

**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAHSTAN ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

Astana, 2006

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management
CAC	Central Asian Countries
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FHC	Forestry, Hunting and Fishery Committee within the Ministry of Agriculture
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
GosNPZzem	State research-and-production center for land management
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research on Dry Areas
CIMMYT	International Center for Wheat and Corn
MCPF	Multi-Country Partnership Framework
MEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection
NCB	National Coordination Body
NCC	National Coordination Center
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPF	National Programming Framework
ОП 15	GEF Operational program on sustainable land management
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPAs	Specially Protected Areas
SPA	Strategic Partnership Agreement
SRAP-CD	Sub-Regional Action Programme for Central Asian Countries to Combat Desertification and Drought
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
WB	World Bank

II. RESUME

1. Land degradation in Kazakhstan renders serious social and economic influence. The condition of the environment has direct impact on living standard and health of the population, especially on socially vulnerable segments of the population. Major impacts are: (i) decrease in productivity of agricultural crops as a result of arable lands degradation; (ii) decrease in efficiency of and high risk for livestock production caused by pasture degradation and lack of emergency fodder, (iii) loss of the individual and national income generating capacity of wildlife management and fisheries in connection with population reduction of target species caused by over-harvesting and habitat destruction, (iv) deterioration of drinking water quality and resulting in health problems, (v) shortage of timber and non-timber forest products, especially for local vulnerable groups, and loss of environmental services from forests. The impacts of land degradation on rural populations increase their vulnerability and drive pressure to further exploit land resources for short-term benefit. At present the process of desertification is marked nearly in all administrative areas of Kazakhstan.

2. Prevention and where feasible reversal of land degradation plays an important role for Kazakhstan's sustainable development. About 43% of the overall population of roughly 15.1 mill inhabitants are living in rural areas and the majority of them are dependent on incomes directly or indirectly related to the agrarian sector. The nominal cash incomes of rural citizens are about half of that of urban people. Thus the majority of rural people not only rely on cash incomes from agricultural production, but on in-kind income from household plots' and household flocks' as well as on utilization of natural resources as fish, game and fuel wood. Processes of land degradation and desertification negatively affect productivity and overall crop production, livestock and cattle-breeding productivity. The comparably severe social situation in rural areas is also indicated by the low standard and extent of social and technical infrastructure as well as limited access to secure drinking water.

3. Land degradation gives rise to a series of life-supporting problems of the affected lands. As an example, harmful influence on health and decrease in efficiency of cattle pastured on the degraded pastures, reduction of productivity, and also high vulnerability of agricultural cultures from a drought at not irrigated arable lands due to decrease of humus in the soil structure, the soil salinity leading to reduction of productivity of irrigated lands, degradation of wood resources that reduces an opportunity of stocking up of timber, fire wood and other wood resources. On the other hand, land degradation has arisen due to irrational use of land resources by land users, as well as by large-scale changes, that are frequently out of the influence zone of direct land users. The total economic losses from direct and indirect effects of land degradation in Kazakhstan are estimated in the amount of 93 billion tenge (6,2 billion dollars).

4. The priority problems of land degradation and SLM identified in Kazakhstan include: (i) loss of soil fertility due to inappropriate land-use practices in rain-fed arable lands, (ii) inefficient water use, salinization and water logging of irrigated arable lands, caused by deteriorating irrigation and drainage infrastructure and management weaknesses, (iii) degradation of pasturelands caused by local overgrazing and underutilization of large pasture areas due to giving up of mobile grazing practices, local livestock concentration and catastrophic decline of wild ungulates' populations, (iv) forest degradation and deforestation caused by illegal logging and wildfires, (v) drying out of large areas of the Aral Sea and associated negative consequences, and (vi) local site pollution caused by industrial and military activities. These problems have in many cases impacts on ecosystem types of global importance and/or affect neighboring countries.

5. The determined problems have underlying causes in the constraints and barriers to SLM consisting of national policy, legal and institutional framework, economic incentives, knowledge and

capacity of immediate land-users and responsible officials and in the current stage of monitoring and land management related research.

6. In 2005 the National Coordination Body developed the Program to Combat Desertification in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The legal rationale for the development and approval of the Program were: the Concept of Environmental Safety of the RK for 2004-2015 and its Action Plan, as well as Indicative Plan of social and economic development of the country. Development of the NAP brought together leading scientists and experts from the ministries, agencies, scientific and research and survey organizations. The NAP provides with a cause analysis and priority action directions to combat desertification, contains a complex of prime and preventive activities. The NAP is called to become a document allowing political decision-makers to effectively allocate means to combat land degradation and to reduce social and economic consequences of desertification.

7. Over the reporting period the Government of the RK accepted a number of basic acts in the field of SLM. At the moment well developed system of laws on SLM operates in Kazakhstan, unfortunately, the majority of laws have no direct application, therefore development of by-laws at various levels still required. There are some blanks, duplications and contradictions in legislation, besides usually there is a weak application of laws. The legislation on forest and land resources does not provide with a base for joint resources management. Frequent changes in legal regulation and legal uncertainty make the sustainable land management difficult.

8. Certain progress is reached in the area of regional cooperation of Kazakhstan. By the present time the MEP completed a sound work on the CACILM development. The primary task of which is development of well-coordinated integrated and complete approach of assistance to the Central-Asian Countries (CAC) for realization of the UNCCD and development of the all-round National Program on SLM. The CACILM represents innovative international cooperation of donors to support development and performance of the frame programme at the national level (NPF), aimed at development of all-round and complex approaches to combat desertification through sustainable management of land and water resources (SLM) as stated in the GEF Operational Program on SLM. The NAP represents a brief review of CACILM/NFP on the investment and technical assistance to Kazakhstan for ten years (2005-2015) and simultaneously serves as an important detail of Multi-country Frame Partnership CACILM (MCFP). This year it is planned to start the first phase of the CACILM/NPF. It is necessary to note, that Kazakhstan on behalf of the MEP has acted as an initiator of the given project and rendered support on all stages of its development.

9. For partnership development in realization of UNCCD the Working Group was established by the MEP, which basic function is interdepartmental coordination and intersectoral cooperation. The given Working Group consists of representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning, Ministry of Agriculture (in this case representatives of Committees on Water Resources and Forestry and Hunting Committee), Agency of the RK on land management, and representatives of NGO and international organizations. Sessions in this case are organized and carried out by the UNCCD National Coordinator.

10. Since preparation of the Second National Report by Kazakhstan (2002) a great work on realization of the UNCCD was carried out. The purpose of the given report is to show the changes of the last years and efficiency of UNCCD realization in the republic. Certainly, the Government of the RK and NCB undertook a number of vital measures for the country development and thus the further development of economy and industry is proposed with consideration of preventive measures from degradation of the environment.

11. Organizations carrying out coordination functions:

Title	The National Center to Combat Desertification
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Address, including e-mail address	29 Druzhby str., 001000 Astana, Kazakhstan secretariat_astana@ok.kz
Web-sites related to desertification in Kazakhstan	1. www.nature.kz 2. www.caresd.net/capacity 3. http://s1p.narod.ru/School/Eko_pages/april_2003.htm

12. NAP:

Date of approval	24 January, 2005
NAP Consideration	Approved by the Governmental Decree of the Republic Kazakhstan
Nap was considered in the Strategy of Poverty Reduction (SPP)	No
NAP was considered in the National Development Strategy	Yes
Realization of NAP started with/without conclusion of partnership agreement	No
Approval of the NAP is expected in the future	No
The final NAP is available	Yes
NAP is under development	No
Basic guidelines for NAP are developed	No
The process started	No
Process is not started	No

13. Participant of SRAP CD/RAPSD:

Title of the base document on sub regional and/or regional cooperation	Actual participation on such themes, as methods of watershed, soil erosion, etc.
1. Central Asia Countries Initiative on Land Management	Sustainable Land Management
2.	

