

**Netherlands communication on support to
affected developing country Parties in Africa in
implementing the Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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Summary

Introduction

This communication is aimed at reporting to the Third Conference of Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification on measures taken by the Netherlands Development Assistance to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes to implement the CCD in Africa, including information on the financial resources it has provided or is providing.

Because the Convention is directly linked with development issues in drylands, the Netherlands International Cooperation is instrumental in this reporting. Most of the policy objectives of the Netherlands International Cooperation exactly fit the Convention, particularly the interwovenness of poverty alleviation, environment, institutional development, and local participation.

For the preparation of this report, the relevant departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all Embassies in Africa were approached. They were requested to briefly report on their contributions to the implementation of the CCD, including the consultative process, the measures and interventions taken, and the financial commitment.

Netherlands policy to combat desertification in Africa

The Netherlands policy to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification is focused on support of the formulation and implementation of National Action Plans and the establishment of collaboration between stakeholders at all levels.

Interventions supported may have a direct impact on the control of desertification, such as soil and water conservation, combat of land degradation, sustainable management of natural resources, reforestation, improving agricultural and pastoral practises.

Other interventions have an indirect impact on desertification control, such as support of the development of alternative energy sources, awareness-raising campaigns, institution and capacity building, and the creation of constructive partnerships with local organizations and NGOs.

Institutional support is an important aspect of the Netherlands development assistance, in particular institutional strengthening and capacity building of organizations, and the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks. In the

case of organizations involved in the implementation of the CCD, this policy deserves more attention.

Netherlands CCD-related interventions and financial commitment

The Embassies and Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are differently involved in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The lion's part of the financial commitment is contributed by the Embassies, rather than by the ministerial departments.

It should be noted that the latter have only limited budgets and are more involved in policy development than in project support. The Embassies have been delegated the decision-making and management of the development assistance projects and programmes.

The report shows that the total Netherlands commitment to ongoing programmes and projects combating desertification in Africa is Dfl 823 million, of which 27% (Dfl 218 million) is allocated at the central (Ministerial/ Departmental) level, and 73 % (Dfl 605 million) by the Netherlands Embassies. The main sectors supported are: direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening.

The activities of the Embassies related to the control of desertification are highly varying from country to country. In countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, the Netherlands Embassies are deeply involved in the implementation of National Action Plans, and regular consultations with the government are held. Both countries are quite far in involving the civil society into the process.

In countries where the Convention is not an urgent issue on the national agenda, e.g. Egypt, Malawi, the Embassies comply to the policy priorities of that country. In these countries, embassies are hardly actively involved in encouraging implementation of the CCD or in supporting CCD-related interventions. This variety in involvement of the Embassies is partly the result of the motivation and willingness of the affected country, and partly depending on the priorities and limitations in human and material resources at the Embassy level.

Dialogue and cooperation among the partners are arranged in different manners. In Burkina Faso, the Netherlands serve as the Chef de File to facilitate the process. In a couple of other countries, the Netherlands Embassy is a member of the Donor Group on the Combat against Desertification. In some other countries, like in Mozambique, donor-coordination is as yet unclear.

Conclusions

It can be concluded that the Netherlands Embassies in African countries are generally still little involved in the formulation and implementation of the National Action Plans. Implementation of the CCD is only in a few cases an explicit issue for consultation between the Netherlands Embassy and the recipient country. The consultative process is sometimes difficult, but in other cases characterized by deep involvement and commitment.

The report further suggests that the local population and the civil society are not sufficiently involved in the implementation of the Convention and the National Action Plans. There is particularly little participation of the private sector and social groups such as women, pastoralists, and youth. Such participation is necessary for a successful combat against desertification.

The level of knowledge and awareness about the Convention varies widely amongst different groups of society and governments. Although the public awareness on the importance of combating desertification is growing, it can still be increased. In some countries, local or central officials are not sufficiently involved in this issue.

To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Netherlands strongly encourage the participation of stakeholders at all levels. In line with Article 13 of the Convention, support of local participation (of civil society as well as local governments) is a major issue in the Netherlands CCD-policy. Existing processes of collaboration and integration are to be encouraged and supported.

Examples of current attempts to improve the dialogue between developing countries and the Netherlands are the present Netherlands policy to delegate the decision-making on development assistance to the embassies, and the introduction of a sectoral approach which acknowledges the responsibility and leading role of the receiving country's government in development assistance.

Finally, the Netherlands look forward to the review of the implementation during the third and subsequent CoP, based on national reports of African as well as donor countries, in order to identify constraints as well as maximize the benefits of successful measures.

2 Introduction

The Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) was ratified by the Netherlands, being the third country to do so, in June 1995 and entered into force on December 26, 1996. The outcome of the International Negotiating Committee resulted in 40 Convention Articles and 4 regional Implementation Annexes. In line with Article 26, the Netherlands, as a developed country party, shall report to the Third Conference of Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources it has provided or is providing to Africa.

Because the Convention is directly linked with development issues in drylands, the Netherlands International Cooperation is instrumental in this reporting. Most of the policy objectives of the Netherlands International Cooperation exactly fit the convention, particularly the interwovenness of sustainable development, poverty alleviation, institutional strengthening, and local participation.

2.2 The Convention to Combat Desertification

The Convention to Combat Desertification emphasizes the importance of local knowledge and promotes local community participation, partnership and collaboration between donors and recipient countries to promote joint efforts, avoid competition and duplication, and to build on existing knowledge. Affected countries are encouraged to set up a coordinating unit to get the relevant ministries work together, and to produce integrated National Action Plans. Participation of all sectors of society is encouraged, including the legislative institutions, the local governments, and the local communities.

Coordination between and among donors, affected states and regions (e.g. CILSS, SADC) must be encouraged and improved. This includes consultation with the various segments of civil society, ranging from farmers' and women's organizations to national and regional governments and institutions.

In the process of implementation of the CCD, the following steps should be taken:

- an initial assessment of the current situation
- the involvement of other stakeholders (the civil society) into the process (farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, NGOs, etc.), and creation of partnerships among these groups.
- start awareness-raising campaigns
- establish institutional arrangements (including the legal and regulatory framework).

- the final step is to prepare and implement the National Action Plan.

2.4 The Netherlands policy to combat desertification

The Netherlands policy to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification is focused on support of the development of National Action Plans. These NAPs form the policy framework within which development assistance can be channelled. In implementing the NAPs, the focus is on the one hand on projects and programmes to combat land degradation, to sustainable management of natural resources, to develop alternative energy sources, etc., and on the other hand on the support of constructive collaboration, in order to eliminate poverty through actions at local level.

Recently, the first steps were made on the way to encourage dialogue and to identify new relationships between developed and developing countries, that could fit into the CCD approach. The Netherlands' development assistance is in a process of transition from project support to a sectoral approach. Point of departure is the acknowledgement of the responsibility and leading role of the receiving country's government in the Netherlands development assistance. Through this approach, dialogue and partnerships between developing countries and the Netherlands are supposed to be enhanced.

2.6 Range and coverage of the report

This report only covers initiatives, activities and financial support that are directly managed by the Ministry or the Netherlands Embassies and can be traced through the ministerial information system. It does not include funds contributed to EU development assistance, core contribution to UN organs and bodies, World Bank contribution, or funds channelled to the four Netherlands co-financing agencies.

The report covers the total commitment of the current projects and programmes to combat desertification in Africa. It should be kept in mind that most projects have a multi-year duration, which implies that the commitment is to be spread over several years. The projects and programmes mentioned in this report have a strong environmental dimension, but many of them include other types of interventions as well, such as poverty alleviation, institutional strengthening, and integrated rural development. It is therefore difficult to estimate the relative weight of the financial contribution to directly CCD-related interventions in relation to the total development assistance.

Apart from interventions at the country-level, a number of projects and programmes are focused on Africa as a whole, or on certain regions. These are listed as regional projects (code RF). Furthermore, some world-wide projects are included, in so far as

these refer - at least partly - to Africa.

Given the diverse contexts for addressing desertification, various departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are involved in the reporting as well as embassies in different African countries.

The report starts (Chapter 2) with the Department responsible for Netherlands policy input to the UN (DVN), followed by the Environment and Development Department (DML), the Rural Development Department (DRU), the Department for Social and Institutional Development/ Poverty Alleviation (DSI), and the Department for Africa (DAF).

Chapter 3 consists of input from Netherlands Embassies in most African countries (in French or English). The Embassies describe the policy and measures taken to implement the Convention, select the projects that fit in the CCD-activities, and indicate the financial commitment. Their contributions were intended to be prepared in collaboration/consultation with recipient countries, but in most cases such collaboration did not take place.

Finally, in Chapter 4, a brief analysis of the Netherlands contribution to implement the CCD is presented on the basis of the contributions of the Departments and Embassies in earlier chapters.

4 Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In this chapter, the various departments of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs present their policies, strategies, measures and financial commitment to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa.

4.2 United Nations Department (DVN)

The United Nations Department (DVN) is responsible for maintaining relations with the UN-system. It coordinates and formulates Dutch policy vis-à-vis the UN and specialised agencies and oversees the activities of Dutch representations at the UN.

4.2.2 CCD-related activities

DVN was closely involved in the negotiations of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; it was responsible for coordinating the positions of the Netherlands in this process. During its Presidency of the European Union the Netherlands played an active role in the discussions/negotiations regarding the functions of the Global Mechanism.

After the entry into force of the Convention, DVN continues to be charged with the coordination of the overall Dutch positions regarding the UN-CCD.

4.2.4 Ongoing desertification-related DVN projects, with financial commitment (x 1000 Dfl)

The assessed contribution of the Netherlands to the core budget of the Convention for the year 1999 is about Dfl 230,000. It will be paid from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; DVN has a separate budget line for this purpose.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
	Core funding to the CCD	230
	Total	230

4.4 Environment and Development Department (DML)

The policy aims of the Environment and Development Department (DML) are "to encourage the developing countries' contribution to sustainable global development from an environmental perspective, and to integrate the environmental dimension into all sectors of the Netherlands' development cooperation programme."

DML is in charge of monitoring the 0.1% of Netherlands GNP on environmental protection. The Department is a focal point for questions related to the Convention.

4.4.2 CCD-related activities

The CCD-related activities of DML can be summarized as follows:

Influencing Netherlands policy development

- influence the preparation of policy papers, e.g. on water and forestry, to include the drylands and desertification issue.
- promote awareness of the desertification problem within the Ministry, to increase the support basis of the CCD-policy.
- encourage the transition from project support to a sectoral approach (see Introduction) which should enhance the dialogue between developing countries and the Netherlands, and lead to the establishment of partnerships, as foreseen in the Convention.
- inform Regional Development Banks about the CCD and request for their financial assistance in implementing the Convention.

