

Report by Switzerland on measures taken to assist Affected Country Parties of other regions than Africa in the preparation of action programmes under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

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INTRODUCTION

The ratification of the “United Nations Convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa” in January 1996 provided an opportunity for Switzerland to confirm its political commitment and its solidarity in an international context. Ratification of the Convention is consistent with Swiss government priorities. Indeed, in its report on Swiss foreign policy during the 1990s, the government set five strategic targets, one of which is to preserve the natural environment. Accordingly it is of particular importance for Switzerland to adhere to and implement recommendations of the Rio Conference. The Convention is also a practical expression of Switzerland’s policy and frequently expressed desire for international co-ordination and collaboration to optimise the use of resources pledged by the States involved and the various donors.

Regarding Swiss legislation, the application of the Convention is based on the Federal Law on international development co-operation and humanitarian aid.

Switzerland has been actively involved at every stage of the negotiation process and has also played an important role in hosting the INCD Interim Secretariat in Geneva.

Within its bilateral co-operation, Switzerland has given priority to actions which can be done by local people themselves in combating desertification. The various projects have accordingly been carried out in close collaboration with the local people, with a view to strengthening the capacity and ability of the population - women in particular – to use the resources in their close environment in a sustainable way.

Strengthening the capacity of grass root level communities could also be a key condition to ensure them a real partnership at all levels and in participatory processes, as well in the implementation of measures for a sustainable use of resources. The experiences made at the technical level in the field of sustainable use of natural resources by grass root communities and the experiences made in training and information measures, as well as approaches promoting decision making and responsibility should be much more capitalised and communicated at different levels.

Swiss participation in the implementation of UNCCD: involvement and approach

Swiss official assistance to combat desertification is being administrated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The co-operation programs are realised in direct partnership at regional, national and local levels with governmental partners, NGOs and associations, or through an intermediary agency such as international, regional and national organisations and institutions and NGOs or the private sector.

Swiss efforts have concentrated, for several years, on the needs of local people and on what local people can do themselves in combating desertification. Switzerland also advocates financial assistance giving priority to "software" initiatives such as reforming and strengthening institutions, policy dialogue, innovative pilot schemes, etc., and accordingly supports measures aimed at improving the social and economic infrastructure. The co-operation of Switzerland, as a relatively modest player in this field, is directed at making full use of its comparative advantages (flexibility, the capacity to learn and innovate), and on a flexible adaptation of its programmes to a changing context. Switzerland also gives a great attention to a gender-balanced development in the approaches developed with the partners.

The bilateral co-operation programs and projects which correspond to the principles guiding the approaches and support measures of the Convention to combat desertification concern the following fields of activities:

- natural resources management
- water and soil conservation
- production: livestock, agriculture, forestry
- sustainable land-use management
- participatory approaches to natural resources management including participation of women
- decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms
- strengthening of capacities, training (at socio-organisational, technical, managerial and institutional levels)
- research (crops, soil, production systems)

The financial resources allocated to activities to combat desertification in **Asia** are about 62,6 million Swiss francs (U\$ 39 mio.) for the period 1997 – 2000, which means CHF 15,6 mio. per year (U\$ 9,8) and those allocated in **Latin America** are about 32 million Swiss francs (U\$ 20 mio.) for the period 1997-2000, which means CHF 8 mio. (U\$ 5 mio.) per year.

Efforts are also made to mainstream the objectives of CCD within SDC to seek attention and support of staff at HQ and field co-ordination offices, by giving specific information on CCD events and programmes, dialoguing and promoting contacts between interested units or individuals. This has already brought some fruits as for instance the direct support for CCD implementation in Central Asia. Switzerland has also financially supported UNCCD specific activities with voluntary contributions of total 4,203 million Swiss francs (CHF) between 1993 - 2000.

In addition to its direct and indirect contributions, Switzerland provides also funds to multilateral institutions playing a prominent part in CCD implementation: UNDP, FAO, UNEP, IFAD, World Bank, regional development banks as well as for regional institutions as OSS, CILSS, CIAT, ICARDA, ICRISAT and others.

Regularly, SDC also provides information on the Convention and the Swiss involvement to the press and radio, timely often requested by the latter at the moment of CoPs.

