latin American and Asian public and development policymakers of the growing threat to natural resources in the arid zones of that continent. German Technical and Financial Cooperation currently supports 248 projects accounting for a total volume of commitments of about DM 2.9 billion. Some 60% of the projects supported are being carried out in 25 African countries (the focus region of the CCD), 25% in Asia and 15% in Latin America.

2. It must be noted that our partner countries in **South America** have consciously and visibly established links between a number of these projects and their national action programs and the process of CCD implementation (cf. 4.1-4.2). Presently, Germany provides financial and technical support to the following 10 Latin American countries: **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru**. Within a new project in Cuba, the National Action Program and watershed management are being supported.

3. In **Asia**, Germany supports natural resource management and anti-desertification measures in 14 countries: **Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkmenistan, Turkey, China and Mongolia** (cf. 4.3-4.4). There are only a few exceptional cases in which Germany's Asian partner countries have consciously linked new projects in the field of resource management to the CCD. However, in the Central Asian and Caucasian transition countries there is growing interest in the CCD. The German government fosters exchange within and across regions in order to support the countries in resolving cross-border conflict over resources, especially with regard to water management.

4. Now that the **Central Asian countries** have decided to draw up a subregional action program, the German side followed the proposal of the UNCCD Secretariat to provide technical and financial assistance to that initiative (cf. 4.4). By getting involved in this way, Germany wants to give expression to the great significance it attaches to regional cooperation in Central Asia in the field of the environment and natural resource protection. Important elements of such regional cooperation will include capacity building, exchange of information, biodiversity protection, and water and land management.

5. The German government is aware that in ratifying the CCD, it has assumed the obligation to do everything within its power to foster implementation. In order to be able to do that, the German government is continuously investing efforts into mainstreaming the CCD into bilateral and multilateral development cooperation (cf. 3.). For this purpose, a permanent Focal Point was established within GTZ (1994), and the *Convention Project to Combat Desertification* ("CCD Project") was created (1999) to support the coordination of public and private, German and multilateral actors engaged in combating desertification.

6. Through a **CCD network** that has existed for a number of years now, relevant institutions and projects under Germany's bilateral cooperation program engage in an exchange of relevant information on desertification control and CCD implementation (cf. 2.1). This network also provided for input from a broad range of persons into this year's national report. The development institutions' desk officers in charge of the various regions receive support in giving due attention to the CCD when programming bilateral cooperation.

7. One of the first instruments that the German government created as early as in 1995 to support the CCD process was a **Special Fund** (cf. 2.2). Originally endowed with some DM 6 million, that Special Fund has already assisted a wide range of mainly African countries in drawing up their national action programs. In the future, the Special Fund will be used for CCD implementation in countries of other regions as well, but will also include measures of regional or even global coverage, as well as studies and analyses of core relevance to CCD implementation.

8. Through an additional contribution of DM 1 million to the UNCCD budget ("**Bonn Fund**"), Germany supports events organized by the CCD Secretariat (cf. 2.3).

9. The German government engaged in an intensive exchange of information to encourage **multilateral and regional organizations** such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to participate in desertification control programs in Latin America and Central Asia (cf. 3.2, 4.5). In addition, it has motivated **German scientists** involved in arid zone research to form a **network** and become more actively interested in the process of CCD implementation (www.uni-bielefeld.de/desertnet). A number of initiatives were undertaken to raise the German public's awareness of the urgency of desertification problems (cf. 3.3).

10. 1999 saw the beginning of intensive cooperation with **German NGOs** in the context of the CCD (cf. 3.4). An extensive analysis to be drawn up by the "Working Group Desertification" is to determine the level of activities by German NGOs within the context of desertification control, and to identify openings for increased NGO involvement in future support to CCD implementation. Activities for disseminating information and for targeted basic and further training are included.

11. **Outlook** (cf. 5.): There are a number of encouraging examples now of the CCD lending fresh impetus to desertification control and of an impressive number of developing countries having completed their NAPs or being about to finalize them. Yet it is still a challenge to make the CCD a universally accepted strategic framework for resource management in arid zones. There are a number of developing countries that have produced CCD national action programs, but there are still investments in important CCD-related areas that are made without reference to these NAPs and without attention for the principles of the Convention. The decision to limit responsibility for the CCD to environmental administrations led to the isolation of the CCD process in many countries and thus, to a dangerous financial bottleneck for the programs envisaged. This is why vigorous steps urgently need to be undertaken - both by developing countries and by donors - to mainstream the CCD into the central efforts for social and economic development. In this context, it also appears urgent to reach international agreement on quality standards for CCD implementation and to give greater attention to understanding the economic aspects of desertification control and of resource management in arid zones.

2. Introduction

Since as early as the beginning of the 1980s, support to resource management and desertification control in arid zones has been a priority of German development cooperation. While the regional focus throughout the 1980s was clearly on activities in Africa, German involvement in Latin America and Asia gained significantly in importance during the 1990s. Presently, Germany is supporting some 62 projects in 14 Asian countries (DM 758 million) and 46 projects in 10 Latin American countries (DM 429.3 million).

Germany has been receiving more and more requests, particularly from Latin America, to support projects for resource management in arid zones, for desertification control, and in support of the CCD implementation process

For instance, the first new project which was recently agreed to resume bilateral cooperation with Cuba is a project for resource management in the country's arid zones. In Central Asia, the German government has complemented its bilateral efforts by assisting, since 1999, in the elaboration of a subregional CCD action program, in this way fostering increased regional cooperation on natural resource management.

