

KINGDOM OF THAILAND
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

DRAFT

THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON THE UNCCD
IMPLEMENTATION

LAND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATIVES, BANGKOK, THAILAND

MAY 2006

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2 SUMMARY

1. Focal point institution:

Name of focal point	
Address including e-mail address	
Country-specific websites relating to desertification	1 www.ddd.go.th 2 www.forest.go.th 3 www.monre.go.th 4 www.moac.go.th

2. Status of NAP

Date of validation March 2004	Land Development Department
NAP review(s)	Date(s)
NAP has been integrated into the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP)	Yes. Poverty reduction strategy is a part of the Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006)
NAP has been integrated into the national development strategy	Yes. NAP has been integrated into the Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006)
NAP implementation has started with or without the conclusion of partnership agreements	Yes. It has been started with the conclusion of partnership agreement.
Expected NAP validation	Month/year
Final draft of a NAP exists	It has been implemented.
Formulation of a draft NAP is under way	It has been completed.
Basic guidelines for a NAP have been established	No. However, NAP development should come from learning experience.
Process has only been initiated	Yes.
Process has not yet start	No

3. Member of SRAP/RAP

Name of sub-regional and/or regional cooperation framework	Involvement specifically in topics such as water harvesting techniques, soil erosion etc.
1 Framework for the South East Asia Sub-Regional Action Program for Combating Land Degradation and Eradicating Poverty in Drought Prone, Seasonally Arid and Food In-secure Areas	Sustainable Land and Integrated Ecosystem Management, Particularly in Drought Prone, Seasonally Arid and Food Insecure Areas

4. Composition of the NCB

Name of institution	Government	NGO	Male/Female
Minister, Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry	/		F
Permanent Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry	/		M
Secretary General, Office of National Economic and Social Development Board	/		M
Director General, Land Department	/		M
Director General, Public Welfare Department	/		M
Director General, Royal Forest Department	/		M
Director General, Royal Irrigation Department,	/		M
Director General, Agricultural Extension Department	/		M
Director General, Agricultural Department	/		M
Secretary General, Office of Land Reform for Agriculture	/		M
Secretary General, Office of Agricultural Economics	/		M
Director General, Land Development Department	/		M

5. Total number of NGOs accredited to the process:

Has an NGO National Coordinating Committee on desertification been established; if yes, how many NGOs or civil society organizations participate in it?	No
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6.Total number of acts and laws passed relating to the UNCCD:

Name up to five most relevant acts and laws and/or regulations.

Title of the law	Date of adoption
1. Land Development Act	May 1983
2. National Environmental Quality Act	1992.
3. National Land Reform Act	1975, 1976, 1989
4. National Forest Reserve Act	1964
5. National Park Act	1961

7.The consultative process

Number of partnership agreements that have been concluded and/or are being initiated within the framework of the UNCCD

Official title of partnership	Donor(s), international organization(s), and/or agencies of the UN system involved	Date of (expected) conclusion
1.Improving the Management of Salt-affected Soils in Rain-fed Areas in Northeast Thailand	French Government/ Thai Government/	August 2007
2.Sustainable Use of Problem Soils in Rain-fed Agriculture	FAO and Thai Government	February 2006
3. The Study Project on On-farm Irrigation Development and Management in the Monsoon Asia	Japan Institute of Irrigation and Drainage and Thai Government	October 2005

List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation:

Name of consultative meeting	Date/year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of the UN system involved
1.Consultative Meeting on Land Slide Mapping	29 June-2 July	Japan/Thailand	

Name of countries which has taken over the role of Chef de file:

8.Name up to 10 projects currently under implement which are directly or indirectly related to the UNCCD.

Name of projects	Project implemented within the framework of the NAP/SRAP/RA P?(Yes/No)	Project implemented within the framework of	Time-frame	Partners involved	Overall budget (million USD)

1. Soil improvement by aqua organic compost and products of microorganism	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	74.023
2. Soil improvement by green manure	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	150.720
3. Transfer of technology to farmers	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	48.725
4. Saline soils improvement	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	9.995
5. Provision of soil and water conservation system on low land and up land	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	52.204
6. Organization of demonstration plots for learning centers	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	3.2
7. Tree plantation to protect soil salinization in Khong, Chee, and Moon basins	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	4.257
8. Small scale water resources	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	172.356
9. Development of areas under water-use management system	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	90.378
10.Improvement of natural water resources as sources of production base for communities	Yes	NAP	2004-2008	No	9.937

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3. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND/OR POLICIES.

HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 To what extent have the strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development taken into consideration the efforts to formulate a NAP or aspects of completed NAP?

There are four major sources of policy and strategy taken formulating the NAP.

- 1) The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2540 (A.D. 1997) in section 79 and 84 provide basic principles on public participation, accession to land holding by farmers, supporting means to achieve maximum benefits.
- 2) The Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006) has been put in place the management system of natural resources with clear idea of share responsibility, transparency and practicability. People in community and local administrative units will be delivered knowledge and information for active participation. As a result, effective control over resource use shall be instituted. Environmental quality shall be improved and economy and quality of life of grassroots will be promoted. Priorities of the 9th NESDP are in line with solving the nation's urgent problems.
- 3) Government policy supports farmers to have adequate land for livelihood by implementing a comprehensive land utilization policy and optimizing the use of idle land. Management efficiency of water resources at every level will also be improved to suit production system of each crop and terrain conditions. Emphasis will be placed on full participation of people in restoration, conservation and development of land on upstream as well as in river basins, reservoirs, irrigation canals, water quality, and piped irrigation. The use of surface water and underground water must also be efficient and systematic, especially in projects involving the development of large water sources.
- 4) A strategic plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives was considered a strategic guidance from formulation process up to successful implementation of the National Action Program for Combating Desertification.

Moreover, the NAP to combat desertification was considered a component of the strategy to increase productivity including the development of basic resource infrastructure for production as follows:

*“At present, most farmers have not enough water for agriculture. In some areas, they are facing drought and marginal soils. These resources are fundamental costs of production. To help farmers produce efficiently, there is a need to develop resource infrastructure for such areas to meet maximum capacity. The infrastructure must be equally distributed and allocated to farmers in all areas. Management must also be applied to protect these production resources from natural hazard. Irrigation systems and wells must be provided in drought prone areas. Soil fertility must be developed, maintained and improved for better productivity and sustainable use. **“Implementation of the National Action Program to Combat Desertification is a part of this strategy”.**”*

3.2 In what ways are the UNCCD principles accommodated in other environmental frameworks?

As mentioned earlier that four major sources of policy and strategy have been taken for formulating the NAP. Three of them are from national level of which all Ministries must follow. Participation was directly emphasized by the first three sources while the Policy and Perspective Plan for Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment clearly includes the roles of local organization and NGOs to participate in administration and management of natural resources.

3.3 What working relationships have been established between the NFP and/or NCB and those Ministries dealing with the implementation of such strategies?

Practically, the inter-departmental cooperation can be officially done as usual by establishment of specific steering committees and working groups to serve specific purposes. Since Land Development Department (LDD) was assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) to be a coordinating body. The LDD itself operates under Land Development Act 1983 which is governed by Board of Land Development. The Board consists of the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Chairman, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Deputy Chairman, Secretary – General of the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board, Director – General of Land Department, Director – General of the Public Welfare Department, Director – General of the Royal Forest Department, Director – General of the Royal Irrigation Department, Director – General of the Agricultural Extension Department, Director – General of the Agricultural Department, Secretary – General of the Office of Land Reform for Agriculture, Secretary – General of the Office of Agricultural Economics and not more than three qualified persons appointed by the Minister as members, and the Director – General of Land Development Department as Member and Secretary. The Board may

appoint a sub – committee to consider or carry out any act as assigned by itself for example a sub – committee for land use planning and implementation at provincial level. However, LDD can join other committees originated from different Ministries and Departments like the current renewable energy development program of the Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency of the Ministry of Energy. In such program, LDD plays an important role on identification of suitable abandoned land and provision of appropriate management for cropping.

4. INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS OR ARRANGEMENT, LINKAGE AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

MAKING THE NAP COHERENT WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC AND PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

4.1 How coherent is the NAP with other national and social development and environmental protection plans?

The NAP is consistent with both the Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006) and the Policy and Perspective Plan for Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality (1997-2016) in four focal areas:

- 1) natural resources are resource base for sustainable development and utilization is based on conservation,
- 2) public and community participation is a key role for resource management and administration, and
- 3) strengthening local institutions and grass-root level for resource management.

4.2 To what degree is the NAP considered a strategic framework for action with regard to the policy objectives specified in those plans?

The NAP can be fully considered a strategic framework for action with regard to policy objectives regarding the two strategic issues as the following:

Strategic issue 1: Development of basic infrastructure of soils and water resources for crop production that aims to promote suitable land uses as well as improves soil fertility and water resources to achieve safety and security, increasing crop production while reducing production cost competitiveness and conserving the environment. Two strategies have been initiated below.

Strategy 1: Development of geo-information technology (GIS) as well as delineation of agricultural land-use zones for suitable and appropriate use of land while reducing production cost.

Strategy 2: Development of soil and water resources to increase productivity qualitatively and quantitatively for safety and security reasons. In order that farmers can increase their production while decreasing production cost. The development will cover 16 million hectares of cultivated areas. The following are the guidelines for implementation:

1) Improvement of the system for land development by adopting a holistic approach. Activity areas will be focused on increasing soil reaction or pH and soil organic matter as well as protection of soil erosion and organizing diversified cropping systems. The following will be principle activities:

2) Specifying land development for individual crops to increase the efficiency of crop production and use the land suitably and appropriately

Strategic issue 2: Accessibility of farmers to land development services consisting of two strategies aimed at the enhancement of opportunity for farmers and communities to thoroughly access public services.

Strategy 3: Establish and develop Volunteer Soil Doctors, learning centers, and sub-district land development service centers to function as continuous learning and service networks.

Strategy 4: Improvement of organization management to become a learning organization with good governance focusing on preference of customers.

4.3 What are the major institutional and/or programmatic obstacles in integrating the objectives of the NAP into such strategies?

There is no major institutional and /or programmatic obstacles in integrating the objectives of the NAP into such strategies.

4.4 Have policy measures and incentive schemes been adopted or initiated aiming at encouraging private sector support, notably with regard to technological and scientific cooperation, and how are these efforts reflected in the NAP?

LDD allows and encourages private sector to take part in producing and selling soil conservation and improvement material and vetiver grass for their own benefit.

4.5 Are there any specific attempts in the NAP process aiming at closing the gaps between existing national sustainable policies and those that are currently drafted, i.e. through legislative adjustments or awareness-raising measures?

There is no such attempts because the NAP follows only the existing sustainable policy.

LINGAGES OF THE NAP WITH NATIONAL, INTRA-REGIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACHES

4.6 What new initiatives have been undertaken since the last report on integrating the NAP into the national economic and social development and environmental protection planning systems, including at the local and national levels?

The NAP has already been integrated into the national economic and social development and environmental protection plan.

4.7 How successful is such a process?

The process is fully successful.

DEVELOPMENT, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, OF PROGRAMS OF A SUB-REGIONAL OR REGIONAL CHARACTER

4.8 What kind of activities are being pursued which have a sub-regional or regional dimension and/or are directly linked with activities pursued under SRAP or RAP and its thematic program networks(TPNs)?

The current soil and water conservation under land development village program closely links with activities pursued under the program area 2 of Southeast Asia Sub-regional Action Program.

4.9 In what way do they conform to the objectives of the NAP?

The program will help to achieve a good quality soil and water resources for agriculture indicated in the NAP.

STRENGTHENING OF RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS AT THE NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

4.10 Are national scientific and technical institutions participating actively and effectively in sub-regional, regional and relevant international networks?