14. Structure of the NCB:

The title of the establishment	The Governmental organization (✓)	НПО (✓)	Men/women
1.The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the RK	✓		

15. General number of NGO received accreditation for participation in this process:

Whether NGO National co-coordinating committee on desertification is established; if yes, how many NGOs or civil society involved?	No
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16. **General number of adopted acts and laws related to CCD: 29** _____

Name no more than five most actual laws and/or normative acts

No	Law	Date of adoption
1	The Land Code	20 June, 2003
2	The Water Code	9 July, 2003
3	The Forest Code	8 July, 2003
4	Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the Concept of Environmental Safety of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004-2015"	3 December, 2003
5	Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the State program on rural development of the Republic Kazakhstan for 2004-2010 "	10 July, 2003

17. **Consultation process:**

Number of partnership agreements concluded and/or initiated within the UNCCD:

Official name of the partner	Donors, international organization and/or participating establishments of UN system	Date of the prospective conclusion of the agreement
Central Asia Countries Initiative on Land Management		

The list of advisory meetings related to realization of UNCCD:

The name of advisory meeting	Date/year	Participating countries-donors	Participating international organizations or establishments of UN system
1. Donor conference on resources mobilization to solve the topical environmental problems	9-10 June, 2004		Organization of economic cooperation and development, UNDP, REC CA, ADB
2. The First National seminar in Kazakhstan On realization of the Central Asia Countries Initiative on Land Management	1-2 June, 2005		ADB, UNDP, WB, GTZ, RECCA, TACIS, ICARDA, GM
3. The National seminar on development and estimation of elements of synergy planning among RIO conventions	10-13 August, 2004		Secretariat of UNCCD, UNDP, GM

The country acting as a leading partner: _____

17. Name up to 10 on-going projects directly or indirectly related to UNCCD:

Title of the Project	The project is implemented within the frames of NAP/SRAP/RAP	The Project is carried out within the frames of ...	Terms of realization	Participating partners	Total budget (in mill. US dollars)
1. The Project on Dry Lands management	NAP		2004 – up to present time	MEP, WB, GEF	9.5
2. The system of information and monitoring control of the environment for sustainable land use			2004 – up to present time	MEP, ADB	0.600
3. Stabilization of the Aral sea in the Central Asia – version for continuation from 2006 for financial cooperation and co-financing (continuation of the project of Aral sea in Uzbekistan)				MA of Uzbekistan, Administration of Kyzylorda oblast	
4. Restoration of pasture ecosystems		GEF Small Grants Programs	2005-2007	UNDP, MA	0,300
5. Balanced land use Ili-Balkhash basin			2002-2004	GTZ, CCD, MEP, REC, CA	
6. Improvement of irrigational and drainage system				IBRD	100
7 National capacity self-assessment for global environmental management			2004-2005	UNDP, MEP	0.225
8 Forest conservation and increase of forest areas of the republic			2006-2011	IBRD, GEF, CFH MA	63,8

III. Strategies and priorities established within the frames of plans and/or policy of sustainable development

A. National plans and strategies related to other social and economic areas

19. The national strategies and priorities established within the frames of the concept of sustainable development poorly take into consideration the aspects of the NAP. The NAP is first of all an independent document directed for application of designated activities. The activities of the national plans and strategies related to other social and economic areas in a greater degree cover

the decisions of problems connected with sustainable land, preservation of the environment, social and economic development of rural areas and poverty reduction. However these programs to a variable extend promote combating desertification as well.

20. The accepted in the country Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan till 2010, the Concept of Environmental Safety for 2004-2015 state the necessity of «ecologization» of the social and economic systems. These documents set the safety of natural systems, vital interests of the society and the rights of the person from the threats resulting from anthropogenic and natural influences on the environment as a basic purpose of environmental safety.

21. Desertification and the processes of land degradation are serious ecological threats influencing the food safety of the country. In this regard the Government of Kazakhstan undertook a number of important measures on SLM and development of agricultural food sector of economy. The State Agricultural Food Program for 2003-2005 set measures on increase of efficiency of agricultural production by means of introduction of soil-protective technologies. Within the frames of the given program industrial divisions of Agency of the RK on Land Management participate in activities on soil fertility increase and identification of soil chemical composition, soil assessment, agrochemical inspections of arable lands.

22. The State program for rural areas development for 2004-2010. To a certain degree it is an addition to the State Agricultural Program already implemented in Kazakhstan for economic development of rural areas. The ecological block, namely ecological and demographic inspection of rural territories is included into the Development Program of Rural Areas for creation of ecological passports of administrative areas.

23. The Program on rational use of agricultural lands is basically connected with inventory, planning, monitoring and control over the land use. For realization of the program rather significant state budgetary resources are provided. The program has no relation to the program of the United Nations to Combat Desertification, NAP and thus, does not improve the communication with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNCCD National Working Group.

24. The program on poverty reduction in the RK for 2003-2005, developed at the support of ADB, UNDP and the World Bank, the decision of problems of poverty in the country are considered not only from the point of view of incomes of the population, but also from the point of view of access to basic social services such as education and public health services, engineering infrastructure - transport, communication, water supply, and quality of the environment.

25. Summarizing the aforesaid, it is necessary to note, that the National Action Plan on Environmental Protection, and the National Concept of Environmental Safety as well as other national programs point out high importance of measures to combat desertification and investments into sustainable land management.

B. National plans and strategies in the area of combating desertification developed before the adoption of the NAP on realization of UNCCD.

26. Before an official acceptance of the NAP by the Government of the RK the only document regulating the activity related to desertification in Kazakhstan was the National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification as of 1997. The MEP has accepted the NAP, however for some reasons realization of UNCCD passed slowly. This document contained a number of strategic instructions, however the weak point was its program content, relation to national development strategy and long-term goals of Kazakhstan., as well as that the document has not been submitted to the Government for approval. Then the National strategy has been updated in 1999, but for some reasons the process of realization was slow. In 2002 the new NAP has been developed which contained rather effective orientation and especially emphasized the necessity of increase of

coordination level and intersectoral integration. Active involving of non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society into process of realization has also been underlined.

IV. Institutional measures accepted for realization of the Convention

A. The NAP as a part of national plans of economic and social development and preservation of the environment.

27. The legal background for the development of the present NAP as mentioned before was the Concept of Environmental Safety of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004-2015 approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The NAP is included into Indicative Plan of social and economic development of the state and the program of budgetary financing; however the program is not integrated into the strategy of macroeconomic development and poverty reduction. The Government of the RK approves the given program and it means that the given document will not be separated, and a number of activities to combat desertification will be integrated into national programs of economic and social development of the country and regions. Also it is planned to inform rural population and authorities on the process of the NAP and to maintain the approach of joint participation in initiatives on combating land degradation at the level of local communities.

28. The purpose of the NAP is consolidation of efforts of the state bodies, private sector and non-governmental organizations on realization of the actions directed to combat desertification, by prevention of land degradation, increase of their efficiency and preservation of biological diversity for achievement of purposes of sustainable development for well-being of the population and stabilization of the environment. The NAP contains deep analysis of reasons and priority directions of activities to combat desertification, including a complex of prime and preventive activities.

29. During realization of the Program it is supposed to carry out measures on reduction of social and economic consequences from processes of desertification by:

- Elimination of consequences from cutting down of woods and extensive use of pastures,
- Restoration of the degraded lands and soil fertility,
- Introduction of water-saving technologies,
- Planting of trees in cities and settlements,
- Creations of conditions on balanced use,
- Preservation and restoration of land resources.

30. The operating NAP does not contain certain priorities; however the following tasks are among the primary goals:

i) At the first stage (2005-2007):

- Inventory and an estimation of condition of lands grounds subject to desertification are carried out;
- Works on informing and maintenance of participation of all layers of the population during decision-making on problems of combating desertification are conducted;
- Pilot projects on restoration of lands or prevention of their degradation are realized;

ii) At the second stage (2008-2010):

- Normative requirements and economic mechanisms of sustainable land tenure are developed and introduced;
- Maintenance of joint realization of international environmental conventions;
- Activities on prevention of desertification and land degradation are realized;

iii) At the third stage (2011-2015) will be:

- Integration of activities to combat desertification into economic and social development of the country;
- The process of desertification is suspended and prevented and conditions for maintenance of their favorable and sustainable condition are created.

31. Special attention is given to issues of balance of interests between the accelerated rates of national economy development and preservation of safe environmental conditions and resource base. The monitoring of the processes of desertification, environmental zoning of the territory of the republic, development and introduction of economic mechanisms of sustainable land tenure, scientific researches and population awareness rising is planned.

