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National Report

on measures taken to assist the implementation of the UNCCD for the Third Session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (27 April-6 May 2005)

Prepared by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, with the Technical Support of APAT and with the co-operation of ENEA and CNLSD¹

1 Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: DGCS, Directorate General for Development Cooperation;
Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory: DGRAS, Directorate General for Development and Environmental Research;
APAT: National Agency for the Environment and Technical Services;
ENEA: Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and the Environment;
CNLSD: Italian National Committee to Combat Drought and Desertification.

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1. INTRODUCTION

According to Decision 9/COP.6, adopted by the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the programme of work of the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC3) envisages, *inter alia*, both a review of the Reports on implementation of the Convention of affected African country Parties, and a review of the Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected African country Parties.

The present Report is the Italian contribution to CRIC 3 on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of African country Parties.

The Report is structured in the following chapters:

1. Introduction: contains introductory remarks on the UNCCD at international and national level;

2. Activities related to the implementation of the UNCCD: briefly describes the DGCS Italian Cooperation strategy in the field of desertification, focusing on resources mobilization, on realization of partnerships and on measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of National Action Programmes of African affected country Parties;

3. Activities related to combat desertification in the African Region: lists and describes some of the cooperation projects considered of major interest aimed at combating desertification in African affected country Parties, giving also brief examples of Italian synergetic activities in other affected country Parties. Particular attention has been paid to the implementation of the Convention and related processes and to priorities such as the implementation of synergies among environmental conventions and mainstreaming of economic and social policies.

The Report also includes Annex I in which cooperation projects are described according to the explanatory note prepared by the UNCCD Secretariat (ICCD/CRIC(3)/INF.4) and the so called Bonn Declaration.

1.1. The UNCCD in the international contest.

The 2002 **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation** considers poverty eradication as "*the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development*" (para 6). This requires

action to, *inter alia*, “combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resources management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as one of the tools for poverty eradication” (para 6(l))².

In addition, the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) considers desertification as a key issue and points out in clear terms the relationship between poverty reduction and land degradation control.

Acknowledging this interconnection between poverty eradication and environmental policies and that the UNCCD is moving from declarations of intent into an implementation phase, in 2004 the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory organised the **First International Forum on Partnership for Sustainable Development**³, which included a subgroup on “**Agriculture, Rural Development, Desertification**”.

This subgroup highlighted that partnerships on sustainable agriculture, rural development, desertification and land degradation, which represent the 35% of all the partnerships launched by the WSSD, are critical to feed a growing world population, eradicate poverty, and change unsustainable practices and policies that place unprecedented pressure on the environment.

The subgroup also indicated that it is particularly difficult to mainstream land degradation, desertification, the shrinking land, water and natural resources base into policy planning, given the low political priority to these areas at the national level. Special measures are therefore needed to enable governments to ensure that their international commitments are reflected in national policies, also by incorporating local priorities and those of the poor and rural.

To direct this challenge, at the UNCCD/COP6 the EU presented an initiative called “Fighting Poverty through Sustainable Land Use” (the so called “**COP6 Initiative**”), which is addressed to those affected developing countries who have already developed a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and a National Action Programme in the field of sustainable land management and show commitment to link the two.

According to the experience on cooperation, national contexts where legislative frameworks permit partnerships are preconditions for success at the national level. Italy, therefore, supports the COP6 Initiative and is strongly committed

² Para. 39 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation further specifies actions to take in order to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD.

³ At the moment Morocco is involved in the preparation of the Second International Forum on Partnership for Sustainable Development to be held in 2005.

to help affected developing countries to mainstream National Action Programs to Combat Desertification into their poverty reduction strategies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (PRSPs).

Our experience also shows that specific inter-sectorial approaches are needed to accomplish impacts on the ground, especially in the field of agriculture, rural development and desertification. In particular, sustainable forest management is an effective tool to prevent and mitigate the effects of land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change. This integrated approach also allows to utilize resources in a more efficient and effective way.

This Report, therefore, refers to cooperation projects in different but interlinked sectors, such as water, agriculture, forestry. This is done both in the light of the Convention⁴ and the Declaration on the commitments under the Convention to enhance implementation of the obligations of the UNCCD (the so called **Bonn Declaration**), which states that Parties shall adopt an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification and drought and encourages synergies between the Rio Conventions and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as international organizations, in order to strengthen their cooperation and seek partnerships, with a view to facilitate progress in the implementation of these Conventions at all levels.

Moreover, these projects are characterized by specific and clear objectives, which is a fundamental precondition to be operational; they focus on a community based/bottom-up approach - which is a basic principle of the Convention; they also identify non-ODA funds from the private sector and connect them to the priorities of the poor.

Italy attaches great importance also to the regional processes. Strong emphasis is therefore put in this Report on existing bilateral cooperation with African Mediterranean affected countries.

Therefore, Italy considers CRIC3 a unique opportunity to capitalize on ongoing experience in order to enhance the UNCCD implementation at country level.

In our view CRIC3 should:

- be established as a forum for effective discussion on implementation issues,
- focus on socio-economic as well as environmental aspects of sustainable land and water management,
- focus on concrete examples of synergies with the other Rio Conventions and related processes,
- mainstream the objectives of the Convention into national and international development programmes,
- identify lessons learnt and come up with operational recommendations, guidelines, success criteria to combat desertification through

⁴ Article 4(2)(a).

mainstreaming, partnership building, investment programmes, utilisation of available resources.

1.2 The UNCCD at national level

Italy ratified the Convention on 4th June 1997 through law n. 170/1997. Since then, Italy has taken part in the UNCCD activities both as an affected country and as a donor country.

The National Committee to Combat Desertification and Drought (NCCDD) has been established through DPCM⁵ 26/9/1997.

The NCCDD manages different lines of action: initiatives and proposals, coordinates activities related to combating desertification, monitors the application of methodologies for the assessment of desertification and research projects at national and European level, spreads information on drought and desertification. The Committee is a technical body, able to support the activities of Regions and River Basin Authorities.

The core activity of the NCCDD is the implementation of the Italian National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Drought, approved by the Interministerial Committee for Economic Programming on 21 December 1999. The Italian NAP envisages policies and measures to combat desertification at national and local level. It gives special emphasis to coordination and cooperation with Annex IV countries, aiming at drawing up a Regional Action Plan . It further aims at developing best practices and using lessons learned to apply at the international cooperation level.

⁵ Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers.

2. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCCD

Summary

Italy is committed to support the UNCCD implementation process. As a donor country, Italy supports many cooperation programmes in arid and semi-arid zones, especially in Africa.

These programmes are carried out in the framework of poverty reduction strategies. Some of them are explicitly linked to the UNCCD's National Action Plans (NAPs), others consist in financial support to sustainable natural resources management and other measures to combat desertification, including capacity building activities in affected countries and exchange of information.

By supporting the NAPs, Italy aims to uphold the national frameworks and to mainstream sustainable development in the affected countries' policies and strategies.

In addition, Italy has financially supported some intergovernmental organisations, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (SSO), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Italy has also supported programmes administered by Italian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). These programmes have promoted sustainable agriculture and the NAP processes, enabled the assessment and monitoring of desertification in African affected areas and contributed to land reforestation in this Region. They have been implemented with the full involvement of local NGOs.

Italy considers technical and scientific research as the basis for the fight against desertification, especially at the interregional level. Italy has therefore funded relevant activities of international research institutes, such as the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (IAO); the *Centre de Suivi Ecologique* (CSE), Senegal; the *Fondazione per la Meteorologia Applicata* (FMA); the *AGRHYMET Regional Centre* (ARC).

Finally, Italy has supported research networks within institutions dealing with agriculture, water, land, environment and capacity building.

2.1 Resource mobilization and partnership agreements⁶

In 2003, the total amount of Italian ODA was 636 million € and in 2004 638.5 million €. The African programs to combat desertification amount to the 5% of these figures.

In 2003, 31,673 € were allocated to Morocco in the period 2002 -2004, 4.530.550 € to Niger, 21,042,356 € to the Sahel Region; 293,867 € to Sudan and 160,680 € to Tunisia.

In 2002 and in 2004, Italy also voluntarily contributed to the activities of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (SSO) with respectively 52,000 and 80,000 €.

As regard financing international institutions, in addition to the obligatory funding, from 2002 to 2004 Italy contributed to the UNCCD with 1 million € per year (with an additional contribution of 300,000 € in 2003), as described in the following tables.

⁶ The financial data related to voluntary contribution to UNCCD and to projects funded by Directorate General for Development Cooperation have been extracted from the Information System for the Project Management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Data contained in OECD/DAC reports are not utilized because of differences in reporting systems. We consider that an homogenisation process between those systems should be pursued.

Table 1: UNCCD/Italy Joint Programme of activities - 2002

	Euros
1. Voluntary contribution to projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to donors round tables in Niger, Ethiopia and Eritrea - Organization of workshops on synergies in Niger, Ethiopia and Eritrea - Pilot projects in Niger, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Mozambique - Formulation and catalytic support to pilot activities for watershed management in Nile, Niger and Limpopo river basins - Capacity building (2 GEF training courses for 10 trainers/ course in 2001) in collaboration with IAO - Catalytic support to priority activities in CCD/ CBD joint work programme - Support to the preparation and organization of the WSSD Panel of Eminent persons meeting in Agadez, Niger - Co- financing for the LADA project with GEF 	495,000
2. Contribution to the reporting process for Africa	203,000
3. Contribution to regional conference for Africa	102,000
4. Organization of the CRIC meeting - Rome November 18th-19th , 2002	200,000
Total voluntary contribution	1.000,000

Table 2: UNCCD/Italy Joint Programme of activities - 2003

	Euros
1. Follow-up priority pilot activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launching project on youth corps in Ethiopia and Eritrea (co-financed by UNDP) - Planning and support to pilot activities for watershed management (Land and Water Initiative) on Limpopo, Mozambique (co-financed by the World Bank) - Support to NEPAD process and Regional Action Programme Implementation in Africa. 	<p>180,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>150,000</p> <p>380,000</p>
2. Capacity building and synergies among Rio conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and training on GEF project preparation (co-financed by IAO, Florence) - Support priority activities in Joint Programmes of Action with UNFCCC and CBD. 	<p>80,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>130,000</p>
3. Support to the organization of COP 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution to the regional meetings in preparation for COP6 - Participation of representatives of LDCs and NGOs in COP6 - Organization and Participation of Parliamentarians from developing countries in the Fifth Round Table of Members of Parliaments - Organization and participation of panellists in the UNCCD/UNESCO Forum of intellectuals and writers 	<p>300,000</p> <p>p.m.</p> <p>100,000</p> <p>70,000</p> <p>470,000</p>
4. Consultancies on related matters	<p>20,000</p>
Total voluntary contribution	<p>1.000,000</p>

Table 3: UNCCD/Italy Joint Programme of activities - 2004

	Euros
<p>1. Catalytic activities: follow-up priority pilot activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the formulation and implementation of Youth and Environment pilot activities on Youth Corps in Eritrea and Ethiopia - Support to NEPAD Process and RAP Implementation in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Project formulation for submission to the European Union/ACP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. West Africa ii. East & Southern Africa b) Project formulation for submission to development partners, including GEF and other financial institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Preparation of National Projects ii. Preparation of Sub-Regional & Regional Projects c) Support to other activities of the Regional Action Programme, including the Regional Coordination Unit for Africa 	<p>100,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>150,000</p> <p>300,000</p> <p>600,000</p>
<p>2. Capacity building: Training activities and Synergies among Rio Conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training on GEF project preparation at IAO - Support to priority activities to strengthen synergies among the Rio conventions 	<p>50,000</p> <p>150,000</p> <p>200,000</p>
<p>3. Advocacy: Preparation and participation of developing countries in processes mandated by COP6, and other relevant decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings of the Bureaux of the COP and its Subsidiary Bodies - African Regional meeting and other activities preparatory to CRIC 3 - Support to the preparation and organization of the Fourth Forum on Cooperation between Africa & LAC 	<p>50,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>150,000</p>
<p>4. Consultancies on related matters</p>	<p>50,000</p>
<p>Total voluntary contribution</p>	<p>1.000,000</p>

2.2 Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of National Action Programmes

Italy, through DGCS, the Italian Development Cooperation, provides financial and technical assistance in supporting the preparation and implementation of, *inter alia*, National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification in African affected countries.