Support to and informing of embassies and departments

- promote collaboration between different departments within the Ministry on the CCD-policy.
- promote collaboration within the Environment Department between responsible officers for environmental conventions. One result is the establishment of a departmental working group on water, desertification, and bio-diversity, to improve the coherence between the conventions.
- stimulate embassies to include the CCD and its issues in the year planning of their development dialogues with recipient countries.
- inform relevant Netherlands embassies in an appropriate manner about the results of Conferences of Parties, a.o. through a Newsletter.
- focus duty travels of the responsible officer on the CCD-purposes.

Public awareness raising

- assist public media (magazines, radio) in preparing programmes or articles on the Convention. Recently, the Department contributed to a 10-parts radio series on the combat of desertification in West Africa.

Organization of, and participation in conferences and meetings

- participate in preparatory meetings of OECD and European Community for the Conference of Parties.
- participate regularly, together with DVN representatives, in each of the negotiating sessions of the INCD and the meetings for the CoPs.
- As proposed by the Commission for Science and Technology (CST), a Netherlands representative will participate in the ad-hoc group on indigenous knowledge.
- coordinate participation of Netherlands experts in CCD-related meetings
- participate in an EC expert group on desertification

4.4.4 Ongoing projects in Africa, directly related to the CCD, with a financial commitment (in Dfl 1000)

The Department supports the following directly CCD-related projects:

- the CCD-secretariat, the INCD, and the CoP2 in Dakar.
- NGOs (e.g. IIED, Both Ends, and RIOD) for their anti-desertification programmes, and subsidies to the Earth Negotiations Bulletin.
- a survey on networking through the CST, as foreseen in Article 25 of the Convention.
- two research programmes on indigenous soil and water conservation.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
RF012602	Indigenous soil and water conservation in Africa, phase II/VU	9074
RF042301	UNSO/Promoting sustainable water management in the Drylands	1853
WW051302	RIOD- NGO network desertification	600
WW07802	IIED/Programme of Work 1997 cross-sectoral/thematic programmes	2090
WW111601	Earth Negotiations Bulletin 1997-1999	750
WW040502	INCD-2	2000
WW040503	Survey on networking of organizations for implementation CCD	46
WW040504	INC/Desertification contribution in support of CoP2	200
WW040505	Contribution to CCD secretariat 1998	180
	Total	16,793

4.4.6 Other ongoing desertification-related DML projects

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
RF023003	SADC Programme for financing energy services for small-scale energy users (FINESS)/UNFSTD	1446
RF023004	SACD-FINESSE Loan Guarantee Fund	433
RF023302	Review of Policies in the Traditional Energy Sector (RPTES)/ WB	14420
RF025802	FAO/Disposal unwanted pesticides stocks in Africa, phase 2	2886
RF026901	Strengthening institutional capacity to manage wetland resources in west Africa (phase III)	4980
RF038101	SADC(TAU)/Management support to SADC	202
RF038201	SADC(TAU)/NRSE Woodfuel Advisor; NRSE Ad Hoc Fund; Institutional Capacity Building TAU	877
RF038501	Africa 2000 Network	2310
RF039001	ELC-IUCN support to joint UNEP/UNDP project on environmental law and institutions in Africa	254
RF041501	FAO/Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides	2822
RF041701	IPGRI/Biodiversity of neglected leafy green vegetable crops in Africa	262
RF042601	ICIPE/Biological control of cereal stemborers in subsistence agriculture in Africa	7476
RF047101	Improving soil fertility in Africa: nutrient networks & stakeholder perceptions	2077
RF051501	World Solar Energy Program - meeting in Mali	158
RF054501	Local environmental fund, Dakar	296
WW110905	5th Nile 2002 Conference, Addis Abeba	176
WW142501	Seventh Session of the Conf. of contracting parties (Ramsar CoP7)	101
WW010902	ELCI's Three-Year Work plan 1995-1997	495
WW027103	Programme support IUCN 1997-1999	14776
WW028701	Consultant Trust Fund for the environment/WB (afforestation, sust. forest management, prevention of deforestation)	9000
WW030301	Community Biodiversity dev. and conservation programme 1994-1997	4400
WW042301	ESMAP Small project fund 93/94	2715
WW047603	Project on environmental law and institutions in African countries	9050
WW050904	WRI/Technical support and policy research programmes 1998-2000	5850
WW060701	Household and rural energy activities fund/ESMAP	3938
WW061201	FAO/International Conference and programme on plant genetic resources	1000
WW061601	WCMC/Conservation and sustainable management of trees	1420
WW064801	UNDP/Capacity building for sustainable water sector development	2000
WW072103	OECD/UNCED follow-up in OECD phase 2	150
WW073801	FAO/Water law and policy advisory programme G-5160	2878

WW078601	Commission for Sustainable Development	1000
WW084001	Community Wildlife Management IIED	1344
WW090001	Implementation of International Conventions in the field of environmental law/UNEP	503
WW094401	HIVOS/IFOAM, Biological agriculture	2178
WW094507	2nd extension of climate study programme: Zimbabwe, Mali, Colombia	2574
WW100101	Review of the implementation of the Montevideo Programme II/UNEP	840
WW100102	Capacity building in national environmental policy legislation and institutions	1925
WW104001	Water Resources Management Guidelines/WB	1050
WW104801	IPGRI/Strengthening the scientific basis of in situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity	3012
WW105701	Progress in pesticides/ the Pesticides Trust	535
WW106801	Capacity building in the area of management of national meteorological and hydrological services	795
WW107101	Environmental law service/technical assistance and capacity building	898
WW110802	Advisory and identification activities in the area of agro-biodiversity	565
WW110808	Joint UNEP/UNDP project on environmental law and institutions in Africa/internal review	39
WW111702	Refugees, security and environment	21
WW113413	Small-scale projects for protection of nature (KNIP)	2800
WW113423	Fund for International Nature management: Workshop West African wetland experts	173
WW113433	Fund for International Nature management; Conservation of fish biodiversity in West African wetlands	330
WW113434	Fund for International Nature management: Facilitation wetlands exchange programme	96
WW116501	UNEP/IUCN Joint environmental law information system	1125
WW132401	World Water Council Vision	1059
WW132501	CSD-experts conference Harare	205
WW132718	Workshop on Methyl Bromide alternatives in Eastern Africa	314
WW136101	Learning package on renewable energy (UNESCO World Solar Energy Program)	123
WW136601	LEAP 2000 initiative	947
WW143901	Long term vision on water life and the environment	2365
WW143902	Long term vision on water life and the environment	628
WW143903	Second World Water Forum	1500
WW144801	Global Water Partnership contribution	2400
WW132144	Core contribution to ICARDA 1999	1250
WW132126	Core contribution to ICARDA 1998	1250

WW132146	Core contribution to ICRAF 1999	1850
WW072977	Core contribution to ICRAF 1997	1750
WW132128	Core contribution to ICRAF 1998	1850
WW072979	Core contribution to IITA 1997	500
WW132147	Core contribution to IPGRI 1999	2150
WW132130	Core contribution to CGIAR 1998	2150
WW088001	Trust Fund for eco-regional programmes	10000
WW078603	Commission for Sustainable Development Trust Fund 1997	1000
	Totals	155,792

4.6 Department of Rural and Urban Development (DRU)

The policy aim of the Department of Rural and Urban Development (DRU) is "to contribute to sustainable poverty alleviation through the stimulation of agriculture, integrated rural development and urban development."

4.6.2 CCD-related activities

Specific support to the CCD-related policy development by the Department of Rural and Urban Development is illustrated by two of their main activities:

1 *Soil Fertility Initiative*

The Soil Fertility Initiative is slowly evolving into a coordinating body led by the World Bank, focusing on policy and capacity building support to national stakeholders (including governments, private sector, research community) in the field of soil fertility. The Netherlands has been especially promoting the idea of internalisation of public (a.o. environmental) costs and benefits into accounting frameworks, with the aim of rationalising public expenditure and open up possibilities of financing investment in soil fertility.

The International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) -Africa receives both core funding and program support. It supports governments in preparing policy reforms related to soil fertility and is a key-player in the SFI.

2 *Support to Club du Sahel/ CILSS*

The Club du Sahel receives core funding. One of the four main programs of the Club is focused on rural development in the Sahel. Key issues are food security and natural resource management. The activities focus on research, policy development, donor coordination. The Club has prepared a document on the state of affairs in the

Sahel countries regarding the implementation of the Convention on desertification. The Club cooperates closely with the CILSS.

The CILSS (*Comité Inter-état de la Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel*) has two major policy programmes, both in the area of rural development. One programme focuses on Food Security, the other one on Natural Resource Management. The programmes support the member states and the civil society in developing policy and activities in the mentioned areas, and it promotes a regional approach where necessary. The CILSS receives a core funding.

4.6.4 Ongoing desertification-related DRU projects, with financial commitment (x 1000 Dfl)

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
RF013502	Sustainable agricult. production and market development project, phase 3/IFDC	5653
RF013503	Sustainable agricult. production and market development project, phase 3/IFDC/ evaluation	47
RF016709	Work programme/ support to secretariat Club du Sahel 1998-2000	1890
RF017204	Programme majeure formation, protection des Vegetaux (DFPV), phase 4	4859
RF017302	Programme support CILSS 1993	1101
RF017304	Support to activities CILSS	4650
RF017306	Support to activities CILSS	3900
RF025301	Artemis phase III	2029
RF025302	SADC Remote sensing early warning system phase II	4428
RF025303	SADC/Early warning system/Food security remote sensing	964
RF025304	SADC/Early warning/food security; backstopping for remote sensing activities	70
RF037101	Road maintenance initiative	800
RF041801	EMPRES; improvement of desert locust survey operations and control strategies, UVM 3	4871
RF041802	EMPRES; improvement of desert locust survey operations and control strategies, UVM 4	847
RF047001	IFDC-Africa core funding	2550
RF047601	Training in agricultural sector policy reform	144
RF050201	Regional agricultural research and development	240
RF051801	PANOS-Paris, West Africa	2123
WA000201	Support to design and management datasystem for agricultural research in the Sahel	264

WA000203	Project sur la gestion de l'information en appui de la recherche agricole au Sahel/prolongation	264
WW128005	Soil fertility East Africa 98-00 LEINUTS/Plus	728
	Total	41,422

4.8 Department of Social and Institutional Development (DSI)

The policy aim of the Department of Social and Institutional Development is "bottom- up poverty alleviation through social and institutional development, including equity, participation, emancipation, and access to basic social services.