Partnership with NGOs

NGOs from the North and from the South are being more and more involved in the preparation and the active participation of international Conferences. In the case of CCD, Switzerland has always supported – and will continue to do so – the participation of NGOs from the South with voluntary financial contributions, during the negotiation phase of the CCD and for the

participation of the Conference of the Parties. Switzerland has also financially supported NGO efforts to establish an information clearinghouse (RIOD). A representative of the Swiss non-governmental organisations is also part of the Swiss delegation at the Conference of the Parties, with the perspective to reinforce the partnership between Swiss ONG et ONG in the South in the future. Swiss NGOs are funding as well projects which are related to the Conventions objectives, the present report includes these projects in the attached list as information was available. Local NGOs are important partners in SDC and Swiss NGOs funded programmes.

Aid-co-ordination and partnerships at regional and national levels

In view of promoting partnership agreements at all levels between developed country Parties and affected country Parties, aid co-ordination and policy dialogue between Parties are important. This is the reason why Switzerland takes an active part in consultative and co-ordination meetings organised by the United Nations, the World Bank, regional development banks, and in sectorial Round Tables, in case Switzerland can be represented by one of her Co-ordination Offices for development co-operation.

In the framework of the OECD/DAC Working Party on development co-operation and environment, Switzerland as part of the task force is also participating in the activities to examine the role of development co-operation regarding the implementation of the Rio Conventions. The main objective is to improve the aid co-ordination and provide an overview of all efforts already made, while utilising the possible synergies in the implementation of these three Conventions.

ASIA

i) A summary

In Asia, the main partner countries of Switzerland for bilateral cooperation, including measures for combating desertification, are India, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam; in Central Asia Kyrgystan and Tajikistan; in the South Caucasus Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Switzerland has financially supported Government and NGO activities in relation with the preparation of NAPs in Central Asia, South Caucasus and in Pakistan. Although Switzerland has not been involved yet in any partnership agreements for NAPs in Asia.

In addition, Switzerland has also financed a great number of activities to combat desertification, namely in the field of sustainable land use, soil and water conservation in semi arid areas and drylands to secure the production base and improve the socio-economic situation of dryland - farmers and especially women, as well as research activities related to crops, rangeland management and production techniques.

As the programmes in the field of sustainable resource management aim to contribute to the efforts of people living in erosion-prone semi-arid rural areas and dry mountain areas to improve their livelihood system, a particular importance is given to a participatory approach and the empowerment of women and men.

At the regional level, SDC contributes to different research related programmes and specialized Institutions in drylands and sustainable soil and water management.

It will be one of the future challenges to link their results and lessons learnt with the process of implementation of NAPs and SRAPs, as well as to reinforce awareness on desertification risks in endangered regions where SDC already supports programmes.

The financial resources allocated to activities to combat desertification are about 62,6 million Swiss francs (U\$ 39 mio.) for the period 1997 – 2000, which means about CHF 15,5 mio. per year (U\$ 9,8 mio.).

ii) Swiss involvement in consultative processes and partnership agreements

Switzerland has financially supported governmental and NGO activities in relation with the process of elaboration of NAPs in Central Asia, South Caucasus and in Pakistan. But as a matter of fact, Switzerland has not been involved yet in partnership agreements for NAPs in Asia. The Swiss Co-ordination Offices are, involved in donor co-ordination with the Government, as well as between donor agencies. Co-ordination platforms in the field of natural resource management, soil and water conservation or forestry are well established depending on the type of priority sectors in the respective country, but issues related to desertification are not or rarely addressed yet.

In almost all of the ongoing programmes supported by SDC, the multipartnership approach and the establishment of agreements between public-private-and community or grass-root based organisations for the implementation of action programmes is an already well established set-up for the implementation. As the programmes in the field of sustainable resources management aim to contribute to the efforts of people living in erosion-prone semi-arid rural areas and dry mountain areas for securing their production base and improve their livelihood system, a particular importance is given to a participatory approach and the empowerment of women and men. Local NGOs as well as technical and social services are important partners in relation with capacity building and training activities. Local communities are important partners for community development plans.

iii) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels

In Asia the bilateral aid managed by SDC is allocated on the basis of geographical as well as on a thematic or sectorial focus. For the purpose of the present CCD report, only those partner countries are mentioned where the cooperation programme supported by Switzerland includes measures to combat desertification. These partner countries are India, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam; in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; in the South Caucasus Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In these countries Switzerland is represented by a Co-ordination office. Furthermore, there are several selective cooperation programmes linked to desertification issues with other countries as mentioned below.

