

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

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Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this communication is to inform the Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) about the measures taken by the Netherlands' Development Cooperation to assist in the preparation and implementation of CCD action programmes in affected non-African countries, including information on financial resources it has provided or is providing.

Because the Convention is directly linked with development issues in drylands, the Netherlands Development Cooperation is central to this report. Most of the policy objectives of Netherlands international cooperation match those of the Convention precisely, particularly the attention to the connections between poverty reduction, the environment, institutional development, and local participation.

The relevant departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Netherlands Embassies in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as NGOs, were involved in drawing up this report. They were asked to summarise their contributions to the implementation of the CCD, including the consultative process, the measures taken and interventions performed, and their financial commitment.

The Netherlands' policy on combating desertification

The Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands has redefined the Netherlands' strategy for development cooperation and policy priorities: the Netherlands now maintains a structural bilateral aid relationship with only a limited number of countries (known as the 17+4), which meet certain criteria: poverty, good governance and good macroeconomic and socioeconomic policy. Bilateral cooperation continues in several other countries but is limited to activities within one sector or theme.

The Netherlands policy on implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification is primarily aimed at supporting the preparation and implementation of National Action Programmes (NAPs). Support at regional or global level focuses on interventions aimed at increasing the efficiency of NAPs.

Some interventions supported have a direct impact on the control of desertification, such as soil and water conservation, combating land degradation, sustainable management of natural resources, reforestation, improving agricultural and pastoral practices.

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

Institutional support is an important aspect of the Netherlands' development assistance, in particular institutional strengthening, organisational capacity building and the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks. More thought should be given to how this type of assistance might benefit organisations involved in implementing the CCD.

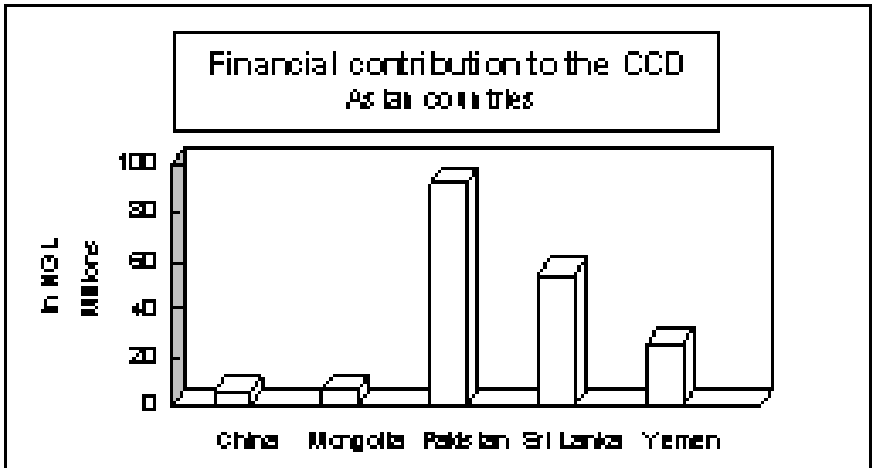
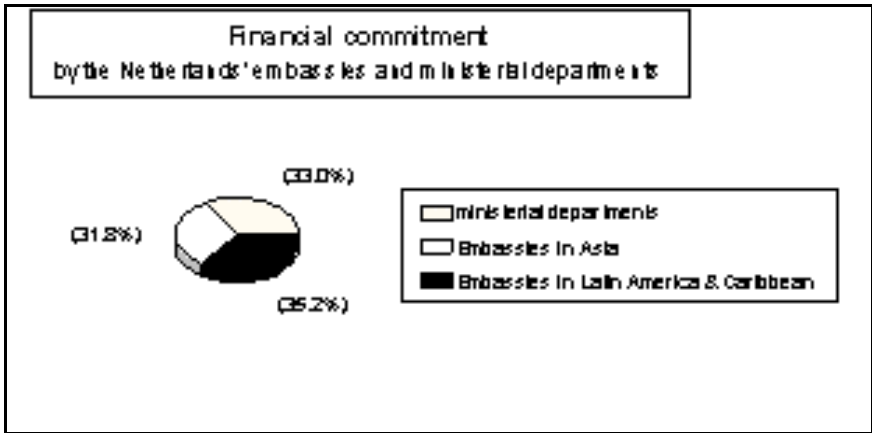
The Netherlands' CCD-related interventions and financial commitment

Netherlands embassies and departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs play different roles in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Embassies rather than ministerial departments contribute the lion's share of the funding.

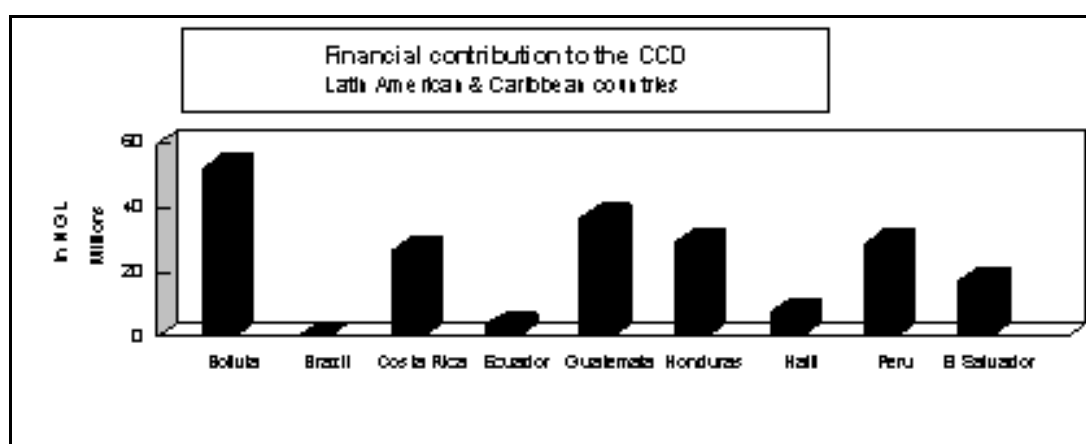
It should be noted that departments have only limited budgets and focus on policy development rather than project support. The Embassies have been delegated the tasks of decision-making and managing development assistance projects and programmes.

The report shows that the Netherlands' total commitment to ongoing programmes and projects combating desertification in non-African countries is NLG 579 million, of which 33 % (NLG 191 million) comes from the budgets of ministerial departments, and 67 % (NLG 388 million) from embassies' budgets (see figures below). The main sectors supported are: direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening.

In countries where the Convention is not an urgent issue on the national agenda, Netherlands embassies focus instead on the country's own priorities. In these countries, embassies do very little to actively encourage implementation of the CCD, but might support CCD-related interventions. Embassies' varying levels of involvement partly reflect the preferences expressed by the countries in question, and partly point to the need to give more attention to mainstreaming the convention at



embassy level.



Conclusions

The Netherlands' development cooperation touches on many areas related to desertification control, but does not specifically target this issue. For this reason, Netherlands embassies and developing countries have seldom discussed desertification control, except in relation to other topics. This demonstrates a strong need for mainstreaming the Convention in the relevant development programmes.

In general, Netherlands embassies in non-African countries are still only marginally involved in the formulation and implementation of National Action Programmes. Implementation of the CCD is only in a few cases the direct topic of consultation between the Netherlands Embassy and the recipient country.

Reports have failed to show that local population and civil society are sufficiently involved in the implementation of the Convention and the National Action Programmes. Especially little is known about participation by the private sector and social groups such as women, pastoralists, and youth. Such participation is however necessary to successfully combat desertification. Public awareness of the importance of combating desertification could still be increased.

To improve the implementation of the Convention, the Netherlands strongly encourages the participation of stakeholders at all levels. In line with Article 13 of the Convention, supporting local participation (by civil society as well as local governments) is a priority. Existing processes of collaboration and integration are to be encouraged and supported. Examples of current attempts by the Netherlands to improve its dialogue with developing countries are the policy of delegating decision-making on development assistance to the embassies and the introduction of 'ownership' and a sectoral approach which acknowledges the responsibility and leading role of the recipient country's government in development assistance.

Finally, the Netherlands looks forward to the review of implementation during the upcoming fourth COP, based on national reports from both non-African recipient countries and donor countries, and hopes this review will help to identify difficulties and maximise the benefits of successful measures.

1 Introduction

In June 1995, the Netherlands became the third country to ratify the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), which entered into force on 26 December 1996. The objective of the Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification. It lays out a number of obligations and procedures. One such obligation - which relates to the communication of information through the Permanent Secretariat - is to report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of the action programmes of affected country Parties in regions *other* than Africa, including information on financial resources the country has provided, or is providing, under the Convention. This obligation is set out in Decision 11/COP(1) and Decision 4/COP(3).

1.1 The Convention to Combat Desertification

At the heart of the Convention to Combat Desertification is the affected countries' commitment to prepare and implement national action programmes to prevent land degradation. The Convention to Combat Desertification emphasises the importance of local knowledge and promotes local community participation, partnership and collaboration between donors and recipient countries, with the aim of promoting joint efforts, preventing competition and duplication of effort, and building on existing knowledge.

In implementing the CCD, the following steps should be taken:

- making an initial assessment of the current situation;
- getting stakeholders (civil-society groups such as farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, NGOs etc.) involved in the process, and fostering partnerships among these groups;
- launching awareness-raising campaigns;
- establishing institutional arrangements (including a legal and regulatory framework);
- and finally, preparing and implementing the National Action Programmes.