Among the Sahelian countries, Niger is one of the most affected by desertification, because of climatic changes and increasing human pressure on natural resources. In 2000 Niger adopted its National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and for Natural Resources Management.

Upon the request of the Government of Niger, Italy is the *chef de file* for this Country, in consideration of the Italian contribute to natural resources management and combating desertification. Italy is also the donors' coordinator at national level on this issue.

In Niger, the Italian DGCS funded the project called "*Institutional Strengthening of the Executive Secretariat of the Environment National Council for a Sustainable Development (SE/CNEDD) and Accomplishment of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and for Natural Resources Management*". The main goal of the project is the improvement of SE/CNEDD capability to monitor desertification process and to define and implement actions to combat desertification at local level.

The implementing agency is the Executive Secretariat of Environment National Council for a Sustainable Development. The Programme involves civil society organizations, national and local institutions, the *Comité Permanent Inter Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel* (CILSS) Executive Secretariat, AGRHYMET Regional Centre, OSS, donors and international organizations, Italian NGOs supporting farmers' organizations in West Africa and the Executive Secretariat for the UNCCD.

The financial resources allocated for this Programme amount to € 1,117,334 by which € 358,102 are provided for by multi-lateral funds managed by the UNCCD Executive Secretary and € 759,232 through bilateral funds provided by the Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 1999, an international conference on the impact indicators of CCD was organized in Paris by OSS and CILSS in collaboration with UNESCO. The conference was carried out in order to support African technicians in the formulation of the National Action Programs monitoring-evaluation tools.

In this framework, the Italian - Tunisian project related to the "National system of monitoring-evaluation of NAPs" started in May 2001 and was funded with 255,800 €.

Five countries of the North and West Africa are partners in the project, which is coordinated by OSS and CILSS: Burkina Faso, Morocco, Niger, Senegal e Tunisia.

As a result of the project, monitoring and evaluating desertification and its impact is at the core of the NAPs of the countries involved.

The process leading to the monitoring and the evaluation of NAPs includes the analysis of the desertification problem and the an evaluation of its impact on people.

There are three main steps in the process:

- 1. study and analysis of the desertification problems at all levels that lead to the definition of the so-called "*Tableau de problematisation*", which is the basis of the monitoring-evaluation system.
- 2. definition of indicators measuring causes, phenomena and consequences of desertification. These indicators are classified in the "*Grille des indicateurs*" according to the DPSIR model.
- 3. qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the performance of the LCD⁷ and of the indicator trends ("*Tableau de bord*").

⁷ Lutte contre la Désertification

3. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMBATING DESERTIFICATION IN THE AFRICAN REGION

3.1 Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations

Participatory processes are extremely important in developing and accomplishing programmes related to the fight to desertification, especially in the field of natural resources management. This is also recognised in COP Decisions (1/COP.5 and 1/COP.6).

In order to gain field experience on the development of participatory processes in watershed management, Italy through DGCS and FAO launched an **Inter-Regional Project for Participatory Upland Conservation and Development (PUCD)**. This ten-year project (1992-2002) involved countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America (Tunisia, Rwanda, Burundi, Nepal, Pakistan and Bolivia).

The Project was conceived as a pilot process-oriented initiative aimed at using practical experiences to develop methodological lessons on integrated and participatory watershed management. At the national level, project management was based, to the greatest possible extent, on the principles of action-learning. The interregional nature of the Project was meant to harmonise actions and to validate, on a comparative basis, the participatory and integrated watershed management approach. Total funds amount to more than 13 million euros.

The Project paid special attention to initiatives promoting the economic independence of women, decreasing their work-load and improving their living conditions.

The DGCS project **Community Conservation Development of Lake Turkana** has envisaged local communities participation. Their contribution has been taken into account for the planning and management of biodiversity conservation, for the preservation of the of natural resources, cultural heritage and for the development of sustainable livelihoods in the arid zones of Lake Turkana (Kenya).

In this area, local people are depositary of a tremendous historic and cultural heritage: nomadic pastoral groups interact with residential fishing communities in a complex net of social and economic relations, based upon a careful and age-old system of natural resources use and conservation. Disruption of the traditional livelihood system of nomadic pastorals population, causes the loss of traditional knowledge and threatens the conservation of natural resources and biological diversity at the same time.

Participatory methodologies, including Primary Environmental Care, are adopted and used in the planning and management of sustainable development initiatives. A number of micro-projects for integrated and

sustainable natural resources use are implemented, and community rotating funds are established, in order to promote income generating activities.

The wide bilateral programme Italy-Sahel, has been characterised by the adoption of an integrated approach to rural development, including emergency actions, flexibility in implementation and local people involvement in the project activities.

Within this framework, Italy through DGCS, funds a project for the **strengthening of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Farmers' Organisations Networks**, to combat desertification and eradicate poverty in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The project aims at combating desertification and poverty in Sahelian countries, through the full participation of stakeholders. It also aims at strengthening CBOs capacity to participate actively in the elaboration and implementation of national and local agricultural and rural development programmes.

The **"Fire Control Project in the Amazon"** is a remarkable example of collaborative management in development cooperation

The DGCS, Italian Cooperation decided in 1999 to launch an emergency initiative, aimed at tackling the problem of fires in Brazilian Amazon, with a total disbursement of about 2 million euros.

The development goal of the Project is to help minimise the damage caused by forest fires in hot spots of nine States in the Brazilian Amazon, through actions at grassroots level and in direct collaboration with local population and non governmental organisations (NGOs) (in particular Amigos da Terra).

A second phase is under formulation and will be financed for further three years (2003-2005). Project results are excellent: an increasingly large number of Municipios is asking for assistance to allow the adoption of alternatives to fire use in agriculture. Given the role played by fires in land cover and range management and its impact on desertification processes, community involvement acquired in this project may be replicated in Africa.

3.2 Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements

The lack of an effective legislative and institutional framework is often a strong obstacle to the improvement of sustainable land management and protection policies (Decision 1/COP.5).

As an example of the strengthening of institutional frameworks for natural resources management, the DGCS project **"Systemic Integration of Networks for Sustainable Freshwater Management in the West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA) Region"** has the potential to act as a catalyst for the integration of thematic networks and the development of an effective "network of networks", and to promote an integrated and systemic approach for freshwater management.

Water resources and water quality are often dealt with by different specialised institutions, so that the planning and management of water resources are often constrained within the bounds of sectorial perspectives and approaches. Relevant institutional frameworks are generally too rigid so that interactions and coordination among them result very limited.

In order to improve sustainable water management in the Region, WESCANA countries agreed on the establishment of a Regional Water Programme Centre (RWPC) in Jordan.

Italy is playing a leading role at the regional level and in a number of initiatives, including the Euro Mediterranean Plan of Action for Water Resources, the support to debt swaps in irrigation and water supply schemes and the National Environmental Action Plans in several countries.

The Systemic Integration of Networks for Sustainable Freshwater Management in the WESCANA Region carried out by the Government of Jordan and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), aims at strengthening the capacity of network partners in order to improve the respective national systemic planning and management and at serving other partner countries, with the support of the RWPC.

In the framework of Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme (EIECP), the DGCS **Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)** aims to contribute to the protection of Egypt's natural and cultural resources, through the strengthening of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) capacities in planning and managing sustainable development.

The Programme reinforces the role of EEAA, as the central coordinating and supervising body, and of its partner institutions for the protection of the environment. It also strengthens Egyptian capacities to analyse, plan and implement adequate measures for the rehabilitation and conservation of natural, cultural and man-made environments.

The ongoing phase of the programme foresees nine projects: Programme Coordination Unit; Decision Support System for Water Resources Planning based on Environmental Balance; Siwa Environmental Amelioration; Wadi El Rayan Protected Area; Systemic Approach for Solid Waste Management in Egyptian Rural Governorates, Pilot Integrated Management Scheme in El Minia Governorate; Management Plan for Gabal Elba Protected Area (see specific project leaflet in folder); Institutional Support to SCA for Environmental Monitoring and Management of Cultural Heritage Sites in Fayoum Oasis and North Saqqara Necropolis; Legal and Institutional Support to EEAA; Institutional Strengthening of Nature Conservation Division.

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

In the framework of the “**Italian Initiative for the Sahel**”, the “**Integrated Rural Development Project in the Ader Doutchi Maggia**”, Niger, also known as “Project Keita”, intended to increase food security in a wide area, and to improve livelihood conditions for rural people by restoring the ecological balance and pursuing social and economic development.

The DGCS Project, executed by FAO from 1984 to 1999 and later by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), has been structured in three phases.

During Phase I (1984-1991), specific objectives concerned mostly the physical amelioration of an area of 5,000 sq km, while combating desertification through the reduction of soil erosion and reforestation on severely degraded slopes and hill tops.

In Phase II (1991-1996) the area of intervention was enlarged to include the entire Keita district, for a total of 12,000 sq km, with a wider approach to utilise restored land with appropriate sustainable cultivation techniques, based on the conservation of plants-water-soil balance and to gain benefit for local populations from the set-up of production and services cooperatives at village level. Income-generating opportunities were developed, by employing mostly women in the field of soil conservation. Male rural migration decreased, thanks to the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral activities on recovered land.

The project also contributed to strengthening local communities institutions, through their direct involvement in the management of equipment and revolving funds, as well as of restored communal natural resources.

In Phase III (1996-2003) the project management was transferred to the Niger authorities.

In Phase IV (2005-2008) the funding of all project activities will be transferred within the Niger national budget, through the implementation of a Local development fund.

In the **Sahel Region**, an information system for the early warning and agricultural production forecast was created through the “**AP3A Project**” and afterwards through the “**SVS Project**” - **Monitoring structural vulnerability in Sahel**. The projects aim at improving CILSS ability to prevent and face recurrent food shortage crisis through the diffusion of information on vulnerability dynamics and the identification of vulnerable areas.

The project established an Integrated System for Early Warning at regional level for the prevention of crisis. The efficiency of these instruments has often proved inadequate in the development of information because they don't take into account socio-economic factors influencing food security. The Integrated System for Early Warning is composed of four autonomous but interactive modular sub-systems (Socio-Economic Database Management System, Territorial Analysis System, Structural Vulnerability Mapping System, Situational Analysis System). The existing functional relationships established between the sub-systems meet both early warning objectives and gear their utilisation towards an information system for managing natural resources.

During the SVS Project , management activities of the information system will be entrusted to CRA (Agrhymet Regional Centre).

Among projects launched in Africa by the Ministry for the Environment and Territory, a remarkable example of multilateral cooperation is the **Water Programme for Africa**.

This partnership has been launched in order to meet one of the most important challenges related to desertification: the water crisis. Limited freshwater supply and poor irrigation practices are among the causes of land degradation and desertification, which affect one-third of the world's land area, about 16% of the world's agricultural land, 110 countries (including more than 80 developing countries) and 1 billion people. Moreover, over 1 billion people worldwide have no access to safe water supply and almost 2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation. Scarcity of water is therefore a threat to economic development, poverty eradication, the environment, peace and security.

Participating countries in the Programme are Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea, Yemen and Vietnam. The surrounding area also will benefit from the implementation of this programme, in particular by means of training and capacity building activities.

The Programme main goals are: to contribute to the achievement of water security in water-stressed environments by providing the rural population with freshwater; to satisfy water needs for nature and food production by a more efficient integrated water management; to alleviate poverty and health risks by providing modern water services, particularly in rural areas; to improve alternative water resources use and management; to improve health conditions reducing vulnerability to water related diseases and water scarcity; to improve livelihoods conditions in particular in rural areas.

The Ministry for the Environment and Territory also manages bilateral cooperation projects supporting sustainable land use in African countries. Particularly meaningful are the following:

1) **"Dounya Park" (Algeria)**, for the creation of an urban park with a surface of about 240 ha. in the city of Algeri to complete the "green barrier" realized during the 70s to combat desertification resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities.

2) **"The International Study Centre on Desertification and Land Degradation (ISCD) "** (Algeria). Italy promotes the setting-up of an International Study Centre to be established in the *Gardhaia University* (Algeria). The Centre will carry out the following research axis: research and technology transfer on water supply and management; technologies development for energetic supply through renewable energies; reforestation techniques to combat desertification, biodiversity conservation; agronomic techniques to deal with an arid and semi-arid environment for food security;

monitoring systems and early warning to detect drought, land degradation and erosion; development of socio-economic analysis; preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge; analysis, preservation and promotion of historical and cultural infrastructures; start of Master and Phd Programmes in cooperation between the Italian and Algerian Universities.