In collaboration with the Secretariat of the CCD, SDC allocated a financial support to assist Country Parties from Central Asia and South Caucasus in implementing the Convention to strengthen the role of national focal points for the co-ordination national activities, including participatory initiatives from the civil society and for the preparation of studies on socio-economic factors contributing to desertification in each country with formulation of needed response strategy.

Switzerland has also financed a great number of activities to combat desertification, namely in the field of sustainable land use, soil and water conservation in semi arid areas and drylands, to secure the production base and improve the socio-economic situation of dryland-farmers and especially women, as well as research activities related to crops, rangeland management and production techniques.

The financial resources allocated to activities to combat desertification are about 62,6 million Swiss francs (US\$ 39 mio.) for the period 1997 – 2000, which means CHF 15,6 mio. per year (US\$ 9,8 mio.). The specific contributions to each programme as well as brief descriptions are shown in Annex 1.

At the **regional level in Asia**, SDC contributes to different research related programmes and specialized Institutions in drylands and sustainable soil and water management. Contributions are made to the core budget of the International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM) and to the Asia Network for management of sloping lands for sustainable agriculture (ASIALAND).

A financial contribution is also made to the Initiative to combat desertification in the Middle East, a programme managed by ICARDA and the World Bank. In some extent the contribution to the programme of ICIMOD which promotes the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations of Hindu-Kush-Himalayan Area is also of importance to the CCD regarding the link between soil degradation and forest loss as causes of desertification . The Central Asia Mountain Partnership Programme financed by SDC, involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan which addresses specially the sustainable use of natural resources in dry mountain areas is part of strategies to combat desertification.

Regarding the co-operation programme in **India** , since mid 80s SDC has given a growing attention to natural resources management in semi-arid areas given their importance (65% of arable land) and works on a approach of participative watershed development, including Government Agencies, NGOs and rural actors. This experience has shown that participatory management approaches enhance the sustainability of watershed interventions. Watershed development needs to be linked to income generation , both for on- and off- farm activities; this applies especially to weaker groups of dryland farmers and especially women. The main objective of several programmes is to contribute to the efforts of people living in erosion-prone semi-arid rural areas in securing their production base and improving their socio-economic situation. The measures make available innovative proven technologies through research and training and ensure the availability of appropriate methods and equipment to poor rural communities to use their land and water resources optimally. In some areas the main focus is also on livestock development.

Switzerland contributes to two regional programmes where **Kyrgyzstan** is one of the involved countries. One programme is directly linked to the CCD and the National Center to Combat Desertification intends to use the Swiss grant to provide institutional support of socio-economic research activity and preparation of proposals for transboundary co-operation. The second one is related to the sustainable use of natural resources in mountainous areas subject to desertification. The Kyrgyz-Swiss Agricultural Project addresses ecological sustainable production and contributes to improve the living conditions of rural population.

According to the priority sectors considered by **Nepal** to fall in the field of the CCD, SDC is financing one programme related to sustainable management of agricultural soils in the mid-hills to reduce soil productivity decline on bari soils. Another programme is related to community forestry promoting sustainable management of the forest resources, mainly through forestry user groups and local government forestry employees.

In **Pakistan** different programmes which are relevant to the CCD aim to promote community based sustainable natural resources management addressing also poverty alleviation. Two of the programmes support are directed to the elaboration and implementation of conservation strategies (Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy and Northern Areas Conservation Strategy). Measures include environmental policy, institutional strengthening, capacity building for strategy development and its implementation and monitoring at all levels, as well as facilitation of implementation by decentralising strategy formulation and implementation at district level. Through the Swiss NGO Programme and two of the related partners, namely the Pakistan Institute for Environment, Development and Action Research (PIEDAR) and SCOPE (UNCCD Asia Focal Point), Switzerland has contributed to the preparation of the “ International Network of Action Research Coalition for Combating Desertification”(INARD).

