

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Parliamentary Law for Italian Cooperation to Development n.49/ 1987 explicitly mentions among its objectives the sustainable use and management of natural resources and environmental conservation, along with the promotion of human resources, the attention to gender issue, the satisfaction of basic needs of local population and the elimination of poverty. Engagement towards area deeply affected by desertification began in 1982 when the Parliament approved the "Italian initiative for the Sahel": interventions during this period were characterized by the adoption of an integrated approach to rural development, including emergency interventions whenever necessary, flexibility of implementation and the pursuit of local populations' involvement into project activities.

1.2 Traditionally the greatest part of Italian ODA has been addressed to Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa still scores first in terms of both funds and number of interventions. But in the last years North Africa which has been considered in an increasing number of projects together with West Asian countries, has received attention. This region has benefited also of more than 12 per cent of the Italian contribution to the MEDA-Programme of the European Union.

1.3 Attention to countries affected by recent conflicts (Kosovo, Albania, Iran, Iraq, Palestinian Territories etc) will certainly contribute to increase the number of projects addressed to areas in country Parties of regions other than Africa.

Climatic characteristics, and typologies of interventions different from those considered during the last eighteen years of interventions in affected countries of Africa and West Asia are factors determining the low figures of resources and number of interventions addressed to Southern America and Asian countries.

1.4. The channelling of Italian ODA through the Trust Funds with International Organizations has gained increasing importance since 1992. It is likely that certain percentage of this funds went and goes to activities responding to the mandate of the Convention to Combat Desertification, sometime addressed also to region other than Africa, especially in the case of the global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Programme for the Environment (UNEP), the World Food Programme (WFP) etc.

An increasing role are playing and will play in future Italian NGOs and Universities.

1.5. Interventions of the Italian Co-operation can be classified under the following Thematic Fields:

- **support to activities related to information systems, assessment and early warning system on Desertification;**
- **evaluation of applicability of traditional knowledge to National Action Programmes to combat Desertification.**
- **measures to implement sustainable agro-rural development and conservation programmes :** they include multi-faceted interventions aimed at tackling and

improving, through an integrated approach, natural resources management, socio-economic conditions and institutional issues in rural areas.

- **measures to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty;**
- **measures to conserve natural resources;**
- **measures to improve institutional organization.**

ASIA

(West Asia + Middle East)

Part A : Core report

Part B : Any other activities related to combating desertification

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Joint activities between the Directorate General for Development Co-operation and the Secretariat of the UNCCD undertaken for the year 2000, will contribute to the financing of some initiative addressed also to affected country parties of regions other than Africa.

In particular, financial support to national and regional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean is being processed for a total amount of 250,000 USD, addressed mainly to the national reporting process and UNCCD related-seminars.

Part A : Core report

Part B : Any other activities related to combating desertification

OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES CONCERNED

Attention to countries affected by recent conflicts (Kosovo, Albania, Iran, Iraq, Palestinian Territories etc) will certainly contribute to increase the number of projects addressed to areas in country Parties of regions other than Africa.

Part A : Core report

Part B : Any other activities related to combating desertification