So far, there is no any sub-regional, regional, and relevant international networks under UNCCD implementing any UNCCD activity in Thailand. The only the Southeast Asia Sub-regional Action Program is in the project proposal preparatory phase of

GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

4.11 Has the Government officially adopted the NAP?

Thai Government has officially adopted the NAP as indicated in the NAP itself as the following:

The NAP to combat desertification will be a component of the strategy to increase productivity including the development of basic resource infrastructure for production as follows:

*“At present, most farmers have not enough water for agriculture. In some areas, they are facing drought and marginal soils. These resources are fundamental costs of production. To help farmers produce efficiently, there is a need to develop resource infrastructure for such areas to meet maximum capacity. The infrastructure must be equally distributed and allocated to farmers in all areas. Management must also be applied to protect these production resources from natural hazard. Irrigation systems and wells must be provided in drought prone areas. Soil fertility must be developed, maintained and improved for better productivity and sustainable use. **“Implementation of the National Action Program to Combat Desertification is a part of this strategy”**”*

4.12 Has a budget been officially approved to finance the implementation of the NAP?

Budget for NAP implementation has been officially allocated through regular budgetary system of the country.

4.13 Brief on status of NAP implementation

NAP has been fully implemented by LDD as a part of strategy to increase productivity of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as in 4.11 above.

LEGAL STATUS

4.14 How influential is the NCB on matter of policy and legislation, and how well is it linked to the Government department responsible for development partners?

The NCB consists of the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Chairman, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Deputy Chairman, Secretary – General of the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board, Director – General of Land Department, Director – General of the Public Welfare Department, Director – General of the Royal Forest Department, Director – General of the Royal Irrigation Department, Director – General of the Agricultural Extension Department, Director – General of the Agricultural Department, Secretary – General of the Office of Land Reform for Agriculture, Secretary – General of the Office of Agricultural Economics and not more than three qualified

persons appointed by the Minister as members, and the Director – General of Land Development Department as Member and Secretary. The Board may appoint a sub – committee to consider or carry out any act as assigned by itself. The majority of the NCB members themselves are the department’s chief executives who are in charge of land-related development activities.

4.15 To what extent is the NCB decentralized in terms of financial, human and material resources?

The majority of NCB members are from Government Departments that follow the routine-line of command and resources allocation under the bureaucratic system of the country. All the central offices are in Bangkok and their regional/provincial offices scatters throughout the country.

4.16 Has a full-time secretariat for the NCB been established since the last report?

A full-time secretariat for the NCB was established under LDD, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

4.17 How autonomous is the NFP in terms of resources and decision making?

Despite the LDD has been governed by the Board of Land Development but almost all land development projects are from the department’s initiatives. The department also defends for the required annual budget through the cabinet by itself.

4.18 To what extent can the NCB promote synergistic developments for sustainable land management with related program frameworks?

Cross-cutting land-related development issues will be push forward for consideration by the Board. Staff from concerning departments can be recruited to combine effort for specific programs like high-land development project.

RESOURCES

4.19 Review and evaluate the status of resources within the NCB as compare to the last report.

Financial resource for the office of secretariat of the NCB has been annually allocated by the LDD. The office receives the same amount as the last report and the number of staff is remain the same.

4.20 Does the NCB have the capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NAP?

The NCB has the capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NAP.

4.21 What are the specific capacity needs of the NCB and the NFP, taking into consideration the cross-sectoral nature of the Convention?

Regarding the cross-sectoral nature of the Convention, the following are specific capacity needs to strengthen the NCB and the NFP:

- The offices of secretariat must be established and included in the structures of relevant organizations/institutions with mandates and financial support,
- All the offices should be linked with specific information and communication network,
- Roster of expert should be established and utilized,
- Trainings and workshops should be organized to address capacity needs,

CROSS-CUTTING AND MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CHARACTERS

4.22 Has any review been done (in terms of representation) to ensure participation from other stakeholders?

Yes representation has been reviewed and some relevant stakeholders should be added.

4.23 Are there any changes to report with regard to how the NCB is linked to bodies of other United Nations Conventions?

No changes.

4.24 How does the composition of the NCB enhance the (synergistic) programming and implementation of UNCCD projects?

The NCB members are executives from various specialized departments and experts. Therefore, programming and implementation of UNCCD can be a combining effort for both integration and synergy.

4.25 How does the NCB/NFP address the need to involve in the NAP private sector initiatives and marketing strategies for drylands products?

The NFP creates the demand for specific products. Then private sector foresees the benefit and consequently involves in producing and marketing.

COMPOSITION AND MODE OF OPERATION

4.26 Has the level of stakeholder participation increased since the last reporting and what are the mechanisms to ensure active participation?