32. However, there are still certain obstacles for integration of purposes of the NAP into the strategy, plans of national and social development and environmental protection. The major barrier is insufficiency of intersectoral and interdepartmental interaction. The problem consists in weak intersectoral and interdepartmental cooperation between the ministries and departments, scientific and academic institutes, NGO, and business in performance of obligations under the convention. The results of activity of one state institutes are not used effectively enough by others. In the country interdepartmental dissociation of the responsibility in performance of obligations under the convention is kept.

33. Thus, the obstacles for integration of purposes of the NAP into strategies, programs and plans of social and economic development are basically connected with insufficient coordination of the interested parties. Needs of the country in strengthening of coordination between interested parties demand acceptance of special interaction programs, as well as organization of intersectoral and interdepartmental work based on memorandums of interaction and personnel training.

B. Achieved coordination with sub-regional and regional action programs

34. Kazakhstan actively participates in development of Sub-Regional Action Program to Combat Desertification. Priority areas of sub-regional cooperation, and also areas of special interest for Kazakhstan in SRAP are (i) cooperation within the frames of monitoring systems, in particular on hydrological forecast, (ii) transboundary cooperation on water resources management, on irrigation and transboundary hydrological systems, as well as (iii) pastures management, in those cases where for mobile grazing transboundary cooperation is required. CACILM is the initiative based on the SRAP.

35. To assist the CA countries in their efforts on realization of the UNCCD, the Global Mechanism of UNCCD (GM) has defined the application of strategic partnership of the UNCCD in the Central Asia Countries (SPA). The primary goals of the SPA are originally connected with development of coordinated, integrated and certain donor responses for CAC assistance in realization of UNCCD. The SPA has supported the Central Asia Countries Initiative on Land Management (CACILM) at the Partnership Forum held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in June 2003. The forum participants (donors and representatives of the countries) have come to the agreement to step forward: (i) to integrate basic issues of SLM both in the field of sustainable development planning, and into development frameworks of external cooperation of the countries-partners; (ii) to promote intersectoral coordination for harmonized realization of SLM initiatives; (iii) Strategy of resources mobilization to take advantage of the GEF financing programs to combat land degradation; and (iv) to establish in each country of the Central Asia the UNCCD National Working Group on partnership development for realization of the Convention to Combat Desertification. For this purpose consultations and workshop were held in Almaty, in February 2004, and Task Force meetings in Almaty in August 2004, in Dushanbe in April 2005 and Almaty in June 2005.

36. The CACILM approach is to replace the non-coordinated interventions demanding approval and specific price preparation by the GEF program approach. The adoption of the suitable investment program through the SPA opens a way to the "qualified" individual interventions, at the same time, to create synergies and to reduce administrative costs. In the last quarter of 2003 the GEF Secretary has developed the Frame Initiative of Country Pilot Partnership for realization of the Operational Program on sustainable land management (OP-15). The first region chosen by the

GEF where Pilot Initiative will be carried out was the Central Asia considering the scales of land degradation and existence of SPA. Thus, the CACILM forms Multi-Country Partnership Frameworks and attracts financing from various sources, as in the form of grants and investments, including GEF grant resources.

37. The purpose of the program is combating land degradation and improvement of living standard of rural population in the CAC. The task is to organize donor and multi country partnership CACILM for development and realization of programming framework at national level with the purpose of introduction of effective and more integrated approaches to sustainable land management in the sub-region. The Multi-national approach to land degradation problem has a number of advantages such as participation of all donors and both the coordinated principles and approaches of their activity; coordination of National programs, projects and activities, change of focusing from special projects to more integrated approaches in separate countries; development of the general frames of monitoring and assessment of activity directed on SLM; creation of the mechanism of knowledge, technologies and experience exchange at the regional level.

38. The CACILM Partnership among various countries is based on the presented National Programming Frameworks (NPF) of each country with primary goals: (i) To analyze the current situation of land management in regard to ecological and social conditions, current practices of land use and corresponding problems of degradation and stability; political, legal and institutional conditions and other related problems and; obstacles to sustainable land management, (ii) to analyze, compare and put forward priorities, potential options for improvement of sustainable land management and combating land degradation and (iii) to develop the program for integration of sustainable land management into the process of development planning and budgetary processes, to identify the requirements under the priority investments, technical assistance and to provide effective mechanisms for wide participation of the interested parties in definition, development and realization of measures.

39. The CACILM promotes introduction of the 10-year program (2006-2016) on resources and activity mobilization through the NAP for (i) strengthening of political, legislative and institutional frameworks for creation of conditions promoting sustainable land management, (ii) increase of the capacity of key institutes responsible for planning and introduction of land interventions management and local societies directly exposed to land degradation, and (iii) improvement of land management and natural systems through the cumulative influence of corresponding favorable conditions and target project investments.

40. Proceeding from decisions and recommendations of the Sub-Regional Forum on Partnership Development in the middle of 2003: Confronting land degradation and poverty by strengthening of UNCCD realization, in Kazakhstan the Working group on partnership development of realization of UNCCD have been created which operates as a tool for interdepartmental coordination and intersectoral cooperation. It includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Budget Planning, Agriculture (representatives of Committees of water resources and forestry and hunting), Agency of the RK on Land Management, also representatives of NGOs and international organizations. The UNCCD National Coordinator is a supervising contact person and the head of the National Working Group. The national Working Group should become managing power at the stage of CACILM development (PDF B) in each country, consulting with ADB (as supervising agency for PDF B).

41. The issues of regional cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development with component issue of combating desertification serve a subject of regular consultations between five states of the Central Asia region.

C. National coordination body

42. The responsibility for realization of UNCCD and other conventions on environmental protection is vested to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. It allows using synergy among conventions, but also hampers the involvement of international obligations into the national policy.

43. Since submission of the last report the functions of the UNCCD NCB were carried out by the National Ecological Center for Sustainable Development under the MEP. And there were certain difficulties in cooperation with representatives of other state departments in co-ordination of UNCCD, gathering and information interchange, etc. since the National Center was not the state body, and thus had no political weight in decision-making. At present the situation has changed, the functions of NCB are assigned directly to the Ministry of Environmental Protection; flexibility in relations with the state bodies, at higher political level of participation and due level of organization of work NCB thus has been achieved.

44. The basic link in unification of principles of UNCCD to basic ecological documents carries out the Department of Environmental Problems, Science and Monitoring of the Ministry of Environmental Protection in the person of the Director and UNCCD National coordinator. UNCCD National Coordinator directly participates in development of ecological documents by attending advisory meetings, agreement with interested parties, carrying out of public hearings, and also decision-making. He also heads the National Working Group on UNCCD, which is also an interdepartmental body working on issues of land degradation and SLM. The Working Group consisting of representatives of official bodies and NGO gather when required.

45. Cooperation among representatives of NCB and ministries, which are engaged into realization of strategies within the plans and policies of sustainable development, can be characterized as settled. Representatives of these departments joined by one idea constantly participate at various meetings, support interrelation with each other and render every support.

46. The NCB is the state body, thus the selection of employees passes on a competitive basis according to the national Law «On public service». The procedure of selection and assignment of candidates are defined according to rules of the Law. The given process is transparent and legitimate.

47. At the moment the Ministry of environmental protection at the initiative of UNCCD National Coordinator creates the Center to Combat Desertification, which is supposed to carry out the functions of UNCCD National Coordination Center.

D. Institutional bases for consecutive and effective combating desertification.

48. Development of market relations in Kazakhstan has radically changed institutional system of relations. The functions of the state bodies have changed. From direct dictatorship in relation to rural producers it gradually passes to their economic support, regulation of land relations and the control over sustainable use of land resources, having allow to those households and their associations independently to define the policy and directions of agricultural activity.

49. There are three state establishments responsible for combating desertification and sustainable land use in the country:

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for realization of the UNCCD and other environmental conventions;
- Agency on Land Management, which besides other functions (see below) is responsible for efficiency and fertility of land resources; and
- The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for agricultural land tenure and use of forest resources.

50. Land management is carried out by a network of bodies operating in all administrative areas, cities and areas, headed by the governmental Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Land Management with specialized state enterprises under it. The Agency carries out special executive, permissive and control functions, coordinates works in sphere of the governmental land resources, land management, conducting the state land cadastre and lands monitoring, and cartographical works on the territory of the country.