4.8.2 CCD-related activities

The DSI interventions that are directly related to the Convention to Combat Desertification are exemplified here by two activities: integrated water management and the combat against river blindness.

1 Integrated water management

Due to increasing wasteful usage by a growing world population with an also increasing demand for water, fresh water is becoming scarce. In semi-arid areas, this is leading to desertification. Depletion of ground and surface water resources is caused by over-exploitation, in particular by productive sectors such as agriculture and industry.

Deforestation for livestock farming and increased watersupply for cattle watering can allow herd sizes to be increased in semi-arid areas to levels above the carrying capacity of the land. Overgrazing and erosion result, which leads ultimately to desertification. This example shows that if water resources are not managed sustainably, water can in the near future become a constraint impeding sustainable development.

For sustainable water management, the concept of integrated water management has been introduced. Integrated water management seeks to exploit water resources sustainably so as to satisfy the demand of all user groups. In allocating the water, the interests of the different water users and the environment must be carefully balanced. Integrated water management is the basis of the Netherlands Development water policy and is emphasized in the following NEDA sector policy documents:

- Water Supply and Sanitation in Developing Countries;

- Water for the Future;
- Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture.

The problem of desertification is addressed in the framework of sustainable water management in several of the Netherlands-assisted water programmes in arid and semi-arid areas like Namibia and Niger.

During the Second Global Water Forum of the World Water Council, hosted by the Netherlands in 2000, a *Long Term Vision on Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st Century* will be presented to help to find long-term solutions to the factors that contribute to the problems of water scarcity described above, including desertification.

2 River blindness control

The Netherlands has contributed since many years to the control of river blindness (Onchocerciasis Control Programme, OCP) in West Africa. This project, which is now in its fifth and last phase, is conducted by the WHO and managed by the World Bank. The Netherlands commitment is Dfl 1 million per year for a four year's period. Through a combination of large-scale spraying of the river basins throughout the region, and the treatment of infected people with ivermectine, large parts of the Sahel countries have managed to become free of Onchocerciasis. Only some pockets of land in countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia are still contaminated. As a result of this success, the river banks abandoned by their inhabitants because of the disease, are being inhabited and cultivated again.

The Netherlands contribute money to the programme in general, and in addition made an expert available from the World Bank Trust Fund who is involved in the process of reopening the formerly affected regions to the population. In turn, this process will decrease the population pressure on other regions.

4.8.4 Ongoing desertification-related DSI projects, with financial commitment (x 1000 Dfl)

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
	Onchocerciasis Control Programme (OCP), WB/WHO	4000
	Total	4000

4.10 Department for Sub-Sahara Africa (DAF)

The Department for Sub-Sahara Africa (DAF) is responsible for the development and implementation of a coherent, integrated, and effective Netherlands policy for the region, of which development cooperation forms a part.

4.10.2 CCD-related policy and activities

The Department is not explicitly involved in the CCD programme. Of late, though, the desertification problem has become an issue of concern.

Half a year ago, a departmental theme group has been established to discuss development assistance policy. Specific issues on desertification, if presented to the Department, will be dealt with in this group.

The section for West Africa (DAF/WA), together with the Department for Rural and Urban Development (DRU) is responsible for policy development of, and support to the Club du Sahel. In this regard, desertification issues are rather indirectly addressed, through support to activities of the CILSS. These activities are mentioned in the section on DRU.

6 Contributions of the Netherlands Embassies in Africa

In this chapter, the Netherlands Embassies in Africa present their policy, strategies and measures taken in the framework of the national action programmes to combat desertification and, where relevant, discuss the consultative process at the country level. They also indicate the Netherlands financial commitment to direct and indirect support of CCD-related interventions. It should, again, be emphasized that the financial commitment usually covers a multi-year period.

6.2 Bénin: L'Ambassade des Pays-Bas à Cotonou

6.2.2 Dialogue sur le Programme d'Action Nationale

Le Bénin, étant pays signataire de la Convention, développe actuellement un Programme d'Action Nationale de la Lutte contre la Désertification. La Direction de l'Aménagement du Territoire (DAT) du Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat (MEHU) en est responsable. La première esquisse de ce programme a été envoyée, il y a environ un an, à quelques partenaires au développement pour obtenir des commentaires. En ce moment, la DAT est en train de finaliser le document, qui sera ensuite présenté au gouvernement pour adoption (fin mars '99). Après son adoption, une Table Ronde sera organisée, réunissant le gouvernement du Bénin, les ONG concernées et les partenaires au développement pour discuter et approuver ce document et pour obtenir le financement du programme d'action.

L'élaboration du document est financée par la GTZ dans le cadre de son projet d'appui au MEHU. L'Ambassade des Pays-Bas n'a été sollicitée qu'une seule fois jusqu'à maintenant pour donner ses commentaires, mais sera fort probablement demandée d'être chef de file pour la Table Ronde, étant le chef de file des bailleurs de fonds dans le secteur de l'environnement.

6.2.4 Interventions, soutenues par les Pays-Bas

Les Pays-Bas soutiennent quelques activités qui pourraient être rangées sous la bannière de la Convention:

1 Programme de Gestion des espaces forestières et de l'Aménagement de la Territoire dans l'Alibori et le Borgou

Il s'agit d'un programme qui se concentre sur l'Aménagement des 5 forêts classées dans le nord-est du pays. L'ajustement structurel de la Direction des Forêts et de Ressources Naturelles du Ministère du Développement Rural, fait partie du programme, tout comme un volet 'Aménagement du Territoire' pour pouvoir toucher les facteurs causant le défrichement insidieux de ces massifs forestiers. Le Nord-Est du pays est une zone où la désertification s'installe à cause de la diminution de la couverture végétale.

Actuellement le PGEFAT se trouve dans sa phase de formulation. Quelques missions et un atelier de réflexion ont été financées pour un total de Hfl. 193.465,33 (BJ003403 et BJ003413).

2 Analyse stratégique environnementale de l'Atacora et du Borgou

Sur l'initiative du Centre Béninois pour le Développement Durable (CBDD), l'institution béninoise pour la mise en oeuvre de l'Accord sur le Développement Durable entre les Pays-Bas et le Bénin, deux analyses stratégiques régionales ont été soutenues par la coopération néerlandaise dans les départements de l'Atacora et du Borgou. Ces exercices en cours sont exécutés en collaboration avec la SNV et sous la responsabilité du préfet. Les analyses utilisent le cadre logique SEAn (Strategic Environmental Analysis) et aboutissent à un plan régional de développement durable.

Les deux départements concernés se trouvent dans le nord du pays et les problèmes environnementaux y sont présents, notamment l'érosion, la fertilité diminuante des sols, le manque d'eau, la couverture végétale décroissante, et qui menacent la situation de vie des populations. Les plans régionaux de développement ont comme un des objectifs principaux de lutter contre cette tendance de désertification. Le budget pour ces actions couvrent un montant total de Hfl. 200.196 (BJ002905, BJ001104, BJ001106).

3 Projets indirectement contribuant à la CCD

Deux autres projets contribuent indirectement à la lutte contre la désertification: un projet de recherche-développement dans le secteur agricole, opérant dans le nord du pays (BJ002912). Ce projet se concentre sur la gestion de la terre durable, utilisant le concept de Gestion des Terroirs Villageois. Le dernier projet se concentre sur la promotion apicole et fruitière intégrée, avec le but de conserver la végétation.

Activity nr	Description de l'activité	x 1000 Hfl
BJ003403	Projet d'appui à la gestion et aménagement des Forêts classées de l'Alibori Supérieure	93
BJ003413	Développement du programme d'Aménagement du Territoire Nord-Bénin	124
BJ002905/ BJ003401	Petits projets de développement durable (PPDD) et de l'environnement	101
BJ001104	Analyse régionale de l'Atacora (SEAn), prolongation	69
BJ001106	Analyse régionale du Borgou nord (future département de l'Alibori)	30
BJ002912	Appui aux équipes du nord	395
BJ003404	Projet de promotion apicole et fruitière intégrée	630
	Total	1,442

6.4 Burkina Faso: L'Ambassade des Pays-Bas à Ouagadougou

6.4.2 Dialogue sur le Programme d'Action nationale

Dès 1995, les Pays-Bas sont impliqués comme Partie dans la Convention Internationale de Lutte contre la Désertification (CID). A ce titre, ils se sont engagés, comme pays développé, d'assister le Burkina dans son processus de lutte contre la désertification et/ou dans la réduction des effets de la sécheresse, entre autres en lui offrant l'opportunité d'accéder aux moyens financiers et/ou autres et par la promotion du transfert, de l'adaptation et de l'accès aux technologies environnementales adaptées et au savoir-faire, ceci comme convenu et en harmonie avec la politique nationale et en considérant que la lutte contre la pauvreté a été choisie comme stratégie centrale.

La contribution néerlandaise à la lutte contre la désertification au Burkina Faso fait partie d'un des domaines d'intervention principaux, à savoir le développement rural. Dans le cadre de l'exécution de la Convention, les Pays-Bas jouent un rôle particulier comme chef de file de la coordination des bailleurs de fonds.

Activités bilatérales

Au Burkina Faso, le terme "désertification" est utilisé pour indiquer l'ensemble des conséquences écologiques d'une dégradation de la fertilité du sol, d'une pluviosité irrégulière et décroissante au nord et d'une augmentation de la population et du cheptel. Cette "détériorisation" va de pair avec une baisse de la bio-diversité. L'épine dorsale de la contribution néerlandaise à l'amélioration de la situation environnementale en milieu rural est constituée par la promotion d'un développement rural écologique durable. Les activités concrètes de la Coopération Néerlandaise au Burkina Faso en cours sont résumées en annexe.

L'idée de durabilité a formellement obtenu une place centrale dans le développement des lignes politiques du Burkina Faso pour le secteur rural avec l'adoption, tout d'abord, de la Lettre Politique de Développement Agricole Durable (LPDAD). Elle fut suivie d'un diagnostic profond du secteur agricole, à base duquel le Document d'Orientation Stratégique Horizon 2010 (DOS) fut formulé. Ces orientations sont opérationnalisées dans le Plan Stratégique Opérationnel (PSO), qui couvre 11 plans d'actions et programmes prioritaires dans le cadre du Programme d'Appui au Secteur Agricole (PASA II).