In addition to the Swiss contribution to the research programme of ICARDA at a regional level two programmes are specifically related to combat desertification in the **Syrian Arab Republic**. In collaboration with ICARDA and the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture, the programme aims to design decision-making tools and strengthen national capacities in sustainable dry-land resources management. The programme will identify priority areas for rehabilitation of steppe vegetation and define technical solutions and access regulation options; it also assesses the potential for improving the management of surface and subsurface water and strengthen national capacities in the development and management of GIS database. Another programme addresses improvements of sheep and milk production by smallholders in dry areas of Aleppo Province.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

i) A summary

Switzerland has not yet participated in partnership agreements related to NAPs in Latin America. However the approach promoted through the CCD, namely to create a multipartnership agreements between public-private-and community or grass-root based organisations for the implementation of action programmes is an already well established form for the implementation of almost all the ongoing programmes supported by SDC, as the following overview shows.

In Latin America the partner countries are Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and in Central America : Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. Although Switzerland is in financial terms not involved explicitly in the preparation or implementation of NAPs, there are desertification related activities, aiming at sustainable use of natural resources in dry-land hills of Central America and in Andean highlands of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. It will be one of the future challenges to link and bring in the results to the process of implementation of NAPs and SRAPs as well as to

reinforce awareness on desertification risks in endangered regions where SDC already supports programmes.

The financial resources allocated to desertification related activities are about 32 million Swiss francs (20 mio. US\$) for the period 1997- 2000, which means 8 mio. SF (5 mio. US\$) per year.

ii) Swiss involvement in consultative processes and partnership agreements

Switzerland has not yet participated in partnership agreements related to NAPs in Latin America. However, the approach promoted through the CCD, namely to create a multipartnership agreements between public-private-and community or grass-root based organisations for the implementation of action programmes, is an already well established form for the implementation of almost all the ongoing programmes supported by SDC, as it can be seen from the following overview. As the programmes in the field of sustainable resources management in dry hill areas have the objective that small farmers can improve their livelihood system, a particular importance is given to a participatory approach and the empowerment of women and men. Local NGOs as well as technical and social services are important partners in relation with capacity building and training activities. Local communities are important partners for community development plans.

The Swiss Co-ordination Offices are also involved in their respective country in donor co-ordination with the Government as well as between donor agencies. In the field of natural resources management and environment there is a well functioning co-ordination between donors in Bolivia, some mechanism in this field is also established in Peru and Nicaragua; however desertification issues were not yet addressed explicitly.

iii) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels

The bilateral aid managed by SDC is allocated on the basis of a geographical focus as well as on a thematic or sectorial concentration; the latter mainly concentrated to 3-4 fields according to priorities of the partner country. The partner countries are Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and in Central America : Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. SDC is represented by a Co-ordination office in these countries, in Central America the office is located in Nicaragua.

Although Switzerland is in financial terms not involved explicitly in the preparation or implementation of NAPs, there are desertification related activities, aiming at sustainable use of natural resources in dry-land hills of Central America and in Andean highlands of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. It will be one of the future challenges to link and bring in the results and to the process of implementation of NAPs and SRAPs as well as to reinforce awareness on desertification risks in endangered regions where SDC already supports programmes.

The financial resources allocated to desertification related activities are about 32 million Swiss francs (20 mio. US\$) for the period 1997- 2000, which means 8 mio. SF (5 mio. US\$) per year.

The specific contributions to each programme as well as brief descriptions are shown in Annex 1.

At the regional level, mainly in Central America, a programme support related to desertification is the contribution to the research programme of the international agricultural research centre CIAT on system research of agricultural production patterns and related management of natural

resources on dry-lands in hill areas to improve knowledge and identify possibilities for improvement of production methods. About almost 50 organisations (private, public, universities) located in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador are partners of another regional programme named PASOLAC, which aims to improve sustainable land use, soil and water management in hill areas. The main elements of the programme are action-research, pilot activities, the financing of small projects of farmer groups and local communities to improve soil and water management and production techniques as well as capacity building, training and information.

In **Bolivia** different programmes located in highlands and inter – Andean valleys contribute to improve the management of renewable natural resources to maintain their productivity in a long term perspective, with the objective that farmers can improve their livelihood system. The main focus is to promote a sustainable land use with a special attention to soil and water resource management by strengthening grass-root level organisations, local government and technical and social services. Measures include capacity building, training and information as well as contributions to small local projects linked to municipal development plans , co-financed with national budgets and technically supported by local service entities.