Germany is lending intensive support to CCD implementation, as it believes that the CCD is in the process of becoming an important strategic framework for sustainable development in the countries and regions threatened or affected by desertification. As a "development convention," the CCD is closely linked to other urgent problems such as land degradation, diminishing water resources, declining biodiversity, growing poverty, and the conflicts resulting from these causes. The German side therefore feels that the CCD, as a potential regulatory framework for the resolution of problems at the national, regional and international levels, deserves energetic support both from donors and from developing countries.

After important initial steps towards drawing up national action programs, and after having gained some concrete experience with CCD implementation, it is now vital to integrate CCD implementation into the process and the implementation of national strategies for sustainable development and link it more closely to the mainstream of development efforts in the countries concerned. To this end, Germany has been supporting, in addition to its bilateral projects, the "CCD Project" since 1997 with DM 9 million. This project is intended to support developing countries in implementing the CCD. The CCD Project provides advice to a number of selected developing countries with regard to drawing up and implementing their national action programs and with regard to raising awareness of the CCD among development policy players. In this effort, the Project works closely with the German implementing organizations GTZ and KfW, with multilateral organizations (such as the World Bank, IDB, UNEP/UNSO), the German network of scientists, and NGOs. German scientists doing research related to desertification control recently formed a network in order to provide more effective input into the international debate on a more global approach to solving the desertification problem, and in order to support CCD implementation as best they can.

2.1 The German CCD network

Germany is supporting an initiative for exchanging information regarding issues related to desertification control and natural resource management, through what is termed the "CCD network," which was created in 1994.

The CCD network unites the players of German development cooperation relevant in the context of the CCD: government representatives (BMZ), representatives of the German implementing agencies GTZ and KfW (headquarters as well as project staff working in the affected countries on behalf of the agencies), representatives of NGOs and international organizations (e.g., Club du Sahel, UNESCO), and the UNCCD Secretariat.

The purpose of the CCD network is to organize a broad-based exchange of experience within and between institutions on CCD-related topics and to get the issue of desertification firmly established as part of development cooperation. In addition to the electronic dissemination of reports about the experience gained with individual projects and about further topics related to desertification control, there is an annual network meeting (usually right after the Conference of the

Parties) to facilitate intensive dialogue on experience and challenges related to CCD implementation, discussion about relevant issues for the future, and, ultimately, to foster cooperation. The sixth CCD network discussion was held in December 1999 with some 40 participants. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Bonn in late 2000 (contact: Ingrid.Prem@gtz.de).

2.2 Special CCD Fund

One of the first instruments that the German government created as early as in 1995 to support the CCD process was a Special Fund. Initially, that Special Fund was endowed with some DM 6 million which mainly served to assist African countries in drawing up their national action programs. After an evaluation of the support provided so far by this study fund, the remaining DM 1.3 million of the Special Fund is to be used in future for CCD implementation in other regions as well, for instance by moving beyond the current range of country-specific activities to include measures of regional or even global coverage, as well as studies and analyses of direct relevance to CCD implementation.

2.3 "Bonn Fund"

Through its additional contribution of an annual DM 1 million to the CCD Secretariat in Bonn, Germany is helping to finance regional activities such as the Second African-Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Implementation of the CCD in Bamako, Mali (March 2000), the Launching of TPN2 (Agroforestry and Soil Conservation) in New Delhi, India (March 2000), and the Workshop on Land Degradation/Desertification in Central and Eastern Europe in Brussels, Belgium (May 2000).

3. German involvement in consultative processes

3.1 Consultative processes at the national level

Within current Technical Cooperation projects, Germany is assisting consultative processes with the civil society actors concerned. The objective is to support the process of CCD implementation in accordance with the principles of participation, decentralization and democratization, in order to foster the emergence of national ownership. However, one essential prerequisite for Germany to become actively involved is that the country itself be interested in, and provide backing to, such consultative processes, and that it try to secure the participation of all important players.

One example is Argentina: Germany is supporting a project to assist consultation and coordination processes at the national level by providing organizational and legal advice. At the Provincial level, a number of German Technical Cooperation projects lend support to the communities concerned and the NGOs involved with regard to participatory regional development planning comprising strategies for improving water supply, pasture management, and agricultural production.

Another example is Cuba: Germany will fund a new TC project there with DM 3 million to support the country in implementing the CCD and to back up and foster the consultative processes that the country itself is seeking (cf. 4.1.6).

In the Brazilian States of Pernambuco and Ceará, the German side will draw on existing TC projects to support CCD implementation at the planning and technical level, and also foster the

establishment of consultative processes in this context. This process will be launched in June 2000 with a planning workshop involving all important players.

The quality and intensity of consultative processes in Latin America differ widely from country to country. They range from a situation in a number of countries where the consultative process is only beginning to emerge, to settings where countries have accomplished well-structured, dynamic consultation processes (for instance in Argentina). Generally, there is a positive momentum in the development of consultative processes in a number of countries.

3.2 Consultative processes at the international and regional level

Germany is fostering stronger efforts for CCD implementation by activating its international and regional contacts to that end. For instance, it is actively involved in the "Environmental Conventions" Task Force of the OECD's DAC Working Party on Environment and Development. The purpose of this Task Force is to find ways of achieving effective donor support to the implementation of the environmental conventions and realistic reporting on the status and problems of the implementation processes.

Within the European context, the German government is putting issues on the agenda that are important for CCD implementation and is coordinating closely with other European countries. For instance, the German government is currently raising awareness at the European and international level of the economic factors fostering and inhibiting desertification control. Another issue which the German side will bring up in the European and international debate in the course of 2000 is the question of quality standards, which both sides - developing countries and donors - will have to develop, agree on and comply with in future for the CCD implementation process.