Les bailleurs de fonds sont étroitement impliqués dans les discussions, et il existe un accord généralisé sur tous ces documents. Dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale burkino-néerlandaise, l'accent est mis sur 5 thèmes/ plans d'actions:

- * Emergence des Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles (PAOPA)
- * Financement du Monde Rural (PAFMR)

* Gestion Intégrée de la Fertilité des Sols (PAGIFS)

* Modernisation/ Mécanisation Agricole

* Sécurité Alimentaire/ Céréales dures

Les Pays-Bas sont chef de file pour la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action 'Gestion Intégrée de la Fertilité des Sols'; ils partagent ce rôle avec le FAO pour la Mécanisation Agricole, et avec le Danemark et le FAO pour la Sécurité Alimentaire.

Un développement important au cours de ces dernières années est l'évolution progressive vers des programmes sectoriels largement soutenus, dans lesquels l'appui néerlandais peut être intégré, comme alternative pour la mosaïque actuelle d'interventions isolées des bailleurs. Ainsi, on cherche à transformer le portefeuille des activités dans le secteur développement rural dans un appui à ces thèmes/ plans d'actions, et leur opérationnalisation dans les 5 provinces avec une présence 'historique' de la Coopération Néerlandaise (Zoundwéogo, Sanmatenga, Sanguié, Boulkiemdé et Oudalan).

Le thème de l'environnement a été traité pendant longtemps comme angle d'approche spécifique et isolée dans la coopération néerlandaise, à côté du développement rural, au détriment des deux. Néanmoins, la gestion rationnelle et durable des ressources naturelles est devenu de plus en plus le point focal des "Programmes de Développement Intégré" (lutte contre l'érosion, gestion des terroirs, maintien et reconstitution de fertilités des sols, protection Intégrée des végétaux etc.). Une amélioration qualitative de l'intégration des points d'attention environnementaux est encore possible en renforçant la synergie entre d'une part la gestion et d'autre part l'exploitation des ressources naturelles. On prévoit la réalisation des Analyses Stratégiques Environnementales pour opérationnaliser ces concepts.

Cette "tendance au vert" du développement rural constitue un processus intéressant et important à l'aide duquel, dans le programme néerlandais de coopération au développement, le lien entre la Convention et l'ensemble des activités est devenu plus solide.

Cette intégration n'est pourtant pas encore adoptée largement. Malgré toutes les belles intentions et paroles, pour les autorités burkinabè et pour la communauté des bailleurs, la mise en oeuvre de la Convention, aussi bien la coordination que la réalisation des activités, constituent surtout une question du "secteur environnement". laissée à la responsabilité du ministère concerné et des experts en matière d'environnement. Le CONAGESE, la structure gouvernementale responsable de la mise en oeuvre de la CID au Burkina Faso, joue dans la pratique un rôle plutôt d'exécution que de coordination. La convention CID offre donc jusqu'ici un forum de coordination pour les spécialistes, à coté d'autres fora existants, en ne constituant pas un rapport qui coiffe l'ensemble des actions.

Les Pays-Bas ont ainsi (notamment à titre de chef de file) participé à de nombreux événements organisés spécifiquement en rapport avec le CID. Ils sont le premier interlocuteur des bailleurs auprès du CONAGESE et participent à ce titre, en tant qu'observateur, aux rencontres périodiques du Comité National de Pilotage de la Convention. En outre, à côté des contributions générales au programme, ils financent des activités spécifiques du CONAGESE.

Par ailleurs, au Burkina Faso, de nombreuses activités peuvent être considérées comme partie intégrante de la mise en oeuvre de la CID, mais pour lesquelles, à cause de l'approche sectorielle des autorités impliqués, le CONAGESE ou le Ministère de l'Environnement ne sont pas impliqués. De nombreuses réunions importantes sur des thèmes comme le droit foncier, la fertilité des sols, la Sécurité alimentaire, etc. ont lieu sous la direction des ministères de l'Economie et Finances ou de l'Agriculture. Les Pays-Bas participent, dans ce contexte également, activement aux discussions et à la rédaction des plans d'actions. Dans ce cas, la relation avec la CID n'est, dans la pratique, pas toujours évidente ou manifeste.

Régulièrement, des ONG font appel aux Pays-Bas en proposant des activités dans l'attente que la CID puisse être une source de financement additionnel. La Convention assigne un rôle important aux ONG dans la mise en oeuvre d'actions concertées. Mais au Burkina Faso, le monde des ONG est très partagé et on se dispute chaque contact avec les bailleurs. En se joignant aux efforts du CONAGESE et du Ministère de l'Environnement, les Pays-Bas ont pris des initiatives de conciliation des ONG afin de promouvoir une contribution harmonieuse de leur part au sein de la CID.

Jusqu'à présent, la CID n'a pas joué de rôle dans le dialogue politique central sur la coopération entre les Pays-Bas et le Burkina Faso. Après quelques années d'interruption, cette concertation a été reprise en 1998 et consacrée surtout aux modifications dans l'organisation (la délégation des activités de coopération néerlandaise du siège aux ambassades) et l'approche (concentration sur les secteurs). Il est évident que, dans les discussions futures sur l'intégration des différents thèmes transversaux dans la concentration des secteurs, la lutte contre la désertification offrira un exemple manifeste.

Enfin, on peut conclure ce chapitre sur une note positive. Le Burkina Faso était, jusqu'à il n'y a pas longtemps, un exemple classique d'actions isolées de ministères et de bailleurs, de manque d'harmonisation, de chevauchement de fonctions, etc. Aussi bien le gouvernement que la communauté des bailleurs croyaient que cet état de fait leur apportait plus d'avantages que d'inconvénients. Les dernières années, l'appel à l'échange d'informations et à l'harmonisation des activités se fait entendre davantage, tout d'abord au sein des secteurs mais progressivement aussi entre les secteurs. Ainsi

est créé, en théorie, un contexte dans lequel le cadre de la CID peut être rempli d'un paquet cohérent d'activités pertinentes pour pouvoir jouer son rôle intégrateur.

6.4.4 Le rôle néerlandais de chef de file au Burkina Faso

Dans le cadre de la Convention, la première réunion de concertation des bailleurs de fonds sur la CID avait lieu en 1995. A l'issue de cette concertation, l'unanimité s'est dégagée pour le choix des Pays-Bas comme chef de file. En janvier 1996, les Pays-Bas ont marqué leur accord de principe pour assurer le rôle de chef de file au Burkina Faso.

Pour soutenir le processus les Pays-Bas ont facilité l'engagement d'un Conseiller Technique auprès du Ministre de l'Environnement et de l'Eau. Au niveau de l'ambassade même, on a renforcé la capacité de gestion en matière d'environnement par le recrutement d'expertise spécifique. En outre, au delà de la participation financière directe (US\$ 50.000 pendant la première phase, US\$ 83.000 jusqu'à décembre 1998) au programme d'activités du CONAGESE, l'Ambassade Royale des Pays-Bas a également supporté plusieurs voyages d'études et a facilité la participation de cadres nationaux à plusieurs rencontres internationales relatives à la CID.

La préparation et la mise en oeuvre de la CID est prévue en trois étapes:

- 1) La mise en place de la structure en charge de la coordination du processus, l'information de tous les acteurs concernés et enfin l'atteinte d'un accord/ consensus sur les grandes lignes du plan d'action à rédiger. Un premier forum national a mis fin à cette phase en juin 1997. Les actions spécifiques réalisées au cours de cette étape ont portées sur l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre de documents stratégiques et méthodologiques, la réalisation d'études thématiques et la préparation et la mise en oeuvre d'une campagne d'information et de sensibilisation.
- 2) Dans une deuxième phase, certains sujets, objets de recommandations du premier forum, ont été approfondis. Il s'agit notamment de la réalisation d'études thématiques complémentaires, de la poursuite des actions d'information et de sensibilisation, du renforcement du cadre institutionnel, de l'établissement d'un fond national de lutte contre la désertification et de la mise en place d'un groupe de travail sur le suivi-évaluation de la mise en oeuvre de la convention.

L'organe du CONAGESE et ses ramifications jusqu'au niveau du village ont été créés juridiquement. Le cadre légal de la CID a vu le jour. La sélection des sujets (Fonds National, le rôle des ONG) a été approfondie. Des éléments du plan d'action ont été soumis à l'appréciation des acteurs des niveaux décentralisés. Cette deuxième phase devrait prendre fin courant début du deuxième trimestre 1999, après la tenue du second forum, au cours duquel devrait être validé le PAN; son adoption sera

effective après la restitution de ce dernier aux niveaux décentralisés, suivi de l'intégration d'éventuelles recommandations pertinentes.

3) La troisième phase du processus pourra alors démarrer et concernera la mise en oeuvre du PAN proprement dit. Notons que le PAN/LCD sera un document cadre qui se veut dynamique, donc révisable périodiquement si besoin pour l'adapter au contexte de l'heure.

Le déroulement de la concertation

Jusqu'à mars 1999 14 réunions de concertation entre les partenaires impliqués (bailleurs bilatéraux, multilatéraux et des organisations spécialisées comme UICN et le CILSS) dans la mise en oeuvre de la CID se sont tenues, à l'initiative de l'Ambassade Royale des Pays-Bas. Ces réunions ont été élargies à la participation de l'Organe National de Coordination (ONC) en l'occurrence, le SP-CONAGESE. Les rencontres de concertation se tiennent en règle générale sur une base trimestrielle mais peuvent en fonction de l'étape du processus être plus ou moins fréquentes. A ces occasions, l'ONC informe la communauté des bailleurs sur l'avancement du processus depuis la réunion précédente. Les contraintes sont également exposées et des solutions idoines sont proposées, issues d'une réflexion commune et élargie. Outre le processus d'élaboration du PAN, *stricto sensu*, les concertations permettent d'aborder de façon plus large de nombreux thèmes et préoccupations relatifs à la désertification mais aussi au développement rural au sens large. Ainsi, les partenaires sont régulièrement informés de l'évolution de l'élaboration du Plan d'Action Sous Régional et ce, même s'ils ne sont pas impliqués dans le financement de cette activité. Les rencontres internationales sur la désertification, la diversité biologique, la commission des forêts, les changements climatiques sont également résumées à l'intention des participants.

Dès Octobre 1997, les bailleurs se sont à nouveau penchés sur la poursuite de l'exercice d'élaboration du PAN, et notamment sur la manière de mobiliser les ressources nécessaires à la restitution des résultats du forum et à l'élaboration participative du PAN. Une proposition de fonds commun pour la deuxième phase a émergé mais a été refusée en fin de compte, un consensus sur la version finale du document de projet n'ayant pas été obtenu.

L'organisation d'une évaluation technique et financière unique et d'un audit financier conjoint de la première phase du processus PAN, réalisée sur la base de termes de référence élaborés par l'ensemble des partenaires, constitue le prémisses d'une plus grande intégration future des actions à entreprendre dans la mise en oeuvre du PAN.