In **Ecuador** the programme COMAREN financed by Switzerland and Netherlands, which is managed by a consortium of ten organisations (private, public institutions and universities) and works with a net of more than 60 smaller organisations, contributing to the capacity-building of agricultural advisers for sustainable management of natural resources, especially in dry highland areas. The awareness related to the problematic of the risks of desertification is increasing and the overall aim is to improve the land use and production systems to reach a sustainable use of endangered natural resources. Several programmes are related to the improvement and restoration of small scale irrigation systems to sustain the management of scarce water resources as well as farming systems in the hilly areas.

In **Honduras** a programme support goes to NGOs which aims to contribute to a sustainable use of natural resources and improvements of agricultural productivity of small and medium farmers in hill areas. The main activities are related to capacity building, training, information and the financing of small projects.

In **Peru** activities supported in the field of desertification are focused on sustainable land use management, agriculture and soil and water conservation in Andean high lands. Their objectives are the improvement of livelihood, food security and income improvements for rural families in these areas. Capacity building, training and information are the most important tools . Participatory approach including participation of women. One programme aims at the reconstruction of irrigation systems which were destroyed by the effects of EL Niño to rehabilitate agriculture.

OTHER ASSISTANCE RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATIONS OF THE UNCCD

Switzerland has financially supported UNCCD specific activities with voluntary contributions of 4,203 million Swiss francs (U\$ 2,627 mio) between 1993 – 2000. Specific contributions to each activity shown in Annex 2 may be classified as follows:

- Contributions to the financing of participation of governments and NGO delegations in the Convention negotiation process, seminars and CoPs: SF 1 083 000.-

- Contributions to INCD for training and awareness activities: SF 1 467 800.-
- Contributions to INCD Secretariat Geneva: SF 757 000.-
- Contributions to UNCCD Secretariat for specific activities: SF 571 500.-
- Voluntary contributions to the Global Mechanism: SF 325 000.-

In addition to its direct and indirect contributions, Switzerland provides also funds for multilateral institutions playing a prominent part in CCD implementation: UNDP, FAO, UNEP, IFAD, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as to regional institutions like OSS, CILLS, CIAT, ICARDA and ICRISAT.

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

ASIA

Regional Programmes

a. Programme: Management of sloping lands for sustainable agriculture in Asia Network IBSRAM

Goal: Extending and sustaining the acceptance of conservation farming technologies, enhancing participation and adoption by the farmers

Fields of activities:

- Soil and water conservation
- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Production of agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches

Executing agency and partner organisations:

International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'600'000.-

b. Programme: Asia Pacific Mountain Network – APMN, ICIMOD

Goal: To enable ICIMOD to act as information hub for Asia-Pacific countries to heighten the awareness, share information and promote public attention to critical issues affecting the mountain and upland areas

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: ICIMOD

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 330'000.-

c. Programme: IBSRAM Core Contribution

Goal: Poverty alleviation and food security through promotion of sustainable land management

Fields of activities:

- Research
- Soil and water conservation
- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Production of agriculture
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms

Executing agency and partner organisations:

International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'275'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

d. Programme: Regional Collaborative Programme International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Goal: To promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain population of the Hindu-Kush-Himalayan Area

Fields of activities:

- Research
- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Agriculture, livestock and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: ICIMOD

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'800'000.-

e. Programme: Asian Regional Centre / Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre

Goal: To promote efficient and profitable vegetable production in China through human resources development, research and scientific co-operation and exchange

Fields of activities:

- Research
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: Ministry of Agriculture in China

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'685'000.-

f. Combat Desertification in the Middle East

Goal: To contribute to combat desertification

Fields of activities:

- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: WB / ICARDA

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 480'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

Central Asia and CIS

- a. **Programme: Support to country parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Central Asia and South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Moldova)**
Goal: To combat desertification and land degradation in the targeted countries, and thereby improve living conditions and environment
Fields of activities:
- Natural resource management
 - Capacity building, training, information
 - Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms
 - Research, studies
- Executing agency and partner organisations:** Secretariat UN CCD
Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 525'000.-
- b. **Programme: Central Asia Mountain Partnership Programme (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan)**
Goal: To contribute to sustainable mountain development especially to sustainable use of renewable natural resources
Fields of activities:
- Natural resource management
 - Capacity building, training, information
 - Research
 - Decentralisation, policy, and institutional reforms
 - Participatory approaches
- Executing agency and partner organisations:** Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)
Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 800'000.-