Under its program of cooperation with the *Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel* (OSS), the German side is working on issues important for CCD implementation, such as the development of early warning systems, benchmarks and indicators and quality standards. The objective is to harmonize the National Reports and provide more detailed statements on the quality of CCD implementation processes. The indicators for assessing the processes' quality must be harmonized as well. The German side is going to work closely with OSS in future on formulating quality standards for CCD implementation.

- Support to the *Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel*, which started in 1994, was extended by another three years in 1999 with commitments of a total of DM 3 million. Germany is actively strengthening the role of OSS as a North-South forum for consultation among its member states on strategic and technical matters related to CCD implementation (monitoring, information systems, links between CCD and globalization). Germany is taking active part in these consultations and is involved in efforts to further enhance the capacity of OSS as a forum for such North-South dialogue on issues related to the Convention.

OSS's work on the establishment of information systems on desertification control is making an essential contribution to improved management of knowledge within the framework of the CCD. Future German support will be aimed at enhancing the integration of the OSS initiatives in this field and those of other institutions such as the World Bank.

There were intensive talks with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) these past few months regarding openings for these two organizations to contribute more to the implementation of the Convention and for the German side to work with the two organizations on this issue.

An agreement has now been reached with the IDB to cooperate closely on analyzing, together with Harvard (HIID), the economic structures conducive, or detrimental, to desertification control.

It was agreed that there would be close collaboration with the World Bank to support regional cooperation in the field of desertification control in Central Asia. It is envisaged to have a close exchange of technical information with the World Bank's Drylands Management Program (cf. 4.5.2).

3.3 Consultative processes, awareness raising and mainstreaming in Germany

The German government is aware that it is not only in the developing countries but also in Germany that continuous efforts are needed for CCD mainstreaming and for gaining recognition of the significance of the CCD and the other environmental conventions as a potential strategic framework for sustainable resource management. Decision-makers have not become sufficiently aware yet that new instruments for designing structural change at the national and international levels are emerging in this process. On the German side, too, there is still additional potential for integrating the CCD process into the framework of development cooperation.

For these reasons, the German side has increased its efforts for making the mainstreaming of the CCD into its current development cooperation program a priority issue. The following aspects should be mentioned in this connection:

- By providing informative material and guidance on mainstreaming the CCD, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is continually involved in creating greater awareness of the significance of the CCD among implementing organizations of development cooperation. This includes the integration of CCD implementation into relevant Country Strategies and Key Cooperation Sector Strategies.
- The CCD network, which has been in existence since 1994 (cf. 2.1), was mobilized with a view to mainstreaming.
- German scientists engaged in desertification-related research have formed a network too and want to contribute actively to the process of CCD implementation.
- A number of publications are planned for 2000 to inform the German public of the significance and the fields of action of the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Publicity programs on desertification control and the CCD are envisaged as part of the global exposition EXPO 2000.
- On the occasion of CSD 8 (Annual Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York), the German side held a side event focusing on stronger attention for land degradation within the context of the CCD.
- There is a university partnership program between GTZ, the University of Vienna and the University of La Rioja in Argentina, which includes seminars, expert presentations, study visits, and opportunities for students to complete theses - including within Europe - aimed at gaining more in-depth insights into desertification control and the significance of the environmental conventions.

3.4 Contributions made by German NGOs

In 1993, German NGOs supporting development work in arid zones and/or working on relevant global issues formed the "Working Group Desertification." This network comprises some 30 German-speaking organizations, associations and individuals from the environment, development and academic communities. The network is engaged in dialogue both at the national level with various municipalities and communities and at the European and international level with the *Réseau International d'ONG sur la Désertification* (RIOD).

One of the main activities of the Working Group Desertification is to provide advice to German NGOs as they design their contributions to the implementation processes of the CCD and NAPs.

A long-term education program including workshops, consultations and discussion forums is being offered to NGOs (political foundations, church-based and private sponsors of development cooperation) active in arid areas or on related topics. This helps enhance awareness of the CCD as a programmatic frame of reference. Opportunities for cooperation among NGOs are being supported, in order to foster more effective support for CCD implementation to the respective partners in the countries affected.

Based on their different strategic approaches to desertification control, the NGOs analyze requirements, deficits and potential solutions for their cooperation with partners. Before COP 4, a synopsis will be drawn up of the work on CCD implementation undertaken by German NGOs and of possibilities for more intensive development cooperation and coordination between NGOs and other national and international partners.

One focus of German NGOs' activities in arid zone development is on the field of integrated rural development (at least 50% of the funding deployed). Measures in this field include advisory services for improved production systems and sustainable management of natural resources.

Another priority area is capacity building for civil society participation and empowerment of the following groups and institutions:

- land user groups, with a special emphasis on women, but also on indigenous groups,
- representative structures (including labor unions and associations of social groups and specific vocations),
- NGOs,
- service providers (public and private advisory services).

Other important fields of action are the designing of a legal framework, for instance in order to achieve legal certainty as regards access to land (land reform), but also the defusing of conflicts, including armed environmental conflicts within countries or across borders (for instance in East Africa or in Brazil). It is intended to have informative sectoral and regional results compiled before COP 4.

It is envisaged to provide specific support to CCD/NAP processes as of mid-2000 under a pilot program in three regions of Africa. That effort will comprise support to NGOs so as to enable them to contribute to CCD/NAP processes actively and in a competent way. The program will provide for forums for exchange, communication, information, planning and networking.

Moreover, educational institutions will be encouraged to provide further training on problems relating to arid zones and desertification. They will receive support in designing such programs. For the media sector, it is intended to move beyond event-oriented public relations and informa-

tion work and create general awareness of desertification problems among program designers. Outreach and advocacy activities include measures for the integration of desertification-related activities into municipal development cooperation and into Local Agenda 21.