1.2 The Netherlands' development cooperation policy

The Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands has redefined the Netherlands' development cooperation strategy and policy priorities. In 1998, Parliament approved the new strategy of maintaining a structural bilateral aid

relationship with only a selected number of countries (known as the 17+4), which meet certain criteria: poverty, good governance and good macroeconomic and socioeconomic policy.

The 17+4 are:

India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tanzania,
Mozambique, (Ethiopia, Eritrea), Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso,
Uganda, Yemen, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Macedonia, Zambia,
Egypt, South Africa, the Palestinian Territories and Indonesia.

In these countries, government, civil society, and the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) have entered into a dialogue aimed at determining which sectors will be assured of support for a multi-year period. This is known as the sectoral approach.

In addition, the following countries are eligible for development assistance in the environmental sector:

Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Ecuador,
Guatemala, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal.

Three pillars of the Netherlands' development strategy are **ownership, the sectoral approach** and **coordination and coherence**. Acknowledging the responsibility and leading role of the recipient country's government is a key element of the Netherlands' development assistance. This is known as ownership. The concept of ownership applies not only to the government, but also to relevant actors in civil society, including private organisations, experts and other key non-governmental organisations.

The Netherlands prefers to pursue a sectoral approach in its aid programmes, which essentially offer long-term financial support to a sector as a whole. In this context, a sector is defined as a coherent set of activities on macro, meso and micro-level, within a clearly defined institutional and budgetary framework for which the government in the recipient country has formulated a specific policy. The sectoral approach is based on consensus between the recipient country and the donor about the policy to be pursued.

The Netherlands also seeks to promote dialogue and partnerships between donor countries and donor organisations with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness in development assistance. This is what is meant by coordination and coherence.

Economic growth is essential in the fight against poverty. However, these economic activities must go hand in hand with measures to protect the environment. The Netherlands believe that desertification can best be combatted at national level, by developing and implementing National Action Programmes. These NAPs can form the policy framework within which sectoral development assistance can be channelled. In implementing the NAPs, two areas deserve special attention: firstly, programmes to combat land degradation, to sustainable management of natural resources, to develop alternative energy sources etc.; and secondly, support for institutional capacity building. The point of all this is to eliminate poverty through action at local level.

Given the above considerations, what support the Netherlands gives for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification depends very much on the sectors recipient countries designate as priorities for Netherlands bilateral assistance.

1.3 Interventions to combat desertification

Most of the new Netherlands development strategy outlined above is compatible with the Convention, as are the general policy objectives of Netherlands international cooperation: an integrated approach to sustainable development, poverty reduction, institutional strengthening and local participation. This report on combating desertification and land degradation covers activities, in the following areas, that receive Netherlands financing:

- Prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, conservation of vegetation, support for agroforestry and social forestry,
- Rehabilitation and reclamation of degraded land,
- Water management, including the development of sustainable irrigation practices,
- Development of alternative, more sustainable energy sources. These programmes focus on alternatives to firewood for cooking.
- Integrated crop management, focusing on balanced fertiliser use and reduction of pesticide use.

1.4 Range and coverage of the report

In order to also illustrate the attempts to raise awareness of the convention and to increase the involvement of several departments and non-governmental organisations in addressing convention-related issues, this report covers:

- a initiatives by, activities of and financial support from various departments within the foreign affairs ministry, and relevant embassies and
- b initial reports from the four cofinancing organisations (through which a considerable part of ODA is channelled) and the NGO Both Ends.

It does not however include funds contributed to EU development assistance nor core contributions to UN organisations.

Besides discussing technical support, the report covers current projects and programmes to combat desertification in non-African countries. It should be kept in mind that most projects have a multi-year duration, in which case the commitment is 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 reduction, institutional strengthening, and integrated rural development. It is therefore difficult to estimate the relative weight of the financial contribution to CCD-related interventions.

In addition to interventions at country level, there are a number of projects and programmes focusing on Asia or Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, or on certain regions. These are listed as regional projects (and assigned the code RA or RL). Furthermore, some worldwide projects are included, in so far as these involve Asia or Latin America and the Caribbean (the code for these projects is WW).

The report proper begins (in Chapter 2) with a contribution from the United Nations Department (DVN), which is responsible for the Netherlands policy input to the UN, followed by the Environment and Development Department (DML), the Rural and Urban Development Department (DRU), the Asia and Oceania Department (DAO) and the Social and Institutional Development Department (DSI), which is responsible for poverty reduction activities, and concludes with the cofinancing agencies (or MFOs) and an NGO, Both Ends (**see pp. 12-16 for their contributions**).

Chapter 3 has been written by our embassies in Asian countries, and Chapter 4 by our embassies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The embassies describe their involvement in measures taken to implement the Convention. They selected projects that fit the CCD-objectives. Embassies were asked to prepare their reports in consultation with recipient countries.

Finally, Chapter 5 presents a brief analysis of the Netherlands' overall contribution to implement the CCD, based on the collective contributions.

2 Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

2.1 United Nations Department (DVN)

The United Nations Department (DVN), which is responsible for maintaining relations with the UN system, coordinates and formulates Netherlands policy on the UN and the specialised agencies and promotes mainstreaming of agreed UN programmes and policies.

2.1.1 CCD-related activities

DVN was closely involved in the negotiations leading up to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; it was responsible for coordinating the Netherlands' position during this process. During its presidency of the European Union, the Netherlands played an active role in the discussions regarding the functions of the Global Mechanism.

Since the Convention entered into force, DVN has continued to bear responsibility for the coordination of the Netherlands position on the UNCCD.

2.1.2 Ongoing desertification-related DVN projects, with financial commitment

The Netherlands' estimated contribution to the core budget of the Convention for the year 2000 is about NLG 323,000. This will be drawn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' budget; DVN has a separate budget item for this purpose. Additional support for the GM is under consideration.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
	Core funding to the CCD 2000	323
	Total	323

2.2 Environment and Development Department (DML)

The policy objectives of this Department are to support the developing countries' contribution to sustainable global development from an environmental perspective and to integrate environmental issues into all aspects of the Netherlands' development cooperation programme.

DML is in charge of monitoring the 0.1% of the Netherlands' GNP devoted to the environment. The department is a focal point for questions related to the Convention.

2.2.1 CCD-related activities

DML's CCD-related activities can be summarised as follows:

Influencing policy development:

- participating in the Ministry's annual fair and the World Water Forum to ensure coverage of the drylands and desertification issue;
- continuing to foster awareness of the desertification problem within the Ministry in order to increase the support base for the CCD policy;
- promoting awareness through magazines and newsletters (e.g. LEISA);
- encouraging the transition from project support to a sectoral approach (see Introduction) which should enhance the dialogue between developing countries, the Netherlands, other donors and multilateral institutions and lead to efficient cooperation. (see the discussion of the Aral Sea Basin case below);
- informing regional development banks about the CCD and requesting their financial assistance in implementing the Convention;
- working together with UNSO on programme development, currently aimed at African countries (this activity is to be supported by several donors);
- promoting collaboration between different departments within the Ministry on CCD policy;
- promoting collaboration within the Environment and Development Department among the officers responsible for environmental conventions (one example of the promotion of strategic alliances of CCD and other conventions is the elaboration of a joint dryland working programme of CBD and CCD and another example is the workshop in the Netherlands for the DAC Working Party on Global Environment Conventions), to improve the coherence of the conventions;

- encouraging embassies to incorporate the CCD and related issues into their annual plans for development dialogue with recipient countries;
- informing relevant Netherlands embassies about the results of Conferences of the Parties in an appropriate manner, for instance by issuing a newsletter;
- and addressing CCD issues during the responsible officer's official visits.

Organising and participating in conferences and meetings:

- participating in preparatory meetings of the OECD and European Community for the Conference of the Parties.
- participating regularly, together with DVN representatives, in meetings for the COPs.
- participating in the ad-hoc group on indigenous knowledge, as proposed by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST)
- coordinating Netherlands experts' participation in CCD-related meetings
- participating in an EC expert group on desertification

The Aral Sea Basin (WW062801)

The Aral Sea delta in Central Asia is known for environmental problems related to desiccation, desertification, and salinisation of soil and groundwater. A multi-donor initiative with several components is tackling the causes and mitigating the environmental and social effects of desiccation. Within this initiative the Netherlands has encouraged wetland restoration in the Amu Darya delta. The wetland should improve water retention and replenish aquifers, prevent soil erosion (and salt and dust storms), and provide alternative sources of income for local residents.