Ni la fréquence, ni le nombre des personnes (une vingtaine en moyenne) ne permettent de faire des réunions de concertation des lieux de réflexion approfondie sur des thèmes identifiés comme étant des contraintes éventuelles pour le bon

déroulement du processus ou, plus généralement, pour la mise en oeuvre future de la Convention. A quelques reprises déjà on a mi sur pied des groupes de travail restreints composés uniquement des partenaires qui se sentent concernés par des problèmes spécifiques comme "le rôle et la place des ONG dans le processus CCD dans le contexte burkinabè" et "la mise en place du Fonds National de Lutte contre la Désertification". Les résultats de ces rencontres thématiques sont de toutes façons partagés avec l'ensemble des partenaires lors des concertations informelles périodiques.

Cependant, force est de constater l'intérêt des partenaires pour ce type de rencontre. Ainsi, plusieurs bailleurs non impliqués dans le financement des deux premières phases sont des participants assidus de la concertation. Au delà du processus PAN, auquel ils ne peuvent contribuer directement pour des raisons souvent administratives, ils intègrent leurs actions dans une filière logique d'intervention commune à l'Etat et aux autres partenaires. Cette cohérence renforce la pertinence du cadre logique et l'efficacité des interventions au bénéfice de tous les acteurs concernés. Il s'agit des prémisses d'une meilleure efficience de l'aide au développement.

De façon générale, le bon déroulement du processus au Burkina Faso et l'harmonisation continue du niveau d'information fait qu'il devient difficile, pour un partenaire qui se prévaut actif dans le domaine de l'environnement au sens large, de ne pas adhérer à une politique de développement soutenue à la fois par le gouvernement et par ses pairs et encadrées par une Convention internationale.

Les perspectives

Le PAN burkinabè devrait être adopté en avril 1999 à l'occasion de la tenue du deuxième forum national. Une version provisoire est en cours de négociation avec les différents acteurs aux niveaux décentralisés. A l'issue de ce forum, le rôle des partenaires devrait être redéfini en fonction de la nouvelle stratégie adoptée. Le SP-CONAGESE devrait conserver son rôle de coordinateur national des efforts de lutte contre la désertification; tandis que le Comité National de Pilotage de la Convention, structure chargée d'orienter le SP-CONAGESE, devrait voir son rôle redéfini pour l'adapter au contexte de l'heure. Les ONG, jusqu'ici plutôt attentistes, devraient enfin jouer leur rôle de relais avec les associations de base et les populations rurales.

6.4.6 Les interventions, soutenues par les Pays-Bas

Finalement, les contributions financières néerlandaises qui sont considérées comme faisant parties de la mise en oeuvre de la convention sont résumées ici.

Activité nr	Description de l'activité	x 1000 Dfl
BF001206/7	Programme Sahel Burkinabè (PSB) - Pays-Bas	8700
BF001601/2	Enquête Nationale sur les Statistiques Agricoles	4764
BF002001	Projet de Développement Intégré dans les provinces Sanguié et Boulkiemdé (PDISAB) II	16711
BF003001/3	Projet d'Optimisation de l'Elevage	6766
BF003401/2	PEDI Kaya phase IV	15500
BF004301	Restructuration Coopération Vallée du Kou	1037
BF004601	Programme de Développement Régional Intégré ADRK	4859
BF005501	Projet d'Appui à la Mécanisation Agricole (PAMA)	4674
BF007901	SONAGESE/Projet d'appui à la politique céréaliée et sécurité alimentaire	3563
BF008203	STIPLON/Appui aux organisations professionnelles agricoles (formation), phase II	578
BF008204	Appui aux organisations professionnelles agricoles	1491
BF011703	Fonds local de développement rural 1999	500
BF012601	Fertilité des sols, Plan d'action PASA-PSO	12000
BF014201	Financement monde rural, Plan d'action PASA-PSO	856
BF014901	PDL/Zoundwéogo	10660
RF017306	CILSS (inclus DFPV)	3900
	Total	96,559

6.6 Cape Verde: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar

6.6.2 National action programme dialogue

The Netherlands provides institutional and financial support to the implementation of the CCD in Cape Verde. The Donor Group on the Combat against Desertification, of which The Netherlands is a member but is not always able to attend the meetings due to travel problems, is active in the preparation of the National Action Plan to combat desertification.

The Netherlands Embassy has a regular dialogue with the SEPA (Permanent Secretariat for Environmental Development) in the preparation of the National Action Plan, and was also represented at the official presentation of the National Action Plan. This NAP comprises the regional action plans of the 17 municipalities of the country. The dialogue between the Netherlands Embassy and SEPA is furthermore focused on the experiences with Senegal, discussing institutional strengthening of SEPA, the necessity of adequate environmental legislation, and of participation of the population.

6.6.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Embassy has a regular consultation with the environmental officers of the islands of Santo Antão (three municipalities) and Sao Vicente (one municipality). In the dialogue, emphasis is placed on the interwovenness of poverty alleviation and the combat against desertification, thus enabling a broader approach to the local environmental problems. The Netherlands are now discussing financial support to the implementation of the regional plans for these islands. A total amount of Dfl 800,000 has been reserved for these activities in 1999, in particular for the reuse of refuse water in the municipality of Mindelo.

At the national level, The Netherlands will provide institutional support to SEPA in the field of environmental laws and regulations. Since 1996, The Netherlands have funded a Dfl 1,400,000 implementation of the National Forestry Action Plan to combat desertification.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
CV003302	FAO/FTAP Cape Verde support of planning and coordination	1371
CV006301	Mindelo reuse of refuse water	800
CV002106	Development of horticulture sector, FAO	5407
	Total	7,578

6.8 Egypt: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Cairo

6.8.2 National action programme dialogue

CCD-related activities have played a minor role in Egypt until now. The formulation of a National Action plan to Combat Desertification was not awarded a high priority, neither by the Egyptian government, nor by donors including the Netherlands.

Egypt's main environmental priorities for 1999/2000 are, a.o.:

- actualization of the 1992 National Environmental Action Plan and execution of some priority projects
- drafting of a National Energy Efficiency Strategy, in the framework of Egypt's National Action Plan for Climate Change
- activities related to the Montreal Protocol (protection of the ozon layer)
- initiating programmes in the field of trade and environment.

Egypt is a country party in the Convention to Combat Desertification, and actively participates in meetings for a sub-regional action programme for West Asia.

In 1999, a conference on the combat of desertification and on water management will be held under the auspices of EEAA (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency). This conference will be actively followed by the Netherlands Embassy. Apart from this, the Embassy is not actively involved in promoting CCD-related initiatives in Egypt.

6.8.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

Although not explicitly focusing on the combat of desertification, the following Netherlands-funded projects are instrumental in the conservation of agricultural soils in Egypt:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
EG003702	Advisory Panel Project II/ Egyptian part	1129
EG003703	Advisory Panel Project II/Netherlands part	901
EG006001	Environmental management of ground water resources	4468
EG014701	Local Fund Environment 1998	300
EG017101	Local Fund Environment 1999	p.m.
EG006101	National water resource management	8800
EG93006	Fayoum water management project	21566
	Total	38,164

6.10 Eritrea: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Addis Abeba

The planned activities in the field of Netherlands Development Assistance have been met with delay or even standstill, due to the conflict with Ethiopia during the last quarter of 1998.

6.12 Ethiopia: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Addis Abeba

6.12.2 National action programme dialogue

This Embassy regularly consults with the EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) on the policy measures to combat desertification in Ethiopia. The EPA coordinated the formulation of national and regional Conservation Strategies of Ethiopia (CSE) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Netherlands Embassy informs itself on the state of the National Action Plan, its implementation and in particular the integration at the lower policy level, that is the Regional States as the National Action Plan is drawn up at the Federal Government level.

The Netherlands Embassy participates in forums in Ethiopia on combatting desertification, mostly at national level, either on invitation of the Government of Ethiopia or in the framework of donor coordination.

6.12.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The following projects, supported by the Netherlands Embassy, contribute to the combat against desertification in Ethiopia:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
ET006502	Meket Integrated Rural Development Project (WASP phase 2); North Wollo	4925
ET008601	Bugna-I Integrated Rural Development Project; North Wollo	3257
ET015601	Ghidan Integrated Rural Development Project; North Wollo	2926
ET016201	Bugna-II IRDP/SNV; North Wollo	4600
ET92006	Meki conservation-based Integrated Rural Development Project; Meki, Oromo National Regional State	2000
	Total	18,700

6.14 The Gambia: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar

6.14.2 National action programme dialogue

Since the military coup in 1994, bilateral relations have stopped, and Netherlands projects are not supported any longer. The Netherlands are not offering any direct support to the implementation of the CCD in The Gambia. The Embassy is not invited for (donor)meetings regarding the implementation of the CCD, neither directly nor indirectly. If such invitations would occur, the Embassy might reconsider its participation.

6.14.4 CCD-related activities

Through the Embassy Funds for Local Environmental Initiatives, some Gambian NGOs - active in the field of desertification - are being supported in their activities. In 1997, a subvention of Dfl 9000 was granted for the participation of an NGO-representative of The Gambia to the first Conference of Parties in Rome.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
	NGO-participation to the first CoP	9
	Total	9

6.16 Ghana: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Accra

6.16.2 National action plan dialogue

In Ghana, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in charge of implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. In 1998, an Action Plan was drawn.

So far, the convention has not been a topic of discussion for policy dialogue between this Embassy and EPA. EPA is one of the Embassy's counterparts, though, in the context of the NEDA environmental programme which is being built up in Ghana.

6.16.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Netherlands environmental activities in Ghana are still in an initial stage. The focus is on activities within the Natural Resource Management programme of the Ministry of Lands and Forests, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the World Bank. In this context, two programmes are under preparation which are relevant to the combat against desertification:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
GH008902	NRM - bushfire management in the transitional zone of Ghana	3200
GH009002	Management of Mole national park (guinea savannah zone)	7000
	Total	10,200

6.18 Guinea Bissau: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar

6.18.2 National action programme dialogue

The implementation of the Convention to combat desertification in this country is a slow and painstaking process. Since June 1998, all activities in this field have been stopped because of the political situation, including the policy dialogue with the government. Only in a very limited way could some project activities outside the capital of Bissau be continued.