4. Measures taken to support the implementation of the CCD

The following statements describing German involvement in desertification control and CCD implementation in Latin America and Asia are not meant to provide an exhaustive picture of German activities, but rather to present some **examples** of pioneering strategies that might form an interesting basis for further development. Instead of providing a full and systematic inventory of all German-funded projects in Latin America and Asia related to desertification, we are attaching a list of relevant projects in the annex as a rough guide. Since no internationally recognized marker system has been developed yet for this type of project, we refer to the selection criteria used to produce the list.

4.1 Activities at the country level in Latin America

One special characteristic of German Technical Cooperation (TC) in Latin America is that it tries to integrate NGOs, local associations and self-help groups into the CCD process. In a number of countries (for instance, in Argentina), this has resulted in very intensive forms of cooperation.

Latin America has a network of all projects supported by Germany which are related to resource management and rural development (referred to as a "regional sector group"). This network fosters the exchange of experience across national borders and enables projects to make effective contributions to the CCD process in their respective countries. The network also facilitates synergies between the implementation processes of the three Rio Conventions, especially as regards links between the CCD and the Convention on Biodiversity.

4.1.1 Argentina

German-Argentine cooperation on desertification control dates back to 1990. There are currently three projects under implementation amounting to DM 21.6 million. Important impetus has been provided, in particular, by the German-funded projects in Patagonia and La Rioja. After the national action program (NAP) had been drawn up, these TC projects were integrated into the CCD process: A coordination body was set up in Argentina for the implementation of the CCD Convention, and there are regular coordination meetings between representatives of all regional governments and the national Ministry for the Environment. German development cooperation has provided intensive support and advisory input to the NAP for a year now under the *Apoyo al PAN* program. The focus is on

- collecting empirical data on the desertification process in Argentina,
- developing innovations in desertification control, especially measures for soil and water conservation,
- disseminating these innovations at the local and regional level via rural regional development and resource management projects.

In 1999, a variety of workshops at the national and regional level were held in a number of Provinces, co-organized by the German side, the Argentine government, various Argentine executing agencies and universities, as well as Harvard University. These workshops looked at a range of issues related to resource management and desertification control. Moreover, a large number of national activities for desertification control, reforestation, and biodiversity protection were launched in the course of the past year as a result of this process.

4.1.2 Brazil

German cooperation with Brazil in the field of desertification amounts to some DM 50.5 million. One main issue is the support of rural development projects - under what is termed the PROREND A program - which provide agricultural extension in order to improve the livelihoods, production and income of the rural poor. Germany is already supporting cooperative efforts between the PROREND A project in Ceará and a World Bank-funded project in the same State (planned and supported, as a model, by the national authorities); similar multi-donor cooperation programs including German involvement are currently under preparation for Pernambuco and Bahia States. Brazil is taking part, aided by Germany, in an intensive exchange of experience in desertification control and CCD implementation in the region. It is envisaged to provide German support in 2000 to CCD implementation in Pernambuco, together with other donors and regional organizations such as IDB, ECLAC, etc. From the German side, the existing PROREND A project is to be integrated into this initiative. The envisaged cooperative efforts will start in early June with a planning workshop.

4.1.3 Bolivia

German development cooperation has been supporting Bolivia for many years in the field of appropriate land use and regional planning, with regard to both development and implementation. Germany is currently funding projects related to combating desertification with a volume of DM 48.5 million. The focus has been on supporting local initiatives against land erosion and for reforestation with a view to food security. More recently, the German side has been supporting the development of cooperation with PRONALDES, the national project for combating desertification. Efforts are currently under way to link German-funded TC projects for rural development closely with the emerging process of CCD implementation. Also, two regional projects for rural development with a focus on desertification control (Chaco and Norte de Potosí) are currently under appraisal and are to start within 2000. Under Technical Cooperation, Germany provides advisory assistance to its Bolivian partners on CCD implementation issues. One example would be support for the development of a network of local organizations and of a monitoring system, as well as assistance in the elaboration of Bolivia's national report and in local activities for facilitating access to national sources of finance. Bolivia is currently beginning to establish relations within the framework of South-South cooperation (Bolivia-Argentina) and to assume a stronger role internationally in CCD implementation. These efforts have Germany's active support.

4.1.4 Chile

In Chile, funding for CCD-related projects supported by Germany amounts to DM 43.3 million. The TC forestry projects in Chile are currently intensifying its cooperative links with the national CCD Focal Point. The German side also supports subregional cooperation between Chile and Argentina (especially with La Rioja, Catamarca and Atacama Provinces) on improved resource management in arid zones.

4.1.5 Colombia

Bilateral cooperation with Colombia in the field of natural resource management is funded with some DM 60.8 million. For as many as 15 years now, German development cooperation has supported a project for containing land erosion in a water catchment area, the purpose being to preserve this catchment as a reserve of groundwater and drinking water (including for the capital). Early last year, another project was added located in an arid area, which focuses on designing water-saving irrigation systems and introducing cultivation methods and crops that are suited to an arid climate. The German side supports the integration of these efforts into the CCD process.

4.1.6 Cuba

One German project endowed with funding amounting to DM 3 million is currently under preparation, which is aimed at assisting Cuba in implementing its NAP both nationally and locally. Moreover, it is intended to provide German assistance to support South-South cooperation by facilitating the exchange of experience between Cuban experts and other Latin American countries in the field of watershed management. Specifically, this concerns the rehabilitation of water catchment areas and support for CCD implementation at the national level (strengthening the Focal Point, strategy planning, mainstreaming efforts).