2.2.2 Ongoing projects directly related to the CCD in non-African countries

The Department supports the following projects directly related to the CCD:

- the CCD-secretariat, the INCD, and the COP in Dakar.
- the anti-desertification programmes of NGOs (e.g. IIED, Both Ends, and RIOD), and the Earth Negotiations Bulletin.
- a survey on networking through the CST, as provided for in Article 25 of the Convention.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
WW051302	RIOD- NGO desertification network	600
WW078902	IIED/Programme of Work 1997-1999 thematic programmes	2090

WW040502	INCD-2	2000
WW040503	Survey on networks of organisations for implementation of the CCD	46
WW040504	INC/Desertification contribution in support of COP2	200
WW040505	Contribution to CCD secretariat 1998	180
WW111601	Earth Negotiations Bulletin 1997-1999	750
WW110811	Reporting on policy, measures and financial instruments for combating desertification	25
WW152303	BOF 1999: assistance in reporting desertification 1999	13
WW164901	OECD/ENV Workshop on global environmental conventions "Preparation of background documents"	22
WW165208	BOF 2000: assistance reporting desertification 2000	15
	Total	5941

2.2.3 Other ongoing desertification-related DML projects

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
RA000202	ICIMOD/Core financing 1999-2002 DML part 1999-2000	2000
RA000802	Asian Regional Cookstove Progr. (ARECOP), phase II	2370
RA000901	FAO/Watershed Management Training in Asia, phase II, G.5189	3074
RA002901	Regional Wood Energy Development Programme in Asia (RWEDP)	16802
RA003202	Technical support for FINESSE activities (cont.RA003201)	1447
RA003203	Continuation: Technical support for FINESSE activities	3265
RA005401	FAO/Regional Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia, G.5533	5155
RA92858	Assistance ASTAE/WB (energy)	8575
RL006803	FAO/Phase III, Lat. Am. Component Special Progr. on Forests, Trees and People	6388
RL010501	FOA/TFAP in Lat. Am. and Caribbean, regional support	2030
RL012601	HIVOS/Lat. Am Observatory for Environmental Conflicts	891
RL015301	Environment and economics network for Lat. America and the Caribbean	525
WW011102	Harnessing Diversity 1998-2000	900
WW027103	Programme support IUCN 1997-1999	14776
WW028701	Consultant Trust Fund for the environment/WB (afforestation, sust. forest management, prevention of deforestation)	9000
WW029401	Advise on crop-protection and vector control -2/LUW-WCPC	260
WW030301	Community Biodiversity dev. and conservation programme 1994-1997	4400
WW042301	ESMAP Small project fund 93/94	2715

WW045102	Three-year support for International Energy Initiative (contin.)	3021
WW047602	UNDP country capacity for national forest action plans	1000
WW049806	8th Internat. Course Implementation of Wind Energy	61
WW050903	WRI/Technical Support and Policy Research	1805
WW050904	WRI/Technical Support and Policy Research Programmes 1998-2000	5850
WW051201	Training Strategy for environmental Management/EDI	3420
WW054409	Training Course on Energy Management in Small and Medium-Size Enterprises, Twente University	109
WW060701	Household and rural energy activities fund/ESMAP	3938
WW061201	FAO/International Conference and programme on plant genetic resources	1000
WW062801	Action Plan for the Aral Sea Basin	10000
WW062602	Both Ends/MDB Energy Project	1850
WW064801	UNDP/Capacity building for sustainable water sector development	2000
WW067703	Earth Council Strategy 1997-2000	1050
WW072101	OECD/UNCED follow-up in OECD	150
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
WW081704	World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development	598
WW086502	START/Environm., Development & Policy: National & Regional Cap. Building for Global Environ. Change	700
WW089001	Triodos Bank/Project Zondefonds	1465
WW090001	Implementation of International Conventions in the field of environmental law/UNEP	503
WW091001	TOOL/Energia Nieuwsbrief	476
WW091003	SUB: ETC/Energia network, phase II	1102
WW094401	HIVOS/IFOAM, Organic agriculture	2178
WW094505	Extension and continuation climate research programme on three countries: Mongolia, Bhutan and Kazakhstan	2264
WW100102	Capacity building in national environmental policy legislation and institutions	1925
WW102201	Capacity building in integrated modelling; policy-making processes and global environmental outlook	2764
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
WW106301	Environmental consequences of destabilisation and structural adjustment programmes: 4 country studies	1050

WW106801	Capacity building in the area of management of national meteorological and hydrological services	795
WW106901	Earth Observation Programme: progr. users support (GO)/BCRS	5000
WW107101	Environmental law service/technical assistance and capacity building	898
WW113405	Partic.by members from developing countries at Intern. Course on Wetland Management	350
WW113413	Small-scale projects for protection of nature (KNIP)	2800
WW113432	Seminary on participative methodologies	347
WW113434	Fund for International Nature management: Wetlands exchange facilitation programme	96
WW113435	Ecological networks. Experiences developing and applying EN worldwide	100
WW113441	Organis. of AEWA meeting of Parties & contrib. towards participation by development cooperation partner countries	700
WW116501	UNEP/IUCN Joint environmental law information system	1125
WW122101	Socio-economic root causes of biodiversity loss, phase II	1400
WW125101	User Requirement Study/FAME	657
WW132137	The Netherlands' Core Contribution to CGIAR	250
WW132401	World Water Council Vision	1059
WW135601	Addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation	533
WW136601	LEAP 2000 initiative (Energy)	947
WW143903	Second World Water Forum	1500
WW144801	Global Water Partnership contribution	2400
WW144802	Framework for Action: Achieving the Vision (Water)	1050
WW145402	EASE Inception Phase	278
WW149701	Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor	100
WW132144	Core contribution to ICARDA 1999	1250
WW132126	Core contribution to ICARDA 1998	1250
WW132146	Core contribution to ICRAF 1999	1850
WW088001	Trust Fund for eco-regional programmes	10000
	Totals	180212

2.3 Rural and Urban Development Department (DRU)

The policy objective of this Department is to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction by promoting agriculture, integrated rural development and urban

development.

2.3.1 CCD-related activities

The Department of Rural and Urban Development has supported CCD-related policy development as follows:

We prepared a Policy and Best Practice Document on Participatory Soil Fertility Management. This document aims to assist development cooperation staff in the Hague and at the embassies and their counterpart institutions in integrating soil fertility issues into broader agricultural, environmental or rural development projects and programmes. It also is intended for use in the preparation of policy or programme documents. The document looks at soil fertility management issues from a broad perspective and considers how to contribute to sustainable rural livelihoods and how to preserve and regenerate soils and vegetation.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
RL010403	Sustainable agricultural production through institutional development	3715
RA001208	FAO/IPM Field Leaders Training	1504
	Total	5219

2.4 Asia Department (DAO)

The Asia Department 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.

To illustrate a CCD-related initiative: we instructed our delegation to the Consultative Group meeting for Mongolia, which was held in Ulan Bator in June 1999, to ask the Mongolian government to devote special attention to addressing the degradation of the environment. During the meeting the delegation also informed the Mongolian government of our willingness to cooperate on programmes dealing with desertification and protection of biodiversity.

2.5 Social and Institutional Development Department (DSI)

The policy objective of the Department of Social and Institutional Development is bottom-up poverty reduction through social and institutional development. The institutions involved range from NGOs to co-financing agencies, and the issues addressed include gender, equity and access to basic social services. Because water is a basic social service, DSI was involved in the preparation of the Second World Water Forum.

As a result of the World Water Council's Second World Water Forum, hosted by the Netherlands from 17 to 22 March 2000, a Long Term Vision on Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st Century has been presented, addressing water problems that lead to all sorts of environmental degradation, including desertification.

The subsectoral visions (Water for People, Water for Food and Water and Nature), the regional visions (Asia, the Americas and Africa), the Framework for Action by the Global Water Partnership and the Ministerial Declaration of the Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century also acknowledge that sustainable water use through integrated water resources management is the key to preventing environmental degradation in all its forms, including desertification.

2.6 The Netherlands' cofinancing organisations (MFOs)

Part of the funding that the Netherlands contributes to development assistance is channelled through four Netherlands cofinancing organisations: Hivos, Novib, Cordaid and ICCO. These agencies aim to reduce structural poverty and strengthen institutions. Due to their long experience in developing countries, they are capable of reaching local organisations and groups of people where the government often falls short.

2.6.1 Desertification, Hivos's counterparts

Desertification in Asia

Kazakhstan:

None of Hivos's counterparts is known to be directly involved in the implementation of the national action programmes. A number of partners are engaged in activities relevant to combating desertification.

- Ecocentre (KZ014), Karagandy: activities include environmental education and lobbying. Also involved in research work on land degradation.
- Green Salvation (KZ001), Almaty: advocacy and lobbying for environmental legislation and tree-planting activities to combat desertification.

India:

None of Hivos's counterparts is known to be directly involved in the implementation of the national action programmes. A number of partners are engaged in activities relevant to combating desertification.

- Kudumbam (IN008): A network of farmers' organisations active in the field of sustainable agriculture. Kudumbam has organised meetings to formulate an NGO vision on water in India's semi-arid southern region. This vision was presented at the World Water Forum.
- Agramee (IN003): Watershed management in Orissa's tribal areas, aimed at halting land degradation processes.
- FARR (IN014): Watershed management in Orissa
- OPDSC (IN23): NGO assistance on watershed management
- Utthan Trust (IN031): NGO. Advocacy and lobbying. It deals with issues of controlling degradation processes in tribal and coastal areas and water management, through local organisations in Gujarat
- Mahiti (IN047): NGO. Advocacy and lobbying. Issues involved include rehabilitation of saline soil, drinking water and irrigation in Gujarat.

Indonesia:

Hivos supports four farmers' networks and support organisations, active in training farmers in sustainable agriculture (including organic agriculture), lobbying at national level and organising farmers to take collective action on these issues. These four organisations are Sintesa, Gita Pertiwi, SPP-QT and Lesman.

Sri Lanka:

Hivos supports two NGOs, active in training farmers in sustainable agriculture (including organic agriculture), lobbying at national level and organising farmers on these issues:

- MPIS (organic farming, local seed banks),

- Gami Sewa Sevana (organic farming, marketing, credits).