6.18.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

Until mid-1998, The Netherlands were offering institutional support for the implementation of the CCD and other environmental action plans in Guinea-Bissau to the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment. After having funded Dfl 480,000 to support the Executive Secretariat of the National Environmental Council, a joint UNDP/Netherlands orientation mission to possibilities for further institutional support in environmental development was launched in 1997. As it seemed not possible to arrive at an overall National Environmental Development Policy, The Netherlands choose to support the Directorate General for Forestry Development in the implementation of the National Forestry Action Plan. This Dfl 3,500,000 project, to be executed by FAO, could not take off due to the internal hostilities.

Indirect support to the combat against desertification is given through the FAO-executed project Appui à la mise en oeuvre du Plan Directeur forestier national, and to the SNV-executed project on integrated forestry development.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
GW001803	Support to Executive Secretariat of National Environmental Council	273
GW000903	Projecto agro-silvo pastoril (PASP) phase III, SNV	6783
GW002801	FAO/Appui à la mise en oeuvre du Plan Directeur forestier national de la Guinee Bissau	3463
	Total	10,519

6.20 Kenya: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi

6.20.2 National action programme dialogue

The Royal Netherlands Embassy has participated in preparatory meetings designed to prepare the desertification agenda in Kenya. The discussions often have been technical and addressed little attention to policy issues. The purpose of the meetings was to prepare the National Desertification Forum in which the permanent secretary for environment suggested the formation of a Desertification Fund. The Embassy was in contact with NGOs that work directly to combat desertification, mainly to receive information about the on-going process.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy is active in donor consultative meetings and co-chairs the Donor Co-ordination Group meeting on environment.

6.20.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Netherlands government through its Embassy in Kenya directly and indirectly supports activities and projects to combat desertification. Direct support refers to those projects formulated with the express aim of combating desertification, whilst indirect means projects whose main objectives are not to combat desertification, but some of their activities contribute to combating desertification.

Direct support

The Royal Netherlands Embassy supports one project whose objectives are directly linked to the CCD-objectives: the project on national land degradation assessment and mapping in Kenya. Its main objective is to assess desertification in Kenya by using local indicators, and to develop a database that could provide adequate information to policy and decision makers on land resources management in Kenya. A related project is that on drought preparedness and early warning systems.

Indirect support

No project to date has been funded with the specific objective of tackling the science and management of desertification in Kenya. However, a number of projects are funded in the agriculture, livestock, forestry and wildlife sectors which, on close scrutiny, can be said to have indirectly supported efforts to combat desertification. The activities of these projects, listed below, are focused on production, land-use changes, sustainable management, institutional strengthening, and planning of the main sectoral activities.

The objective that has a bearing on combating desertification in all four ASAL projects can be summarized as: "To develop a strategic planning framework for the district, in order to promote sustainable land use planning and monitoring system to support communities to deal with land use changes, to contribute to land use policy and legislation at the district and as far as possible at the national level."

The Water resources assessment and planning project (WRAP) has the objective of increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Water Resources staff at the district and national level, to develop and utilise water resources tools.

The Netherlands wetlands conservation and training programme has the objective to assist the Kenya Wildlife Service in the conservation and wise use of Wetland Diversity.

Most activities supported from the Local Environmental Fund indirectly contribute to the combat of desertification. Examples: JAMABA Agro-forestry Publication seminar on desertification; Improves stoves ("jiokes"), Solar Electric Systems, National Forum, Environmental education programmes, etc.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
KE006202	National land degradation assessment and mapping in Kenya	1331
KE93001	Drought preparedness and Early warning systems	9351
KE002010	ASAL Programme: Elgeyo Marakwet Phase III	9094
KE002007	ASAL Programme: Kajiado Disatrick Phase III	5969
KE92017	ASAL Programme: Laikipia District Phase III	16822
KE002011	ASAL Programme: West Pokot Phase III	6397
KE016301	Water resources assessment and planning project (WRAP)	6788
KE91864	Netherlands wetlands conservation and training programme	9681
KE92865	Mount Elgon integrated consevation and development project (MEICDP)	4164
KE014304	Local Environmental Fund	390
	Total	69,987

6.22 Malawi: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Lusaka

6.22.2 National action programme dialogue

Since there is no fully-fledged CCD-related programme in Malawi that is supported by the Netherlands, there are no broadly based bilateral consultations. There is no dialogue specifically on desertification, nor on the way Malawi is implementing its obligations under the CCD.

However, in the consultations related to the Netherlands-supported training programme on agro-forestry (see below), land degradation and deforestation are the main issues on the agenda. The Netherlands Government has no direct relation with NGOs active in this field, but they are involved in the implementation of the training programme.

6.22.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Netherlands Government contributes Dfl 2.2 million to a training programme on natural resources management, focusing on forestry.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
MW003201	Training programme on Natural resources management	2249
	Total	2,249

6.24 Mali: L'Ambassade des Pays-Bas à Bamako

6.24.2 Programme d'action nationale

Le processus d'élaboration du Programme d'Action de la Convention Internationale de Lutte contre la Désertification (CCD) a été initié dès 1994 en même temps que le Plan National d'Action Environnementale (PNAE). Les deux activités ont été déléguées au Secrétariat PNAE/PAN-CID, créé par décret en 1994 et lié au MDRE.

Après avoir tenu des ateliers locaux et régionaux à travers tout le pays en 1995, où 2500 personnes ont échangé leur point de vue sur les problèmes environnementaux, un forum de lancement a eu lieu en février 1996. Le forum de lancement a regroupé 160 participants dont les représentants de l'Assemblée Nationale, du conseil Economique et Social, des différents ministères, des ONG, des organisations paysannes, de la société civile, des partenaires de coopération et des institutions internationales, des régions administratives et de la presse nationale. Le forum a été organisé sur la base des rapports des régions et 7 notes techniques préparés par des consultants nationaux sur des problèmes environnementaux spécifiques. Après ce forum toutes les régions ont élaboré des Plans d'action environnementaux.

En mai 1997 le Forum de Validation a eu lieu où tous ces plans régionaux ont été discutés. Immédiatement après le forum de Validation, le Secrétariat a sorti le document PNAE-CID, dans lequel tout ce processus est développé et dans lequel les plans régionaux sont inclus. Ce document est comme un consensus entre toutes les parties impliquées.

En octobre 1998 le mandat de secrétariat PNAE/PAN-CID est terminé et l'exécution du document Plan d'Action pour l'Environnement est placée sous la responsabilité du Secrétariat de Conseil National de l'Environnement qui est placé sous la tutelle du Ministre de l'Environnement.

6.24.4 La contribution des Pays-Bas dans ce processus

Le secrétariat PNAE/PAN-CID a créé une structure parallèle où tous les bailleurs ont pu donner leur apport à travers des réunions avant et après les différents forums. Les bailleurs de fonds ont été consultés à toutes les phases et étaient tous présents au forum de lancement. Les Pays-Bas étaient également présents au forum de validation des résultats du processus.

Sous l'égide de l'Allemagne, Chef de File des bailleurs de fonds, des réunions de concertation régulières (1x par mois pendant 15 mois) étaient tenues sur les dossiers présentés par le Conseiller Allemand auprès du Secrétariat permanent du PNAE/CID. Ces réunions étaient l'occasion pour eux de discuter sur tous les thèmes abordés dans les documents soumis et sur les approches adoptées.

Il faut signaler que parmi ces thèmes, la question du financement de la lutte contre la désertification était largement évoquée et qu'aucun accord de principe n'est intervenu entre les bailleurs de fonds. Les Pays-Bas ont financé une étude sur les mécanismes alternatifs de financement de l'environnement (4240 Hfl). Les conclusions de ce travail ont été favorablement accueillies par la majorité des bailleurs de fonds et par le Secrétariat Permanent du PNAE/CID. Le fait que les conclusions de l'étude n'ont pas encore été utilisées est lié au moment de lancement de l'étude (trop tard pour le Forum de Validation) et à cause de l'immobilité de fonctionnement du Secrétariat PNAE/PAN-CID (création du nouveau ministère de l'Environnement). Le document n'est pas perdu et sera certainement utilisé pendant les discussions durant la Table Ronde de l'Environnement prévue pour le mois de mai 1999.

Les Pays-Bas ont activement participé et ont orientés le processus vers un Plan National de l'Environnement, pas uniquement par sa participation (au total 20 réunions tenues) mais aussi par l'initiation et le financement de l'étude sur la méthode de financement du plan. Les différents développements PNAE/CID ont été toujours l'objet d'une paragraphe dans le plan annuel du Mali, mais n'ont jamais été cités dans les discussions bilatérales.

6.24.6 Interventions, soutenues par les Pays-Bas

Les projets et programmes soutenues par les Pays-Bas sous-mentionnés s'inscrivent dans la convention.

Activité nr	Description de l'activité	x 1000 Dfl
ML010201	Programme de conservation et de gestion des zones humides dans les zones arides et semi-arides du Mali (Prozasa)	5000
ML008401	Appui à la CMDT	9616
ML008402	Appui à la CMDT	1226
ML009101	Etude environnementale de l'Office de Niger	1355
ML006603	Gestion hydro-écologique du Niger supérieur Mali-Guinee (GHENIS)	4122
ML011401	Wetlands projects UICN	646
ML011402	Wetlands projects NEF	2994
ML006202	Etude de l'ensablement du Niger	77
ML000101	Stratégie Energie Domestique	5847
	Total	30,883

6.26 Mauritania: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar

6.26.2 National action programme dialogue

There is no bilateral relationship between Mauritania and the Netherlands, so no direct support from government to government in the implementation of the CCD. In 1996, however, The Netherlands was represented at the Focal Points Meeting in Nouakchott, where Mauritania was notified that assistance in the field of desertification could be granted in a regional context (CILSS).

6.26.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

In 1998, the World Lutheran Federation (WLF) was granted a Dfl 100,000 subvention to execute a desertification control project in Bassikounou (south-east Mauritania).

Activity nr	Description of activity	x 1000 Dfl
MR001201	LWF/Operation de sauvegarde et de rehaulitation de l'environnement, Bassikoukou	100
	Total	100

6.28 Mozambique: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Maputo

6.28.2 National action programme dialogue

Mozambique ratified the CCD in June 1996. To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the convention, a National Committee to Combat Desertification was established. Under the presidency of the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), the drafting of a National Action Plan was initiated. This plan included an inventory of the drought-prone regions in Mozambique, and an awareness-raising campaign.

The Netherlands (nor any other country) does not directly discuss with MICOA concerning the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Netherlands does support MICOA in the implementation of the National Environment Management plan. For this, MICOA prepares annual work plans with a request for funding of the entire package. In this annual work-programme and budget, activities are included which deal specifically with the implementation of the Convention. The Netherlands therefore provides indirect support.

The planning for and implementation of activities for the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP) so far have been the initiative of MICOA mainly, as well as the other members of the National Desertification Committee. This group has dealt directly with the Secretariat of the Convention in Bonn.