Country Programmes

India

- a. **Programme: Participative Integrated Development of Watersheds (PIDOW) Gulbarga**
Goal: To contribute to the efforts of people living in erosion-prone semi-arid rural areas in securing their production base and improving their socio-economic situation
Fields of activities:
- Soil and water conservation
 - Natural resource management
 - Capacity building at village level
 - Participatory approaches
- Executing agency and partner organisations:** MYRADA
Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'250'000.-
- b. **Programme: Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development Karnataka (ISPWD – K)**
Goal: To introduce participative work processes into rural resource development action
Fields of activities:
- Soil and water conservation
 - Natural resource management
 - Agriculture and livestock production
 - Capacity building and participatory approached at village and community level
- Executing agency and partner organisations:** Intercooperation, local NGOs
Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 6'280'000.—

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

c. Programme: NGO – Programme Rajasthan

Goal: To improve the livelihood of resource poor households through more efficient use and sustainable management of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Soil and water conservation
- Natural resource management: Livestock, agriculture, forestry
- Sustainable land-use management
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches to NRN including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation, various NGOs

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 3'000'000.-

d. Programme: NGO – Programme Andhra Pradesh

Goal: To improve the livelihood of resource poor rural households in rain-fed areas through more efficient use of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Production of: Agriculture
- Sustainable land-use management
- Capacity building at village and community level
- Enhance women's participation

Executing agency and partner organisations:

Intercooperation and 10 NGO - partner organisations, located in Chittoor District

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'900'000.-

e. Programme: NGO – Programme Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Goal: To assist resource poor rural households in managing natural resources in order to improve their livelihood in sustainable way

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Soil and water conservation
- Natural resource management: livestock, agriculture
- Sustainable land-use management
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches to NRN including participation of women.

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'260'000.-

f. Programme: Co-operation Programme with NGOs through AFRPRO (Action Food Production) (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa)

Goal: To make available innovative proven technologies and appropriate methods and equipment to poor rural communities

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable use of renewable natural resources and natural resource regeneration
- Soil and water conservation
- Production of agriculture
- Sustainable land-use management
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: AFPRO India

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'800'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

g. Programme: Society for the Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)

Goal: Support of SPWD to create awareness for the problems of Wasteland on different levels of politic and society / SPWD support of natural resource regeneration activities

Fields of activities:

- Arrest degradation of renewable natural resources
- Sustainable use of renewable natural resources
- Soil and water conservation
- Production of agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation and SPWD

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 700'000.-

Kyrgystan

a. Programme: Kyrgyz-Swiss Agricultural Project

Goal: To assist in the agricultural sector transition, which is based on market principles and ecologically sustainable production, and to contribute to improving the living conditions of the rural population

Fields of activities:

- Production of agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Helvetas, Rural Advisory and Development Services

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 6'690'000.-

Nepal

a. Programme: Sustainable Management of Agricultural Soils in the Mid-Hills of Nepal

Goal: Reduction of soil productivity decline on bari soils in Nepal

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Helvetas/Intercooperation

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'800'000.-

b. Programme: Kathmandu University, Programme of Environmental Science

Goal: Enhance capacity of University staff and students in the field of environmental science

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: Geographical Institute of the University of Berne

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 210'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

c. Programme: Nepal – Swiss Community Forestry Project

Goal: Improvement of the living conditions, empowerment of population and sustainable management of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management
- Forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations:

District Forest Offices, Ministry of Forests and Soils, NGOs, Forest User Groups

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 4'350'000.-

Pakistan

a. Programme: Sarhad Provincial Conservation Strategy

Goal: To promote sustainable resource management

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management and environmental policy
- Capacity building, training, information
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms
- Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock

Executing agency and partner organisations: IUCN Pakistan

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 3'370'000.-

b. Programme: Support Project Northern Areas Conservation Strategy

Goal: To elaborate the strategy promoting sustainable resource management

Fields of activities:

- Policy and institutional reforms
- Natural resource management
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: IUCN Pakistan