In order to add value to the ISCD, the following five pilot-projects will be developed: a) Foggara, aiming at carrying out hydro-geological analysis and other relevant scientific activities in order to select those European technologies for the groundwater management that better could be adapted to the local situation; b) Tinerkouk, represents a feasibility study for the establishment of a Park in the Tinerkouk area for promoting the eco-system and biodiversity protection in six oasis, the rationale use of water together with the cultural heritage and for developing an ecological sound tourism; c) Timimum is an Algerian city hosting 10.000 people, the intent is to develop an integrated analysis of the functioning of the water system in all its components and to establish a wastewater treatment plant; d) the establishment of an hydrological integrated model to monitor the quality and the status of the groundwater layers and e) Adrar for the auditing of the wastewater treatment plant already existing in the Adrar capital city and for the identification of the best available technologies for the re-use of water for irrigation, reforestation and green-areas establishment.

3) **“Innovative means for increasing water resources” (Egypt).** The project aims at supplying the South Sinai El-Gafa village and El-Hasna Center areas with a sufficient water amount for drinking purpose and agriculture use through the desalination of seawater and underground water plant supplies with renewable energy and the reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture. The project also includes the associated technical, economic, institutional and legal aspects. These plants will be built according to the best practices for environment preservation. The project will be implemented in one of the North Sinai villages. The criteria for selecting the project area will be the presence of underground water with high saline content, the distance from the coastline and the presence of wastewater treatment plants.

Although this Report focuses on Africa only, Italy would like to present two projects conducted respectively in China and Iraq, as they represent remarkable examples among the cooperation projects conducted by the Ministry for the Environment and Territory

1) **“Strengthening Technology and Capacity of Sustainable Agriculture in China”.** The project is a component of the Sino-Italian Cooperation Programme for Environment Protection (SICP), jointly launched by SEPA (China State Environmental Protection Administration) and the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory in 2000. The project’s goals are: the minimisation of the use of water for irrigation; the reduction of the use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture; the adoption of environmentally friendly crop protection techniques; the adoption of biodegradable mulching films to mitigate the “white pollution” of soil.

In the period 2002-2004 several activities were carried out, such as workshops, training courses and activities on the field. At the moment, results assessment shows that the use of water and fertilizations has decreased of about 5 to 6 times in respect of traditional techniques and that the adoption of biodegradable mulching films have come up with same effects as of those deriving from the use of traditional plastic mulching films

2) **“Immediate Action Plan for Water Resources Management in post war Iraq – The New Eden”** launched in 2004 by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, in collaboration with the Iraq Foundation, the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources and the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works.

The project will be implemented in the Municipalities of Nasiriyah and Basrah with a resource mobilization of 2.150.000 € provided by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory.

The project objective is the identification of key water management problems, setting priorities for dealing with them and helping to the development of a comprehensive Iraqi policy for water resources management, on the basis of a participatory process with a particular attention to the fight to desertification in the marshland zone in the Tigris and Euphrates estuary (the Eden Garden), which has been dewatered by 90% in the last 30 years. The project will help the organisations engaged in the post war reconstruction of Iraq to integrate water management considerations in their overall development policy and investment decision-making process. The project aims to guide donor assistance programmes, and to contribute in attaining benefits in water management from investments in other economic sectors.

3.4 Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment

Many initiatives undertaken by Italian scientific institutions aim to support the implementation of UNCCD at national and international level. The involvement of Italian scientists into the works of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) gave impulse to the preparation of project proposals addressing the issues of Traditional Knowledge, Monitoring and Assessment and Benchmark and Indicators following the recommendation of CST.

Traditional Knowledge

The drive given by the Convention to the improvement of the Traditional and local Knowledge issue received a substantial support by Italy that hosted the meetings of the two “ad hoc panels” held in Matera in 1999 and 2000. The activity of the “ad hoc panels” has been followed by the creation of a scientific network involving partners from the African and northern Mediterranean region and Asian regions. The ongoing scientific project “Foggara” (see project description in Annex I) coordinated by the Ipogea research centre is addressing the issue of the water management and is working to the capacity

building to improve the merging of modern and traditional knowledge in drylands

Monitoring and assessment

The DGCS supported **AFRICOVER** project was formulated to meet several African countries' request for assistance in the set-up of reliable and geo-referenced databases on natural resources, by producing reliable land cover maps and building the national capacities in operational applications of remote sensing. It is part of FAO assistance to the Nile Basin countries, and a component of a larger multi-donor programme. The Project has been operational in the period 1995-2003 and was signed by ten countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capabilities of East African and Riparian Nile countries for sustainable planning and management of natural resources.

AFRICOVER is complementary to another East-Africa international Italy-funded project, "**Capacity Building for Nile Basin Water Resources Management**", which gathers the nine Nile Riparian Countries for the common and sustainable management of the Nile basin.

AFRICOVER will be one of the building blocks for a new partnership the DGCS is developing with multilateral agencies, among which FAO and UNEP, and bilateral cooperation agencies, among which USAID. In this new wide-ranging agreement, AFRICOVER will contribute with its databases and its know-how developed so far to produce user-friendly models for supporting decision makers in the planning and management of sustainable development.

Benchmark and Indicators

Following the recommendation of the CST, the Conference of the Parties at its second and third sessions invited Governments to initiate testing the application of impact indicators and to introduce them in national reporting to the Conference. This request stems from the need to check the real effectiveness of the national, sub regional and regional policies and measures to combat desertification.

A sub-regional workshop on the Desertification Information Systems for planning needs in the Mediterranean area was held in November 1998 in Marrakech, Morocco, jointly sponsored by the UNCCD Secretariat, the Authorities of Morocco and Italy. It convened representatives of Northern Mediterranean and of Northern African countries, as well as international and sub-regional organizations. The participants to the Marrakech workshop recommended to the Northern Mediterranean and the Northern African countries to explore the possibility of establishing an operational information system for planning purposes, to potentially service all Mediterranean partners, taking into account the existing local capacities and facilities. They also urged countries to establish a close collaboration for the harmonisation of the

methodologies of exchange of information related to all aspects of land degradation.

The **Desertification Information System for the Mediterranean Region (DISMED)** project, implemented by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Fondazione Meteorologia Applicata (FMA), had the objective of improving the capacity of national administrations by reinforcing communication, facilitating the exchange of information and establishing a common information system to assess the physical and socio-economic conditions in areas threatened or affected by desertification and drought.

The ongoing **AID-CCD** project, coordinated by the Nucleo di Ricerca sulla Desertificazione of Sassari University, is organizing the development and co-ordination of exchange of experiences between scientific institutions involved in the implementation of UNCCD at national and regional level. Two specific priority issues have been identified by the project:

- Scientific and technical aspects of desertification indicators and remote sensing;
- Information Circulation Systems in combating desertification.

AID-CCD is involving in its activities experts and scientist coming from the countries belonging to the UNCCD Annexes I-II-III-IV. The project aims to develop synergies among the three Rio Conventions and to improve the utilization of indicators by stakeholders at all level. The project is supporting the diffusion among stakeholders of the necessary tools and information to implement the UNCCD at the different levels and is supporting the promotion of the international debate on desertification mitigation measures.

3.5 Access by affected developing country Parties to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how

ACACIA Operation is an important example of technology, knowledge and know-how transfer from North to South in the reforestation sector.

ACACIA Operation is a FAO/Italy Cooperation Programme Support project for food security, poverty eradication and soil degradation in countries producing rubber and resin. Participating countries are Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Kenya, Sudan.

The main goal of the project is the improvement of agricultural production systems and pastures, the protection of the soil and the diversification of the income to assure food security promoting the conservation, extension and sustainable management of the communities of rubber producers. This goal will be reached by direct support to concerned countries, which regards all types of production such as agricultural and forest plantations, specialized plantations and natural formations. It is complemented by capacity building activities, technology transfer and development of research programmes. The effectiveness of the programme is guaranteed by the support given to the

central secretariat and the executive committee for their administrative and technical activities. These are carried out through a regional network, which includes the contact points of interested countries and regions. Acting on rubber production, an important piece of agricultural and shepherd systems in sub-saharian drylands, the programme aims at improving food security of rural populations and combating poverty in line with the UNCCD objectives. The total cost of the project is entirely covered by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3.6 Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions

An integrated approach in agriculture, forest and biodiversity management allows to utilize resources in a more efficient and effective way.

In particular, sustainable forest management is an effective means to contribute to preventing and mitigating the effects of land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

Building on this understanding, the Italian Ministry for the Environment and the Territory promoted the **Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions**, organized by the UNCCD and CBD Secretariats in cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat (held in Viterbo, 5-7 April 2004). The workshop has contributed to the identification of synergistic processes in the forestry sector, in particular in afforestation and reforestation, which ensure equal attention to environmental goals, conservation of biodiversity, combating desertification, carbon sequestration and socio-economic aspects, including benefit sharing and poverty eradication. It also highlighted the need to develop a national strategy on environment, which should take into consideration biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and desertification. There is therefore a potential for countries that have not yet prepared their UNCCD NAPs to build on the Recife momentum to catalyse synergistic interactions with other conventions and design the NAPs in an integrated fashion.

Synergies between UNCCD, UNFCC and UNCBD are carried out at country level through many projects (for instance in Tunisia and in Limpopo catchments area).

In the WESCANA region, Italian Department for Development Cooperation and IUCN agreed to develop a coherent programme of activities to combat desertification as a first step of a long-term initiative for the development of synergies between the UNCCD and the CBD, with a view to pursuing sustainable development in the region. The development goal of the Programme is achieved through the sustainable management of natural resources in arid and semi-arid areas, which are to be preserved or rehabilitated through the active participation of the local communities.

A desertification Centre will be established in Iran as the core node of an information network spanning 24 countries of the WESCANA region. It will be in charge of improving sustainable natural resources management and to contribute to coordinate the implementation of relevant international policies and conventions, in particular the UNCCD, the CBD, the UNFCCC, in the WESCANA region.

Particularly interesting, even though carried out in non-African regions, are two reforestation projects (totally 6.000 ha) launched in 2004 by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory in China (Ahon County) titled "**Youth Participation in Plantation Establishment for Combating Desertification in Northern China**" and in Argentina (Santiago dell'Estero) titled "**Youth and the Environment project in Argentina**". Both these projects aim to reduce the presence of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere together with the rehabilitation of ground vegetations for restoring degraded land addressing the three Rio Conventions objectives. Moreover, they involve youth or/and women into the processes to combat desertification in order to provide for education, awareness rising, employment and income generation.

3.7 Capacity building and Training programmes

DGCS, the Italian Development Cooperation supports many projects based on capacity building of local authorities and training of technicians in the field of sustainable natural resources management, with a view to combating desertification. In the implementation of these projects, the gender issue is properly addressed.

One of these projects is the **Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)** aimed at strengthening Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) capacities in planning and managing sustainable development. Details on this programme are addressed above (page 16).

Within this framework, some projects focus on local authorities capacities to manage fragile ecosystems.

For example, **Siwa Oasis Project** enhanced the capacity of key stakeholders and institutions to manage in a sustainable way the natural and cultural heritage, while supporting the development of community-based initiatives. The project strengthened the institutional capacity for sustainable natural resources management through the establishment of a collaborative management system for the Protected Area, to preserve biodiversity and cultural heritage. The Protected Area is also a focus for regional planning and development of sustainable tourism and agriculture.

In the Nile Basin area, a project in cooperation with FAO, deals with capacity building for water resources management.

Countries concerned are: Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.

The project aims at supporting the cooperation among Nile Basin countries, for the integrated management of transboundary water resources, the improvement of national planning and management capacity at a regional and basin level, as well as legal and institutional development and implementation of subsidiary, sub-basin action programmes.

In all these cooperation projects, training programmes for local population are included.

Training activities take place both in developing countries and at main international research institutes and involve intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations.

In 2003, in the frame of NEPAD Ministerial Conference, some African countries asked the Italian Government to support the special programme to combat desertification and poverty in Africa, called "**Special Initiative for Africa**". The Programme provides the formulation of priority actions in affected countries, with concerted support by financial institutions and bilateral donors. A small number of projects contained in National Action Plans, together with Sub-Regional Programmes (PASR) initiatives, will be carried out in three years (2004 - 2006).

The Support Programme aims at strengthening capacities of National Coordinating Bodies of Sub-Saharan African countries, so that they can effectively use existing financial resources to implement their NAPs, with a special regard to resources deriving from the Special Initiative.