51. Important role in nature protection institutional structure belongs to the Council on sustainable development of the Republic of Kazakhstan - advisory body under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Its overall objective is assistance to formation of state policy on sustainable development on the basis of intersectoral cooperation of the state bodies, private sector and public organizations, as well as integration of economic, social and ecological sectors of development of Republic Kazakhstan. The Council develops proposals on a number of directions related to sustainable development, among which combating desertification, poverty (in view of ecological aspect), solving water problems etc. It provides information services to the state bodies and the public, prepares and publishes annual reports on sustainable development, provides information to international organizations on the progress of Kazakhstan in achievement of sustainable development goals. The Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan carries out the functions of the working body of the Council.

52. Both local administrations (akimats), and local (oblast and rayon) divisions of the central state bodies (ministries, state committees, oblast and regional branches of the Agency on Land Management) have certain functions on land and other natural resources management. Divisions of the central bodies are mostly vested with functions on creation of development programs, regulative, control and monitoring functions, while local administrations are responsible for acceptance of direct administrative decisions. In practice there are cases of imposing, duplication, and free functions, as well as uncertainty on powers and responsibility, and also the contradiction in functions of these two levels. It can lead to significant problems at SLM realization.

53. Special issues on land tenure are transferred to local representative and executive agencies. Development, approval and realization of regional programs on rational land use, increase of soil fertility, protection of land resources; approval of plans of land economic organization of territories of settlements, including agricultural areas, transferred to rural agencies; reservation of lands for creation of specially protected areas; granting of separate categories of lands to private property and land tenure, and also their repayment for the state needs etc. The rights of local community are not certain in these issues, as there is no Law on local self-management in Kazakhstan yet.

54. In sphere of environmental protection the republican structure of management is presented by the MEP of the RK and its regional territorial divisions. Their task includes inter-branch coordination, licensing of environmentally dangerous and some nature protection activity, limitation and allocation of environmental pollution, state ecological examination of strategic, transboundary and ecologically dangerous objects, and state ecological control over wildlife management. Local executive agencies basically deal with realization of programs and environmental protection activities, definition of quotas for economic activities and the size of payments for environmental pollution, realization of state ecological examination (except for strategic, transboundary and ecologically dangerous objects), and other issues on regulation of wildlife management.

55. The following non-governmental organizations actively participate in decision of issues on rational use, combating desertification and land degradation: «RIOD-Kazakhstan» networking, «the Farmer of Kazakhstan», «Naurzum», «Envirc», «Institute of Ecology for Sustainable Development» as well as other organizations carrying out a number of projects on sustainable land and pasture

management, combating poverty, awareness rising and professional knowledge increase of farmers, local population.

56. Informing and consultation rural services are usually poorly developed. Actually, there is no advisory body under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Association of Farmers carries out some of these functions. Magazines "Agroinform" and "AgroInformMarketing" are published by the Union of Farmers of Kazakhstan (circulation 10 000 copies). Also there are regional departments on agriculture, which render some advisory services, and the basic consultation is provided by veterinaries serving the farms. Larger agricultural enterprises involve commercial consulting firms. Though to the majority of small farmers and cattle breeders consulting services are not accessible. Thus, limited access to knowledge of corresponding technologies is one of the obstacles for SLM at the local level.

57. In the republic the institutional system promoting development of small and average business is created.

58. The basic institutional causes of unsatisfactory performance of UNCCD by the central state bodies are:

- Other priorities (directions with stronger favoring);
- Low material and non-material incentives for the responsible for execution personnel;
- Uncertainty of allocation of responsibility, powers between three key agencies on SLM and absence of effective central coordinating body;
- Cases of imposing, duplication, absence and uncertainty in powers and the responsibility and contradictions of functions of local administrations and local divisions of the central state bodies;
- Lack of skilled and qualified personnel.

59. Organizational structure of SLM should be adapted for inclusion of issues on SLM into the state programs and to avoid duplication, blanks and rivalries. In particular, coordination and communications between departments demands improvement. Also there is a problem of allocation of functions, powers and duties between regional divisions of official bodies and establishments of local administration. The support for development of advisory services for farmers is necessary. There is a need in organizational structures, which will provide farmers with easier access to commodity markets, resources, equipment and credit financing.

60. Taking into consideration the above stated capacity problems imperfection of existing awareness on advanced experiences of land management at the level of the interested parties becomes obvious. In this connection, efforts on creation of uniform system of knowledge and experience management promoting protection of land resources with consideration of UNCCD requirements especially in agricultural and forest facilities are necessary. It assumes organization of corresponding bases and databanks on the advanced practices in these sectors of economy. Such bases and data banks should be accessible for nature users and decision-makers. Also the necessity to solve the problem of ownership and mechanisms of circulation of corresponding information between science, generating technical, technological developments, state bodies and nature users is obvious.

E. The coordinated and functional normative and legal base

61. The issues of land management and sustainable land use in Kazakhstan are regulated by a number of Laws; normative legal acts of the Government, central and local agencies. The main laws regulating issues of land tenure are the Constitution of the country, Civil, Land, Water, Forest Codes, and Laws «On environmental protection» and «On specially protected areas».

62. The present Kazakhstani legislation considers the land as natural resource, general means of production and territorial basis of any process of work. The land can be in state and private ownership, the civil and market turnover from land sale, mortgage, rent, and lease is allowed. The land legislation of Kazakhstan is based on principles: preservations of land resources; protection and rational use of lands; targeted land use; priority of agricultural lands; state support of activities on lands use and protection; prevention of damaging to the land or elimination of its consequences; environmental safety and payment for the land use.

63. The right of private land ownership has all citizens of Kazakhstan, foreigners, and non-residents and non-governmental legal persons, which they can get preceding from its cadastral (estimated) cost for the following purposes:

- Farming and personal additional facility (only citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan);
- Commodity agricultural production and forestation (except for foreign citizens, persons without citizenship and foreign legal persons), gardening;
- Individual housing and suburban construction, building by industrial and non-industrial buildings (constructions) and accommodation of their complexes.

64. The lands of water fund occupied by irrigating and drainage systems of local value, irrigational constructions serving the land areas of managing subjects can also be in private or joint property of citizens and non-governmental legal persons of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

65. According to the Land Code the land for using are given on the right of constant land tenure to the state land users and temporary (short-term or long-term on the right of rent) onerous or gratuitous to citizens and non-governmental legal persons. However the practice shows, that the establishment of long rent relations is more preferable for the purposes of stability of land tenure, since allows user to plan the activity in view of maintenance of efficiency and profitability of the site not for a short term, but for all long period (till 49 years) of rent. For the restoration purposes of the degraded and broken lands the ground areas can be given to citizens and legal persons on the right of temporary gratuitous land tenure that it is possible to consider as stimulating factors.

66. In forest sector for the use (short-term and long-term) are provided not land areas, but forest resources (grounds). The term of use can be set up to one year (short-term) for realization of collateral forest use (including cultivation of agricultural crops, cattle grazing and mowing), research, recreational, tourist and sports purposes; and from 10 up to 49 years (long-term) - for wood stocking up, hunting facility and others. Thus forest resources can be given for a long-term use only by tender results that minimize opportunities for corruption during granting the given right.

67. According to the land legislation, the landowners and land users are obliged:

- To use the land according to its end use;
- To carry out activities directed on protection of lands from exhaustion and desertification, various kinds of erosion, bogging, secondary salinization, siccation, condensation, pollution by production wastes and consumption, chemical, biological, radioactive substances and others;
- Protection from infection of agricultural lands with quarantine plant pests and plants diseases, overgrowing by weeds, bushes and low forests, from other kinds of deterioration;
- To recultivate broken lands, restore their fertility and other useful properties of the land and its duly involving into economic circulation;
- Removal, conservation and use of a fertile layer of the land during the works related to land damaging.

68. In particular, the State Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Land Management has introduced the Passport for agricultural lands. This passport is used when the land is rented or B privatized by citizens of the republic. The Passport includes basic information about the

land's size and condition, including soil fertility, pasture conditions, vegetation and other changing information updated annually. The passport provides an opportunity to monitor sustainable use of these lands.