Level of stakeholder participation has increased since the demand for products has increased. Marketing mechanism has been established between seller and buyer by involvement of the LDD.

4.27 How effective and efficient are the ways and means of communication or networking among members of the NCB and the groups they represent, especially with regard to civil society organizations?

Ways and means of communication and networking among members of NCB are effective but slow due to following the normal documentation and messages transferring system.

4.28 Is the modality for nominating members to the NCB transparent?

It was set by the act.

STATUS OF INFORMATION DATA

4.29 Critically review, analyze and compare the capacity of the NCB to organize and manage the information system since the last report.

No information system is available for the NCB secretariat to organize at present. However, there is an effort to include in the NCSA project to make it available.

4.30 What is the status of the databases maintained by the NCB?

No databases to be maintained by the NCB secretariat at present.

4.31 Evaluate the means of internal and external communication between the NFP and the NCB.

Communication between the NFP and NCB is the same as in 4.27.

MEASURES ADOPTED TO ADJUST OR STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK SINCE THE LAST REPORT

4.32 How has the review and analysis of existing mechanisms for coordinating and harmonizing actions to combat land degradation at national and local levels contributed to strengthening coordination and implementation of UNCCD programs?

No action has been taken so far.

4.33 What is it necessary to build capacity at the local and national levels in order to establish a well functioning information exchange between relevant stakeholders?

It is necessary to:

- create, harmonize, and connect all the databases together,
- frequently updating the databases and the system,
- organize training and workshop for capacity building

MEASURES ADOPTED TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS SINCE THE LAST REPORT

4.34 Is capacity and institution building being continuously addressed and promoted at local and national levels?

It is usually addressed and promoted when the need is explicit but there is no monitoring and evaluation system for the outcome afterward.

4.35 What changes have taken place since the last report?

Changes have been taken place but it is hardly see the differences with the absent of monitoring and evaluation system.

4.36 What is the feedback from stakeholders and institutions?

The only feedback received from them is stakeholders and institutions can perform their tasks as required.

ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED FIELDS

4.37 How coherent and functional is the environmental legislation in your country?

The environmental legislation is coherent and functional in both prevention and remedy as a whole. Still, there is a need of some specific

legislations and enforcement to control land use and management in private own land for example land and water conservation act.

4.38 What progress has been achieved in the enforcement of environmental laws relating to desertification?

No timber concession is allowed.

4.39 What are the specific institutional and human resources capacity needs in order to improve proper law enforcement?

There is a need to establish the environmental court, provision of environmental education to the judge, the solicitor and personnel who implement the enforcement, drafting specific laws and enforcement and . conducting public awareness raising.

4.40 What progress has been made on land tenure issues since the last report?

The land allocation under agricultural land reform project is under way.

MEASURES TO ADAPT CURRENT LEGISLATION OR INTRODUCE NEW ENACTMENTS:

- **LAND TENURE REFORM**
- **DECENTRALIZATION**
- **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FOREST CODE, PASTORAL CODE, EXTRACTION INDUSTRIES GUIDELINES ETC.)**

4.41 Have measures been taken to strengthen the capacity of local populations and local authorities to participate in decision making which relevant to combating land degradation?

Provision of land improvement and management training program together with information system in every sub-districts are measures for improving the capacity of volunteer soil doctors to effectively combating desertification.

4.42 What are the needs for awareness raising among the local population for an improved compliance to new legislation?

Except for education, there is a need to create a sense of responsibility and accountability.

4.43 Does the NAP foresee particular projects that deal with law enforcement relating to the combat against desertification?

NAP does not indicate particular projects that deal with law enforcement relating to the combat against desertification. However, law enforcement, incentives, and compensation have been foreseen for supporting some specific implementation activities like soil and water conservation and land use planning.

4.44 What are the procedures for identifying and implementing such measures?

There should be procedures to look into the details of obstacles, opportunities, and impact of the new proposed land tenure reform, decentralization and natural resources management, so that the appropriate measures can be formulated and implemented in a right direction with suitable timing and minimum adverse impact on people especially the poor.

5. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMS

METHODS OF PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS ACTORS IN REGULAR CONSULTATIONS, MEETINGS AND REGULAR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN MAILING AND E-MAILING WORKS

GENDER BALANCE OF ACTORS INVOLVED IN DEFINING NAP PRIORITIES

5.1 How effective are the participatory processes in the formulation and implementation of the NAP and its related activities?

There are evident showing that participatory processes are effective with regard to continuous exchange of success stories among volunteer soil doctors as well as engaging in the proposal to suit their requirement.

5.2 What is the trend now in these processes, notably with respect to areas of the Declaration mentioned under vii below?

These processes have been implemented and enhanced in corresponding with the Declaration mentioned.

5.3 Is gender and the private sector dimension a specific element of any program in the NAP?

Private sector has been increasingly involved in NAP implementation but no gender element specifically indicated, however, no any prevention or disadvantages for women to involve in any program of the NAP.

5.4 Has progress been made in developing, with the assistance of the private sector, appropriate technologies aiming at promoting sustainable land use practices in areas such as cash crop, livestock production, aquaculture, recreation, ecotourism, adherence to mining/extraction industries?

Private sector increasingly plays a cooperative role in supplying materials for sustainable land use practices.

5.5 What are the capacity needs in order to maintain and/or establish a mechanism for active involvement of national and local stakeholders with regard to the planning and implementation of NAP activities?

Four major capacity needs can be identified to maintain and/or establish a mechanism for active involvement of national and local stakeholders as the following:

- establish and maintain networking,
- continuous financial support, and
- establish and maintain ability on exchanging of information with interactive communication
- monitoring and improvement of possible shortcomings.

REPRESENTATION OF VARIOUS ACTORS IN NATIONAL PRIORITY IDENTIFICATION PROCESSES (LOCAL FORUMS, NATIONAL FORUMS)

5.6 Examine the criteria used for selecting various actors in national priority identification processes.

The criteria for selecting actors do not explicitly recorded. In practical, the selection has been done by focusing on the competence, responsibility, decision making, and involvement in land management in the field related to UNCCD activities.

5.7 Do the criteria encourage equal representation at all levels? If not, what is being done to ensure equal representation?

Practically, no any element of equal representation has been taken for consideration for the selection of actors. The equal representation may be reconsidering.

5.8 How well is the national scientific community represented and what monitoring mechanisms have been established with its assistance?

There is no any national scientific community represented.

5.9 Has the mechanism been put in place to ensure continuous consultations?

Consultation can be call upon at any time regarding the emerging of the issues to be considered.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.10 To what extent has the traditional knowledge system been used in exchange, circulation, transfer and dissemination of information?

No traditional knowledge system has been used.

5.11 Does traditional knowledge/technology play a role in the framework of the NAP?

No it doesn't.

5.12 Have linkages with educational centers or governmental institutions responsible for education been established in order to promote environmental education relating to the combat against desertification?

There has been a cooperation between the LDD and Ministry of Education in producing a set of documents to educate student to understand the need for soil and water conservation for preserving the environment and sustainable development.

5.13 What are the mechanism adopted to ensure that various categories of actors are involved in the process to provide information as well as to benefit from information networks?

The LDD has established an interactive internet system and information to serve public with expert to response to all the questions raised by interested persons and entities.

5.14 Have participatory awareness campaigns been conducted dealing with the following themes: (i) growing threat to ecosystem and sustainable livelihoods under a scenario of increasingly extreme climatic events, (ii) advocacy for participatory rural development as a key element in poverty eradication, (iii) recognition of the widespread downstream geopolitical consequences of phenomena such as forced migrations and conflicts, (iv) the prevention of land degradation is more cost-

effective than suffering the severe consequences of desertification, (v) dissemination of lessons learned and best practices?

There has no such campaign conducted but provision of the awareness of the adverse effect of absent of appropriate land resources management. In addition, the LDD provides knowledge and technology for land users to manage their land properly.

EXTENT OF UPTAKE OF:

- **LOCAL CONCERNS AT THE NATIONAL, LEVEL**
- **RESULTS OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL**

5.15 How are the concerns and results of the national consultations at the local level incorporated into the NAP?

The concerns of national consultations at the local level have been focused on awareness raising and participation on food safety and sustainable land resources management. Consequently, the demand for food safety technology such as biological accelerating agents of the LDD keeps increasing.