The **PAFAGE** project - **Support to training and assistance in the field of environmental management** - is carried out within the framework of a collaboration between the Italian and Niger Governments contributing to strengthen the Country's capacity in providing readily available information for natural resources monitoring and management.

The Project contributes to upgrade the Technical Unit of the Department of the Environment (UTA) of the *Ministère de l'Hydraulique de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre la Désertification* to be a technical centre specialised in timely, accurate and readily available information for natural resources management.

UTA's activities deal with the study, analysis and monitoring of the environment, and are oriented to the implementation of the National Environment Programme for a Sustainable Development and the National Action Programme for Combating Desertification and Natural Resources Management, elaborated according to the UNCCD directives.

This initiative is aimed at enhancing the technical and operational capacity of UTA staff in managing new information technology tools. It also aims at improving the quality of their information products (cartography, analysis, reporting, indicators), which are used to support the decision-making process when developing environmental and socio-economic programmes, procedures and policies.

Similar experiences are carried out in Burkina Faso, in support of the National Geographic Institute, as well as in Senegal.

In Senegal DGCS provides, through IAO, technical assistance to the *Centre de Suivi Ecologique* (CSE). The CSE is a centre operating at national and international level in the sectors of remote sensing and geographic information systems.

The project aims at improving availability and accessibility of information on crop production and natural resources and to strengthen CSE capacity to collect, analyse and spread relevant data on the state of crops and environment, through institutional building and training.

In Sahel, training projects efforts intend to obtain a better elaboration and a more effective accomplishment of sustainable natural resources management and to promote food security policies. The training focuses on remote sensing and natural resources assessment as well as the improvement of a natural resources data bank. It is addressed to government staff at all levels.

ANNEX I: SYNTHETIC DESCRIPTION OF A SELECTION OF RELEVANT PROJECTS

NOTE

The following forms include a short synthesis of bilateral and multilateral projects and projects managed by other institutions on the basis of core funds agreements. Forms are ordered according to specific thematic and sectorial areas (Decision 8/COP.4, so called Bonn Declaration).

a) Sustainable land use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); UNOPS, National Governments
TITLE	KEITA Integrated Rural Development Programme in the Ader Doutchi Maggia, Valley of Keita
Abstract	The Project has been active through four phases. The third phase ended in June 2003 with the full transfer of project management to the Niger authorities,. A final phase will start in 2005. Its objective is to transfer the funding of all project related activities within the Niger national budget, through the implementation of a Local Development Fund. The main objective is to increase food security over a very large area, while combating desertification through the reduction of soil erosion and reforestation, giving priority to: - global recovery of a watershed through the reclamation of unproductive areas, - massive participation of the population in the land recovery activities, - creation of a project structure appropriate for the interventions over large areas.
Activities	Establishment of a territorial database on the Project area (socio-economic, cartographic, meteorological, inventory of Project 's interventions). Production of thematic cartography on the Project area, about 5,000 sq km. Analysis of the hydrological characteristics of watersheds and of erosion risk. Analysis of the vegetation biomass distribution in the area. Climatic analysis. Multi-temporal and multi- spectral analysis of temporal evolution of the effects of conservation and reclamation works. Processing and integration of satellite (LANDSAT TM,SPOT) and aerial photos. Development of environmental information system on the Project area. Training of fifteen experts from the local Ministry of Environment and other technical institutions.
Expected Outcome	Positive conditions for the regeneration of the physical environment through soil conservation on 12,000 sq km of severely degraded slopes and hill tops. Income-generating opportunities , through the huge amount of labour required for the soil conservation works, mostly for women. Male rural migration decreased, thanks to the development of agro-sylvan-pastoral activities on recovered land. Set up of Production and service cooperatives at village level .
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to the managing of natural resources as a base for sustainable development in particular: - gender issues - sustainable agriculture and rural development - watershed management
Target Year	2008
Target Area	Niger - Valley of Keita
Resource mobilization and coordination	The budget of the final phase is 3,321,888 €
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); S.E. UNCCD, UNOPS, National Governments
TITLE	Institutional strengthening of Executive Secretariat of Environment National Council for a Sustainable Development and accomplishment of National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and for Natural Resources Management
Abstract	The project was formulated to support the activities of the National Secretariat to develop frameworks for the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification. Upon request of the Niger Government, Italy is the donors' coordinator . The project aims to contribute to the improvement of life quality of Nigerian populations affected by desertification .
Activities	Generic and specialized training. Inventory of competent Institutions and of plans and programmes to combat desertification. Organization of thematic workshops. Involvement of citizens and national and local institutions. Creation of a task force with the participation of Ministry Technical Services, co-ordinated by SE/CNEDD. Creation of CREDD (Regional Councils for Environment and Sustainable Development). Start up of an information campaign and creation of a technical documentation center.
Expected Outcome	Improvement of SE/CNEDD cadres training level. Improvement of capability to monitor desertification factors and improvement in the determination of strategies and politics capable to stop and to invert the phenomenon. Improvement of SE/CNEDD capability to co-ordinate and to involve institutions and organizations. Improvement of abilities to co-ordinate and negotiate with donors. Creation and training of CREDD. Development of activities to analyse and monitor desertification factors at local level. Development of capability to define and manage actions to combat desertification at local level.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - institutional framework - collaborative management
Target Year	2004
Target Area	Niger
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 759,232 euro.
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IAO
TITLE	Italy - CILSS Fund to Combat Desertification and Poverty Reduction in Sahel Region
Abstract	The Italy-CILSS (Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel) Fund is the most important element of Italy Sahel Programme for poverty reduction. The Fund is aimed to offer a development chance to populations and rural communities living in Sahel marginal areas, threatened by social and environmental risks. Regional level objective is: contribute to improve life conditions of vulnerable local people in Sahel region. National level objective is: contribute to the poverty reduction among rural people in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Local level objective: contribute to improve socio-economic conditions of rural families.
Activities	Definition and realization of politics aimed to combat poverty causes. Improvement of natural resources management, food security strategies and local development activities. Italian-Sahelian partnerships for investments, according to development strategies concerted between Institutions and local populations.
Expected Outcome	Strengthening of CILSS competences on promoting and spreading politics (policies) of poverty reduction at regional level.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - poverty reduction, - natural resources management, - collaborative management
Target Year	2007
Target Area	Sahel - Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 20,310,356 euro
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IAO, CRA
TITLE	Training project on natural resources management and food security (Sahel)
Abstract	The projects aim at a better elaboration and at a more effective (accomplishment) of natural resources management and food security policies in the area. The links/relationships between those policies and National and Regional Plans to combat Desertification will be also analysed.
Activities	High level training programme, including 9 individual on the job trainings in Italy, at main Institutions. Post-university training courses, with the participation of 6 executive cadres to the Remote Sensing and Natural Resources Evaluation Course at IAO. Specialized training: 9 short courses at Agrhymet Centre in Niamey. Enrichment of CRA Documentation Centre.
Expected Outcome	The projects will improve capacity in Sahelian countries on food security and natural resources management, through training governmental services staff at all levels on remote sensing, natural resources assessment and natural resources data bank at CRA documentation centre improvement.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - food security, - capacity building, - natural resources management
Target Year	2004
Target Area	Sahel
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 914,463 euro.
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IAO, C.S.E.
TITLE	Training project on natural resources management and food security (Senegal)
Abstract	IAO will provide technical assistance to the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE). The CSE is an established centre, operating at national and international level in the context of remote sensing and geographic information systems. The project aims to improve availability of and accessibility to information on crop production and natural resources, to facilitate decision-making on sustainable development initiatives at national and international level; to strengthen CSE capacity on collection, analysis and diffusion of relevant data on the state of crops and environment, institutional building and training.
Activities	Technical assistance activities; supplying of hardware and software equipment.
Expected Outcome	Improvement of crops monitoring effectiveness. Improvement of knowledge of intra-urban and peri-urban crops in Dakar. Creation of a Data Bank on environmental available data in Senegal. Publication of a <i>State of the Environment</i> in Senegal Yearbook. Enlargement of environmental monitoring range through the application of methodologies used in developed countries.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of implementation which are related to: - environmental monitoring, - institutional framework
Target Year	2005
Target Area	Senegal
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 1,343,666 euro.
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); CeS.I.A. (Centre of Studies for Computer Science in Agriculture)
TITLE	PAFAGE Support to training and assistance in the field of environmental management
Abstract	The Project is carried out in collaboration with the Italian and Niger Government and contributes to strengthen the Country 's capacity in producing real time and readily available information for natural resources monitoring and management. The Project will contribute to upgrade UTA (Technical Unity of the Department of Environment) and to make it a specialised centre in timely, accurate and readily available informations for natural resources management. This will ensure its ability to continue its current established tasks (gathering, managing and distributing environmental resources data and information) and to provide new services without having to depend on external help. The project aims to develop the National Environmental Information System and to strengthen technical and methodological capacity of the Technical Unit of the Directorate for Environment, in order to improve environmental management. It will also strengthen the Keita environmental observatory in the frame of the ROSELT/OSS initiative.
Activities	Implementation will focus on three main activities: - the production of the National Environmental Report; - the implementation of the Keita Site Observatory; - the development of a set of Desertification Assessment Indicators according to the National Environment Programme directives.
Expected Outcome	The main goal of PAFAGE is to develop an Integrated National Environmental Information System (SIEN) for data collection and management, information production and consolidation. This will produce immediate, useful and diversified information, according to different end-users' needs, and will strengthen communication mechanisms among all national institutions and services.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of implementation which are related to the managing of natural resources as a base for sustainable development in particular: - capacity building - environmental monitoring - networking
Target Year	2005
Target Area	Niger
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 662,108 euro
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IUCN, Government of Jordan
TITLE	WESCANA Systemic Integration of Networks for Sustainable Freshwater Management in the West/Central Asia and North Africa Region
Abstract	Italy is playing a leading role at the regional level and in a number of initiatives, including the Euro Mediterranean Plan of Action for Water Resources, the support to debt swaps in irrigation and water supply schemes and the National Environmental Action Plans in several countries. The present initiative with the Government of Jordan and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). WESCANA Programme tackles priority areas of natural resources management such as water, biodiversity, desertification, marine and coastal ecosystems, protected areas, environmental law, environmental education and communication, equity and sustainability. Within this framework, it has the potential to act as a catalyst for the integration of thematic networks and the development of an effective "network of networks". The long-term development goal of the WESCANA Water Programme is to promote and consolidate a sustainable water management process in the WESCANA region, by tackling social, economic and ecological processes in target catchments areas and aquifers.
Activities	Consolidation of the Regional Water Programme Centre (RWPC) in Jordan by facilitating and strengthening the network of regional experts. New networks and partnerships will be started and policy guidelines established. Capacity building will be developed and implemented towards integrated and systemic water management. Situational analysis of best and bad practices in water management: an inventory will be established, to classify past and present water conservation practices and techniques, relevant institutional and legislative frameworks in the region and policies. A subsequent gap analysis will identify priority actions for the definition of an integrated, systemic water management approach, for the strengthening of existing partnerships and for the development of new ones. Implementation of pilot planning and management action: two or more partner countries, in coordination with the RWPC in Jordan, will implement a number of pilot actions on systemic water planning and management. These actions will stem from a strong network of networks of centres of excellence and will focus on issues of national, trans-boundary and/or regional interest and impact in specific shared catchments areas and/or groundwater basins.
Expected Outcome	The Regional Water Programme Centre in Jordan is consolidated as a focal point for the regional network of networks on sustainable water management and is able to provide services to WESCANA partner countries. The capacity of network partners is strengthened in order to improve the respective national systemic planning and management and to serve other partner countries, with the support of the RWPC and through the provision of access to on-line information, training and monitoring. Institutional set-up and legislative frameworks are analysed and synthesised as the basis for the development of sustainable water management policy in WESCANA countries. Techniques for water conservation and sustainable use are assessed, classified and analysed within a framework for sustainable, integrated water management. A number of pilot planning and management actions are implemented jointly by two or more partner countries, and focus on water-related trans-boundary and regional management and/or development potentials.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - network of networks - trans nationality - water resources management
Target Year	2004
Target Area	West/Central Asia and North Africa Region
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 2,200,000 euro
Contact	Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IUCN
TITLE	WESCANA Desertification Programme Centre in the West/Central Asia and North Africa Region
Abstract	<p>The DGCS, Italian Cooperation is actively engaged in programmes and projects aiming at influencing policies and practices that combat desertification and land degradation. Consistently, it promotes the implementation of the UNCCD, through interventions at national and regional levels and through support to the Secretariat of the Convention itself. Among these, an Action Programme UNCCD- Convention on Biodiversity for the integration of post-Rio processes was started and the Matera International Centre for Traditional Knowledge on Desertification has been established. The DGCS, Italian Cooperation also supports and collaborates with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on dry-land/desertification issues in WESCANA countries.</p> <p>The goal of the Programme is to promote the sustainable management of arid and semi-arid areas in WESCANA Region, including biodiversity which should be conserved or rehabilitated through the participation of local communities.</p>
Activities	<p>Negotiations for the formal establishment of the Thematic Regional Desertification Centre in Iran.</p> <p>Technical assistance in the management and/or rehabilitation of biodiversity in the desert through pilot projects .</p> <p>Pilot income-generation projects implemented by the local communities. Through these pilot initiatives, collaborative management agreements will be established among stakeholders, for the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources.</p> <p>The training of the local actors involved in the pilot projects, including local communities and NGOs, Government departments and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Assessment of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices, as well as of modern tools and practices, in order to select, upgrade, promote and integrate the most appropriate ones into extension programmes for the sustainable management of natural resources. Proposal for re-addressing conventional approaches to range- land management.</p>
Expected Outcome.	<p>Consolidation of the Regional Desertification Programme Centre in Iran as the focal point for the regional "network of networks" to combat desertification.</p> <p>Acquisition of Technological know-how for the management and/or rehabilitation of dry-lands.</p> <p>Strengthening capacities through the training of the local actors involved in the pilot projects, including local communities and NGOs, Government departments and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Adoption of collaborative management agreements on the sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity resources under dry- land conditions among the stakeholders of the different pilot projects.</p> <p>Promotion of traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices integrated into modern tools and techniques for the sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>The implementation of policies and international conventions, in particular the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to develop synergies among them and strengthen their positive impact.</p>
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	<p>This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative management - economic development - environmental sustainability - trans-nationality <p>The project addresses UN-CBD and UN-FCC goals.</p>
Target Year	2004
Target Area	West/Central Asia and North Africa (WESCANA) Region
Resource mobilization and coordination	
Contact	<p>Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma</p>