69. Rayon and oblast maslikhats (local governing body) approve the plan of economic management of the territory. Changes in agricultural lands use (in case they are irrigated) are made by rayon and oblast maslikhats according to the rules of the Land Code. For example, low productive pastures and degraded hay-making areas can be used for other purposes. Changes in the category of land (woodland, agricultural territory, specially protected natural territories etc.) are made on governmental level only.
70. Environmental limitations are applied to any type of construction affecting water resources, to cleaning facilities and quality of water. Other limitations are also applied. For example, the Water Code bans logging in water protection areas and shelterbelts which decreases erosion, improves the quality of water and contributes to maintenance of the water level.
71. Forest legislation provides quite strict obligations for owners and users regarding forest protection. It requires utilization of facilities that prevent soil erosion and negative impact on water and other natural resources. Woodland use should also avoid exhaustion of forests resources.
72. To prevent illegal logging and provide local population with sufficient firewood the Forest Code obliges state owners to provide local population with wood stored as a result of sanitary logging and cleaning of forest lands. In addition to addressing social problems, these activities also promote improvement of forest territories.
73. Efficient use of decreasing saxaul forests remains a problem. One of the potential solutions can be establishment of community forest management that will balance forestry and farming activities. This type of management will promote sustainable use of resources through the active involvement of the local population. Yet, Forest legislation does not consider such form of management.
74. Environmental legislation obligates conducting impact assessment of management and farming activities. This provision applies to land, water, forest and other natural resources. Environmental impact assessment increases responsibility for sustainable use of natural resources and provides foundation for state environmental expertise.
75. One of the important tools for SLM is establishment of specially protected natural territories (SPNTs). According to the Law on SPNTs, lands allocated for this purpose are subject to reservation and limitation in utilization. Around its territory a SPNT can have protected zones with limited economic activities. At the same time, some SPNTs allow certain activities that can be internally regulated, such as fishery and environmental tourism, hunting, construction of tourism facilities, and land management (haymaking, grazing and some other). Some territories in the northern Caspian Sea region allow geological investigation and mining if environmental limitations are observed. Ignorance of limitation measures can facilitate degradation on these territories. From SLM point of view, State Nature and Biosphere Reserves promote integration of different functions including conservation, research and sustainable nature use. Therefore, these SPNTs can be a model for sustainable development.
76. Certain land management issues are included in Laws of RK "On Farming" and "On State Registration of Immovable Property Rights and related Deals", in Budget and Tax Codes

and other documents. Bearing responsibility for violating land, water, forest and other related legislation is defined in Criminal Code and Code on Administrative Offence.

77. Mechanisms of implementation of the above mentioned laws include numerous rules and principles approved by the Government and related ministries, agencies and committees. They determine the mechanism of obtaining permission to use natural resources (including land management), conducting state registration, monitoring and developing cadastre of land, water, forest and bio resources, defining structure, norms etc.
78. Unfortunately, most of the laws do not provide ground for direct actions but require development of additional bylaws, rules, guidelines and methodologies at different levels. The Land Code, in particular, lacks concrete bylaws on SLM which makes SLM legislation more complicated.
79. Frequent changes in legislation impede sustainable management while lack of access to information about these changes creates additional problems for agricultural producers.
80. It is necessary to fill these gaps and remove existing contradictions to establish more favorable environment for SLM. Bylaws and other documents of direct impact have certain breaches which have to be eliminated. Laws and other legislative documents require more phased and effective but less corrupted implementation mechanisms. Economic mechanisms for SLM also need own legislative basis.
81. Despite the progress made in environmental policy, economic sector has still low interest in establishing high environmental standards. Stakeholders (state agencies and NGOs) lack or have insufficient influence on economic sector. In addition, there is a lack and inefficiency of private and state funding allocated for environmental projects. Mechanisms of state regulation should guarantee stability to investors and decrease tax and legislation risks for long-term investments. The Government also hesitates to introduce mechanisms of economic management for nature conservation activities because of possible budget expenses.
82. There is a number of laws and bylaws important for implementation of Convention to combat desertification however not all of them are effectively implemented (especially at the local level) due to insufficient implementation mechanisms, required financial resources or poor awareness. Recent developments in the land market require economic components that will financially stimulate or control land owners and users.
83. Capacity building is needed in technical and management issues for all groups of land users including professional education. Various adapted approaches to capacity building for land users will be needed while existing education programs will require revision as to their content and teaching methods. Special capacity building programs are required for decision makers and local officials, who would usually expect a top-down approach in land use, as well as local stakeholders, who often have little or no knowledge about their rights and responsibilities as well as about advantages of active participation.
84. Situation analysis demonstrated that existing legislative basis is well developed to support SLM. However, there are issues to be improved, such as establishment of laws and acts for standardization of SLM and development of economic mechanisms for sparing nature use.

V. Participation process to support action program development and implementation

A. Effective participation of land users in defining state priorities

85. Today, Kazakhstan has gained sufficient experience in holding public hearings on environmental issues and establishing dialogues between NGOs, consumers, mass media, state and research organizations.
86. The country developed and approved the Concept on environmental education. The problem of combating desertification is highlighted in the document among other global environmental problems. Unfortunately, lack of required basis impedes implementation of the current program. The Ministry of Environmental Protection does not have sufficient experience in implementing environmental education programs.
87. The Government has a practice to establish consultative commissions and working groups to improve state (regional) policy, to develop/implement solutions for state management. These committees and groups usually include representatives of state bodies and stakeholding economic and research entities and NGOs. A unit of this kind to improve sustainable land management is the Committee for Sustainable Development created by the Government of RK (March, 2004). It involves representatives of high-rank officials, several regional akimats (local governing body), Union of Entrepreneurs, Association of NGOs, Federation of independent labor unions, Kazakh association of users of natural resources, Union of farmers and Youth Congress of Kazakhstan. The Committee meets as required, but not less than once in three months.
88. To promote participation of stakeholders in decision making and implementation of decisions made at Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development, in 2004 the Ministry of Environmental Protection signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with the key industrial entities, nongovernmental and international organizations. The goal is to establish long-term cooperation for sustainable development and international commitments to environmental protection. In addition to commitments it requires active participation of nature users and NGOs in environmental projects, information and data sharing, coordination of actions and participation in joint sessions to improve cooperation and understanding. As a result of the memorandum, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has facilitated establishment of Kazakh association of nature users for sustainable development that plays an active role in implementing environmental policy and developing environmental legislation.
89. The EcoForum of environmental non-governmental organizations of Kazakhstan includes more than 75 active organizations. The Eco-Forum has its representative in the Council for sustainable development and plays an active role in information sharing, holding public hearings on key projects. Public and research organizations and individuals have right to conduct public environmental expertise for any type of activity.
90. Citizens have an opportunity to discuss policy and other important issues at session and meetings held by local administration, public associations or groups. Thus, the most active groups of civil society are involved in consultative process of decision making. However, meetings with the involvement of civil society and topics for discussion are determined by the state bodies. Therefore, public hearings are rare. Overall, the consultative process is not considered obligatory and often does not have a feedback.
91. Akims (local mayors at the oblast, rayon and rural level) are key players at the local level. Recently, decision making at the local level has significantly increased. It should be

mentioned that though akims are not elected but assigned by the head of a superior administrative level, in most cases akims in the rural areas depend on the support and approval of the local population. One of the planned political reforms is increasing capacity of the local administration in decision making and election of akims by the local population.

92. The current Land Code does not consider participation of civil society in land management. Land owners and land users participate in decision making related to their property or land use within the limits provided by the law. In some occasions they have to implement decisions made by local bodies that have not been agreed with them.
93. Although the laws on Environmental Protection and On Environmental Expertise were adopted in 1997, until May 2004 public organizations and individuals were deprived of their right to conduct public environmental expertise due to lack of adopted mechanism. However, the mechanism, approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection today, leaves much to be desired, because:
 - Expertise should be initiated by local population, public or research organizations but not by the Departments for environmental protection;
 - Individuals and organizations are required to have a license for conducting an expertise though it has only informative or recommendation power;
 - Funding for public environmental expertise should be provided by public organizations (foundations) or on a voluntary basis.
94. There is no systematic approach to highlighting the problem of desertification in mass media. Lack of information about the problem on the territory of RK and mentality of the population worsens the situation. Civil society does not consider desertification to be a vital issue that requires immediate adequate solution
95. Development of information sharing system is one of the requirements for capacity building and active participation of the local population in NAP implementation. In particular, there is a need in creating a data base on different approaches to promote sustainable land use and prevent land degradation and desertification taking into consideration local climate and other environmental peculiarities. There is a need in delivering knowledge on involving local population in NAP implementation at local administrative levels.

