

Report by the Principality of Liechtenstein on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programs under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

In accordance with article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the decisions of its Conference of the Parties (COP), particularly decision 11/COP.1, the Principality of Liechtenstein submits its first report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programs, including information on the financial resources the country has provided, or is providing, under the Convention.

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1) Summary

Liechtenstein acceded to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 29 December 1999, and the Convention entered into force for Liechtenstein on 28 March 2000. The object and purpose of the Convention are consistent with Liechtenstein's foreign policy priorities in the areas of development cooperation and international environmental policy.

Accession to the Convention was consistent with the importance Liechtenstein places on the adherence to and implementation of the recommendations of UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Liechtenstein also ratified the other two conventions that grew out of the UNCED process: the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

After entry into force of the Convention in March 2000, Liechtenstein made a voluntary contribution to the UNDP Trust Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought in the amount of CHF 50'000.00 (US\$ 30'120.00). Since then Liechtenstein has annually contributed CHF 5'000 (US\$ 3'012.00) to the Supplementary Fund in support of the UNCCD process.

Apart from this initial and annual contributions, Liechtenstein since 2000 contributed a total of CHF 2'571'733.00 (US\$ 1'523'629)¹ to various projects that are not specifically devised to combat desertification, but contain elements, such as soil protection, that at least indirectly help prevent erosion and desertification. These projects were carried out mostly in African countries.

2) Consultative processes and partnerships

The Convention emphasizes the principles of cooperation and subsidiarity, both of which are guiding principles of Liechtenstein's Government and society. Given the small size and limited capabilities of the country (population 33'000), international cooperation is a key element of Liechtenstein's policy in sustainable development.

The Government funds the *Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst, LED*, (Liechtenstein Development Service) and encourages private initiatives in the field of development cooperation. The Government frequently matches funds made available by private donors and thus doubles Liechtenstein's development aid efforts.

Although funded entirely by the Government, the Liechtenstein Development Service is organized as a foundation under private law. Because of its comparatively small size, the Development Service commonly associates with and participates in projects by Swiss, Austrian and other international non-governmental agencies and programs. With few exceptions, development projects in Asia, Latin America and Africa are co-financed and carried out in collaboration with bigger international development agencies and NGOs.

¹ Basis: US\$ 1 = CHF 1.6879 (average exchange rate of 2001).

3) Measures taken

3i) General remarks

Liechtenstein itself is not affected by the phenomenon of desertification. However, as was noted in the parliamentary debate prior to the accession to the Convention to Combat Desertification, Liechtenstein can contribute to the objectives of the Convention in a meaningful manner. Global warming has been identified as one of the root causes of desertification. Global warming in turn is effected for the most part by greenhouse gases emitted in developed countries. As was pointed out during the national accession process, Liechtenstein can join the battle against desertification not only by providing financial support to affected State Parties, but also by reducing contributive factors of desertification such as the emission of greenhouse gases within its own borders.

Liechtenstein has set itself the goal of sustainability in all its policies. The guiding principles of the Government (1995) call for the conservative utilization of natural resources, preservation of the quality of life and the introduction of sustainable policies while affirming the need to contribute to finding solutions to global environmental challenges. The most recent Government program in this context makes climate a priority policy area. Similarly, other policy sectors put great emphasis on sustainability, e.g. the energy and transportation policies as well as the policies for agriculture and forestry.

Liechtenstein emphasizes nature-friendly ecological forest and soil management. Where land is used for a purpose other than originally intended, an equivalent area of forest or arable land must be made available. Through international cooperation, Liechtenstein also tries to promote such policies of sustainability.

With the exception of the original contribution to the UNDP Trust Fund to Combat Desertification and Drought in the amount of CHF 50'000.00 (US\$ 30'120.00) and the annual contribution of CHF 5'000 (US\$ 3'012.00) to the Supplementary Fund in support of the UNCCD process, Liechtenstein does not, as yet, support or finance projects specifically aimed at combating desertification. However, a number of projects supported by Liechtenstein's Development Service are relevant to the global objective of combating desertification.

3ii) International projects co-financed by the Liechtenstein Development Service

The Liechtenstein Development Service (LDS) welcomed the country's accession to the CCD since it expected to be able to form new partnerships with NGOs and development agencies, particularly in Africa. Being a comparatively small institution, the LDS participates and collaborates in various projects that Austrian, Swiss or other NGOs and development agencies initiate in Latin American and in African countries. The LDS works exclusively in cooperation with NGOs, but not with governments.

The recommendations contained in the CCD allow all partners in development cooperation to refocus on activities emphasizing sustainable development and aimed at combating desertification. In line with CCD, the LDS in recent years shifted its focus on Africa. While long-standing projects in Latin America continue to be funded and supported, a new emphasis is being placed on development cooperation with African countries, four of them in the Sahel zone (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal).