Donor coordination to support the implementation of the CCD has not taken place. The position of Finland, being Chef de File, is unclear as yet.

6.28.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

A specific study focusing on the combat of desertification was financed (about Dfl 40,000) through a Netherlands-co-funded programme to support environmental management in Mozambique (through MICOA).

The Netherlands further supports the development of a legal framework on the sustainable management of land and other natural resources, forests, and wildlife.

In addition, the Netherlands finance some other activities that do not fall directly under the National Action Programme but certainly contribute to the combat of desertification and soil degradation. These are the following projects:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
MZ006203	Water resources assessment and planning (WRAP)	7800
MZ006402	FAO/ Assistance to Mozambique in Forestry and Wildlife legislation	478
MZ007601	UNDP/Sustainable development in Mozambique: support to the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs	41700
MZ011501	Management of mangrove vegetation	877
MZ007301	FAO/Support to community forestry and wildlife management	16900
MZ92006	Support to land resources assessment and inventory	4645
MZ010101	FAO/Implementation land law	2998
	Total	75,398

6.30 Namibia: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Harare

6.30.2 National action programme dialogue

The Netherlands Embassy supports only a few activities that are closely related to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. However, authorities in Namibia generally have a very positive attitude vis-à-vis the CCD, and the available technical and institutional capacity is relatively (in terms of comparison to other African countries) sufficiently strong to implement the CCD nationally.

6.30.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

Some relatively small activities to the tune of approx. Dfl 25,000, which are being administered by the Namibia Nature Foundation under sponsorship by The Netherlands, could be considered as directly related to the CCD.

In addition, a number of activities funded by The Netherlands in the environmental sector in Namibia (Environmental profiles of Northern provinces) or having environmental relations (Rural Water Supply) have an indirect relationship to the CCD.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
	Namibia Nature Foundation	25
NA000303	Water: Namibia's Most Precious Resource. The Decision-makers guide	65
NA001601	Regional Environmental Profile (pilot project)	491
NA002403	IPO: ITC/Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation: Institutional support and manpower development	118
NA003001/2	Local Environmental Fund 1997/1998	332
NA003501	Environmental profile former Ovamboland	813
	Total	1,844

6.32 Rwanda: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kigali

The integration of environmental aspects at all levels and in all sectors of society are extremely important in the Rwandan context, a fact which the Government and the International Community are now, 5 years after the genocide, starting to acknowledge.

6.32.2 National action programme dialogue

Environment has never been a 'high priority issue' in Rwanda. However, the 1994 events have led to a total disruption of activities in this field. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment restarted its activities in 1995 but was dissolved in 1996. 'Environment' became a department within the Ministry of Agriculture. It received little support, lacked capacity and had no political leverage at all. In a major ministerial reshuffle in February 1999 the department was reorganised and the section 'Environmental Protection' was integrated in the new Ministry of Land and Resettlement. It is envisaged that the actual positioning will contribute to the primary task of the department, namely policy-making.

Due to these ministerial reorganizations, donor consultations on environmental issues, including desertification, have hardly taken place until now. However, the Netherlands Embassy is in close contact with the Department and expects to support its institutional development through direct (know-how, finance) and indirect (projects and programmes) interventions.

6.32.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

Presently, the Netherlands Embassy supports a project on rehabilitation of degraded land, and recently organised a seminar on biodiversity.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
RW010602	Expanding environmental improvement measures in southern Gikongoro Prefecture	894
RW017301	Local environmental fund	323
	Total	1,217

6.34 Senegal: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar

6.34.2 National action plan dialogue

The Netherlands hold the presidency and the secretariat of the Informal Donor Group on Environmental Development in Senegal. As such, donor assistance to the preparation and presentation of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification is coordinated. The Informal Donor Group meets on a bimonthly basis and discusses actual issues, such as: protection of mangroves, inventory and degradation of forest reserves and the role of the CCD, preparation of the Plan National d'Action Environnemental, the role of CONSERE (Conseil Interministeriel Environnementale), and preparation of the CoP.

As to the implementation of the CCD in Senegal, The Netherlands participate actively in the discussions on the priorities to be set and the creation of an Environmental Development Fund.

In general, the Minister for Environment contacts the Netherlands Embassy for any assistance to the combat against desertification (for institutional, policy, technical issues). The Embassy Fund for Local Environmental Initiatives is often addressed for support to CCD-related activities.

6.34.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Netherlands co-finances (with World Bank) a new project on Sustainable and Participatory energy Management Project (RPTES), for forestry conservation and prevention of the use of charcoal. Total planned Netherlands contribution is US\$ 8 million. The Netherlands supports the national forestry programme through 7 activities, as listed below. These FAO-executed projects, for a total of Dfl 25.7 million, will be included in the proposed budget support to the Direction des Eaux et Forêts. In 1997/98, this service received Dfl 262,000 direct assistance for various activities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, a couple of projects are supported in the field of soil protection (Dfl 700,000). The LOCUSTOX project, to reduce the use of pesticides, amounts to Dfl 6.2 million.

The Netherlands further contributed Dfl 100,000 to the preparation of the NAP, by financing the participation of women and farmers' organizations in the preparation process.

Small local initiatives to combat desertification are supported from the Embassy Funds for Local Environmental Initiatives. In 1998, this support amounted to Dfl 160,000.

At the regional level, CILSS was supported with a grant of Dfl 200,000 in 1996/97 (see also the contribution of DRU, Chapter 2) in order to finance the participatory preparation activities for desertification control measures within the "Sahel 21" strategy. This strategy was presented at the CILSS-summit in Banjul (1997).

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
SN006101/2/3	Sustainable and Participatory energy Management Project (RPTES) IBRD	16000
SN000503	Integrated forestry development (PROWALO) phase III, FAO	6153
SN000904	Centre de Semences forestieres (PRONASEF) phase I/II, FAO	4980
SN001403	Foresterie Rurale phase II, FAO	4571
SN001604	Centre FoReT phase II, FAO	1945
SN001606	Programme d'Appui au Developpement Forestier au Senegal (PAFS)	610
SN001704	Integrated forestry development North Senegal (PREVINOBA) III, FAO	7443
SN003401	Sustainable use of wild harvests in W-Africa, UICN	2121
RF020903/ SN007701	LOCUSTOX	6557
	PIP-Podor (soil conservation)	700
SN005202	Embassy Funds for Local Environmental Initiatives	250
	Contribution to the preparation of the NAP	100
	Total	51,430

6.36 South Africa: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria

6.36.2 National action programme dialogue

South Africa is currently still drafting the National Action Plan (NAP). When this is finished, a consultation round with all the stakeholders will follow, resulting in first a Green and then a White Paper. At the end of the process, legislation will be put in place.

The National Secretariat for the implementation of the Convention is led by a consultant and placed at the Department of Environment and Tourism. Apart from the secretariat, there is a Steering Committee which is composed of the Departments involved in the issue and two representatives of the NGO-sector. De Reference Group, which comprises an even broader range of stakeholders, is the body that makes the decisions. A representative of the Netherlands Embassy is part of the Reference Group, but it has only been convened twice, for the last time in the spring of 1998.

Because of internal problems, there has been some delay in the setting up of the NAP. Implementation, however, of some parts of the NAP has started already. For example the education campaign, which is outsourced to the NGO "Environmental Monitoring Group" (EMG), is running. The Embassy has on a regular basis contact with this organization (see below).

The Netherlands Embassy does not have regular policy meetings with the South African authorities, and donor-coordination in the field of environment only takes place on an ad hoc basis.

6.36.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

One project in the field of desertification was funded, financed from a local fund. The Environmental Monitoring Group was supported for the production of an education video for the general public. A second project, the Kathorus Greening is focused on the afforestation of 7500 trees around schools, and can be considered to indirectly contribute to the combat against desertification.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
ZA007702	Video documentary desertification	69
ZA010102	Kathorus Greening Initiative	100
	Total	169

6.38 Tanzania: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dar es Salaam

6.38.2 National action programme dialogue

The combat against desertification is not one of the three main fields of interest for the Netherlands Development programme in Tanzania. Therefore, the subject is not explicitly discussed during the policy meetings of the Netherlands Embassy. Neither does the Embassy discuss the subject with NGOs at the national level. Netherlands' support focused in 1998 on the following key issues: Environmental Education and Awareness Raising; Protection of Biodiversity and ecosystem management and Pollution Abatement.

The Netherlands Embassy did participate in the National Forum on the proposal for the establishment of the National Environmental Fund (Desertification). However, due to the low quality of the proposal and to a lack of funds, the Embassy did not become actively involved.

The Embassy is a member of the Informal Donor Group in Environment, which meets every month to discuss environmental issues and project proposals. An ongoing point of discussion between donors and the government of Tanzania is the lack of leadership on the part of the Tanzanian authorities in coordinating the environmental activities. Attempts are made to formulate an environmental strategy in which donor support will be applied in a coherent and strategic manner.

6.38.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The main projects directly focused on the combat of desertification in Tanzania are the regional or worldwide projects, as mentioned under the heading of DML in the second chapter of this report (RF042301, RF039001, WW110811).

In addition, in a number of district programmes in Shinyanga region, some activities to combat desertification are carried out (TZ015201). In these districts, cooperation with NGOs has been established. Finally, the agricultural research programme TARPII (TZ003602) explicitly pays attention to the combat of erosion and unsustainable land management.

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
TZ003602	Tanzania agricultural research project TARPII	12000
TZ015201	District development fund and management support	111310
	Total	123,310

6.40 Uganda: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala

6.40.2 National action programme dialogue

The Netherlands Development Assistance activities in Uganda are still developing. The Embassy is informed of the CCD, but is as yet not actively involved in its implementation. Nevertheless, quite a number of CCD-related projects are supported, as the list below shows.

6.40.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
UG000401	IUCN/ Uganda National Wetlands Conservation and Management programme, phase III and evaluation	3647
UG001302	Community Action Programme Phase II (CAP II)	13243
UG004102	Districts programme Soroti	12012
UG004202/3	Districts programme LIRA	14585
UG006701	Poverty Eradication through Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (PEESA)	1029
UG007001	Sustainable use of energy; research and demonstration	866
	Total	45,382

6.42 Zambia: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Lusaka

6.42.2 National action programme dialogue

Zambia is a party to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The National Action Programme on Desertification in Zambia is being written at the moment. The government hopes to launch this document in March 1999. During the bilateral talks between the Zambian and the Netherlands Government, the CCD is not a specific issue. However, the topic of desertification is being discussed in relation to the agricultural and environmental programme.