VI. Consulting to support the preparation and implementation of the National Action Program and develop Partnership agreements with developed countries – parties of the Convention and other interested stakeholders

A. Effective support of international partners for cooperation

96. International cooperation is important for UNCCD implementation. The Law of RK dated December 6, 2001 # 264-II “On membership of the Republic of Kazakhstan in International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Financial Corporations, International Development Association, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank” defines legal frameworks for the Republic of Kazakhstan in international organizations (6 articles).
97. In accordance with the «List of international and state organizations, foreign non-governmental organizations and foundations providing grants» as of December 28, 2001 # 1753, there are 151 international organizations including 48 international organizations, 28

state organizations, 75 foreign non-governmental organizations and foundations in Kazakhstan. The list was created within the frameworks of the Tax Code of the RK dated June 12, 2001.

98. The Government of Kazakhstan, local administrative bodies and non-governmental organizations receive significant financial and technical support from such international organizations as Global Environmental Fund, UNCCD Secretariat and Global Fund, World Bank, ADB, UNDP, GTZ, UNEP and CIDA to implement projects to combat desertification and land degradation, water resources and biodiversity conservation and other.
99. Kazakhstan lacks centralized coordination mechanism between donor and national organizations. Nonetheless, all projects funded by international donors have own coordination mechanisms with governmental agencies. Large organizations such as World Bank and UNDP have special committees for project management or consultative groups which coordinate their activity with governmental structures. Projects implemented at the local level often have own local coordination mechanism. Projects without official coordination structure still use informal and bilateral relations, conduct workshops and publish informational materials.

VII. Measures undertaken and planned within the national action programs including those aimed at economic improvement, nature conservation, improvement of coordination mechanism, public awareness and monitoring and assessment of drought consequences.

A. Analysis of the past experience

100. MEP in cooperation with UNDP has developed a review on desertification and land degradation in Kazakhstan. The document includes information on UNCCD implementation, current problems, negative impact of desertification and land degradation, legal frameworks for UNCCD implementation, as well as national capacity and limitations for UNCCD implementation in Kazakhstan. The publication targets decision makers, researchers, public activists, students, nature users and other interested parties.
101. There are several periodic sources to obtain information on desertification, namely e-newspaper "Ecopravda", website "EarthWire Kazakhstan", daily monitoring by mass media and monthly bulletin on SPNTs "Pearls of Kazakhstan". There are about 200 environmental NGOs in the country. Some of them are members of RIOD network.
102. Within the Program to combat desertification, in October 2005 the working group of the UNEP/GEF/WWF project "Establishing Eco-net for long-term biodiversity conservation in eco-regions of Central Asia" conducted a workshop on biodiversity conservation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Biodiversity conservation is planned through rehabilitation and enhancement of forestlands, preservation and rational use of flora and fauna, development of specially protected natural territories taking into consideration social and economic needs of the population of Kazakhstan. In addition, an Eco-net map of the country is being developed.
103. Kazakhstan takes an active part in implementation of joint projects:
 - In the beginning of 2004 the Government of Kazakhstan has signed an agreement between the World Bank and GEF to implement the project on Dryland Management.
 - The Committee for Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a program on Forests of Kazakhstan for 2004-2006. The program is under consideration in the Government. The program will be funded from the state budget

in the amount of 8,9 billion Tenge and from the local budget in the amount of 5,5 billion Tenge.

- The program on Water supply in the rural areas is at its initial stage of implementation. The loan is provided by the ADB and will be implemented in Akmola, Northern-Kazakhstan and Southern-Kazakhstan oblasts (Decree of the Government of RK dated January 19, 2004, # 54).
- The project on Water supply in the rural areas of Karaganda oblast is funded by Islamic Development Bank as of 28.08.03 # 882.
- The Government is about to implement another project in Akmola and Northern Kazakhstan oblasts on environmental rehabilitation and management of Nur and Ishim river basins (Law of RK dated 9.01.04 # 520-2 on attracting funds from Japan Government).
- Project "Joint land management in the buffer zones of the specially protected natural territories ". (Northern-Kazakhstan, Kostanai oblasts). Implementation period: January 2005 – November 2006.
- Prevention of desertification in Moynkum desert of Zhambyl oblasts (International Fund to Combat Desertification).
- UNEP/GEF project "Balanced land management in Ily-Balkhash basin." The project's budget is \$ 28,000 with the implementation period for 2004-2005.
- In 2003 the Government of Kazakhstan signed an agreement with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for project implementation on Forest conservation and enhancement of forestland. The project's period of implementation is five years with the loan of \$ 35 million. The loan is given for 20 years with 0,75 % interest rate and 1,0 % commission fee and 5 years of grace period.

VIII. Financial allocations from the state budget to support implementation as well as financial and technical support. Procedures to define needs, funding and priorities

A. Operating financial mechanisms

104. There is an institutional system facilitating development of small and medium scale businesses in Kazakhstan. This includes:

- **Joint stock company «Foundation for small business development».** The main goal is to efficiently use private finances as well as funds provided by the government to develop small business in Kazakhstan. The Foundation has affiliations in all oblast administrative centers and in Astana city. By January 2005 the loan portfolio made up to 15,4 billion tenge of private, governmental funds and loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Asian Development Bank. From the date of its first activity the Foundation provided funds in the amount of 6,3 billion tenge for 577 projects; 29,5% of the total amount are spent for agriculture and agricultural production.

- *Problems of the Foundation* – lack of access to investments for small business including peasant farms due to insufficient collateral;

- **Micro-credit and micro-finance organizations** are supposed to satisfy the needs in financial services for businesses not involved in the banking system. The main sources are private funds, grants and membership fees. These are the most expensive programs because in addition to providing micro-credits they also provide education and consultations for potential customers to diminish risks related to small business development. According to State statistics the number of micro-credit organizations as of January 1, 2005 was 177 and only 40% can be considered active.

- *The problems of micro-credit and micro-finance organizations are:* lack and at the same time high costs of further enhancement of the programs, lack of qualified staff, technical and resource basis, educational programs for participants and monitoring tools, poor interaction between the banks and other organizations with micro-credit organizations, poor cooperation mechanism with the state bodies.

- Micro-credit organizations have insufficient projects for farmers because of high risks, however, it is the most adequate and accessible credit program for small rural producers within the SLM.

B. NAP financing

C. Technical cooperation

IX. Benchmarks and indicators used for analysis, and their assessment

A. Operational monitoring and assessment mechanisms

105. Kazakhstan has developed state registration, cadastre of natural resources and integrated monitoring system of environment and natural resources. Each has its own mechanism and rules approved by the Government.
106. State registration and state cadastre is implemented by the corresponding state bodies:

Land	- Agency for Land Management
Forest and fauna (except fishery), specially protected nature territories	- Committee for Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture
Exploitation of natural resources	- Committee for Geology and Exploitation of Natural Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Water resources	- Committee for Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Committee for Geology and Exploitation of Natural Resources, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Fishing	- Committee for Fishery, Ministry of Agriculture

107. Monitoring and cadastre of land resources play key role in determining and implementing activities to combat desertification and land degradation. State center of research and applied science on land resources under the Agency for Land Management has affiliations with necessary equipment, methodology and software to implement both monitoring and cadastre.
108. Monitoring and Cadastre is a complex system of monitoring, assessment and information gathering on the situation and use of land resources regardless of the category defined by the Land Code. They are implemented at the republic, regional and local levels and include basic (initial), operational (current changes) and periodic observations. Data received is to be analyzed and used for preparation of reviews, reports, recommendations and forecasts.
109. State land cadastre is a result of aerophototopographical, photogrammetric, cadastral filming, research, mapping and assessment, soil, geobotanical and other observations, qualitative and quantitative calculations and other activities. It is used by the state agencies, individuals and organizations as a source of information on land.
110. Cadastre is both paper and electronic data base. Automated information systems of Cadastre are determined by the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Land Management.
111. Private owners and land users and local executive bodies provide information on the state and use of land resources and changes made in the structure. Based on this information,

regional and national reports on land resources are compiled. Quality characteristics of land and all changes made are fixed in cadastre books.