4.1.7 Paraguay

Since the late 1980s, three projects for capacity building have been under implementation at different levels, which are now in their final phase. The projects comprise an agricultural experiment station in Central Chaco, a program for enhancing the competency of governmental and public institutions with regard to developing improved land use systems, and the development of a national strategy for environmental and resource protection, especially by means of monitoring and participation. Total German support to drylands resource management in Paraguay amounts to DM 36 million. The extensive experience gained under these three projects is now being put to use for CCD implementation.

4.1.8 Peru

For 21 years now, Germany has been supporting the construction of irrigation facilities in Peru's southern Andean zone, the aim being to increase agricultural yields, reduce land erosion and thus safeguard the livelihoods of rural people. A wealth of experience has resulted, especially with regard to participation processes involving small farmers, which can be used as input for CCD implementation. Together with other dryland resource management projects, the total contribution under Germany's cooperation program is DM 88.4 million.

4.2 Activities at the regional level in Latin America

The German side has been providing support for many years under its TC projects to the regional exchange of information and experience on resource management in Latin America's dry zones. This has resulted, among other things, in the emergence of a regional project of ECLAC, supported by Germany, which is aimed at developing indicators for the CCD process. OSS (cf. 3.2) will participate in this project and contribute from its own experience in the development of indicators. OSS's participation will also ensure an intensive exchange of experience with a parallel project in Northern and Western Africa.

In February 2000, GTZ held an internal workshop at the IDB with the purpose of further sensitizing the Bank to desertification control and the CCD. It was agreed at this workshop to cooperate more closely on investigating economic issues related to desertification control (with the cooperation of Harvard University) and to include other regional organizations in the support efforts for desertification control.

As a result, a second meeting was held during the IDB Board of Governors meeting in New Orleans in March 2000. At this meeting, representatives of the IDB, the World Bank, and IICA, ECLAC and IFAD agreed that they would undertake a number of joint steps towards fostering resource management in Latin America's dry zones. They include a joint analysis of economic factors hampering or benefiting effective CCD implementation, the organization of a seminar on resource management in dry zones and on CCD implementation in Latin America during the next IDB Annual Meeting, and the regular exchange of information.

At the request of the UNCCD Secretariat, Germany provided substantive and financial input to the Latin American countries' preparation of their reports to COP 4. Germany co-sponsored a meeting of Latin American consultants in Mexico City on January 31 and February 1, 2000. This meeting, which was organized by the UNCCD Secretariat, had the purpose of preparing consultants in terms of substantive and organizational questions so as to enable them to advise various Latin American countries with a view to ensuring satisfactory reporting. In addition, funding is provided to the reporting efforts of Colombia and Bolivia and similar consultancy services by the Argentine consultant in Venezuela, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and by the Cuban consultant in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Panama.

4.3 Activities at the country level in Asia

4.3.1 *China*

Since 1993, Germany has been supporting the People's Republic of China in combating desertification and land erosion. Support comes mainly in the form of Financial Cooperation (FC), totaling nearly DM 70 million. Assistance has been extended to seven reforestation projects for terms of between five and nine years (starting between 1995 and 2000). These reforestation projects are part of a long-term Chinese reforestation program (Three North Forest Shelterbelt Development Program). It is intended to have 35 million hectares reforested by 2050.

The main purpose of the reforestation projects is to combat desertification, and more specifically to control land erosion. Moreover, they are intended to contribute to the preservation and creation of agricultural land. Ancillary objectives include pest control and the creation of new sources of income for the people through the cultivation of fruit trees (improved varieties). In this way, the activities are to contribute towards poverty reduction.

4.3.2 *India*

In the State of Maharashtra, a project has been under way for eight years now in a watershed area, comprising the reforestation of protective forests on steep slopes and degraded areas, the purpose being to raise the water table and control erosion. German support takes mainly the form of Financial Cooperation, with grant funding totaling DM 37 million over a period of 13 years. This project, together with other German-funded resource management projects, has resulted in a wealth of concrete experience providing a basis for CCD implementation.

4.3.3 *Mongolia*

In Mongolia, Germany is funding a project which is to be integrated into a program scheme receiving international support. The purpose is to stop, in the long term, land degradation caused by overgrazing. As of mid-2000, it is intended to spend the next thirteen months finding alternative sources of income for the nomad population, which is growing rapidly, and opening up new markets and sales opportunities for their livestock. Also, it is intended to have sustainable land use planning and pasture management strategies drawn up together with the authorities, based on the people's participation.

Contributions by the German side consist mainly of support in the form of short-term consultants and financial assistance for the establishment of infrastructure and the provision of basic and further training. Related financial support totals DM 480,000. After the end of the first phase of the program (mid-2001) it is envisaged to pursue a broader strategy comprising the three elements "desertification control," "integrated fire management," and "nature conservation and buffer zone development."

4.3.4 Countries of Central Asia

Until 1999, the German-supported Turkmenistan Desertification Control project worked with the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna in Ashgabat to train Turkmen scientists to provide competent advice on desertification control and to make significant contributions, together with governmental and nongovernmental services, towards strengthening the self-help potential of the local people. A Consulting Center was set up to this end. Also, a seminar was held by the project in 1999 on the implementation of the CCD in Central Asia, comprising participants from academia and politics in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia as well as representatives of international donor organizations.