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'030'000.-

c. Programme: NGO Programme Pakistan

Goal: To strengthen the negotiation power of civil society in order to improve efficiency and effectivity for sustainable development

Fields of activities:

- Policy and institutional reform
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation, NGOs

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 6'020'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

d. Programme: Programme Mandate Natural Resource Management

Goal: To improve the rural livelihood systems in a framework for sustainable land use in the uplands and foothills of Northern Pakistan

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management
- Agriculture, livestock and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional development
- Participatory approaches including participation of women
- Research

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 4'120'000.-

Syrian Arab Republic

a. Programme: Sheep breeding ICARDA Syrian Arab Republic

Goal: To enhance the conditions for small sheep holders and quality of their dairy production

Fields of activities:

- Livestock
- Capacity building, training, information
- Research, studies

Executing agency and partner organisations: ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas), herders' association

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 45'000.-

b. Programme: ICARDA “The Arid Margins of Syria”

Goal: To design decision-making tools and strengthen national capacities in sustainable dry land resource management

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management and policy
- Capacity building, training, information
- Research, studies

Executing agency and partner organisations: ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas), IUED (Graduate Institute of Development Studies), Ministry of Agriculture

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 130'000.-

Vietnam

a. Programme: Social Forestry Support Programme

Goal: To establish social forestry, in order to have more effective management of renewable resources and to upgrade the living standards of rural people

Fields of activities:

- Forestry
- Natural resource management and sustainable land-use
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Helvetas, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 7'820'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

LATIN AMERICA

Central America

Regional Programmes

a. Programme: CIAT – Laderas, System research in agriculture on hills

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Agriculture, livestock, and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Research, studies

Executing agency and partner organisations: CIAT (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture), Cali, Columbia

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'800'000.-

b. Programme: PASOLAC, Sustainable land use of hill areas

Goal: To contribute to income generation and food security of rural people and to sustainable use of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women
- Research

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation (Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador)

Founding 1997 – 2000 CHF 6'250'000.-

Country Programmes

Bolivia

a. Programme: ATICA (Agua, tierra campesina)

Goal: To contribute to improved management of renewable natural resources by strengthening grass-root level organisation, local government, and technical and social services

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation

Founding 1997 – 2000 CHF 3'500'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

b. Programme: PROMIC Torrenteras Cochabamba – Control of torrents and integrated agriculture in the watershed

Goal: To control water resources through improved natural resource management

Fields of activities:

- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture, livestock, and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Decentralisation, policy and institutional reforms

Executing agency and partner organisations: Prefectura de Cochabamba

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 3'040'000.-

c. Programme: Camas protegidas - protected nurseries

Goal: To improve the potato seed in Andean region

Fields of activities:

- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Fundacion PROINPA

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 256'000.-

d. Programme: PROSUKO Reestablishment of the Andean High-fields

Goal: To improve the livelihood of rural families through effective and sustainable land use techniques

Fields of activities:

- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture
- Sustainable land use management
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women
- Research

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation, ALT (Autoridad del Lago Titicaca)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'500'000.-

Ecuador

a. Programme: CAMAREN Capacity building for sustainable management of natural renewable resources

Goal: To contribute to the capacity building of agricultural advisers for sustainable management of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture, livestock, and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation, DGIS

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'500'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

b. Programme: PENIPE Irrigation and rural development

Goal: To contribute to the construction and reconstruction of four irrigation systems and to the improvement of farming systems

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Government and local NGO “CEBYCAM”

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'120'000.-

c. Programme: LICTO Irrigation and agricultural development

Goal: To improve agricultural productivity through construction and management of an irrigation system and adoption of improved land use techniques

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information

Executing agency and partner organisations: NGO (CESA), IICA (Instituto Interamericano de Cooperacion para la Agricultura) and farmers organisation (CODOCAL)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'100'000.-

d. Programme: CORICAM Irrigated and sustainable land use in Ambato valley

Goal: To improve the livelihood of farmer families through capacity building in sustainable use of natural resources

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture and livestock
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations:

IEDECA (Instituto de Ecologia y Desarrollo de las Comunidades Andinas)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 950'000.-

e. Programme: NABON - Irrigation and agricultural development

Goal: To improve the livelihood of farmer families and sustainable use of renewable resources through strengthening of the local institutions and social organisations