112. The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) is responsible for coordination and applying methodology of integrated environmental monitoring. It includes maintaining data base, synthesis, assessment and analysis of the environmental situation. Each responsible agency provides information within the limits of their competency while the MEP prepares final incorporated information. The integrated monitoring aims to provide assessment of the situation and changes in the environment and to facilitate information sharing between state agencies, individuals and organizations. All nature systems are subject to monitoring: air, water resources, land, flora and fauna (reproduction and utilization), and soil (contamination). The components of the monitoring are quality of the environment, impact (contamination) and consequences and other. The system is implemented at the republic, regional and local levels.
113. Nevertheless, to implement integrated monitoring there are organizational and legal problems to obtain required information from other agencies, organizations and individuals.
114. Establishment of integrated monitoring system for land degradation has just started. However, its key components are poorly developed, such as assessment indicators, initial and comparative indicators, update of the information, methods of distant zoning, links between different indicators and inclusion of social and economic factors. There are no standard assessment tools for the current situation, no coordinated procedure for updating and analyzing monitoring data. As a result, it causes repetition of outdated and unproven data about the scale, tendencies and impact of land degradation.
 - The Ministry of Environmental Protection is assigned to be a coordinating body for gathering and processing data to establish information data base for sustainable development. The country report on capacity assessment to implement international environmental conventions highlighted the following problems:
 - Lack and (or) insufficient access to information resources, lack of large scale research.
 - Today, there is no mechanism for sharing information on desertification; remote areas do not have access to informational technologies and thus do not have information. Educational institutions also lack information.

B. Research on combating desertification

115. Research on SLM is conducted by research organizations affiliated with the Academy of Science as well as institutes of agricultural research under the Ministry of Agriculture. Applied research on land management is conducted by the State research center for land resources. The Center has 382 observation units located in different natural zones. The research center implements research within the program “Research and methodology for rational use and conservation of land resources in the Republic of Kazakhstan”, as well as within the Program to combat desertification for 2005-2015 - “Assessment of vulnerability of the territory of Kazakhstan to desertification and mapping desertification and land degradation in the scale of 1:1 000 000”.
116. Research institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture implement the program “Applied research in agriculture” which includes conservation and increase of soil fertility, and rational efficient use of forest and water resources. In 2003, the budget of the program was 853,6 mln. Tenge, and in 2004 it increased to 1568,1 mln. tenge.
117. Research is conducted in cooperation with The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

(ICARDA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), GTZ and other institutes in the US, Russia, Israel and the Great Britain.

118. Within the state program on implementation of land relationships, the Agency for Land Management conducts soil, geobotanical observation of soil and fodder lands, monitoring, research on stationary and semi stationary sites, appraisal of agricultural lands quality, inventory and Passport of land used for agricultural purposes.
119. Conducting quality research is difficult because of incompliance of existing research methods, decreased personnel and weakened technical basis, low interest of producers due to limited financial resources and poor marketing strategy, as well as weak integration of education, research and production. Information sharing and coordination of research is also poor. As a result, duplication and frequent change of applied methods impedes comparison of the results and leads to limited application of knowledge.
120. The NAP has a separate section on Research and Information Support, Advocacy to Combat Desertification. This involves activities to:
 - Create the system of environmental monitoring and management for sustainable land use;
 - Assess desertification impact on the health of the population in the Aral region;
 - Conduct analysis of situation and desertification and degradation processes in river-delta and low lands of the river ecosystems;
 - Develop research methods of sustainable agriculture to provide local population with environmentally clean products and prevent desertification;
 - Develop conceptual basis for monitoring using space information;
 - Conduct long-term national campaign on raising awareness of the local population on combating desertification;
 - Design monitoring system of air and soil drought for Northern Kazakhstan and assess natural risks for grain production.
121. Research activity of the NAP is based on the local needs and priorities. To improve the consultative process, the coordinating body has a research committee inclusive of representatives of different organizations.
122. Significant human resources will be needed to distribute and launch improved technical and management approaches. In particular, there is a need in personnel to introduce advanced monitoring and information systems as well as land management with public participation. Consultative services nationwide and locally such as reconstruction of irrigation and drainage systems will also require human capital. In addition, there is a need in knowledgeable and motivated people at all levels of governmental structure; people capable of providing technical and management consultations to land users, and facilitating direct involvement of local population and experienced technical workers.
123. The problem of human capital can be partially solved with the existing personnel. Despite the brain drain in 90s institutes still have strong qualified staff, however, it is a challenge to keep and motivate them working at the institutes and governmental agencies. Separation of educational experience (university, specialized technical schools) and research institutes result in misuse of available human resources (students, PhD students). On the other hand, there is lack of research experience among students and professors. Therefore, this human capital should be involved more effectively within the program.

Appendices

Appendix: 1

Country profile of UNCCD Kazakhstan

Country profile within UNCCD:

Name of organization/ministry/department, serving as a coordinating centre:

Ministry of Environmental Protection

Data: 12.07.2006

E-mail: b_bekniyazov@nature.kz

Telephone: +7 (3172) 591974

Fax: +7 (3172) 591973

Biophysical indicators related to desertification and drought

1. Climate

1.1 Aridity index ¹	<u>0,27</u>
1.2 Average normal precipitation	<u>274,9</u>
1.3 Root-mean-square deviation	<u>75,4</u>

Субнациональные территории (области)	мм
1. Акмолинская	285,76
2. Актюбинская	258,44
3. Алматинская	357,15
4. Атырауская	168,28
5. Восточно-Казахстанская	349,7
6. Жамбылская	275,47
7. Западно-Казахстанская	264,09
8. Карагандинская	224,6
9. Костанайская	288,15
10. Кзыл-Ординская	134,47
11. Мангистауская	151,48
12. Павлодарская	296,63
13. Северо-Казахстанская	346,33
14. Южно-Казахстанская	449,26

2. Vegetation and Land Use

2.1 NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index)	_____
2.2 Vegetation area (% from the total land territory)	_____
2.3 Land use (% from the total land territory)	<u>30,6</u>

¹ Aridity Index – is the proportion of precipitation to potential evapotranspiration (P/PET). Appendices can include maps of climate zones if available in 1:1000000

Land use (mln. ha)	1990-1999	2000-2005
Pasturelands used for agricultural crops		22656,9
Arable lands under crop		
Irrigated		1474,0
rainfed		21182,9
Pasturelands		189034,2
Forests and thin forests		23,3
Other lands		37499,1

2.4 Surface albedo²

3. Water resources

3.1 Storage of fresh water (mln. m ³)	<u>0,524</u>
3.2 fresh water resources per capita (млн. м ³)	
3.3 water use in agriculture (mln. m ³)	<u>14472</u>
3.4 water use in industry (mln. m ³)	<u>3690</u>

4. Energy

Consumption

4.1 Energy use per capita (kg. oil equivalent)	<u>2596</u>
4.2 Energy use in agriculture per ha (mln. BTE)	<u>1047</u>

Production

4.3 Energy from renewed sources, excluding fuel from renewed resources and sewage (% from total supply)	<u>0</u>
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Renewed resources – consumption per sector

4.4 Industry (% of the total amount of energy used from renewable resources)	<u>55</u>
4.5 Housing (% of the total amount of energy used from renewable resources)	<u>29</u>
4.6 Agriculture (% of the total amount of energy used from renewable resources)	<u>5</u>

5. Types of land degradation

Land degradation	1990-1999		2000-2005	
	mln.ha	% of total territory	mln.ha	% of total territory
Salinization	3,28	1,2	2,02	0,74
Water erosion	1,44	0,52	1,05	0,38
Wind erosion	1,47	0,53	0,6	0,22

6. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitated territories	1990-1999	2000-2005
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Rehabilitation of degraded territories under crop
(km²)
Rehabilitation of pasturelands (km²)

Rehabilitation of degraded forests (km²)

Social and economic indicators related to desertification and drought

7. Population and economy

7.1 Population (total)	<u>15,75 mln</u>
▪ urban population (% of total)	<u>57,1</u>
▪ rural population (% of total)	<u>42,9</u>
7.2 Population growth (annual %)	<u>0,8</u>
7.3 Life expectancy (years)	<u>66,2</u>
7.4 Infant mortality (per 1000 of live-born)	<u>15,7</u>
7.5 GDP (current \$)	<u>44,34 млн.</u>
7.6 GNP per capita (current \$)	_____
7.7 Poverty (% from total population)	<u>13,5</u>
7.8 Plant-growing production (tons)	<u>12 374,2</u>
7.9 Animal husbandry production (tons)	<u>5322,4</u>