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency; Governorate of Matrouh; Governorate of El Miniya; National Water Research Center; Supreme Council of Antiquities; UNDP
TITLE	EIECP Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan: Decision Support System for Water Resources Component (Egypt)
Abstract	The Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP) is carried out within the framework of donor initiatives aimed at assisting Egypt in the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). Decision Support System for Water Resources Management is based on Environmental Balance (DSS): this component aims at designing an informatics model to support the relevant Egyptian institutions, EEAA and the Ministry for Water Resources and Irrigation (MWR&I), to make informed decisions on water management. Its institutional counterpart is the National Water Research Centre, under the above mentioned Ministry.
Activities	Propose a methodology for the integration of environmental and socio-economic aspects in the Water Resources (WR) planning exercise. Develop a computer-based tool that increases the decision makers' ability to analyse and evaluate facts, stimulating the adoption of a wider and more integrated perspective in the planning process, as well as fostering the multi-actor dialogue. Contribute to the capacity building of the researchers and decision-makers of the relevant institutions. These are: the National Water Research Centre (NWRC), which acts as the implementing agency through its Strategic Research Unit (SRU), the EEAA and the Planning Sector of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI-PS).
Expected Outcome	Finalize a methodology for the integration of environmental and socio-economic aspects in the analysis of WR scenarios and development measures. This methodology and the informatics tool, i.e. the DSS, are tailor-made to meet the scope of solving present problems with planning activities in Egypt; they are definitely innovative and stand at the highest technical-scientific level on the international scene. Design models and their organisation in a simulator capable of predicting the effects of possible development measures and scenarios; Development of the computer-based tool (DSS) capable of handling the proposed methodology, Setting-up of an integrated Geographic Information - Database system. A good level of technical and computational capacity in the NWRC/SRU staff has been built-up.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building - environmental sustainability - sustainable agriculture and rural development - decision support system
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Egypt
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 7,000,000 euro (EIECP Support Programme)
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency; Governorate of Matrouh; Governorate of El Miniya; National Water Research Center; Supreme Council of Antiquities; UNDP
TITLE	EIECP Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan: Gabal Elba Protected Area (Egypt)
Abstract	This Project is a part of the wider Egyptian-Italian Environmental Program, referred to as the Egyptian- Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP). The Elba Protected Area covers about 36,600 sq km in Egypt's Red Sea Governorate located at the border with Sudan. Elba is a "biodiversity hotspot" supporting a biological diversity unparalleled to any other terrestrial environment in Egypt. The objective of the Gabal Elba Protected Area Project is to strengthen the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) capacity, raise funds to support park management activities and explore the development of a trans-boundary conservation area with the Sudan.
Activities	Development of a management plan through a participatory process involving local stakeholders and communities. Training in Environmental Impact Assessment, wildlife management, Protected Area management and monitoring. Help non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in developing project proposals. Collection of relevant data for the elaboration of management and investment plans. Formulation of management and benefit-sharing agreements with local communities and demonstration projects to alleviate poverty, particularly in outlying desert areas, through the sustainable use of natural resources. Coordination mechanisms with other social and environmental initiatives such as the USAID, Red Sea Project and the FAO Mangrove Conservation Project. Elaboration of an action plan to start cooperation between Gabal Elba and Wadi Allaqi Protected Areas.
Expected Outcome	Prepare the first Management Plan for the Protected Area. Strengthen the PAMU's management capacity through the provision of technical assistance, staff and equipment. Prepare an investment plan for Elba, aimed at attracting development funds for the Protected Area. Identify possible sources of funding for implementing the management plan. Gather existing scientific data on Elba and collect additional data necessary for the development of the management and investment plans. Develop an environmental awareness programme and initiate development projects based on local natural resources. Conclude collaborative agreements with key agencies operating in the Protected Area. Prepare an action plan for initiating cooperation with Wadi Allaqi Protected Area by holding discussions with the Sudan on protecting the trans-boundary ecosystem.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative management - environmental sustainability - cultural heritage - eco-tourism - trans-boundary ecosystem The project addresses UN-CBD and RAMSAR Convention goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Egypt
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 7,000,000 euro (EIECP Support Programme)
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency; Governorate of Matrouh; Governorate of El Miniya; National Water Research Center; Supreme Council of Antiquities; UNDP
TITLE	EIECP Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan: Siwa Oasis Amelioration (Egypt)
Abstract	This Project is a part of the wider Egyptian-Italian Environmental Program, referred to as the Egyptian- Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP). The Siwa depression, covering almost 1,000 sq km, is located in the Northwest part of the Egyptian Western Desert. In the depression, the ground-water reaching the surface has created a network of oases, of which Siwa is the largest. Siwa is probably the last refuge in Egypt for several highly endangered mammal species such as dorcas gazelle, fennec fox and slender-horned gazelle. Siwa is one of the few Egyptian oasis communities that have managed to retain most of its traditional characteristics. The main goal of Siwa Oasis Project is to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders and institutions to manage in a sustainable way natural and cultural heritage resources, while supporting the development of community initiatives.
Activities	Detailed study and research on the area, elaboration of maps and multi-disciplinary assessments, aimed at improving the scientific knowledge on the region and at the development of agricultural resources in the Oasis. Establishment of approximately 200 demonstration plots for a sustainable agricultural production, the rehabilitation of unproductive basic land and agro forestry activity. Development of income generating activities, through the marketing of agricultural products and the establishment of family based micro and small enterprises. Involvement of the local traditional Authorities in the management of project activities, through seminars, workshops and the setting-up and management of a revolving fund. Establishment of a local Association, which has developed into a well-established local NGO, and which represents the Siwan Community in credit management. Capacity building of local Project staff, through courses and study tours. Environmental awareness activity.
Expected Outcome	The institutional capacity for field conservation is strengthened through legal, human resources and infrastructure development. The collaborative management of the Protected Area is operational and based on an appropriate, equitable and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. An interdisciplinary Collaborative Management Team is established to assist the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) staff in developing and implementing collaborative management agreements. These will include the allocation of usufruct and stewardship rights to local communities over given areas and natural resources. The monitoring and evaluation system of biodiversity resources, and of their utilisation and management, is tested and operational. The local and national constituencies for biodiversity conservation are established, through education and communication activities. Eco-tourism activities are promoted and managed to demonstrate innovative and environmentally compatible economic ventures. An overall biodiversity strategy and action plan for the Siwa region is developed and biodiversity conservation is firmly inscribed in the local development agenda. The management capacity of the PAMU and Matruh Governorate is enhanced.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - collaborative management - environmental sustainability - capacity building - eco-tourism - sustainable agriculture and rural development The project addresses UN-CBD and RAMSAR Convention goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Egypt
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 7,000,000 euro (EIECP Support Programme)
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency; Governorate of Matrouh; Governorate of El Miniya; National Water Research Center; Supreme Council of Antiquities; UNDP
TITLE	EIECP Support Programme to the National Environmental Action Plan: Wadi El Rayan Protected Area (Egypt)
Abstract	This Project is a part of the wider Egyptian-Italian Environmental Program, referred to as the Egyptian- Italian Environmental Cooperation Program (EIECP). Wadi El Rayan is a sparsely inhabited populated desert oasis in the Fayoum region on the Western bank of the Nile. The main goal of the Wadi El Rayan Project is to contribute to the protection of the flora and fauna wildlife and the geological features of WRPA, by enhancing the capacity of EEAA to plan and implement nature conservation.
Activities	WRPA headquarters, outposts and other essential infrastructures have been built and supplied with basic technical and scientific equipment. A full complement of rangers, community guards and support staff has been recruited and trained. The PAMU has also been established and EEAA has a permanent presence in the Protected Area. Basic eco-tourism infrastructure and visitor facilities have been developed, together with interpretation services and materials. Environmental education tools have been produced and a communication campaign promoting WRPA has been launched. A regulatory mechanism for the use of natural resources has been designed and pilot collaborative management agreements have been established with selected stakeholders on key sectors such as eco-tourism. An environmental investment plan has also been developed for the licensing of economic activities. Detailed management guidelines have been drawn up, based on extensive negotiations with the key stakeholders. A Management Plan and Management Planning System for WRPA have been developed, so that internationally recognised guidelines and strategies related to the protection and sustainable management of natural resources can be applied to the Protected Area.
Expected Outcome	Strengthen the PAMU through the enhancement of its administrative and technical capacity and increasing financial sustainability. Involvement of Key stakeholders in the collaborative management of the Protected Area. Development of the eco-tourism sector linked to the Protected Area. Wadi El Rayan is a leading site for environmental education so that it is important to assure integration of the recreational and educational functions of Wadi El Rayan and Medinet Madi. Managing the Wadi Hitan area of the WRPA according to the standards of UNESCO World Heritage sites. Enhancing tmanagement capacity of the environmental office in the Fayoum Protectorate.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative management - environmental sustainability - capacity building - eco-tourism - collaborative management The project addresses UN-CBD and RAMSAR Convention goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Egypt
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 7,000,000 euro (EIECP Support Programme)
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); National Government; Italian NGO (CESVI)
TITLE	Sustainable development and natural resources management in Southern Zimbabwe
Abstract	In 1991 Italy and Zimbabwe agreed to concentrate their collaboration on a few sectors, among which the sustainable use and conservation of environmental resources. With the arid and semi-arid southern lowveld as focal area, the attention was centred on wildlife utilisation for income generation, on a more appropriate use of natural resources, on the promotion of environmental sustainable technologies and development strategies and on the promotion of interventions aimed at reducing conflicts over the use of natural resources. In this area, the lack of harmonisation in land use policies, habitat fragmentation and artificial barriers to ecological fluxes and functions, such as those between regions with different land use or international borders, did not allow the local ecological and economic potentialities to be developed. The goal of the Project is to improve the standards of living of the people and the status of the natural resources of communal lands in the Limpopo/Save catchments basins encompassing the arid and semi-arid ecosystems across the borders of Zimbabwe . Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa. The Project which was launched in the framework of a type 2 partnership initiative at the WSSD in Johannesburg has been developed as part of a larger transnational conservation policy, promoted by international organisations such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN), UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, WWF and the World Bank.
Activities	Integrated multidisciplinary natural resources and socio-economic assessment. Development of GIS. Strengthening of Rural District Council functions in natural resources management. Establishment of local level <i>fora</i> for community-based natural resources management. Formulation of natural resources management plans for target areas. Establishment of legally recognised community institutions for resources management. Direct support to community entrepreneurial activities (eco-tourism, agriculture). Support to the Great Limpopo Trans-frontier Park, through the elaboration of a natural resources management plan for Sengwe corridor based on: technical assessment; consultative and participatory processes; support to local and national authorities; participation of communities in GL-TFP stakeholder forums; establishment of Sengwe Community Trust.
Expected Outcome	Draw-up an analytical framework for the past and present environmental, historical and socio-economic situation in the target areas. Provide geo-referenced data and mapping of the target areas. Contribute to improve the current models for the management of natural resources and monitor any change in biodiversity resulting from the application of more sustainable management solutions. Elaborate a long-term plan for the sustainable management of natural resources in the target areas. Protect and restore the wildlife resources in the target areas by creating buffer zones and wildlife corridors. Coordinate and promote wildlife management activities by setting up Management Development Units in the target areas. Improve living conditions in the target areas through sustainable economic activities. Strengthen human resources by introducing appropriate technologies and reinforcing traditional sustainable use of natural resources.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - environmental sustainability - trans-boundary ecosystems - poverty alleviation The project addresses UN-CBD goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Southern Zimbabwe (Limpopo/Save catchments basins)
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing: 2,000,000 €
Contact	Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); National Government; Italian NGO
TITLE	System management and rehabilitation of a transboundary ecosystem to the durable benefit of the development of local communities and conservation of biodiversity
Abstract	The Italian Development Cooperation is actively involved at international level in a process aimed at the development and adoption of global strategies for the management of transboundary ecosystems (a process started during the Italian presidency of the European Union, with the involvement of the reference international conservation organization the IUCN). Additionally, and further to this strategic global context, the Italian ODA is actively engaged also in the field implementation level, and supports the design and execution of regional and transboundary ecosystem resources development programmes, among these, the SADC Herbaria regional project and the Zimbabwean transnational programme. The main goal of the project The Project, which was launched in the framework of a type 2 partnership initiative at the WSSD in Johannesburg, is to improve community living standards and improve ecosystem status in target areas of the arid and semiarid ecosystems stretching across the borders of Mozambique South Africa and Zimbabwe.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	Institutional changes to take advantage of trans-sectoral and trans-border interactions i.e. ecosystem flux and border crossings; improved institutional structures and capacities at rural districts and community levels; improved land and resource use patterns.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building, - environmental sustainability - trans-boundary ecosystems - poverty alleviation The project addresses UN-CBD goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	East of the Zimbabwean border between the Limpopo and Save rivers (Mozambique)
Resource mobilization and coordination	US \$ 1,700,000
Contact	Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); Department of Water Affairs and Forestry; Italian NGO
TITLE	Management of transboundary ecosystems in Southern Africa, to enhance durable benefits to local communities and the conservation of water resources and biodiversity
Abstract	In this area, a new brand of co-operative management, both at a national and international levels creates a favourable environment for planning and implementing innovative schemes for important ecosystems (such as those spanning a vast area across the Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe) and significantly rising their productivity levels to the durable benefit of local communities. A number of regional processes such as those mediated by SADC, IUCN, and the Peace Parks Foundation, are currently developing. This reflects the awareness and involvement of administrative, scientific and conservation institutions both at the governmental and private levels. These processes are also supported by international development initiatives, either bilaterally (e.g. the DGCS, Italian Cooperation) or multilaterally (e.g. the World Bank). Additionally, the involvement of South African-based international conservation NGOs (e.g. EWT) is growing. They are now working with communities in the transboundary ecosystems linking Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The project is aimed at consolidating regional coordination with respect to the management of important transnational ecosystems, by raising such management to optimal levels. This will improve community living standards and ecosystem status in target areas.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	Bring the threat of invasive alien plants under control; improve the flow in rivers; enhance the productive potential of ecosystems; create institutional links between countries to allow for transboundary management; institutional changes to take advantage of trans-sectoral and trans-border interactions i.e. ecosystem flux and border crossings; improved institutional structures and capacities at rural districts and community levels; improved land and resource use patterns.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building, - environmental sustainability - trans-boundary ecosystems - poverty alleviation The project addresses UN-CBD goals.
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Limpopo river basin north of Kruger National Park (South Africa)
Resource mobilization and coordination	US \$ 1,200,000
Contact	Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); NEPAD; Executive Secretariat for the UN-CCD; National Coordinating Bodies
TITLE	Support Programme to the Special Initiative for Africa
Abstract	<p>In 2003, in the frame of NEPAD Ministerial Conference, some African countries asked the Italian Government for support to a special programme to combat desertification and poverty in Africa, called "Special Initiative for Africa". The Programme provides the formulation of priority actions in affected countries, with concerted support by financial institutions and bilateral donors. A small number of projects contained in National Action Plans, together with Sub-Regional Programmes (PASR) initiatives, will be carried out in three years (2004 - 2006).</p> <p>The Support Programme aims to strengthen capacities of National Coordinating Bodies from Sub-Saharan Africa countries, so that they can effectively use existing financial resources to implement their NAPs, with a special regard to resources deriving from the Special Initiative.</p> <p>The Programme supports UN-CCD Secretariat in building planning capacities of African countries. The Executive Secretariat for the UN-CCD coordinates the initiative. The initiative will set up a multi-donor framework, with GEF as main partner.</p>
Activities	Assistance to Sub-Saharan Countries for the formulation of planning proposals. Consultations among partners and monitoring.
Expected Outcome	Formulation of priority projects with the involvement of recipient countries. Consultations with partners potentially interested to co-finance projects. Formulation of a plan for financing and implementing initiatives.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	<p>This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building, - natural resources management, - institutional framework
Target Year	2006
Target Area	Sub-Saharan Africa
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing: 999,817 €
Contact	<p>Dr. Alfredo Guillet Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6215 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma</p>