Desertification in Latin America

Two Hivos counterparts are directly involved in desertification and RIOD:

- CODDEFFAGOLF in Honduras: its activities include environmental lobbying and education; campaigning; sustainable coast management (focusing on mangrove forests and on combating the damaging effects of industrial shrimp fishing).
- Earthaction Network: Hivos supports the office in Santiago, Chile (which not only campaigns for Earthaction Network but is also a focal point of RIOD in Chile).

It is not clear whether these organisations are involved in developing the National Action Programme, still in both cases this is highly probable.

Other Hivos counterparts contribute to the combat against desertification through their activities related to LEISA or organic agriculture:

Chile: MACH: national network for promoting sustainable agriculture; CCO: national certification organisation for organic agriculture.

Cuba: ACAO: organisation promoting organic agriculture.

Costa Rica: ECO-LOGICA: national certification organisation for organic agriculture.

Ecuador: CEDIME promotes sustainable agriculture at local level.

El Salvador: FUNDALEMPA: sustainable agriculture and management/planning watershed.

Guatemala: MAYACERT: national certification organisation for organic agriculture.

Honduras: CIDICCO: education on green fertilisers; ANAFAB: national network for promoting sustainable agriculture.

Nicaragua: UNAG De Campesino a Campesino: training small farmers in sustainable agriculture; SIMAS: sustainable agriculture information network.

Peru: RAAA: national network promoting sustainable agriculture and combating the unsustainable use of chemicals.

AGEXPRONT: organic products commission of the national organisation of exporters of non-traditional products.

Latin America - regional level: RAP-AL (Pesticide Action Network " Latin America).

OIA: regional network of national certification organisations for organic agriculture.

2.6.2 Desertification, Novib counterparts

Novib has a limited number of partners involved in activities concerning national

action programmes against desertification. These are environmental organisations in India, the Middle East and Chile and Brazil. These organisations are also involved in more practical activities involving alternative, more efficient methods of water management: raising awareness, informing the public and attempting to influence governmental policy. In the case of the Middle East, it deals with the transborder water issues involving Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

The partners are:

India: 021 Myrada (Kadiri)

Middle East: 302 Greenline

Chile: 070 CODEFF

Brazil: 012 AS-PTA

Besides these, there is a large number of partners that are active in semi-arid areas with activities in the areas of integrated watershed management, soil- and water conservation, water harvesting techniques, erosion control, irrigation, forestation and reforestation and water supply for humans and animals. Nearly always, these activities go hand in hand with promoting agricultural or cattle production. Partners in non-African countries include:

India: 288 SAMPARC

India: 918 RIPROD

Pakistan: 054 TRDP

Israel: 070 Shatil

Middle East: 303 FoEME

Bolivia: 010 CIAT

Bolivia: 037 CESAT

Brazil: 015 CAATINGA

Brazil: 024 ESPLAR

El Salvador: 009 CEPRODE

At subregional level, the media partners TVE and PANOS give attention to the subject on a regular basis.

2.6.3 Desertification, Cordaid counterparts

Cordaid desertification activities

Cordaid devotes a great deal of attention to sustainable development, including measures to combat desertification. Its activities in this area take place in a.o. India. The emphasis in nearly all agricultural programmes, food security programmes and pastoral programmes lies on sustainable land use. This involves combating erosion

(building dams), promoting reforestation, the careful use of pesticides and natural methods for soil improvement and organising farmers and educating them in techniques of sustainable agriculture.

2.6.4 Desertification, ICCO counterparts

Activities aimed at combating desertification carried out by ICCO's partner organisations usually take place in connection with projects focusing on sustainable agriculture, sustainable land use and soil and water management. This means that effort to combat desertification is part of an integrated project. Furthermore, activities in various areas are usually integrated in the budget and cannot be separated from one another.

However, one partner organisation in India, CECOEDECON, does engage in separate desertification activities, which aim to improve soil and water management and introduce techniques of sustainable agriculture. Funding for this three-year project totals NLG 750,000. In 1999, circa NLG 250,000 was spent on it. The project is receiving a large amount of supplementary EU funding as well.

2.7 The NGO Both ENDS and the implementation of the CCD

During the first half of 1999, Both ENDS mobilised NGOs in the Netherlands and Europe to review the RIOD, which is the international NGO network created to combat desertification. Several meetings took place in the Netherlands, where the reorganisation of the network was discussed and strategies for enhanced implementation of the CCD were proposed. In Europe, several national RIOD focal points consulted NGOs in their countries and Both ENDS drew up a position paper based on the input from these NGOs. The paper was presented in August 1999 in Dakar, at the international meeting to review the RIOD.

As a RIOD nodal point for the Netherlands and for Europe, Both ENDS has done a lot of networking, generally providing information and bringing together contributions from various organisations in position papers. It has distributed information to many different target groups: media (including radio, television and magazines), students, research organisations, NGOs and donors. It was guest editor of a special issue of the ILEIA newsletter, on desertification. It has mobilised NGOs involved in desertification issues to contribute to the World Water Vision process. It has also undertaken some support and lobbying activities concerning the

Aral Sea.

At COP3, Both ENDS played a role in the organisation of the Open Dialogue Session on National Action Programmes and in the drafting of statements, such as the statement on NGO participation in COPs.

3 Contributions by our embassies in Asia

In this chapter, embassies in Asia present their policy and strategies and measures they have taken related to the national action programmes to combat desertification. Where relevant, they describe the consultative process at country level. They also indicate the Netherlands' financial commitments relating to direct and indirect support of CCD-related interventions. It should be emphasised that such financial commitments usually cover a multi-year period.

3.1 Bangladesh

Within the structural development cooperation relationship between the Netherlands and Bangladesh, integrated water management has been selected as one of the three main sectors of concentration, together with basic health care and primary education. In the water management sector, the following subsectors have been selected: (1) Ganges-Dependent Areas, (2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management, (3) Small-scale Water Resources and (4) Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Netherlands aid programme is carried out in collaboration with the government of Bangladesh, and NGOs and other societal organisations fulfil a monitoring role. There is intensive cooperation with other donors at policy level. Nonetheless, the combat against desertification has not been identified as a separate issue.

3.2 China

China is eligible for support in the environmental sector. An environment programme is being developed and implemented.

3.2.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

In China, the Netherlands Embassy has worked together with the State Development Planning Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and several Institutes and provincial offices in China to establish new working relations for the environmental sector at central and provincial level, in order to diversify the environmental programmes and intensify the identification and implementation of projects. It is not yet clear whether more attention will be given to CCD-related programmes.

3.2.2 CCD-related interventions

Although it does not explicitly focus on combating desertification, the following project funded by the Netherlands deals with sustainable land use:

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
CN006902	Qomolangma Nature Reserve Tibet	5431
	Total	5431

3.3 India

India is eligible for a structural development cooperation relationship with the Netherlands. It is still in the process of selecting the sectors for development cooperation. No direct CCD-related projects are implemented, although some programmes have an indirect relationship with the objectives of the Convention.

3.4 Mongolia

Mongolia is eligible for support in the environmental sector. An environment programme is being developed and implemented.

3.4.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

New relations have been established with the Prime Minister's Commission for Sustainable Development. A close working relationship has also been created with the environment ministry. Nevertheless, there is not yet a CCD-related programme in Mongolia, though in the future this issue can be considered.

3.4.2 CCD-related interventions

Although not explicitly focusing on the combat of desertification, the following project funded by the Netherlands deals with sustainable land use.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
MN001805	Hustain Nuruu Nature Preserve Management	6557

	Total	6557
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3.5 **Nepal**

Under the new Netherlands policy, Nepal is eligible for support in the environmental sector. Environmental activities based on earlier bilateral relations can be diversified. No projects directly related to the CCD are currently being implemented. However, prevention of soil degradation and forest management are among the objectives of some interventions supported.

3.6 **Pakistan**

Pakistan is in principle eligible for support in the environmental sector, but since the coup d'état commitments to the new government have been frozen.

General

Pakistan has been a party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) since 1997. In 1993, with the assistance of UN ESCAP, Pakistan drafted the National Action Programme (NAP) which proposes priority programmes for arid-land development and combating desertification. At present the NAP is being revised by the environment ministry. In the meantime, broad-based consultation is taking place among NGOs, community-based organisations and other stakeholders. Comments will be integrated into the final draft. The revised NAP projects will be prepared and proposed for sponsoring. Pakistan is considering establishing a trust fund with UNSO's assistance. A task force will examine the viability of the trust fund. A coalition of NGOs for the CCD has formed in the Asia region. Pakistan is also trying to participate in the Thematic Programme Network prepared for the Asia region, in particular in the field of Area Development in relationship to the CCD.

3.6.1 **Dialogue on the national action programme**

Since the Convention to Combat Desertification is not a political priority in Pakistan, the Netherlands development programme does not emphasise combating desertification as a separate issue. During the period in question, the subject was not explicitly discussed in meeting between the Netherlands embassy and the Pakistani government and the embassy did not participate in meetings on CCD-related activities. The discussions with NGOs were minimal and no donor meetings

on CCD were organised.

Although the CCD was not a direct focus of the Netherlands development programme in Pakistan, the Netherlands' development activities in the forestry and water sectors have strong links with desertification because of interventions combating land degradation, deforestation, waterlogging and salinity. An extensive programme related to social forestry, soil conservation, rangeland management, water management, waterlogging, salinity and biodiversity was implemented.