The LDS focuses its activities on education, vocational training and trade, health and rural development. Projects relevant to combating desertification can be found under the rubrics education and rural development. Sustainable use of natural resources ranks among the four top criteria applied in evaluating projects to be co-financed and supported (peace, fighting poverty, sustainable use of natural resources, empowerment of women).

ASIA

While Liechtenstein finances a number of development projects in the Far East, none of the Asian projects is linked to combating desertification.

LATIN AMERICA

Liechtenstein's Development Service provides assistance and co-financing in a variety of projects in several Central and South American countries, mostly in the areas of health maintenance, adult education and vocational training.

In 2001, Liechtenstein provided funding to a project designed to establish sustainable agricultural production on the upper Yaoya river of Nicaragua. A total of CHF 126'042 (US\$ 74'674)² was contributed to this project.

AFRICA

Consistent with its new focus on the African region, Liechtenstein's Development Service in recent years provided financial support to a number of projects in Sub-Saharan countries that are not specifically devised to combat desertification, but contain elements, such as soil protection, that help prevent erosion and desertification. Most projects are focused on education, awareness-building and rural development.

Except for one LDS-run project, the projects were headed by Austrian, German or Swiss NGOs (Care Austria, Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst, Helvetas, Horizont 3000).

In 2000, Liechtenstein, through the Development Service, provided a total of CHF 869'433 (US\$ 515'097) to projects relevant to combating desertification.

In 2001, Liechtenstein's funding for relevant development projects amounted to CHF 859'832 (US\$ 509'409).

Until the end of May 2002, a total amount of CHF 716'426 (US\$ 424'448) was funneled into projects that include activities to prevent erosion and desertification.

In the period covered by this report, Liechtenstein thus contributed a total of CHF 2'445'691 (US\$ 1'448'955) to projects aimed at least in part at combating desertification in African countries.

² Basis: US\$ 1 = CHF 1.6879 (average exchange rate of 2001).

Annex: Detailed description of relevant projects

Projects in Africa

In Benin:

- Apiculture and forestry (including reforestation)
Executing agency and partner organization: LDS in cooperation with Tobé – Association de développement au Bénin

Main objectives:

- protection of forests and reforestation
- development of apiculture as a source of income

Main activities:

- land use: awareness-raising
- planning and zoning
- protection of forests

Funding provided in 2000:	CHF 195'740.00	(US\$ 115'967.00)
Funding provided in 2001:	CHF 100'000.00	(US\$ 59'245.00)
Funding in 2002 (until the end of May):	CHF 100'000.00	(US\$ 59'245.00)

- Sustainable agriculture and construction of rural community facilities
Executing agency and partner organization: local NGOs and Helvetas, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- maintenance and improvement of sustainable agricultural production

Main activities:

- measures to combat erosion
- reforestation
- crop diversification
- communal infrastructure

Funding provided in 2000:	CHF 108'000.00	(US\$ 63'985)
Funding provided in 2001:	CHF 108'500.00	(US\$ 64'281)
Funding in 2002 (until the end of May):	CHF 177'100.00	(US\$ 104'923)

In Burkina Faso:

- Literacy and rural development (Association Nongtaaba de Zaka)
Executing agency and partner organization: SAH (Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk)

Main objectives:

- literacy
- sustainable sources of income

Main activities:

- increase literacy

- awareness-raising
- integrated education on sustainable horticulture, animal husbandry, water supply and irrigation, soil protection

Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 35'000.00 (US\$ 20'736)

- Irrigation system based on foot pedal pumps
Executing agency and partner organization: W3W Wasser für die Dritte Welt, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- Stabilization and improvement of agricultural production
- new sources of income in the manufacturing of pumps

Main activities:

- production of foot-pedal water pumps
- stabilization of food production through suitable irrigation systems
- irrigation of orchards
- improve quality of drinking water

Funding in 2001: CHF 131'000.00 (US\$ 77'611.00)

In Cameroon:

- Protection of water sources to promote sustainable utilization
Executing agency and partner organization: Helvetas, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- Suitable and sustainable land use
- protection of water sources

Main activities:

- awareness-building
- protection of headwaters
- prevention of erosion and reforestation
- improvement of soil fertility

Funding provided in 2000: CHF 42'000.00 (US\$ 24'883)

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 136'500.00 (US\$ 80'870)

In Kenya:

- Support for the Green Belt Movement 2000
Executing agency and partner organization: CARE Austria with Green Belt Movement

Main objectives:

- maintain quality of life through protection of natural resources

Main activities:

- awareness-building

- create environmentally sound jobs and sources of income for women
- Eco-Safaris
- cultivation and marketing of saplings, reforestation

Funding provided in 2000: CHF 104'373.00 (US\$ 61'836)

In Mali:

- PAIP (Programme d'Appui à l'Intérêt Public)
Executing agency and partner organization: Helvetas, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- protection of natural resources and the environment while increasing arable land

Main activities:

- doubling the size of arable fields
- ecologically safe and sound production of cotton
- marketing cotton under new eco-label

Funding provided in 2000: CHF 260'000.00 (US\$ 154'037)
 Funding provided in 2001: CHF 77'000.00 (US\$ 45'619)
 Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 59'300.00 (US\$ 35'132)

- Organization of and support for local NGOs
Executing agency and partner organization: AMADECOM (Association Malienne pour le Développement Communautaire) und APGR (Association pour la Promotion des Groupements Ruraux) sowie Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst

Main objectives:

- strengthening the capabilities of local NGOs concerned with sustainable development

Main activities:

- doubling the size of arable fields
- ecologically safe and sound production of cotton
- marketing cotton under new eco-label

Funding provided in 2000: CHF 72'320.00 (US\$ 42'846)
 Funding provided in 2001: CHF 96'960.00 (US\$ 57'444)
 Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 54'192.00 (US\$ 32'106)

In Mozambique:

- Rural development in the province of Maputo
Executing agency and partner organization: Helvetas, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- strengthening civil society, in particular farmers' associations

Main activities:

- (re-)construction of communal infrastructure
- re-colonization of cattle
- surveying and registration of pastures
- reforestation
- establishing orchard (12'000 fruit trees)

Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 169'750.00 (US\$ 100'569)

In Senegal:

- PADORF (Programme de Promotion de l'Agriculture Durable et Organique dans l'arrondissement de Fimela)
Executing agency and partner organization: Horizont 3000, Austria

Main objectives:

- Development of sustainable agriculture in Fimela

Main activities:

- strengthening of ecologically sound production in 8 villages
- introduction of vegetable gardening for the market
- resources management
- reforestation
- maintenance of dykes and dams

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 65'000.00 (US\$ 38'509)

Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 64'974.00 (US\$ 38'494)

- PDCR (Programme de Développement de la Communauté Rurale de Kaymor)
Executing agency and partner organization: Horizont 3000

Main objectives:

- rural development

Main activities:

- vegetable and fruit cultivation
- improve cattle raising
- resources management
- reforestation in lowlands along rivers, prevention of erosion
- prevention of bush fires

Funding provided in 2000: CHF 87'000.00 (US\$ 51'543)

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 56'110.00 (US\$ 33'242)

Funding in 2002 (until the end of May): CHF 56'110.00 (US\$ 33'242)

- ROPAD (Programme de Renforcement des organisations de producteurs pour une agriculture durable)
Executing agency and partner organization: Aprovag (Association des producteurs de la Vallée du fleuve Gambie) with Horizont 3000

Main objectives:

- sustainable and competitive agricultural production
- transformation of banana production with a view to sustainable resource management and diversification

Main activities:

- reduction of banana mono-cultures
- land use planning
- prevention of soil degradation
- prevention of degradation of water sources
- strengthening producer organisation

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 29'532.00 (US\$ 17'496)

➤ PEFEM (Pêche et femme)

Executing agency and partner organization: Farmers' Association ADAF-Yungar with Horizont 3000, Austria

Main objectives:

- sustainable cultivation of coast

Main activities:

- sustainable production of coastal ecosystem
- protection and rehabilitation of mangrove forests
- prevention of erosion

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 31'446.00 (US\$ 18'630)

In Zimbabwe:

- Agri-Business Consultancy ABC – Water project Shangashe
Executing agency and partner organization: Hilfswerk Austria

Main objectives:

- rehabilitation (after hurricane, drought and subsequent floods) of natural resources in Shangashe Ward based on ecologically sound and economically sustainable agriculture

Main activities:

- re-introduction of suitable crops
- maintenance and protection of soil moisture
- protection of wetlands
- create infrastructure for water conservation and regulated water supply

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 27'784 (US\$ 16'461)

Projects in Latin America

In Nicaragua:

- Sustainable production on the upper River Yaoya in Nicaragua
Executing agency and partner organization: Fundación para la Autonomía y el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua and Horizont 3000 of Austria

Main objectives:

- reintroduction and strengthening of traditional production methods
- diversification
- sustainable forestry

Main activities:

- education and awareness-raising
- agricultural management
- water resources management
- forest fire prevention and reforestation

Funding provided in 2001: CHF 126'042.00 (US 74'674)