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO, National Governments
TITLE	Capacity Building for Nile Basin Water Resources Management
Abstract	The project aims to support the cooperation among Nile Basin countries, for the integrated management of transboundary water resources. Improvement of national planning and management capacity at a regional and basin level as well as legal and institutional development and implementation of subsidiary, sub-basin action programmes .
Activities	Data production. Capacity building and sustainable production and use of data. Normative and methodological development. Data distribution and dissemination.
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - natural resources management, - institutional framework
Target Year	2002
Target Area	Nile Basin - Burundi, R. D. Congo, Egitto, Etiopia, Kenya, Ruanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 4,004,788 euro
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO, Réseau des organisations paysannes
TITLE	Strengthening CBOs and farmers' organisations network, to combat desertification and eradicate poverty in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger
Abstract	In the frame of the large bilateral programme Italy-Sahel, the project aims to contribute to combat desertification and poverty in Sahelian countries, through the full participation of stakeholders. It also aims to strengthen Community Based Organisations' (CBOs) capacities to participate actively to the elaboration and implementation of national and local agricultural and rural development programmes.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - networking
Target Year	
Target Area	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 902,769 euro.
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy);COSPE
TITLE	Project to combat desertification in Tombwa District (Angola)
Abstract	The project aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote sustainable development of Tombwa District, through actions aimed at combating desertification and protecting forest resources; - stop dune encroachment in Tombwa town and on agricultural areas; - plant tree in Rio Curioca's riversides; - reduce forest depletion; - build capacity of governmental staff and local population.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity building, - forest management
Target Year	3 years
Target Area	Angola - Tombwa District - Rio Curioca's
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 774,122 euro.
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO, National Governments
TITLE	Natural Resources Management in Taza Province (Morocco)
Abstract	The projects aims to improve natural resources management and increase of farmers' incomes, through community participation. It will also introduce improved grazing systems, give support to local cooperatives, provide training of technical staff in participatory management and planning.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - natural resources management
Target Year	2001
Target Area	Morocco - Taza Province
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 3.047,087 euro
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.5384 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); National Governments
TITLE	Integrated Programme for the Development of Sahara and South Tunisia Regions. Construction of dams in Oued Chaffar and Oued Sidi Salah, Sfax Governorate
Abstract	In the frame of the South Sahara Programme, the project aims to improve water tables replenishment, to reduce water erosion and improve agricultural production, through the construction of two dams in two hilly spots in Sfax Governorate. The Tunisian Government contributes to the project with its own funds.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to water resources management (§ 26).
Target Year	
Target Area	Tunisia - Sfax Governorate
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 8,779,767 euro
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory, UNESCO, UNEP/ Global Program of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
TITLE	Water Programme for Africa (WPA) and Arid and Water Scarce Zones
Abstract	In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory and UNEP/GPA for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory and UNESCO, this programme has been activated in order to achieve important socio-environmental goals through the establishment of an integrated water management system. This Programme provide the rural population with freshwater and thus contributes to the achievement of water security in water-stressed environment; give satisfaction to water needs for agriculture and food production; aims at alleviating poverty and health risks by providing modern water services, particularly in rural areas; tries to improve alternative water resources use and management as well as health conditions, reducing vulnerability to water related diseases and water scarcity; contributes to the improvement of livelihoods conditions, in particular in rural areas.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying lack of know-how, with a view to establishing arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer in the water sector; ▪ Supporting on-going national and regional capacity-building programmes, with emphasis on the transfer of environmentally-sound technology and expertise; ▪ Improvement of productivity through identification of wise practices using both traditional knowledge and scientific expertise; ▪ Regional training programmes or workshops on proven technologies and techniques; ▪ Demonstrative pilot projects that could be duplicated; ▪ Building desalinisation systems supplied by renewable energies; ▪ utilising non conventional water resources by reusing properly treated wastewaters for irrigation.
Expected Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ greater access to safe drinking-water of isolated rural populations, based on an integrated water management system; ▪ increased water supply for agriculture that enables food security; ▪ improved health, education and quality of life based on food and water security; sustainable use of water resources.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	The Programme objectives fit within the scope of the <i>UNEP/GPA</i> , the <i>UNEP Water Policy and Strategy</i> , the <i>WEHAB Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation</i> , the <i>WSSD Plan of Implementation</i> (Items 8 and 33) and the <i>Millennium Development Goals</i> .
Target Year	2004-2005 (18 months)
Target Area	Algeria, Eritrea, Egypt, Yemen and Vietnam. The surrounding areas will benefit from the implementation of this Program, in particular by means of training and capacity building activities.
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of funding: 1,5 millions € (Italian Ministry for the Environment)
Contact	Valeria Clara Rizzo - Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory - Address: via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 Phone: 0039-06- 5722-8106/09 - Fax: 0039-06-5722-8178 - E-mail: pia-s1d@minambiente.it

Partnership	Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, EEAA (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency)
TITLE	Innovative means of increasing water resources
Abstract	<p>The project is aimed at carrying out a pilot study in the Sinai Peninsula. The specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a model for economic and social development by using non traditional/ innovative tools to supply potable water to deprived areas. - Support the "development plan" of Egypt for the expansion of existing communities and the establishment of new ones in the desert areas outside the Nile Valley. - Find innovative methodologies and tools to supply water to desert areas creating new facilities for living. - Reuse treated waste water by means of environmental friendly technologies in order to maximize the benefit of available water. - Ensure know-how transfer to the Egyptian technicians through targeted training. The program will be carried out by means of courses held in class and "on the job". - Provide guidelines and a manual on the technology implementation in other areas. - Assess the replication potential of the project in other desert areas in Northern Africa. - Disseminate the result of the Pilot project through conference, seminars, training courses, the web, etc. <p>- The project will be a Guiding Tool for designing, implementing, operating and maintaining water supply, sanitation and irrigation system, using brackish (renewable and non renewable) water, that aside all harmful effect resulting from the system.</p>
Activities	<p>The project aims at supplying the South Sinai El-Gafa village and El-Hasna Center areas with a sufficient water amount for drinking purpose and agriculture use through the desalination of seawater and underground water plants supplied with renewable energy and the reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture . The project also include the associated technical, economic, institutional and legal aspects. These plants will be implemented according to the best practices for conserving the environment, including the use of renewable energy for their operation.</p> <p>The project will be implemented in one of North Sinai' villages. The criteria for selecting the project area are the presence of underground water with high saline content, the distance from the coastline, and the presence of wastewater treatment plants; These criteria will be assessed after the site visit in Sinai of the Italian and Egyptian expert.</p>
Expected Outcome	<p>The project outputs and the expected results are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate the feasibility of the project aimed at satisfying the water demand. - Provide the project area with desalination plants and wastewater treatment works and generate an experience and knowledge sharing for the empowerment of the capacity building. - Secure the financial resources required for the construction of desalination and wastewater treatment works in order to safeguard the environment from the pollution threat. - Prepare the financial assessment report and the economic-financial model to set the procedures for access to the international funding required for the project implementation.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	<p>The development goal, endorsed by the WSSD :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water; - develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005.
Target Year	2 years
Target Area	The project aims at serving the South Sinai: El Gafa village and El-Hasna Center areas with sufficient amount water for drinking and agriculture use. This geographical area will be enlarged in the future according to the results of the pilot projects.
Resource mobilization and coordination	<p>Contribution of Italy: 1,000,000 € Contribution of Egypt : 800,000 €</p>
Contact	<p>Valeria Clara Rizzo - Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory Address: via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 Phone: 0039-06- 5722-8106/09 - Fax: 0039-06-5722-8178 E-mail: pia-sdg1@minambiente.it</p>