The Netherlands forestry programme took place in the framework of the national Forestry Sector Master Plan which is derived from the National Conservation Strategy. The Embassy participated in the policy and implementation review of the Forestry Sector Master Plan. In addition, the Embassy actively contributed to institutional reform and restructuring of the forestry sector in the North-West Frontier Province by means of policy dialogue and coordination with the government of Pakistan and international donors. A new provincial natural resources policy was approved. The Netherlands embassy chaired the Forestry Donor Coordination Group in 1998-1999. Coordination and dialogue meetings dealing with technical, legal, institutional, good governance and policy issues took place every three months. NGOs are participating in the dialogue about the reform through the Donor Group and Regional Round Tables. The ownership, commitment and leadership of the Pakistani government have greatly improved.

The Netherlands' programme in the water sector was based on the Pakistani agenda for sectoral reform, in particular for irrigation and drainage. The Pakistani government requested the Embassy's assistance in establishing a Pakistani-Netherlands Advisory Panel on Water along the lines of the Egypt-Netherlands Panel, whereby the South-South relationship would be strengthened. The Embassy agreed to assist and participated in the regular meetings of the Pakistan Water Partnership. Several high level Pakistani missions have visited the Embassy and have emphasised Pakistan's need for Netherlands involvement and expertise in the water sector in Pakistan.

3.6.2 CCD-related interventions

In 1999 the Netherlands funded the following activities addressing forestry, soil conservation and land and water management themes, thereby directly or indirectly combating desertification.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
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PK91018	Social Forestry Malakand-Dir Project	29184
PK005402	International Waterlogging and Salinity Research Institute	5012
PK005604	Balochistan Community Irrigation and Agriculture Project	10870
PK009001	Environmental Rehabilitation Malakand/WFP	10820
PK010912	Community Tourism Management Lakes Upper Swat	164
PK 011705	SUNGI, Hazara Integrated Rural Development Programme	4455
PK011706	SUNGI, monitoring & review	100
PK011704	Strengthening Participatory Organisation Baluchistan (SPO)	2495
PK011707	SPO, monitoring & review	150
PK011708	Sarhad Rural Support Corporation, bridging period	1290
PK011709	Sarhad Rural Support Corporation 1999 - 2002	1250
PK012101	Baluchistan Conservation Strategy	1909
PK012103	Baluchistan Conservation Strategy, M & E	140
PK012104	Baluchistan Conservation Strategy, Diagnostic Review	49
PK012501	Forestry Sector Project/ADB	23339
PK012502	Forestry Sector Project, evaluation	100
PK012503	Institutional Transformation Cell (ITC)	707
PK015217	Joint Donor Review of the Forestry Sector, NWFP	30
	Total	92064

3.7 The Philippines

The Philippines is eligible for development assistance in the environmental sector. Support in this sector will inevitably expand. However, the expectation is that desertification will not have a high priority.

3.8 Sri Lanka

Within the bilateral development cooperation relation, the environment has been selected as one of the three main sectors of concentration. Within that sector, the issue of natural resources management will have high priority.

3.8.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

Although desertification in the strict sense is not an issue in Sri Lanka, soil degradation and erosion are common phenomena. Sri Lanka signed and ratified the UN Convention on Combating Desertification in 1998 and 1999. So far, within the framework of the Convention, the only activity undertaken by the government has been the organisation of an "awareness workshop" in 1999, in which approximately 150 people from various departments took part. A limited number of participants from NGOs were also present. There will be a second workshop on the draft report to the Convention Secretariat in April 2000. No direct "anti-desertification" activities have taken place in the field.

Desertification as such has not been identified as a major issue in Sri Lanka and therefore the embassy does not anticipate giving any direct funding for the implementation of the Convention. On the other hand, issues like soil degradation, rapid deforestation and erosion are familiar ones in Sri Lanka. Within other, more general programmes these issues are being addressed; in particular, a lot of attention is being given to such topics as the conversion to more environmentally friendly forms of energy for domestic use and watershed management in the Regional Wood Energy Programme (see DML projects) and the bilateral IRMP.

3.8.2 CCD-related interventions

The following activities are related to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
LK000804	Integrated Rural Development Programme, Ratnapura	3211
LK000805	Integrated Rural Development Programme, Ratnapura	3316
LK000901	IRDP Nuwara Elya IV 1994-1998 (FH)	7660
LK000902	IRDP Nuwara Elya IV 1994-1998 (TA)	3269

LK002001	Multifunctional Household Environments, phase II	4338
LK009401	Solar Cookers and Income-Generating Activities	300
LK009601	Integrated resources management in wetlands programme	5608
LK010607	LE Fund 1998 / Publication & Distribution of 'Parisara' magazine	24
LK91018	Technical Assistance Team, phase III (TAT 3)	9314
LK92008	Social Welfare Programme, phase II	17195
	Total	54235

3.9 Yemen

Within the bilateral development cooperation relation, water management, agriculture and health have been selected as sectors for special concentration.

3.9.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

The development cooperation programme in Yemen touches upon many areas related to desertification control, but does not focus specifically on this issue. Accordingly, desertification control has not yet been a separate subject of dialogue between the embassy and Yemeni authorities.

Desertification control is, however, embedded within the broader framework of water resource management, a sector in which we very actively support the Yemeni authorities (especially the National Water Resources Authority, NWRA) and collaborate with other organisations.

Although donor coordination meetings on water take place regularly, there is as yet no coordination on environmental issues or desertification control. Coordinating donor and government activities in the environmental field is part of the mandate of the Environment Protection Council (EPC), which has not yet fulfilled this task. Expert meetings on the subject of desertification control do not take place yet, except for meetings on subsectors within the framework of particular projects, such as the project on Watershed Management and Waste Water Re-use in Peri-Urban Areas of Yemen (YE014605), which is funded by the Netherlands. This project, executed by the FAO, is directly linked to the General Directorate of Forestry and Desertification Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, which is in charge of Yemeni policy on desertification control. The project has paved the way for the development of a national watershed management policy, which is currently being drafted. The embassy offers support within the framework of the implementation of the sector-wide approach, in which links between grassroots projects (at micro level) and policy development (at macro level) play a major role. Programmes are encouraged to establish these links.

Influencing the policy and activities of the NWRA (e.g. in connection with the project Sustainable Water Resources Management (YE013503) being carried out by UNDP) is another way of combating desertification, although desertification has not been raised as a separate issue in dealings with the NWRA. We have also contributed to the installation of the Renewable Resources Centre at the Agriculture Research and Extension Authority (AREA, under the Ministry of

Agriculture and Irrigation) by supporting the project Environmental Resource Assessment for Rural Land Use Planning (YE92013).

Another related project (EPC, YE014603) offers support to the Environmental Protection Council. The EPC is directly linked to the Prime Minister and is in charge of coordinating all aspects of Yemen's environmental policy. Together with the General Directorate of Forestry and Desertification Control (GDFDC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the EPC is carrying out a UNDP-funded one-million-dollar programme entitled Planning for Desertification Control, which is to be completed in 2000. It is partly addressing priority action number 10 of the National Environmental Action Programme, which deals with "implementation of priority projects in desertification control", and also following up on the recommendations of the National Symposium on Desertification Combating. The predecessor of the above-mentioned Renewable Resources Centre has provided information and advice.

Relevant laws: draft Forest Policy Principles and Forest Act.

Other related projects most likely to be funded: Irrigation Improvement and Water Conservation (YE020301).

3.9.2 CCD-related interventions

As stated above, we do not directly fund any activities or programmes aimed at desertification control. The most relevant is the project on Watershed Management and Waste Water Re-use in Peri-Urban Areas of Yemen (YE014605), which is linked to the GDFDC of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

In 1999/2000, the following activities related to soil erosion and desertification control received funding:

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
YE013503	Sustainable Water Resources Management Phase II	7629
YE014603	EPC Phase III	48
YE014605	Watershed Management and Waste Water Re-use in Peri-Urban Areas	8358
YE92013	Environmental Resource Assessment for Rural Land Use Planning	9541
	Total	25576

4 Contributions by our embassies in Latin America and the Caribbean

In this chapter, Netherlands embassies in Latin America and the Caribbean present their policy, their strategies and the measures they have taken in connection with the national action programmes to combat desertification. Where relevant, they discuss the consultative process at country level. They also indicate the Netherlands' financial commitments relating to direct and indirect support of CCD-related interventions.

4.1 Bolivia

Bolivia has a structural development cooperation relationship with the Netherlands. Within the three sectors of concentration (rural development, decentralisation and participation and education) environmental issues receive special attention.

4.1.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

In 1996 Bolivia embarked on the National Programme to Combat Desertification and Drought (PRONALDES), financed by UNDP/UNSO. This programme has not carried out any activities to combat desertification at field level, but has been instrumental in putting the issue on the Bolivian agenda through awareness raising. PRONALDES has also supported capacity building and policy formulation. In addition, it has enabled Bolivia to take part in regional consultations with Chile, Peru, Argentina and Paraguay. Finally, the programme supports a focal point for desertification issues in Bolivia.

Furthermore, in 1996 a regional plan for the dry "chaco" area in southeast Bolivia was formulated with the aid of UNEP/FAO. Implementation of the plan has not yet begun.

The embassy is not involved in PRONALDES and has not received any request for support at this time. Nor are other donors directly involved with desertification issues, through PRONALDES or otherwise, although the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, GTZ, has expressed a certain interest in becoming involved. The Bolivian government will need to take the initiative if it wants to receive Netherlands support for desertification-related activities in the future. If the government so requests, the issue could be incorporated into the yet-to-be-developed productive rural development sectoral programme.