5.16 Have there been any follow-up activities to ensure continuous feedback from stakeholders even after completion of the NAP?

NAP processes has been implemented and monitored through the public service agreement (P.S.A.) and control system namely public service output (P.S.O.). Stakeholders can present their feedback through interactive internet system and in any workshops organized by LDD from time to time.

5.17 What is the modality for designating the representatives of various social and institutional categories, at both national and local levels,(nomination, election etc.)?

Nomination.

6. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES AND OTHER INTERESTED ENTITIES, PARTICULARLY MOBILIZATION AND COORDINATION OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION FROM INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

6.1 What new measures have been taken by the Government to ensure the involvement of international partners in the process and what is the extent of their involvement?

Thai Government welcomes international partners to involve in capacity development and research and technology development.

6.2 What kind of support for a national consultative mechanism has come from relevant international organizations?

The GM through UNCCD secretariat provided financial support for conducting meeting for formulation of the NAP.

6.3 Has conclusion of a partnership agreement been achieved?

The agreement for supporting the NAP formulation by the GM through UNCCD secretariat as well as FAO/Thailand cooperation project on sustainable use of problem soils in rain-fed agriculture have been achieved.

6.4 How many partners are there, and which of them specifically support the NAP process? Explain, as appropriate, the role of Global Environmental Facility (GEF), its implementing/executing agencies and of the Global Mechanism(GM).

Only the GM through UNCCD secretariat provided financial support for formulation of the NAP.

6.5 How well does this match the national need for international support in order to implement the Convention?

To fully implement the Convention, the country needs a lot more supports such as cooperation in research work, knowledge and technology transfer, information networking, and etc.

6.6 To what extent have the traditional and alternative sources of finance been successfully generated for the implementation of the NAP, and what are the main obstacles to this?

Implementation of the NAP has been mainly financed by the Government on yearly basis. However, some activities may not be priority activities.

6.7 Have steps been undertaken to move from the conclusion of partnership agreements to actual implementation?

Actual implementation has been moved forward by the LDD's resources itself.

6.8 Has a country agreed to become chef de file of the consultative process?

Yes, it will be increasingly important because it is a part people and community participation policy.

6.9 Is there a calendar of activities to ensure continuous process monitoring?

Yes there is. The LDD use Public Service Agreement (PSA) to establish common understanding for project implementation together with Public Service Output (PSO) for monitoring.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMAL CONSULTATION AND HARMONIZATION PROCESS FOR ACTIONS BETWEEN PARTNER COUNTRIES

6.10 Is there a consultative mechanism established among partners at the national or local levels?

Yes there is.

6.11 What are the frequency of meetings, the level of attendance and the degree of participation?

Frequency of meeting, level of attendance and degree of participations depend on issues to be decided upon, level of administration, and degree of urgency.

6.12 What is the distribution of roles and tasks among the various partners?

Roles and tasks will be distributed with regard to their area of specialization and administration.

6.13 How do the NFP and NCB participate in the discussions?

The NFP will be a secretary of the meeting and the NCB take part in overseeing for any amendment and improvement.

6.14 What capacity needs exist in order to maintain the exchange of information with regard to internal consultation?

There is a need for more personnel with knowledge on computerized information and internet system management.

6.15 In what manner can the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism assist in facilitating the convention of the consultative processes?

Global Mechanism may provide financial support and the UNCCD Secretariat provides knowledge background on how to conduct effective consultative processes, partnership building and implementation.

6.16 Has the communication and exchange of information been established between the national GEF focal point, the implementing agencies of the GEF, and the NFP?

Establishment of communication and exchange of information has been recognized.

6.17 What difficulties have been identified in accessing funds through the GEF?

The process for GEF funding has just started. Therefore, so far, no identification and assessment has been made.

7. MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT. TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROMOTE THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE, TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION, TO REHABILITATE DEGRADED LAND, TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE ON DESERTIFICATION AND ITS CONTROL, AND TO MONITOR AND ASSESS DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

SYNTHESIS AND EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

7.1 Has an exhaustive diagnosis or reevaluation been made of past experience useful to the NAP process?

NAP process has been developed from learning from success and failure of past experience.