Partnership	Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory (IMET); Algerian Ministry for the Environment and Territory (AMET).
TITLE	Dounya Park
Abstract	Creation of an urban park with a surface of about 240 ha. in the city of Algeri to complete the "green barrier" realized during the 70s to combat desertification resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities.
Activities	Preliminary assessment and analysis. Design of the park. Capacity building and information dissemination. Programme for further action.
Expected Outcome	To establish a process for restoring vegetation to combat desertification in the area of the park by selecting typical Mediterranean trees and plants; Water Resource Management by constructing small catchment basins, water courses, drip irrigation systems; Energy Management of renewable sources (wind and solar) in order to reach for the park activities at least the 70 % of electric energy use from renewables. To enhance the capabilities of the Algerian personnel in the field of Environment Protection and Sustainable Development, setting up an Environmental Information Center; To realize a monitoring system on the functionality of forests.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project considers the role of forests as a synergic element between climate change avoidance protection, fight to desertification and biodiversity conservation. The project can be considered a good example of implementation of the synergy among the three Rio Conventions : - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).
Target Year	2 Years
Target Area	Algerian Republic
Resource mobilization and coordination	Contribution of Italy: 3,200,000 € (IMET) Contribution of Algeria: 302,150,000 dinars (AMET)
Contact	Valeria Clara Rizzo - Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory Address: via Cristoforo Colombo, 44 Phone: 0039-06- 5722-8106/09 - Fax: 0039-06-5722-8178 E-mail: pia-sdg1@minambiente.it

Partnership	Italian Ministry for Environment and Territory- Department for Environmental Research and Development (IMET)
TITLE	Project for Strengthening Technology and Capacity of Sustainable Agriculture in China
Abstract	The project aims to promote: - the minimisation of the use of water for irrigation; - the reduction of the use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture; - the adoption of environmentally friendly crop protection techniques; - the adoption of biodegradable mulching films to mitigate the "white pollution" of soil.
Activities	1. The project represents a component of the Sino-Italian Cooperation Programme for Environment Protection (SICP), jointly launched by SEPA and IMET in 2000. Under the SICP framework a Program Management Office, staffed by Chinese and Italian experts, has been established in Beijing for the coordination and monitoring of all SICP project activities. 2. AGROINNOVA - University of Torino is in charge for the coordination and implementation of project activities. 3. Italian experts from Medium and Small Enterprises are involved for technology and technical know transfer.
Expected Outcome	Reduction of the use of water for irrigation in the target areas. Reduction of chemical inputs for grape, vegetable and ornamental production in the target areas. Reduction of the white pollution phenomenon (residues of plastic films in the soil) in corn crop. Adoption of new techniques for soil and water analysis as well as environment monitoring.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	The adoption of drip irrigation systems for both fertilisation and irrigation purposes permits to strongly reduce the overexploitation of water resources, particularly in those areas with intensive agriculture but suffering from desertification and soil erosion like Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia Regions.
Target Year	2002 -2004 (the project duration is 24 months)
Target Area	Shihezi and Helin Counties of Xinjiang (North-West) and Inner Mongolia (North) Autonomous Regions
Resource mobilization and coordination	The total cost of the project is 1,711,900 €. The Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory co-finances with a total amount of 1,500,000 €. Xinjiang and Inner Mongoli EPB co-finance with a total amount of 211,900 €
Contact	Mr. Andrea Camponogara (<i>Project Manager</i>) Email: camponogara@sicppmo.org / mr.andrea@flashnet.it Mr. Nevio Capodagli (<i>Project Manager Assistant</i>) Email: capodagli@sicppmo.org / nevio@sohu.com Sino-Italian Cooperation Program for Environment Protection / Program Management Office Chengming Building Room C 1603 2 Nandajie Xizhimen, West District - 100035 - Beijing, P.R. China Tel. 0086 10 66001364/5/6/7 - Fax 0086 10 66001368

Partnership	IPOGEA – Matera (Italy); Société Sud Timmi –Adrar (Algeria); University Moulay Ismail – Meknes (Morocco); Institut des Régions Arides. Medenine (Tunisia); University of Valencia, Department of Geography- Valencia (Spain); Ecole Polytechnique d’Architecture et d’Urbanisme d’Alger Algere (Algeria)
TITLE	FOGGARA: Inventory, analysis and enhancement of traditional water techniques of European and Saharan drainage tunnels
Abstract	<p>Foggaras are traditional systems of water catchments and distribution typical of arid and semiarid areas. The general aim of the project is the better understanding of the characteristics and the functioning of foggaras within European and Maghrebian countries in order to enhance them both as World Heritage and as an efficient way of water production guaranteeing the proper management of water resources and the ecosystem preservation. In particular in Italy, Spain, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia research will rely on theoretical basis and on experimental surveys on field: inventory of existing drainage tunnels; analysis of their functioning and methods of realization; causes of persistence or abandonment; study on restoration and maintenance methods; potentialities for re-using and reintroducing foggaras.</p> <p>The project provides an understanding of the link between traditional water management techniques and environmental/social issues: water is not a mere commodity, but a socially constructed concept of cultural significance. The local knowledge offer a wide range of solutions to be safeguarded and that can be reused, adjusted and renewed thanks to modern technology.</p> <p>Proper water management is also considered as an integral element of biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems</p>
Activities	<p>- The research activities aim at comparing European and Saharian underground tunnel systems.</p> <p>Each partner of the project has a particular case study on drainage tunnels typical of its own country. The objectives will be achieved by carrying out the selection and the analysis of the existing literature, and, subsequently, by drawing up the inventory on drainage tunnels existing in each country, relevant to their functioning, rehabilitation, maintenance and possibility of reintroduction. Saharian research centres will show how it is possible to re-introduce this technique that are till used in their countries.</p>
Expected Outcome	Development of new and a sustainable solutions to the problem of managing water resources and fighting against desertification; dissemination of best practices and traditional knowledge, enhancement of world heritage and cultural identity with positive effects on local communities; creation of positive and tangible impact on living conditions, on the quality of life and the environment of individuals, groups or communities involved; contribution to the decrease of poverty and social exclusion; reinforcement of local and international cooperation.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	<p>The projects meets the goals of The UNCCD Science and Technology Committee that has repeatedly stressed the importance of disseminating traditional knowledge on water management to mitigate desertification effects..</p> <p>It applies the principles of UNESCO World Heritage Convention giving great importance to the cultural and monumental value of the traditional Techniques of the Foggara</p> <p>It is coherent with the Plan of Implementation of WSSD as it proposes the innovative use of traditional techniques as key factors of sustainable development.</p>
Target Year	2006
Target Area	Wadiziz (Morocco) Andalusia (Spain) Chott-Djerid (Tunisia), Tuat Goura(Algeria) Apulia and Lucania (Italy)
Resource mobilization and coordination	<p>Ipogea is the scientific coordinator of the project, that has been funded by European (Fifth Framework Programme)</p> <p>Total eligible costs of the project €1,050,000</p> <p>EC contribution 100%</p>
Contact	<p>Prof. Pietro Laureano</p> <p>Ipogea</p> <p>Address: Vico Conservatorio s.n.</p> <p>Tel/Fax: +39.0835 331851</p> <p>Email: ipogea@ipogea.org</p> <p>Web site www.ipogea.org</p>

b) Sustainable use and management of rangelands

Partnership	University of Sassari (Italy); Direction de l'Elevage au Ministre de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts (Morocco); Office de l'Elevage et des Paturages (OEP) (Tunisia)
TITLE	Demonstration Project on Strategies to Combat Desertification in Arid Lands with Direct Involvement of Local Agropastoral Communities in North Africa
Abstract	The main goal of the project is to contribute to the fight against desertification in Morocco and Tunisia, through restoration of degraded rangelands, in cooperation with national and local competent authorities and in particular by implementing a participatory approach at the rural community level. Specific objectives are the realisation of mitigation actions in Mediterranean arid rangelands affected by Desertification and their rehabilitation to productivity by a participatory approach at the rural community level and the development and dissemination of knowledge and innovation techniques in the field of combating desertification
Activities	Restoration of vegetation cover with drought resistant perennial species in highly degraded extensive pasture lands, to mitigate desertification processes and to improve range lands productivity. The areas are located in regions characterised by rural poverty, food dependency and land abandoning; here urgent measures are needed to promote optimisation of resource management in view of a sustainable development. Successful actions already carried out in this field by the participants of the project as well as by other Mediterranean Countries, are taken into account, re-elaborated and exploited thus promoting South / South co-operation and exchange of knowledge. Such exchange will also be favoured by promoting the use of Internet by all actors involved in the project (participants, Universities, NGOs, representatives of local communities) and by the creation of network also open to other external observers from other Mediterranean Countries.
Expected Outcome	Rehabilitation methods and techniques to recover and to increase the productivity of degraded rangelands by using perennial drought-resistant species having high pastoral value or fruit species, also through the creation of local GIS-remote sensing stations. Realization of direct desertification mitigation actions in the target areas, with particular reference to wind and water erosion. Increase of rangelands productivity through both forage shrub species and fruit species. Development of technical capacities of local land planners on topics directly related to plantations realization and management, through specific training. Development of skillness and capacities of local participants through the organization of training and specialisation courses related to the different field activities. Information circulation and dissemination about project activities and results through the realization of demonstration, sensibilization and information circulation activities at different levels, including international networking to improve the South-South exchange of the acquired knowledge and of North-South know-how exchange and also through the production of specific illustrated didactic and dissemination material.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	According to the WSSD Plan of implementation, the project aims to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation (§ 41). In particular providing affordable local access to information to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought (§ 41, e). The project aims to develop synergies with the: - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).
Target Year	2005
Target Area	Morocco, Tunisia - Rural Municipality of Ouled Dlim (Morocco); Imada de Skhiret (Tunisia)
Resource mobilization and coordination	4,308,348 euro. European Commission funded the project with 3.446.678 euro in the frame of Short and Medium Term Environmental Priority Action Programme (SMAP)
Contact	Prof. Giuseppe Enne NRD (Nucleo Ricerca Desertificazione) Università di Sassari (Italy) Address: via E. De Nicola, 9 c/o Dipartimento di Scienze Zootecniche Tel: +39.079.211.10.16 Fax : +39.079.217.901 Email: nrd@uniss.it

c) Development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); LVIA
TITLE	Improvement Programme for the Nouhao Valley, Bolgou Province
Abstract	The objective is to promote sustainable development and food security in the area, through the rational use of local resources, pasture improvement and development of income-generating activities. The project is the follow-up to the Centre-East Project, aimed at improving the livelihoods of recently settled pastoralists and sustainable natural resources management.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the plan of implementation which are related to: - food security, - natural resources management
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Burkina Faso - Nouhao Valley, Bolgou Province
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 2,659,120 euro
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

d) Launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes and intensification of soil conservation programmes