4.1.2 CCD-related interventions

The bilateral programme in Bolivia does not address desertification directly. However, some projects involve tree-planting or erosion control activities in arid and semi-arid areas in Bolivia, which may counter the desertification process locally. These projects are BO001802, which deals with agroforestry on the Altiplano in the Department of Potosi, and BO013301, which includes a tree-planting component in the dry "chaco" area of southeast Bolivia. Other projects deal with forest and national park management in semi-arid ecosystems. Though preventing desertification is not among the specific objectives of these projects (e.g. BO008801 and, again, BO013301), they help to do so by promoting sound management of natural ecosystems.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
BO001802	Development of community forest (Potosi)	11244
BO013301	Hivos/ participatory sustainable forest and national park management with native people	6345
BO008801	Endowment Fund Bolivia (FONAMA)	35000
	Total	52589

4.2 Brazil

Since 1999, Brazil has qualified for funding under the new the Netherlands development cooperation policy. Bilateral cooperation is limited to the environment, however, and an environment programme is being developed and implemented. Before 1999, the Netherlands contributed only to the PPG7 programme for the conservation of the Brazilian rain forest.

4.2.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

This bilateral programme will mainly focus on the preservation of biodiversity and environmental quality. Special emphasis will be given to capacity building, training and institutional development of both NGOs and the government at all levels. Desertification will be approached from this angle. In Brazil we can only make "strategic" investments.

In 1999, the bilateral environmental programme got off to a modest start. The embassy and the Brazilian environment ministry initiated a policy dialogue at the highest level and nine small "test" projects were carried out. One of these projects dealt specifically with desertification and facilitated the participation of NGOs from Brazil's desertified Northeast in the Third Conference of the Parties in Recife in November 1999. Another facilitated two courses by the Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA) on sanitation and water management, in which participants from affected areas took part.

However, there is no formal dialogue on desertification between the embassy and the Brazilian government or Brazilian NGOs active in that area. The Brazilian national action plan is currently being formulated. There Netherlands may have an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of a large, mainly GEF-funded programme to be carried out by the "umbrella" NGO in this field, the Fundação Esquel. Approval of this limited contribution will depend on the extent to which Esquel's proposal takes into account the concerns of the bilateral programme, as stated above.

4.2.2 CCD-related interventions

Funding for the Netherlands bilateral cooperation programme in Brazil in the 1999-2003 period will probably total NLG 16,590,000 (including NLG 10,590,000 for PPG7). It has not been determined yet how much of the non-PPG7 funding will be invested directly or indirectly in combating desertification in Northeast Brazil.

In 1999, NLG 10,800 was spent on NGO participation in the Third Conference of the Parties (BR004301/09) and NLG 30,400 on training courses on water management and sanitation (BR004301/03).

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
BR004301	block allocation for environmental cooperation 1999	273
	Total	273

4.3 Colombia

Under our new development cooperation policy, Colombia is eligible for bilateral development assistance in the environmental sector. The Colombian government is developing an active environmental policy. Close working relations exist between the embassy and Colombian government institutions. Within the environmental sector, donor coordination takes place with other countries and multilateral organisations such as the EU and World Bank. Since Colombia is a humid tropical country and only a very small part of its territory is arid or semi-arid, the environmental cooperation programme there focuses mainly on forests and the conservation of biodiversity, and desertification is not a high priority at this time.

4.4 Costa Rica

Netherlands development cooperation in Costa Rica takes place entirely within the framework of the Bilateral Sustainable Development Agreement (BSDA), which is based on the principles of reciprocity, equity and participation. The selection of projects to be funded through this agreement is a bottom-up process in which the four sectors of Costa Rican society (government, NGOs and grassroots organisations, universities and the private sector), on the basis of equal representation, identify and submit project proposals for evaluation and eventual approval by the Administrative Board of FUNDECOOPERATION, the national mechanism for the execution of the BSDA in Costa Rica.

4.4.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

To date, CCD-related activities have played a minor role in Costa Rica. The formulation of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification has not been a high priority of either the Costa Rican government or donors.

4.4.2 CCD-related interventions

In the participative process of project selection within the scope of the BSDA CCD-related initiatives have not been given priority. As a consequence, no activities have been funded that are directly related to CCD.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
CR001303	FOA/IDA Agroforestry & rural development in settlements in Chorotega	4815
CR002904	Rural development and natural resource management in the southern districts of Nicoya Peninsula	12947
CR008701	Rehabilitation of the upstream catchment of the Rio Segundo	254
CR011701	Rehabilitation and sustainable natural resources management in the Guacimal river's catchment basin	361
CR011801	Catchment area conservation and management of the San Carlos and Tres Amigos rivers	420
CR92850	FAO Assistance to the National Soil Conservation Service	8032
	Total	26829

4.5 Ecuador

Ecuador es uno de los países donde se implementa un programa ambiental.

Antecedente

Las dos instituciones principales respecto a la (coordinación de la) ejecución del Convenio en Ecuador, y sus respectivas personas de contacto, son:

- el Ministerio de Turismo y Ambiente como punto focal (Lourdes Barragán, a cargo de todos los Convenios Internacionales), y
- la ONG Ecociencia, por parte de la Red de ONG que trabajan sobre la Convención, y responsable ante la Red Internacional de ONG en Desertificación (RIOD; María Argüello)

4.5.1 Diálogo sobre el Programa Nacional de Acción

El tratamiento del tema de la lucha contra la desertificación se inició con cierta fuerza en los años 1996 y 1997.

En esa época se estaba en el proceso de formulación del Plan de Acción Forestal para Ecuador (PAFE) a cargo del entonces Instituto Ecuatoriano Forestal y de Areas Naturales y de Vida Silvestre (INEFAN) con apoyo técnico de la FAO, y financiero de la Cooperación holandesa a través de la Embajada en Quito. En este proceso se procuraba también integrar el tema en el esfuerzo de formulación de políticas.

Se realizaron seis talleres en las diferentes regiones del país y un taller nacional, con apoyo del BID, la Cooperación holandesa, FAO y UNSO, con el fin de preparar un Plan de Acción Nacional de Lucha contra la Desertificación (PAND). En los talleres hubo participación amplia de los diferentes sectores de la sociedad civil.

Lamentablemente el proceso quedó bastante trunco y quedó debilitado desde fines de 1997 hasta la llegada hacia fines de 1998 de Yolanda Kakabadse como Ministra del Ambiente. Se retomó el tema y en 1999 se realizó una reunión nacional de consulta sobre el esquema borrador (outline) del Plan.

Luego, por los cambios políticos se detuvo el tema nuevamente, pero está siendo retomado ahora para elaborar el Plan (PAND) definitivo y hacer el Informe del país.

Todavía hace falta priorizar áreas geográficas y temáticas, líneas de trabajo prioritarias y estrategias de intervención.

El Ecuador sí llevó una posición y propuesta a la reunión de Senegal, incluso liderando la posición de algunos países. Además, el país ha firmado un convenio regional sobre manejo de Páramos y Punas que también se inscribe dentro del marco de la Convención.

Se ha solicitado apoyo internacional, específicamente a la embajada, para retomar el proceso y concluir el Plan y el Informe. Sin embargo, no se ha podido notar un esfuerzo de reunir a los cooperantes alrededor del tema (como tampoco en otras temáticas ambientales).

En el marco del Plan Binacional para la Región Fronteriza entre Ecuador y Perú y respecto al apoyo externo, el Ministerio de (Turismo y) Ambiente en su momento indicó asignar prioridad entre otros a la reforestación a mayor escala en las provincias relativamente secas de Loja y El Oro en el Sur (Loja forma parte del área de concentración de la cooperación). Sin embargo, no existe una propuesta concreta y más elaborada al respecto.

La embajada ha indicado su interés en apoyar la elaboración del PAND. Durante las discusiones preliminares con el Ministerio sobre el futuro programa de apoyo al área ambiental, no se le ha asignado una prioridad como tal al tema. En las futuras discusiones se buscaría la forma de integrarlo en el programa a formularse entre otros para la zona de concentración fronteriza con el Perú (Loja y posiblemente El Oro).

4.5.2 Intervenciones en relación con CCD

En 1996/97 la embajada apoyó con entusiasmo las consultas nacionales tendientes a elaborar el Informe Nacional y el Plan Nacional de Lucha contra la Desertificación (PAND); tanto con el INEFAN como el entonces punto focal de la Convención, como con Ecociencia como ONG escogida para facilitar las consultas en el ámbito no-gubernamental.

Se complementó un pequeño fondo de UNSO y de FAO, para consultas provinciales y un encuentro-taller nacional.

También se auspició la presencia de la delegación ecuatoriana para preparar la Conferencia de las Partes en New York.

Finalmente, se incluyó en el proceso de identificación y selección de posibles nuevas líneas de apoyo durante 1999 en adelante, el desarrollo de algunos aspectos prioritarios que debían surgir del Plan de Lucha construido y priorizado por las entidades nacionales y regionales involucradas en el tema (EC009001).

Lamentablemente, el proceso quedó trunco por los cambios políticos e institucio-

nales tan frecuentes en los tres últimos años, lo que ha postergado hasta la fecha la formulación concreta de un proyecto o programa general que pudiera ser considerado para su financiamiento.

Mientras tanto, sin embargo, se llegó a apoyar dos proyectos de tres años cada uno, que de manera focalizada o por su tema específico son parte de un enfoque de lucha contra la desertificación y operan en áreas identificadas como vulnerables o que sufren ya problemas de desertificación.