Moreover, Germany has been sponsoring a pilot project called "Desertification control in Yerbent county" since February 1999 in support of CCD implementation in Turkmenistan. Based on the good experience gained so far with cooperation with the local population, and in view of the serious desertification problems in Central Asia, the project will be deepened in 2000 and expanded geographically to a mountain region and to the catchment areas of oases. It is intended to create models of best practices that are suitable for other regions within Turkmenistan and for other Central Asian CIS republics as well and that may also become part of national and subregional action programs to combat desertification. The objectives of this new phase of the pilot project are to

- broaden the project strategy in conceptual terms on the basis of community-based resource management;
- provide support for the creation of suitable structures for participation and gradual decentralization;
- provide scientific follow-up to the processes launched under the pilot project;
- give greater emphasis to the national and international aspect of desertification control;
- broaden collaboration with multilateral institutions.

The German-funded project "Support to private agriculture in Tashauz" fosters the development of environmentally sound land use by private farmers. This includes management systems that prevent erosion, salinization and overgrazing. The project draws local experts mainly from the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna in Ashgabat.

Some other TC measures in other Central Asian republics are indirectly linked to the issue of desertification control. For instance, biodiversity protection (Tengir Too biosphere territory in Kyrgyzstan) also plays a role for desertification control, since efforts are made to achieve participatory, environmentally sound land use planning in some model regions and to improve environmental legislation. The projects for agricultural training and advice in Western Kazakhstan and the assistance provided to the development of farm development models for large agricultural operations in Uzbekistan also contribute to the emergence of forms of agriculture based on sound resource management.

4.4 Activities at the regional level: Central Asian Region

The German side also supported Central Asian and Caucasian countries in their national reporting to COP 4, through technical advice and financial support amounting to some DM 20,000. In analogy to the regional meeting in Mexico, a meeting was held on February 23 - 24, 2000, uniting representatives from Central Asian and Caucasian countries - in most cases from the national CCD Focal Points - to prepare these countries' reports. The forum was also used to work on the organizational planning of a Central Asian regional meeting in July 2000 in preparation of a subregional action program on desertification control.

Since the Central Asian countries are interested in drawing up a subregional action program to combat desertification (SRAP), the UNCCD Secretariat is providing active support to this endeavor, in collaboration with the German side. The CCD Project is providing comprehensive technical and financial support in this context in coordination with BMZ.

Germany attaches great political significance to regional cooperation in Central Asia on desertification control, which is attested to by the fact that the Parliamentary State Secretary of BMZ, Dr U. Eid, will be participating in the regional meeting held in Kyrgyzstan in July in preparation of the SRAP, and that the German side is also mobilizing other important multilateral and bilateral donors to participate. The point is mainly to provide international political support to regional cooperation on capacity building, exchanging information, biodiversity protection, water management, and soil conservation. The SRAP could contribute significantly to solving, or mitigating, cross-border desertification problems.

4.5 Multilateral activities

4.5.1 *Mainstreaming efforts at the policy level*

Germany is committed to lending proactive support to mainstreaming CCD objectives into the policies and concrete development activities of multilateral institutions.

BMZ is currently intensifying its cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (**IDB**) in the field of combating desertification/resource management and rural development through the temporary secondment of a GTZ expert on rural development and drylands management to the IDB.

A Senior Environmentalist from GTZ headquarters has been attached to the Drylands Program of the **World Bank** since January 1998. The focal areas of his activities include the following fields:

- strengthening awareness of the CCD within the Bank and supervising the Bank's contribution to CCD implementation;
- analysis and synthesis of the Bank's and other agencies' experience in drylands management by reviewing investment portfolios and relevant literature, and identifying issues to be addressed by future development activities as recommended "Good Practices";
- establishing and maintaining links with the international donor community, the CCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and NGOs;
- designing project proposals to be submitted to the GEF and other trust funds with a view to carrying out further work on drylands management issues in projects of the World Bank and other agencies;
- designing training programs related to the implementation of the CCD for operational World Bank staff;
- representing the Bank on the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism of the CCD.

In addition, Germany enjoys close cooperation in the field of desertification through its **experts** in the following multilateral and regional institutions: **CILSS** (Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel), **IGAD** (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), **SADC** (Southern African Development Community), and **OSS** (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel). The experience gained in Africa also serves as valuable input for interchange with other regions, for instance on the occasion of the Second African-Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Implementation of the CCD held in Bamako, Mali (March 2000).

4.5.2 Financial support to multilateral institutions

In addition to some 250 bilateral projects and programs to combat desertification, Germany provides a considerable share of the funding for multilateral institutions which are involved in CCD implementation. However, it is not possible to quantify exactly which share of the German contributions to these organizations directly serves CCD-related activities.

European Union (EU): about 24% of all EU contributions are funded by Germany. No overall figure for EU spending on desertification control is given because of the variety and the rolling nature of the programs. However, it is important to point out that between 1990 and 1999, the European Community made available over one billion euros to the developing countries from which desertification-related projects and research activities have been funded, ranging from soil stabilization and regeneration to water management, reforestation and training. These projects are being carried out in accordance with the principles of the CCD, such as the bottom-up approach and the participation of women. They show clearly that the EU has continued to provide substantial resources to address dryland degradation and desertification in regions other than Africa (approximately US\$ 84 million between 1990 and 2000 for a number of selected projects alone), improving food production and food security and contributing to the alleviation of poverty.

UN organizations: Germany makes significant contributions to UNDP/UNSO, UNEP and FAO.