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Local Government (Municipio de Nabon)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'120'000.-

Measures taken by Switzerland to assist affected country parties in combating desertification in Asia and Latin America

Honduras

a. Programme: NGO - Programme

Goal: To contribute to sustainable use of natural resources and improvement of agricultural productivity of small and medium farmers in hill areas

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Soil and water conservation
- Agriculture, livestock, and forestry
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 4'350'000.-

Peru

a. Programme: Reestablishment of the Andean High-fields (Waru Waru)

Goal: To improve the quality of life and the economic situation of people living around Lake Titicaca

Fields of activities:

- Agriculture
- Soil and water conservation
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women
- Research

Executing agency and partner organisations: INADE (National Institute for Development)

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'370'000.-

b. Programme: Sustainable Agriculture Systems on Andean Hills

Goal: To improve the livelihood, food security and income of the rural families

Fields of activities:

- Sustainable land use management
- Agriculture
- Soil and water conservation
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations: Intercooperation

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 2'700'000.-

c. Programme: Reconstruction of Irrigation Systems

Goal: To reanimate agricultural activities in El Niño affected areas

Fields of activities:

- Natural resource management
- Agriculture
- Soil and water conservation
- Capacity building, training, information
- Participatory approaches including participation of women

Executing agency and partner organisations:

IOROGA (Instituto de Promocion para Gestion de Agua), 5 regional NGOs

Funding 1997 – 2000 CHF 1'080'000.-

Convention to Combat Desertification – Swiss Contributions

Contributions to the financing of participation of government and NGO delegations in the Convention negotiation process, seminars and CoPs

Contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund	1993 – 1995	CHF	438'000
Trust Fund for case studies	1993	CHF	100'000
Training seminars on multilateral negotiation	1993/1994	CHF	50'000
NGO participation in INCD negotiations	1995/1996/1997	CHF	305'000
NGO participation at CCD CoP2	1998	CHF	90'000
NGO participation at CCD CoP4	2000	CHF	100'000

Contributions to INCD for training and awareness activities

Popular version of the Desertification Convention “Down to Earth”	1994/1997	CHF	114'000
Contribution to INCD Secretariat for information projects in Africa	1995	CHF	220'000
Contribution to the international NGO Network on Desertification (RIOD) –Network co-ordination and clearinghouse activities	1995 – 1997	CHF	132'000
Contribution to Latin America and the Caribbean NGO Conference (Peru)	1995	CHF	36'000
Workshop on the Convention’s African “focal points”	1996	CHF	68'800
International workshop on desertification, Kairouan (Tunisia) – Partner: Kairouan Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment (APNEK)	1996	CHF	24'000
Contribution to Asia NGO Conference (Pakistan). Partner : Society for Conservation and Protection of the Environment (SCOPE)	1996	CHF	60'000
Contribution to INCD Secretariat for information activities in the Mediterranean, the Near East and the Middle East	1996	CHF	103'000
Contribution to INCD Secretariat for information activities in the CIS region	1996	CHF	110'000
Support to “Forum of Euro-Mediterranean NGOs” (Sahel Défis)	1996	CHF	25'000
UNDP/UNSO: Contribution to the Trust Fund	1996-1997	CHF	575'000

CHF = Swiss Francs

Convention to Combat Desertification – Swiss Contributions

Contribution to INCD Secretariat Geneva

Secondment of an expert to the INCD Geneva Secretariat	1995 – 1998	CHF	757'000
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Contribution to CCD Secretariat for specific activities

Contribution for the « CCD-Information-Kit »	1998	CHF	60'000
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Contribution for the editing of a Newsletter at COP2	1998	CHF	37'500
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Contribution for the preparation of documentation for sub-regional meetings on traditional knowledge inventories	1998	CHF	154'000
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Contribution for the « Educational – Kits »	1998	CHF	100'000
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Contribution to the financing of the preparation of national reports by affected African country parties	1999	CHF	120'000
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Contribution to the financing of the preparation of national reports by affected Asian country parties	2000	CHF	100'000
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Contribution to the Global Mechanism

Voluntary Contribution	1998/1999	CHF	200'000
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Voluntary Contribution /Special Fund	2000/2001	CHF	250'000
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