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO
TITLE	Programme for the Conservation of Water and Soil in the Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan Governorates
Abstract	In the frame of the South Sahara Programme, the project aims to improve food security, to develop agricultural production and to protect the soil and preserve the biodiversity in the area, by ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and strengthening the partnership system at regional, national and international levels.
Activities	
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - food security - natural resources management - institutional networking The project addresses UN-CBD goals.
Target Year	1999 - 2005
Target Area	Tunisia - Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan Governorates
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 12,747,305 euro
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy), FAO
TITLE	ACACIA Operation, FAO/Italy Cooperation Programme Support project for food security, fight against poverty and soil degradation in countries producing rubber and resin
Abstract	<p>The project is under preparatory phase of ten year support programme directed to concerned countries for the development of rubber and resin production. Acting on rubber production, an important piece of agricultural and shepherd systems in sub-saharian drylands, the programme aims at improving food security of rural populations and combating poverty. The project is coherent with UNCCD objectives.</p> <p>The main goal of the project is the improvement of agricultural production systems and pastures, the protection of the soil and the diversification of sources of income to assure food security promoting conservation, extension and sustainable management of communities of producers of rubber instead of only increasing the production of rubber. This goal will be reached by direct support for the concerned countries, which regards all types of production (agricultural and forest plantations, specialized plantations and natural formations) giving priority to the first one and accompanying their evolution with programmes of capacity building, technology transfer and development of research activities. At regional and sub-regional level support will be assured to the regional network for the administrative and technical- operational plan by its central structure (executive committee, Secretariat) and by its peripheral network in the sub regions and the interested countries (sub regional and national contact points) to assure the real effectiveness.</p>
Activities	<p>Carrying out, in six producing countries, of pilot actions.</p> <p>Development and rationalization of production and commercialisation in concerned countries</p> <p>Definition of a set of actions to carry out at all concerned countries level, in the framework of a ten-year programme proposed and supported by FAO and Italy, and open to the participation of interested countries.</p> <p>Dissemination of experiences carried out in leader countries and dissemination of results of pilot actions.</p> <p>Strengthening of contact points and regional research points in coordinating countries</p> <p>Information and data bases on production and commercialisation of rubber and resin at national and sub-regional level.</p> <p>Improvement of production and selection techniques of more productive varieties (Acacia Senegal and seval).</p> <p>Training on production and quality control of rubber and resin</p>
Expected Outcome	
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	<p>This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainable agriculture, - capacity building, - poverty alleviation
Target Year	2005
Target Area	Africa (Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Kenya, Sudan)
Resource mobilization and coordination	The total cost of the project is 3,193,000 US \$
Contact	<p>Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Email mario.quagliotti@esteri.it Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma</p>

e) Development of early warning systems for food security and drought forecasting

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO
TITLE	Development of a Market Information System Component of the IGAD Regional Food Information System
Abstract	The Marketing Information System (MIS) Project is a follow-up of the IGAD Early Warning and Food Information System Project implemented between 1989 and 1996, whose purpose was to strengthen the capacities of the National and Regional Early Warning Systems in food security monitoring. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is the new name of the Authority superseding the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which was created in 1986 by the six drought stricken countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Eritrea to co-ordinate development in the Horn of Africa. When fully operational, the MIS Project will have a system for acquisition, transmission, management and interpretation of marketing data, and will produce regular publications and media broadcasts of marketing information. http://www.igadmis.net/mis/index.asp
Activities	Establishment of institutional and operational links with the national MIS Agencies. Determination of the MIS equipment and training needs. Identification of the mechanisms for data exchange with collaborating national marketing information systems (NMIS). Holding of a sub-regional awareness workshop. Building and maintaining a sub-regional database. Establishment of a mini GIS (Geographical Information System). Publication of a sub-regional bulletin. Monitoring and evaluation of Project's progress. Production of a set of recommendations to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the project's remaining activities.
Expected Outcome	Establishment a conceptual - methodological and institutional framework for the development of market information systems for food security in the IGAD's Countries. Building an efficient system for transmission - acquisition - management and interpretation of information. Training local staff in methods and technologies for market information management. Strengthening of the Regional Food Information Unit in the IGAD Secretariat. Providing regular and timely regional food information publications for the decision-maker's information needs.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of implementation which are related to: - food security, - environmental monitoring
Target Year	1999 - 2002
Target Area	IGAD Member countries - Eritrea, Etiopia, Gibuti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 1,549,081 euro.
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

f) Desertification monitoring and assessment

Partnership	Secretariat of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), European Environment Agency (EEA); Fondazione per la Meteorologia Applicata (FMA) (Italy)
TITLE	DISMED Desertification Information System for the Mediterranean
Abstract	<p>In November 1998 in Marrakech, Morocco, was held a workshop on the Desertification Information Systems for planning needs in the Mediterranean area, jointly sponsored by the UNCCD Secretariat, the Authorities of Morocco and Italy. It convened representatives of Northern Mediterranean and of Northern Africa countries, as well as international and sub-regional organizations. The participants to the Marrakech workshop recommended to the Northern Mediterranean and the Northern African countries to explore the possibility of establishing an operational information system for planning purposes, to potentially service all Mediterranean partners, taking into account the existing local capacities and facilities. They also urged countries to establish a close collaboration for the harmonisation of the methodologies of exchange of information related to all aspects of land degradation. The present project was prepared in co-operation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the CeSIA (Italy), both institution having been involved in the preparation of and follow-up to the Marrakech meeting.</p> <p>The objective of the DIS/MED project is to improve the capacity of national administrations in Mediterranean countries to effectively program measures and policies to combat desertification and the effects of drought. This goal will be achieved by reinforcing communication, facilitating the exchange of information and establishing a common information system to monitor the physical and socio-economic conditions in areas threatened or affected by desertification and drought and to assess the extent, severity and trends of land degradation in those areas.</p>
Activities	<p>Designing and developing a system for the management of data and the dispatching of information at the regional level. This system will rely on standardised and homogeneous databases.</p> <p>Developing methodologies for the assessment of desertification at the regional, national and local scale. These methodologies will lead also to the definition of a reference framework for the monitoring of trends.</p> <p>Providing decision-makers with a series of operational tools and outputs, which could be directly used for planning.</p>
Expected Outcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circulation of information and exchanged between relevant institutions at regional level. 2. Recognition of Interactions between scientific institutions and decision-makers at the national level. 3. Available information is suitable for planning purposes at national level. 4. Widespread of New information technologies in national services. 5. Standards and procedures for: vulnerability mapping, impact indicators, databases, are agreed for the Mediterranean area. 6. Availability for Homogeneous and standardized data. 7. Availability of methodologies to produce information suitable for planning and monitoring purposes in particular for: crossing data of different types from different sources. managing of analysis at different scales; producing information in useful format. 8. Setting up of common information system on desertification.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	According to the WSSD Plan of Implementation, the project aims to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation (§ 41). In particular providing affordable local access to information to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought (§ 41, e).
Target Year	2003
Target Area	Mediterranean countries - France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 800,000 euro
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); OSS, National Governments
TITLE	Establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation System for National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
Abstract	In the framework of the larger international programme "Evaluation of the methodology on impact indicators of CCD – Realisation of a National Action Programs monitoring-evaluation system" (coordinated by OSS and CILLS), the project aims to support the Tunisian Government in the implementation of its NAP, through the set-up of a monitoring and evaluation system at national level.
Activities	Study and analysis of the desertification problems at all levels that lead to the definition of the so-called "Tableau de problematisation" which is the basis of the monitoring-evaluation system. Definition of indicators measuring causes, phenomena and consequences of desertification . These indicators are classified in the "Grille des indicateurs" according to the DPSIR model. Qualitative and quantitative evaluation of performance of the LCD and of the trends of indicators ("Tableau de bord") .
Expected Outcome	Establishment of tools and methods to monitor and to evaluate NAP actions.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - capacity building, - institutional framework
Target Year	2001 - 2003
Target Area	Tunisia
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 255,852 euro
Contact	Dr. Felice Longobardi Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6206 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); WMO, CRA
TITLE	SVS Project - Monitoring structural vulnerability in Sahel
Abstract	The project constitutes the continuation of AP3A project (Early Warning and Agricultural Production Forecast), which contributed to the creation of a regional information system for the early warning and to the establishment of a dynamic data bank at regional level for the prevention of crisis. During the new project managing activities of information system will be entrusted to CRA (Agrhymet Regional Centre). The main goal of this project is to improve of CILSS ability to prevent and face up to recurrent food shortage crisis, through the diffusion of information on vulnerability dynamics and through the location of vulnerable areas.
Activities	Homogenisation and standardization of data. Definition of a framework for the location of vulnerable areas. Identification of indicators for the control and evaluation of risks in the field of food security and natural resources deterioration.
Expected Outcome	Creation of a data bank aimed to prevent and face up food crisis, and to devise sustainable development plans.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to: - food security, - monitoring
Target Year	2005
Target Area	Sahel (CILSS)
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 2,734,351 euro
Contact	Dr. Flavio Lovisolo Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.91.6249 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); FAO
TITLE	AFRICOVER Land Cover Mapping of East Africa based on Satellite Remote Sensing
Abstract	This Italy-funded project was designated to meet several African countries' request for assistance in the setting-up of reliable and geo-referenced databases on natural resources. It is part of FAO assistance to the Nile Basin countries, and a component of a larger multi-donor programme known under the title of "AFRICOVER", which will provide a homogeneous database for land cover mapping of whole Africa. AFRICOVER is complementary to another East-Africa international Italy-funded project, "Capacity Building for Nile Basin Water Resources Management", which gathers the nine Nile Riparian Countries for the common and sustainable management of the Nile basin. The objective is to strengthen capabilities of East African and Nile Riparian countries for natural resources planning and management. Regional assessment of East Africa land cover. Development of a staff network trained on remote sensing and GIS technologies. Data dissemination policy and mechanism.
Activities	Data production. Capacity building and sustainable production and use of data. Normative and methodological development. Data distribution and dissemination.
Expected Outcome	Production of national and regional multipurpose AFRICOVER Database for Environment (MADE) Development of a set of tools and methodologies for multipurpose land cover mapping Improvement of national and regional management and planning including socio-economic and environmental analysis in support of sustainable development and environmental monitoring related to international conventions and initiatives. Strengthening of national level institutions, including capacity building and stakeholders involvement through the planning and implementation of operational activities, mainly at the sub-national level.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to the managing of natural resources as a base for sustainable development in particular: - capacity building - environmental monitoring - networking - trans-nationality
Target Year	2002
Target Area	East Africa, eight countries
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 4,004,788 euro.
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma

Partnership	Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy); IAO
TITLE	RIIS Regional Integrated Information System, Phase II
Abstract	RIIS was conceived in 1996, aimed at the elaboration of a mechanism to improve access to and increase sharing of data/information on environmental and natural resources in the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) region. Subsequently, a full-fledged programme (RIIS Phase II) was formulated, through the organisation of national seminars, with the active participation of institutions with both an environmental management and an Information Technology background. The Project rationale lies in the many obstacles hampering effective sharing of environmental information. The overall goal of the RIIS Project is to contribute to food security and environmental protection by strengthening regional and national capacities in the use and management of information and by reducing the digital divide in the IGAD Region.
Activities	The RIIS is proposed as an integrated information system to access and share environmentally-based information; it is decentralised at a national level; it is built in accordance with a multi-component approach, in which each component is independent and benefits from the latest available technology (envisaging the extensive use of Internet), adapted to specific country situations. The implementation is linked to the adhesion of IGAD countries. The Institutions willing to adhere to RIIS must be ready to accept a number of features and rules which grant participation in the Information Community. An institution (data holder) qualifies to become a RIIS National Node (NN) when it meets basic requirements, i.e. when it owns:- metadata that describe a digital geo-spatial data set stored either in text files or in a database matching the RIIS Content Standards and provided in formatted text or marked-up in Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML);- computer hardware to store the indexed metadata and is connected to the Internet on a 24/7 basis with specific Internet address;- software that supports access to metadata using the RIIS Profile;- software or procedures that validate the metadata contents.
Expected Outcome	An institutional and regulatory framework for a Regional Integrated Information System in place. A RIIS Web-page portal and the Web-pages of participating institutions developed or up-dated and maintained according to RIIS standards and protocols. A Clearinghouse with national node(s) operational according to RIIS standards and protocols. Tools (warehouse) and methodologies (Decision Support Systems) adopted and used for analysis aggregation and the processing of primary data to facilitate decision-making. National and regional capacities in data management strengthened through an overall training programme that covers the definition of standards and protocols, the creation and maintenance of Web-pages and Clearinghouse nodes, and data analysis and processing. Sustainability of the RIIS network ensured.
Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and relevance to the Plan of Implementation of WSSD	This project addresses several priority actions identified in the WSSD Plan of Implementation which are related to the managing of natural resources as a base for sustainable development in particular: - capacity building - networking - trans-nationality
Target Year	2003
Target Area	East Africa
Resource mobilization and coordination	Amount of financing 3,000,000 euro
Contact	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate General for Development Cooperation Phone: +39.06.36.911 Address: Via Contarini, 25 00194 Roma