World Bank: Between 1990 and 1998, the World Bank implemented some 160 projects in the field of drylands management and combating desertification. The volume of actual loans was about US\$ 9 billion. This was complemented by cofinancing etc., bringing the total amount to some US\$ 18 billion. Many of these projects are being executed in least developed countries which receive loans at IDA conditions. Germany, which provides a share of 11% to IDA funding, is thus making a direct contribution to World Bank projects for desertification control.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Since 1992, the GEF has successively expanded its portfolio for combating desertification and deforestation up to US\$ 447.7 million for some 60 projects in 72 countries. With its contributions, which make up about 12% (DM 417.26 million for 1998-2001) of the GEF budget, Germany is the third largest donor to the GEF. Recognizing that sustainable development in drylands depends on committed and complementary cooperation by different agencies, German implementing agencies like GTZ and KfW have sought collaborative relationships with the GEF in order to increase the impact of bilateral programs and generate global benefits. The evolving strategic partnership between the GEF, the World Bank and GTZ focuses on GEF Operational Program #12, Integrated Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management. In developing the partnership, priority has been given to the co-funding of projects combating desertification in the semi-arid areas of the West African Sahel. Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), which is acting as executing agency for the GEF, is cooperating closely with the GEF Secretariat as well as with the World Bank and UNEP in realizing projects which have positive impacts on global ecology.

5. Future outlook

In ratifying the CCD, Germany has shouldered its share of responsibility for implementing the Convention. It is aware of this responsibility and is doing its best - as is attested to by the information provided above - to foster the implementation process in its partner countries. It is also

trying to create a basis for improved mainstreaming within Germany. It is envisaged to make even more intensive efforts in future to

- ensure that staff from BMZ regional desks and from the implementing organizations are continually informed and advised so as to make desertification control and the CCD a more prominent topic in bilateral government negotiations and consultations;
- make increased use of important national and international meetings and conferences (such as ISCO) and other important events with a view to mainstreaming and sensitization;
- devote more attention to building strategic alliances in the international sphere as well (for instance, with regional banks in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, World Bank, EU, GEF);
- involve the media (press, TV, internet, etc.) in a more intensive manner so as to achieve broader acceptance for the topic of desertification control among the German public.

However, it is obvious that CCD implementation is not an end in itself; rather, the Convention is an instrument for improved resource management. In other words, the CCD can only be a successful instrument if the developing countries affected establish a conducive environment for improved resource management and if governments are serious about overcoming major impediments. Such impeding factors may be found both at the political level (in the form of unsuitable subsidies, ill-conceived state investment policies, lack of regulation of land rights and land use rights, lack of decentralization of decision-making structures) and at the local level (e.g., lack of participation).

In many cases, developing countries lack coherent strategies for resource management with clear and unequivocal targets. This is partly due to the fact that governments often fail to see the economic and social significance of desertification control and choose other political priorities. Another factor is the fact that donors, too, have difficulties in agreeing with partner countries and other donors on the main elements of a shared strategy for protecting natural resources.

For these reasons, it is a priority task to give more intensive thought to how CCD national action programs can be put to greater use in future as a joint basis for coordinated, harmonized support activities by donors.

It is also vital from the German point of view to draw up quality standards for desertification control and CCD implementation. Such standards are an essential prerequisite for realistic programming and financial planning and for later assessing the quality of the measures undertaken.

Another important aspect which definitely needs to be studied in greater depth is the analysis of the economic significance of desertification and of criteria that may not only justify investment in desertification-prone areas but may show investments to be profitable even if stringent business standards are applied.

Abbreviations	
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CEPAL = ECLAC	Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HIID	Harvard Institute for International Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
NAP	National Action Program
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSS	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
PRONALDES	Programa Nacional de Desarrollo en Zonas Secas
PRORENDA	Programa de Viabilização de Espaços Económicos para a População de Baixa Renda
RIOD	The International NGO Network on Desertification and Drought
SRAP	Subregional Action Program
TC	Technical Cooperation
FC	Financial Cooperation

Ongoing German Development Cooperation Projects to Combat Desertification

I. Criteria for selection of projects included in the list

1. Geographical location

Projects within the geographical scope of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), i.e. in developing countries located in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas of the world (see UNEP map).

2. Nature of activities

Projects and programmes focusing on one or more activities in the following areas.

(1) Measures designed to promote directly the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources:

- erosion control
- crop and animal farming,
- forestry,
- watershed management,
- maintenance of biodiversity.

(2) Measures designed to promote indirectly the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources

- renewable energies,
- food aid designed to secure and rehabilitate natural resources.

(3) Capacity-building measures for environment and natural resource management:

- training, environmental education and environmental information,
- decentralisation,
- land-use and land-law provisions,
- environmental action plans and other promoted planning activities,
- rural credit systems,
- research activities concretely related to natural resource management and environmental issues.

(4) Regional and supraregional projects which support CCD implementation, and are designed to prepare analyses and develop methods, instruments and strategies for natural resource management and conservation.