Éstos son el Proyecto de Manejo y uso sostenible del Bosque Seco en la provincia de Loja en 5 cantones con problemas de desertificación (EC008901); y el Proyecto Páramos, para definir políticas y estrategias de conservación y manejo de ecosistemas cruciales para el abastecimiento de agua y para los procesos de degeneración y erosión tendentes a la desertificación (EC009701).

Además de estos dos esfuerzos directos y significativos, que probablemente tengan una segunda fase se ha apoyado actividades más puntuales (p. ej. en Machalilla) o como parte de otros esfuerzos (inter)relacionadas como el Proyecto de Desarrollo Forestal Comunitario (DFC) de Min. de Ambiente-INEFAN/FAO, actividades de conservación en la Vertiente Occidental de los Andes de diversas ONG en el marco del PNUD-PPD, y actividades de capacitación del Consorcio CAMAREN/Interecooperation (IC).

Como indicado anteriormente, en el futuro programa ambiental que está siendo discutido en primera instancia con el Ministerio del Ambiente, uno de los posibles campos de cooperación puede ser el de sostener el esfuerzo nacional para definir el Plan de Lucha contra la Desertificación, así como para elaborar el Informe del país.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
EC008901	Management of dry forest species in Southern Loya	1615
EC009701	Conservacion y manejo sostenible de los paramos en Ecuador	1906
EC009001	Plan nacional contra desertificacion (inicio maio 2000)	
	Total	3521

4.6 Guatemala

Under the new development cooperation policy, Guatemala is eligible for bilateral development assistance in the environmental sector. Activities concentrate on promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, conserving biodiversity, and protecting the tropical rainforests and other threatened natural reserves.

4.6.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

Combating desertification is not a very prominent issue in the dialogue with the Guatemalan government, though there are activities related to the national programme of 'Lucha contra la desertificacion'. CONAMA is the government's coordinating unit. Since the new government took office (on 14 January 2000), the environment has received more public attention due to the foundation of a Presidential Secretariat for the Environment. A dialogue on a programmatic approach within the environmental theme is being developed.

4.6.2 CCD-related interventions

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
GT003203	PRODEFOR: community forestry in the Sierra Cuchumutanes	3527
GT003903	PAFG: Plan de Accion Forestal Guatemala	4409
GT008701	RECOSMO: protection of the Areas Protegidas around the Lago Izabal, ranging from dry areas to tropical rainforest	4000
GT007801	Sustainable management of natural resources in Chiquimulla, a very dry area for five months a year	3080
GT009701	PROZACHI: rural development programme, sustainable agriculture in dry areas	10986
GT89021	Rural development for small farmers in Cuchumutanes	10918
	Total	36920

4.7 Haiti

The new policy for development cooperation has limited the potential avenues for bilateral support to Haiti.

4.7.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

There have been contacts between the embassy and the focal point in Haiti, but not frequently, since implementation of the CCD has only just begun. Haiti has recently started preparing proposals for its first national communication and the national action programme. We are not involved in donor coordination in connection with CCD implementation.

4.7.2 CCD-related interventions

Activities in Haiti in the 1999-2000 period indirectly related to combating drought and desertification and to soil conservation and mitigation of deforestation included:

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
HT003702	FAO/Promotion of Agroforestry in Marmelade	5361
HT003901	Improved Charcoal Stoves	118
HT003902	Improved Charcoal Stoves, phase II	485
HT00402/3	Support for subsistence farming	1483
	Total	7447

4.8 Honduras

The new policy for development cooperation has limited the potential avenues for offering bilateral support to efforts to implement the CCD in Honduras. The country is not eligible for future bilateral support.

4.8.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

CCD-related activities do not play an important role in Honduras. Neither the Honduran government nor the international donor community considers them a high priority. Since Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in November 1998, awareness of the need for sustainable natural resources management has increased considerably.

CCD-related interventions

Although they do not focus directly on combating desertification, the following projects funded by the Netherlands in Honduras deal with sustainable land and water use.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
HN001404	Rural development and sustainable land and water use in S.- Lempira	7758
HN001407	FAO Rur. developm. and sustainable land and water use in S.-Lempira	9774
HN002302	FAO Strengthening of community forestry in Honduras	8682
HN006301	Consciousness-raising video on the environment	34
HN006701	Public information campaign on Mitch and the environment	742
HN007401	FAO Support for local initiatives for rural transformation and sustainable natural-resources management	2448
	Total	29438

4.9 Nicaragua

Nicaragua has been selected for a structural development cooperation relationship with the Netherlands and has chosen the following sectors of concentration: rural development, micro and small-scale activities and health care. Within these sectors special attention will be given to the environment. However, CCD-related activities do not play an important role at this time.

4.10 Perú

Perú es uno de los países donde se implementa un programa ambiental.

Antecedente

El Perú tiene una extensión superficial de 1 285 215,6 km², de los cuales el 38% corresponde a zonas áridas, semiáridas y subhúmedas, consideradas vulnerables a los efectos ambientalmente adversos debido al proceso de desertificación. En estas áreas se asienta aproximadamente el 90% de la población y concentra gran parte de las actividades productivas del país: agropecuaria, minera e industrial.

El Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), organismo público descentralizado del Ministerio de Agricultura, es el Punto Focal Nacional de la UNCCD y asimismo es Presidente del Comité Ejecutivo de América Latina y el Caribe GRULAC.

En 1999 en la V GRULAC y en la III COP se establece que los países de América Latina y el Caribe deben presentar en la siguiente COP (octubre 2000), sus Informes Nacionales sobre la implementación de la Convención, siguiendo la guía metodológica aprobada en Recife.

En 1994 se preparó el Plan Nacional de Acción contra la Desertificación, donde se identifican los principales problemas ambientales y socioeconómicos asociados al problema de desertificación en el país, y se presentan más de 100 perfiles de proyectos para su mitigación.

En 1995 y 1996 se realizaron tres talleres a nivel regional con participación de organismos y entidades gubernamentales y no gubernamentales para la elaboración del Programa de Acción Nacional sobre la Lucha contra la Desertificación publicado en 1996.

4.10.1 Diálogo sobre el Programa Nacional de Acción

Cooperación bilateral

La cooperación en la lucha contra la desertificación es uno de los temas que siempre ha estado presente durante los últimos años en las Consultas Bilaterales con las autoridades peruanas y que forma parte del programa bilateral. En las últimas Consultas de 1999, la Embajada se comprometió a seguir apoyando al Perú con las obligaciones relativas a la Convención y actualmente forman parte del Plan de Trabajo Anual de la Embajada para el 2000.

Para la coordinación de este apoyo, la Embajada mantiene un contacto permanente con el Punto Focal INRENA, quien preside un Comité integrado por el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, el Ministerio de Agricultura y el Ministerio de la Presidencia) y otras organizaciones privadas de desarrollo.

La Embajada en Lima ha participado desde 1993 en los talleres que dieron inicio a la preparación de un Plan de Acción Nacional contra la Desertificación, aunque formalmente desde 1996 cuando se elabora el Programa de Acción Nacional (PAN-Perú) con el apoyo de la FAO y el financiamiento del IDB se trabaja en relación a los compromisos asumidos en la Convención y se encarga a INRENA su ejecución. Actualmente el INRENA tiene el encargo de actualizar el PAN incluyendo el tema del género y la valorización de las tecnologías tradicionales. La Embajada está dispuesta a evaluar un eventual apoyo al INRENA para la elaboración de una estrategia nacional de implementación de este programa, así como, la implementación de un programa de capacitación y difusión.

Concertación con las organizaciones de la sociedad civil

En el Perú existe un Grupo Nacional de Trabajo creado desde 1993 en el que participan 34 organismos públicos, gobiernos regionales e instituciones de investigación y universidades nacionales. En este grupo de trabajo en el que participa por invitación la Embajada, se discuten y analizan propuestas, se preparan normas y se hace el seguimiento del programa nacional. Actualmente el grupo está pensando organizar una red nacional para mejorar la comunicación mediante el uso de INTERNET, aprovechando la ampliación de la telefonía y electrificación en el país.

Coordinación con donantes

No hay en el Perú una coordinación formal de donantes sobre este tema ya que aparte de FAO y la Embajada, los otros donantes no han expresado interés en el tema.

4.10.2 Intervenciones en relación con CCD

Apoyo directo

(PE003206) Una de las más importantes formas de apoyo directo en la lucha contra la desertificación se lleva a cabo a través del financiamiento del Proyecto Algarrobo. Este proyecto tiene como objetivo la conservación de la regeneración natural del post Niño y el uso integral de los recursos del bosque seco tropical. Los bosques secos se encuentran mayoritariamente ubicados en la costa norte del país cubriendo una superficie de 3.230.363 ha entre los departamentos de Tumbes, Piura y Lambayeque, donde se asientan 35.000 familias. La principal presión del bosque proviene de la tala indiscriminada para leña y carbón, a pesar de la veda impuesta por el gobierno. En la implementación de este proyecto se invirtieron NLG 6,45 millones (1992-1997) y en la actual fase de consolidación se han previsto (1998-2002) invertir NLG 8 millones adicionales y una contribución del gobierno peruano de USD 4.021 millones.

(PE021301 y PE017801) Estos dos proyectos a cargo del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú permitieron organizar en Lima la V Reunión Regional de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación (9-12 agosto e 1999) donde participaron 52 representantes de gobiernos y 23 representantes de ONG y organismos internacionales y la publicación del informe sobre experiencias exitosas de desarrollo sostenible en el Perú donde se incluye la ejecución de 10 proyectos para el control de desertificación.