Zambia cooperates with the World Bank and other multi- and bilateral donors in setting up an Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (ASIP). All separate activities that are financed by the donor community should be on the agenda of ASIP. The bilateral talks between Zambia and the Netherlands focus on institutional support to the ASIP Consultative Forum, institutional support to districts in the Western Province as part of the decentralisation, forestry and sustainable management of natural resources.

The dialogue at a national level is mainly on policy formulation. A forum has been set up where representatives from the Government, the private sector, the NGOs and the donor community meet and exchange views on the developments in the agricultural sector, including issues such as food security, the use of fertilizer, land degradation and desertification. At the provincial and district levels, the discussions focus more on the implementation of the different programmes.

Meetings with NGOs are on an ad hoc basis and, again, these organizations are mainly active in the field of forestry.

6.42.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The Netherlands Embassy's involvement in the combat of desertification in Zambia is quite limited. When Zambia asked the international donors to financially contribute to the drafting of a national action plan, the Netherlands reaction was negative, due to too limited resources. Moreover, priority was given to directly result-oriented activities and programmes, rather than to financing national action plans. The activities, funded by the Netherlands Government, contributing to the combat of desertification are:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
ZM001603	District development support programme (DDSP) phase 2, Western prov.	3104
ZM010706	Support to the ASIP consultative forum secretariat	170
ZM010705	ASIP, animal production and health / technical advisory group	4100
ZM004002	Support to smallholder agricultural mechanisation (SAMS), UVM3	600
ZM004003	Support to smallholder agricultural mechanisation (SAMS), UVM4	964
ZM004008	Smallholder agricultural mechanisation promotions (SAMEP)	2241
	Community-based Natural resources management programme West Prov	3100
	Total	14,279

6.44 Zimbabwe: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Harare

6.44.2 National action programme dialogue

Zimbabwe formally embarked upon the implementation process for the CCD in August 1997, with the National Forum on the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought. It was felt that the concerted efforts of Government and NGOs to institute mitigatory measures to fight drought and desertification had earlier failed to yield positive results, because Zimbabwe lacked a common and coordinated program aimed at combatting desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. Therefore, a National Desertification Task force was created, which produced a draft document on the establishment of a National Desertification Fund.

The Netherlands Embassy in Harare informally expressed its interest in supporting this fund, as was the case with several other donors active in the environmental sector, such as Denmark, Norway and Canada. To this effect, the Embassy earmarked a contribution of Dfl. 1 million for this purpose (ZW013901). However, no official request for financial support of the National Desertification Fund has been forthcoming in 1998. At this point in time, the Embassy still awaits the outcome of the decision-making process at MMET concerning the focus, the institutional set-up and disbursement mechanism of the National Desertification Fund.

The earmarking of financial support has been shifted to the year 1999, but will be subject to the overall financial allocation to the Embassy. If possibilities for a financial support of the National Desertification Fund would exist, a possible allocation will be dependent on factors such as the internal appraisal process at the Embassy and the position of other donors.

For the time being, this Embassy does not intend to act as a "Chef de File" for the CCD-process in Zimbabwe, nor does Zimbabwe appear to be very keen on nominating a specific donor for this purpose. In Zimbabwe, bi-monthly donor-coordination meetings with regard to the environmental sector take place, where the progress of the CCD-process is discussed regularly.

6.44.4 CCD-related interventions, supported by the Netherlands

The following specific activities in Zimbabwe, supported by the Netherlands, are relevant to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification:

Activity nr	Activity description	x 1000 Dfl
ZW009201	SAFIRE/MITI, sustainable and productive use of Natural Resources in Communal Areas.	4256
ZW002805	Community-based Catchment Rehabilitation and Exploitation in Masvingo Province	916
ZW002846	IUCN: Zimuto/Msagashe catchment rehabilitation, bridging phase (sequence to ZW002805)	221
ZW007703	ZIRRCO, Institutional support	1221
ZW008718	Environmental impact study of the 1991/'92 drought	16
ZW015501	Assessment of multilateral environmental agreements in Zimbabwe	357
RF056301	Capacity building amongst communities and NGOs to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (as well as the CCD)	221
	Total	7,208

8 Concluding analysis

8.2 The Netherlands policy to combat desertification in Africa

The Netherlands policy to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification is focused on support to National Action Plans. These NAPs, if designed according to the CCD-principles, form the policy framework through which development assistance can be channelled.

The interventions supported by the Netherlands Development Assistance (NEDA) throughout Africa cover a range of measures promoted in the Convention. These include activities on soil and water conservation, combat of land degradation, sustainable management of natural resources, reforestation, improving agricultural and pastoral practises. Other projects have a more indirect impact on desertification control, such as the development of alternative energy sources, awareness-raising campaigns amongst local populations and officials, institution and capacity building, and the creation of constructive partnerships, in order to eliminate poverty through actions at local level.

Institutional support is an important aspect of the Netherlands development assistance, in particular institutional strengthening and capacity building of organizations, and the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks. In the case of organizations involved in the implementation of the CCD, this policy deserves more attention.

8.2.2 Netherlands CCD-related interventions

Based on the contributions to this report, it can be concluded that the Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are in a varying way involved in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. While the Environment and Development Department committed Dfl 172 million, and the Rural and Urban Development Department 41 million, the other departments have a much smaller budget to support CCD-related interventions.

The report shows that the financial contribution comes mainly from the Embassies (about 73 %), rather than from the central departments. It should be noted that the latter have only limited budgets and are more involved in policy development than in project support. The implementation of their policy, and the decision-making about the Netherlands assistance to projects and programmes is delegated to the Embassies.

At the Embassy level, the picture is quite diverse. In countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, the Netherlands Embassies are deeply involved in the development and implementation of National Action Plans, and regular consultations between the affected country and the other donors are taking place. Mali in particular is quite far in involving the civil society into the process. In Burkina Faso, the Netherlands are Chef de File to facilitate the implementation process. In other countries, like Rwanda and Guinea Bissau, external factors prevent an active involvement in the implementation of the CCD.

The activities supported are highly varying as well. In countries where CCD-related activities play a minor role, e.g. Egypt, Malawi, the Embassies are hardly active in supporting these activities. By contrast, the Embassy in Mali, as does the Embassy in Cape Verde, focuses on policy development within the NAP and in addition supports a number of projects and programmes.

This diversity in involvement is partly the result of the motivation and willingness of the affected country, and partly depending on the priorities and limitations at the Embassy level. Thus, the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Zimbabwe focuses on a special Desertification Fund rather than the National Action Plan activities. The Embassy in Zambia took the same conclusion and decided to support only directly result-oriented projects and programmes.

The contribution of an Embassy to the CCD-policy is not always related to the height of the financial commitment, as the case of Tanzania shows. Although implementation of the CCD is not a field of interest for the Netherlands Embassy in that country, nevertheless its funding of (directly and indirectly) CCD-related projects is considerable (Dfl 123 million).

There are many informal and formal arrangements for discussion and cooperation among the partners. In one case (Burkina Faso), the Netherlands serve as a Chef de File to facilitate the process. In a couple of other countries, the Embassy is a member of the Donor Group on the Combat against Desertification. By contrast, in other countries, like in Mozambique, donor-coordination is unclear.

8.2.4 Financial commitment

The report shows that the total Netherlands commitment to ongoing programmes and projects combating desertification in Africa is Dfl 823 million, of which 27% (Dfl 218 million) is allocated at the central (Ministerial/ Departmental) level, and 73 % (Dfl 605 million) by the Netherlands Embassies. The main sectors supported are: direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening.

At this moment, it is difficult to look for trends in the financial commitment compared with the 1997 report, as the approach and intention of that pilot report was different. We can only conclude that the Netherlands commitment to Africa in the 1997 report amounted to Dfl. 744 million, which is less than the present data indicate.

8.4 Conclusions

African countries are at widely varying stages in the implementation of the CCD and the preparation of National Action Plans. Some have just recently organized an assessment of the current situation, others are already implementing their NAPs and try to involve the civil society into the process.

On the basis of the activities of the Netherlands Embassies in African countries, we can conclude that, apart from a few exceptions, they are generally hardly actively involved in the formulation and implementation of the National Action Plans. Only in a few cases is implementation of the CCD an explicit issue for consultation between the Netherlands Embassy and the recipient country. The consultative process is in some countries painstaking although in others, particularly in the Sahel, characterized by deep involvement and committed partnership.

Another impression is that this lack of involvement in the implementation of the Convention is generally the case with the local population and the civil society as well. There is particularly little participation of the private sector, and social groups such as women and pastoralists. Furthermore, the level of knowledge and awareness about the Convention varies widely amongst different groups of society and governments. Although in an increasing number of countries the public awareness on the importance of combating desertification is growing, it can considerably be enhanced. In some countries, local or central officials are not sufficiently involved in this issue.

Despite the limited involvement of the Netherlands Embassies in the direct implementation of the CCD, their total financial commitment to projects directly or indirectly related to combating desertification is considerable.

It was difficult to get a complete picture of the Netherlands contribution to the CCD from the reports, as, apart from a few exceptions such as Burkina Faso and Mali, Embassies hardly indicated in some detail the nature of their dialogues with the governments and other organizations, nor the problems they encountered in this regard. Furthermore, the reports do not give much insight into the priorities set by the African countries themselves to the implementation of the CCD in comparison with other development issues.

8.4.2 Measures for improvement

Netherlands Embassies should focus their environmental policy, interventions, and dialogue with the government of the affected country on the formulation and implementation of National Action Plans.

The strategic framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification needs further implementation, focusing on participation of stakeholders at all levels in society, and the creation of partnership and cooperation between governments and stakeholders. Existing processes of collaboration and integration should strongly be supported.

Examples of current Netherlands attempts to implement that approach are the present policy to delegate the decision-making on development assistance funding to the embassies, and the introduction of a sectoral approach which acknowledges the responsibility and leading role of the receiving country's government in development assistance. This might improve the dialogue between developing countries and the Netherlands, in line with Article 13 of the Convention.

The review of the progress in implementing the Convention is subject of the third Conference of Parties. The Netherlands look forward to the review of the implementation during the third and subsequent CoP, based on national reports of African as well as donor countries, in order to identify constraints as well as maximize the benefits of successful measures.

8.4.4 Concluding remarks

This is the first time that the reporting on the Netherlands policy to implement the CCD is prepared with active involvement of Embassies and Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One of the problems regarding the compilation of the present report was the variety of interpretations of the nature of desertification-related interventions among the staff of Embassies and Departments. Discussions on the definitions and interpretations of CCD-related interventions should be intensified, leading to more consensus in this field.