II. List of projects relevant to desertification: **Latin America, Asia and supra-regional**

Continent/ Country	Project title	Project cost in DM million
WORLD		
World supra-regional	Implementation of the Desertification Convention	9.0
	Pilot project for institution building in the field of environment	11.0
	Resource-friendly land use systems	2.3
	Efficient energy use	3.4
	Household energy program	17.6
ASIA		
Bhutan	Bhutan-German sustainable renewable resources development project	8.0
China P.R.	Monitoring and management information of the San Bei Three North Forest Shelterbelt Development Program	3.0
	Rehabilitation of micro hydropower plants	10.0
	Wind and Solar Energy in Inner Mongolia	10.0
	Watershed management Hebei / Peking	4.0
	Development of mountainous regions Jiangxi	12.0
	Organic farming in poverty regions	3.0
	Afforestation Shaanxi	25.0
	Afforestation Yanqing County	4.0
	Afforestation Ningxia (Three North Program)	12.0
	Afforestation Hebei (Three North Forest Shelterbelt Program)	13.0
	Afforestation Chongqing	12.0
India	Changar Eco-Development Project	16.0
	Promotion of remote sensing at Anna University, Madras/Chennar	10.0
	Promotion of watershed self-help programs	6.7
	Promotion of the Central Pollution Board	26.5
	Staff Training Watershed Management	19.2
	Adivasi Development Program Maharashtra	28.0
	Erosion control Maharashtra, realized by nongovernmental organizations	12.0
	Erosion control Karnataka I	20.0
	Development bank NABARD V: Adivasi Program	26.0
	Erosion Control Maharashtra II	25.0
	Erosion Control Maharashtra III	28.0
	Minor irrigation projects Rajasthan I	15.0
	Small-scale irrigation Maharashtra	45.0
Indonesia	Integrated Fire Management	20.0
Israel	International Center for combatting desertification	10.0
Jordan	Advisory services to the Ministry of Agriculture	6.3
	Concept for Rational Use of Energy	2.0
	Promotion of Renewable Energy Resources	3.2
	Use of saline water in the Jordan Valley	3.0
	Watershed Management	5.7
	Water Resources Planning at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation	7.0
	Operations Management Support to the Water Authority of Jordan	17.0
Lebanon	Support for the Implementation of CCD	1.0
Mongolia	Nature protection and buffer zones	11.5
	Fire prevention	3.0
	Regenerative energy	3.0
	Development of a rural finance system	8.0
	Self-help in rural areas	5.9

	Combatting Desertification	3.5
	Environmental protection and buffer zone development	11.5
Nepal	Credit program for small farmers	11.0
	Forestry development of Churia Forests	15.5
	Rural regional development Dhading District	16.0
	Rural regional development Gorkha	13.4
	Poverty reduction through self-help in the Arun Region	5.0
	Rural regional development Lamjung	7.2
	Promotion of biogas stations	14.0
	Rural infrastructure / Food for work	2.0
Pakistan	Siran Forest development project	7.9
	Forestry project Tarbela/Mangla	13.6
	Groundwater utilization program Ghotki	29.0
	Irrigation program Balochistan	24.0
	Groundwater utilization program Wana Plain and Jani Khel	20.0
	Tarbela Dam II	0.7
Sri Lanka	Smallholder Integrated Livestock Extension Program (SILEP)	6.0
	North West Province Dry Zone Participatory Development Project	7.0
	Regional Rural Development Project Kandy	16.4
Syria	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in Damaskus	3.9
Turkey	Biogas Power Station Ankara	20.0
Turkmenistan	Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Ashgabat	10.4
	Total Asia	758.0
LATIN AMERICA		
Argentina	Lucha contra la Desertificación en la Patagonia	13.1
	Desarrollo Rural Regional en las Provincias La Rioja y Catamarca	2.6
	Desarrollo sustentable de las zonas áridas y semiáridas	5.9
Bolivia	Gestión de Zonas de Amortización	6.0
	Plan del Uso de Suelos para Oruro	1.3
	Implementación de la Convención de Biodiversidad	10.0
	Protección de Recursos Naturales Santa Cruz	8.7
	Fomento del instituto ecológico	6.5
	Proyecto Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas SERNAD-GTZ	6.0
	Energías renovables	10.0
	Programa Nacional en Zonas Secas, PRONALDES	3.5
Brazil	PRORENDA: Apoio ao Pequeno Produtor Rural no Estado da Bahia	8.5
	Promação do Orgão Nacional de Meio Ambiente em Pernambuco	14.1
	PRORENDA Agricultura Familiar e Pesca Artesanal em Ceará	7.7
	PRORENDA Apoio aos pequenos produtores rurais de Minas Gerais	6.0
	PRORENDA Agricultura Familiar e Pesca Artesanal em Pernambuco	14.2
Chile	Gestión Ambiental en la IX. Región	6.0
	Manejo Sustentable y Protección del Bosque Nativo	8.4
	Uso Racional de Energía	2.4
	Gestión Ambiental de la Región Metropolitana de Santiago	9.0
	Gestión Ambiental de la Región del Bío-Bío	9.5
	Manejo Sustentable y Protección del Bosque Nativo	28.0
Colombia	Asesoramiento al Ministerio del Medio Ambiente	2.5
	Control de la Erosión Río Checua	9.6
	Control de la Erosión Río Checua II	10.0
	Desarrollo Integral Cauca – CORPOTUNIA	1.0
	Manejo de Recursos Naturales Río Guatiquía	7.0
	Rehabilitación de la Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta	13.1
	Proyecto Río Checua, Control de Erosión Convenio Colombo-Alemán	9.6
	Desarrollo Forestal en el valle del Río Magdalena	10.0

Cuba	Apoyo al Programa Nacional de Lucha contra la Desertificación	3.0
Dominican Republic	Protección de los recursos naturales	10.0
Ecuador	Manejo de Cuencas Hidrográficas (PROMACH)	26.7
	Reforestación Chongon-Colonche	15.0
Paraguay	Estación Experimental Chaco Central	21.2
	Técnicas de Conservación de Suelos	7.0
	Desarrollo Rural Regional Caazapa	4.0
	Sistema Ambiental en la Región Oriental	3.7
Peru	Apoyo Conservación de Áreas Protegidas	11.6
	Desarrollo Rural Valle de Colca	7.5
	Proyecto de Desarrollo Alternativo Alto Mayo	3.5
	Proyecto de Desarrollo Alternativo Jaén – San Ignacio-Bagua	3.0
	Proyecto de Desarrollo Rural Cajamarca	4.9
	Proyectos de pequeñas irrigaciones PLANMERISS	4.9
	Pequeñas Irrigaciones en la Sierra Sur II	20.0
	Pequeñas Irrigaciones en la Zona de los Andes III Apurim	15.0
	Desarrollo alternativo Alto Mayo	18.0
Latin America total:		429.3
Overall total:		1230.5