8. Human development

8.1 Percentage of enrolled into elementary school and graduated (% of total age group)	_____
8.2 Number of women involved into development of the rural territories (total)	_____
8.3 Unemployment (% of the total number)	<u>8,4</u>
8.4 Unemployment among young people (aged 15 to 24)	_____
8.5 Illiteracy (% of the total population aged 15 and above)	<u>0,33</u>
8.6 Illiteracy among men (% of the total male population aged 15 and above)	_____
8.7 Illiteracy among women (% of the total female population aged 15 and above)	_____

9. Science and techniques

9.1 Number of research agencies working on the problems of desertification (total number)	_____
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10. Sources of information

1. Informational and analytical collection «Kazakhstan today» 2005/Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan/ISBN 9965-9315-3-4

2. «Statistic review of Kazakhstan № 1-2005/ Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan
3. Integrated report on land state and management in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2004/Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Land Management

Appendix 2: Key state program documents

#	Name	Implementation year	Goal/tasks/notes
1	Development Strategy «Kazakhstan 2030» Main body - Strategies "Ecology and natural resources - 2030",	Up to 2030	Creation of balanced interaction between society and nature, facilitating environmentally friendly society
2	Governmental Program of RK	2003-2006	Population growth in all regions as a result of political stability, sustainable socio-economic development, economic and environmental security, decreased system risks, international cooperation
3	Program for small city development	2004-2006	Facilitating economic, social and cultural development of small cities and creating adequate conditions for rural residents through eliminating of social and economic disparity between rural and urban areas, increasing social and engineering infrastructure, using effective resettlement policies for rural residents; these programs solve one of the main UNCCD tasks – poverty alleviation
4	Program for rural development	2004-2006	
5	Program «Forests of Kazakhstan»	2004-2006	
6	State agricultural and food program	2003-2005	Ensuring food safety in Kazakhstan as a result of efficient agricultural sector and competitive agricultural production
7	Development of national systems for standardization and certification	2004-2005	Facilitation of developing uniform criteria for monitoring of desertification.
8	Development of etalon base for dimension units	2004-2005	
9	«Quality» program	20004-2006	
	Sustainable supply of quality drinking water for the population and development of water supply	2002-2010	Sustainable supply of quality drinking water for the population and development of water supply facilities. This program is related to UNCCD through improving living standards of the population affected by desertification.

	facilities		
10	Research program «Developing infrastructure for science and techniques in the Republic of Kazakhstan»	2004-2006	Development of system and efficient use of research institutes and enhancement of access to research among scholars and specialists working on desertification. It will create information base on effective approaches and elimination of desertification effects.
11	Scientific and technical support for strategic sustainable development of the mountain and metallurgical complex	2004-2006	Facilitating sustainable development of mountain and metallurgical complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan through decreasing man caused impact on environment and improving technological update of production capacity for 2004-2006.
12	Employment Program	2005-2007	Activities to promote employment of the population; Support of the target groups; Informational support of the employment policy; Improvement of legal basis for employment policy
13	Poverty alleviation in the Republic of Kazakhstan	2005-2007	Decreasing poverty level through the improvement of economic and social factors impacting living standards of the population
14	State support to non-governmental organization	2003-2005	Establishes foundation for sustainable development of non-governmental organizations as part of the civil society to increase their role in socially important problems including combating desertification.

Appendix 3. Competency of key executive bodies in SLM

State body	Status	Reasons for involvement	Role in UNCCD implementation
1	2	3	4
• Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Consultative body under the Government of Kazakhstan on sustainable development	Facilitate policies for sustainable development through intersectoral cooperation of state bodies, private sector and public organizations, as well as through integration of economic, social and environmental sectors	Coordination and control of integrated activities of all stakeholders to combat desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Environmental Protection	Development and implementation of state policy to combat desertification	Responsible state body on UNCCD implementation, working body of CSD	Coordination of activities to combat desertification, monitoring and creating data base on

			desertification, preparation of national reports on UNCCD implementation
• Agency for Land Management	Integrated state policy on land management, regulation of land relations, geodesy and cartography	Executive, decision making and observation body; facilitates intersectoral cooperation on land management, conducts topography, geodesy and cartography activities	Maintenance of integrated cadastre and monitoring of land resources, mapping, participation in research, planning and implementation of activities to combat desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Agriculture (with committees for water resources, forestry, fishery, rural development)	Formulation and implementation of agricultural policy and regional policy of the country, strategic plan development for agriculture, fishery and water resources management, preservation of reproduction and utilization of flora and fauna, specially protected natural territories, rural development	Management, development and sustainable use of natural, biological and water and land resources; implementation of phytosanitary and veterinary control; research in the mentioned areas	Development and implementation of soil protection, soil and water conservation technologies, rehabilitation of fertility and productivity of agricultural lands, as well as efficient use of natural resources, participation in poverty alleviation combating desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning and Ministry of Finances	Intersectoral and interregional coordination of state social and economic policy	Coordination, attraction and utilization of financial and technical support from international financial institutions and donor countries	Participation in budget planning and project/program implementation, including those involving international financial support, to combat desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Finances	Formulation and implementation of state policy on state budgeting	Financial security of project/program implementation funded from the state budget	Participation in assessment of project/program efficiency to combat desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Coordination of international cooperation of all key executive	Monitoring and control for implementation of international treaties adopted by Kazakhstan including UNCCD	Participation in negotiations on attracting direct investments provided by international

	bodies to ensure coordinated investment policy in developing external relationships		economic and financial institutions for the implementation of priority projects, state programs to combat desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Justice	Implementation of state legal frameworks	Development of legal frameworks for the preparation and implementation of international treaties	Support in implementation of international provisions of UNCCD into the legislative basis of the Republic of Kazakhstan, conducting judicial expertise of bylaws facilitating implementation of UNCCD provisions
• Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources	Formulations of state policy, coordination of energy management including nuclear industry, mineral resource and oil industry; utilization of energy conservation and non-traditional energy sources	Development of programs, sectoral and intersectoral action plans for policy implementation	Development and implementation of projects/programs facilitating energy conservation and prevention of man caused desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Industry and Trade	Formulation of state development policy in industry, trade and entrepreneurship, including tourism and scientific and technical innovations	Development of programs, sectoral and intersectoral action plans on implementation of industrial policy	Development and implementation of projects/programs facilitating energy conservation and prevention of man caused desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of transport and communication (together with corresponding committees)	Formulation of state policy in the development of transport and communications	Transport is one of the sources of environmental pollution; facilitating adverse changes in soil cover and its structure	Development of transport infrastructure (roads, shelterbelts) and facilitation of decreasing of anthropogenic desertification and land degradation, participation in monitoring of desertification

			processes
• Ministry of Health	Implementation of intersectoral cooperation in public health	Interrelationship between desertification, poverty and health	Development and implementation of preventive and rehabilitation measures aimed at decreasing negative impact of desertification on public health
• Ministry for Emergency Situations	Formulation of state policy in prevention and elimination of emergency situations due to natural disasters or anthropogenic reasons	Maintenance and development of state system for prevention and elimination of emergency situations (including prevention and extinguishing forest and steppe fires), that deteriorate soil degradation and changes soil structure	Planning and implementation of prevention and emergency measures aimed at combating desertification and land degradation, as well maintaining monitoring of desertification
• Ministry of Internal Affairs	Implementation of state policy on protection of public order and safety; combating corruption	Control transport emissions, fighting poaching, illegal logging, violation of laws for fishery and hunting, investigation of environmental violations	Control and observation of environmental legislation aimed at preventing desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Education and Science	Formulation of integrated state policy in education, research and applied science development and airspace activity, as well as state youth policies	Implementation of state need in personnel and programs of evidence-based research; conduct of mandatory state expertise of programs and projects	Conducting research, education, support of space monitoring of desertification and land degradation
• Ministry of Information, Culture and Sport	Formulation of state policy in promoting cultural, information and political stability	Explanation and advocacy of national development strategy including sustainable development policies through mass media and other sources of information	Raising public awareness on desertification problems and increasing individual responsibility for sustainable nature use
• Agency for Statistics	Maintenance and improvement of integrated information system	Development and approval of state and departmental programs of statistics, including environmental reports	Obtaining information on desertification and land degradation