(PE011201) Proyecto de apoyo al fortalecimiento de la capacidad local para el desarrollo y conservación integrada de montañas en la Reserva de Biosfera del Huascarán y la cordillera de Huyhuash. Con este proyecto se busca principalmente la conservación del agua mediante proyectos integrales de conservación y desarrollo que controlen el proceso de pérdida de tierras y la degradación de los ecosistemas de montaña.

Apoyo indirecto a través del apoyo a la elaboración de políticas y concienciación de la población.

(PE009401) Mediante este proyecto la Embajada apoya la formulación de una estrategia nacional forestal que permita al país contar con políticas nacionales de conservación y uso de los recursos maderables y no maderables del bosque y la creación de una autoridad forestal centralizada que ordene el manejo del bosque.

(PE021201) Este apoyo estuvo dirigido a colaborar con la organización del Primer Congreso Forestal Latinoamericano, donde se discutieron comparativamente diferentes propuestas de manejo del bosque y comercio de recursos forestales, incluyendo la certificación forestal y el mercado de nuevas especies.

(PE021001) Con este proyecto se buscó demostrar el uso de energía fotovoltaica en el abastecimiento de agua en un parque municipal de 5 ha de bosque seco en el departamento de Piura. El agua es el problema más urgente de las comunidades de la costa norte del país, debido a que la napa freática se aleja cada vez más de la

superficie.

(PE021901) A través del Programa de Apoyo a Políticas, se apoyaron tres actividades relacionadas a la conservación de bosques, suelos y agua a nivel nacional. El primero, a cargo de la Asociación Peruana de Arquitectura del Paisaje, tuvo como fin planificar el uso a nivel nacional de zonas áridas para la instalación de espacios verdes con fines recreativos, de conservación del agua y la forestación. El segundo, colaboró con la organización de una reunión de Intercampus (un foro académico que reúne a empresarios nacionales para discutir temas de importancia coyuntural para el país) donde se hizo un diagnóstico del sector forestal en el país y su vinculación con el resto de la economía. Esta reunión destacó la importancia económica del bosque como freno al proceso de desertificación de la zona agrícola más rica del país como es la costa norte. Por último, está en preparación una propuesta de proyecto para la conservación de aguas y suelos en los andes peruanos a cargo del Fondo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas.

Apoyo indirecto mediante proyectos de desarrollo integral y sostenible.

Actualmente hay varios proyectos en ejecución (PE005904, PE010102, PE012301, PE016001) que tienen como objetivo el mejoramiento de manejo sostenible del agua, suelo y vegetación, y que contribuyen indirectamente al freno de la desertificación tanto en la costa como en la sierra.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
PE003206	Dry forest management, Lambayeque, Piura and Tumbes	7999
PE021301	Regional Forum on Desertification	73
PE017801	ML publications, Peru	20
PE011201	Conservation and development of the Huascarán Biosphere	2792
PE009401	FAO/nat. strategy for sustainable utilisation of natural forests resources	4030
PE021201	Latin American Forest Congress	72
PE021001	Promotion of renewable energy	11
PE021901	Policy formulation for small grant programme	110
PE005904	IMA-PROMAC II, promoting environmental policy	4593
PE010102	CARE/ WARU-WARU phase II, reducing climatological risks et al.	4498
PE012301	ADEFOR/ community forestry microcuencas Cajamarca	2574
PE019001	ICCO/IMAR improving control of irrigation water in Chancay/Lambayeque II	2277
	Total	29049

4.11 El Salvador

The new policy for development cooperation has limited the potential avenues for offering bilateral support to efforts to implement the CCD in El Salvador. The country is not eligible for future bilateral support.

4.11.1 Dialogue on the national action programme

Development cooperation is in general rather limited in El Salvador and environmental cooperation is no exception. There is no policy dialogue on environmental matters. CCD-related activities are not given a high priority in El Salvador, although recently awareness of water as a limiting factor for development has increased considerably.

4.11.2 CCD-related interventions

Although they do not directly focus on combating desertification, the following projects funded by the Netherlands deal with the conservation of agricultural land and promotion of sustainable water use in El Salvador.

Activity no.	Activity description	x 1000 NLG
SV003002	Promotion of sustainable development at local level	1832
SV003701	Sustainable agricultural development on hillsides (initial phase)	6156
SV003702	Sustainable agricultural development on hillsides	1476
SV003703	FAO Sustainable agricultural development on hillsides	6600
SV003704	Final evaluation (SV003703)	16
SV003705	Interim evaluation (SV003702)	50
SV005302	Environmental policy development	998
	Total	17128

5 Concluding analysis

5.1 The Netherlands' policy on combating desertification

The sectoral approach, in combination with the principle of ownership, can be applied quite successfully to the formulation and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification.

The interventions supported by the Netherlands throughout Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean cover a range of measures promoted by the Convention. These include soil and water conservation activities, combating land degradation, sustainable management of natural resources, reforestation and improving agricultural and pastoral practices. Other activities have a more indirect impact on desertification control, such as the development of alternative energy sources, campaigns to raise awareness among local populations and officials and institution and capacity building.

Institutional support - in particular institutional strengthening, organisational capacity building and the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks - is an important aspect of the Netherlands' development assistance programme. This policy deserves more attention in connection with the organisations involved in the implementation of the CCD.

5.1.1 The Netherlands' CCD-related interventions

The implementation of policy and decision-making about Netherlands assistance for projects and programmes are delegated to the Embassies. The report shows that the main financial contribution is channelled through our Embassies, rather than the departments in The Hague. The latter have limited budgets and are more involved in policy development than in project support.

It can be concluded that the departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are involved in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in a variety of ways. Not surprisingly, the Environment and Development Department is the biggest financial contributor and allocated NLG 186 million for CCD-related projects implemented at regional or global level.

At the embassies, the situation varies. In countries like Peru, the Netherlands Embassy is deeply involved in the development and implementation of the National Action Programme, and regular consultations between the affected country and

FAO are taking place. In other countries, like Colombia and Bangladesh, geographical and climatic conditions such as humidity make implementation of the CCD a lower priority and CCD-related activities are accordingly more limited in scope.

How directly the activities supported relate to the CCD also varies. Some embassies, like the one in Sri Lanka, draw hardly any link between desertification-related activities and the Convention. This variation seems to be partly the result of the capacity and/or willingness of the affected country to use the Convention as a development instrument. This is for example the case in Mongolia.

The priority an embassy assigns to the CCD is not always related to the level of its financial commitment to related projects, as the case of Guatemala shows. Although implementation of the CCD is not an explicit and separate objective for the embassy in that country, nevertheless its funding of CCD-related projects is considerable.

5.1.2 Financial commitment

The report shows that the Netherlands' total commitment to ongoing programmes and projects combating desertification in non-African countries is NLG 579 million, of which 33 % (NLG 191 million) is allocated by the foreign affairs ministry's departments in The Hague, and the remaining 67 % (NLG 388 million) by Netherlands embassies. The main sectors supported are direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening.

Because this is the first report covering non-African countries, trends in financial commitment cannot be reported.

5.2 Conclusions

The Netherlands' development cooperation programme in developing countries touches upon many areas related to desertification control, but it is usually not explicitly directed at this issue. For this reason, only a few Netherlands embassies have made desertification control a topic in its own right in their dialogues with developing countries. There still is a strong need for mainstreaming the Convention in related development programmes.

The Asian, Latin American and Caribbean countries are at widely varying stages in the implementation of the CCD and the preparation of National Action Programmes. Some have just recently organised an assessment of the current

situation, while others are already implementing their NAPs and trying to involve civil society in the process.

On the basis of the reports by Netherlands embassies in non-African countries, we can conclude that in general active involvement in the formulation and implementation of the National Action Programmes is rare. 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 in some countries gets bogged down due to the changing political situation.

These reports also give the impression that the local population and/or civil society is not significantly involved in the implementation of the Convention. Although embassies in some countries address public awareness, quite a bit more attention could be devoted to this area.

Despite the limited involvement of the Netherlands Embassies in the direct implementation of the CCD, their total financial commitment to projects relevant to the objectives of the CCD is considerable. Furthermore, the reports give some insight into the priorities set by non-African countries themselves in relation to the implementation of the CCD.

5.2.1 Measures for improvement

Netherlands embassies, especially those in countries eligible for support in the environmental sector, could further mainstream interventions and engage in dialogue with the government of the affected country on the formulation and implementation of National Action Programmes.

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

Examples of the Netherlands current attempts to implement this approach are our policy of delegating 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 recipient country's government in development cooperation. This might improve the dialogue between developing countries and the Netherlands, in line with Article 13 of the Convention.

The review of progress in implementing the Convention is one of the subjects of the Fourth Conference of the Parties. The Netherlands look forward to the review of implementation during this and subsequent COPs, a review based on national reports from affected countries and donors, which will help identify constraints as well as maximise the benefits of successful measures.

5.2.2 Concluding remarks

This is the second time that Netherlands embassies and departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague, as well as NGOs, have been actively involved in preparing the report on the Netherlands' policy on implementation of the CCD. Once again, one of the problems during the compilation of the present report was the wide range of ideas about what constitutes a desertification-related intervention among the staff of embassies and departments. Discussions of linking the projects and programmes related to the Convention's objectives to CCD National Action Programmes should be intensified, with the aim of reaching more complete consensus on this matter.