7.2 What are the constraints/potential for data collection to establish the relevance of the Country Profiles?

There is a potential for data collection to establish the relevance of the Country Profiles but some data may not be available or out of date.

7.3 Has the diagnosis resulted in specific recommendations for NAP formulation?

Yes it has.

7.4 Does the NAP need to be reviewed in the light of the findings and adjusted in the light of the increasing interest received from the international community?

NAP needs revision in the light of finding as well as the increasing interest of international community on condition that it is suitable and corresponds with country condition.

INVENTORY, ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION OF PROJECTS UNDER WAY WITHIN THE NAP PROCESS

7.5 What steps are being taken to adapt and integrate ongoing projects into the NAP process?

The ongoing projects have already been parts of the NAP.

**MEASURES FOR NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
MEASURES TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION
MEASURES TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE ON DESERTIFICATION AND ITS CONTROL
MEASURES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE EFFECTS OF DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT
MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

7.6 To what extent have the UNCCD principles been integrated into relevant ongoing projects relating to the areas as the following: (i) established technical programs and functional integrated projects to combat desertification, (ii) action programs implemented in compliance with priority field set out in the convention

Both ongoing project areas on established technical program and action programs have been fully integrated in corresponding with the UNCCD principles such as the program to address soil salinity problem in the Northeast.

7.7 What specific activities have been identified and implemented to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty?

All the activities are derived from strategies for eradicating poverty.

7.8 In case activities are implemented in the framework of programs other than the UNCCD, what management indicators have been put in place to ensure that these activities address the underlying causes of desertification?

All activities are implemented in the UNCCD framework.

7.9 Have specific projects been promoted aiming at implementation of the Convention at a local level, addressing local ecological and socio-economic conditions in a more holistic manner?

Most of the LDD projects aim to address local ecological and socio-economic conditions in holistic manner.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONS AND PLANNED MEASURES

7.10 Are there any new methods to combat desertification that have been generated recently?

Participation of young volunteer soil doctor is recently initiated.

7.11 If yes, what are these planned measures?

The initial project proposal is now in preparation processes and measures will be incorporated.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL CAPACITY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, IN PARTICULAR AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

7.12 How is technical and scientific capacity being addressed at the local level?

LDD, in cooperation with volunteer soil doctors, provides through sub-district information-centre all the knowledge on soil data, problem soil, soil suitability, soil and water conservation, soil improvement and management techniques for farmers. LDD's staff and volunteer soil doctors corporately organize demonstration plot for technology transfer. Success stories has been exchanged through meeting periodically. In addition, interested farmers can freely access to LDD's learning centre.

7.13 In brief, what are the main features for capacity building at the institutional, participatory and consultative levels within the NAP process?

Main features are:

- development of Geo-information technology,
- organizing consultative meeting for planning and monitoring purpose,
- conducting innovative research,
- allowing access to information system and interactive communication and
- provision of training for staff, volunteer soil doctors, and farmers.

7.14 How are capacity-building measures aiming at the NAP process itself integrated into the NAP process?

They are directive measures to be further enhanced for detail activities for the NAP implementation.

DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

DEGREE OF DECENTRALIZATION

INVOLVEMENT OF ACTORS IN THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

7.15 What kinds of capacity-building measures are needed to ensure implementation of the Convention, particularly at the local level?

Capacity building measures in relation to increasing incentives and accessibility to financial sources, markets and risk management are needed.

7.16 Does the NAP reflect such capacity needs and does it outline ways of addressing them?

NAP offers some incentives, accessibility to financial sources that clearly specified in some detail implementation activities still cannot serve the required demand and risk management is rare.

8. FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS FROM NATIONAL BUDGETS IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING THEIR INFLOWS, PROCESSES TO IDENTIFY THEIR REQUIREMENT, AREAS OF FUNDING AND SETTING PRIORITIES

MEASURES TO FACILITATE ACCESS OF LOCAL ACTORS TO EXISTING SOURCES OF FUNDING

8.1 What further measures have been taken to ensure access by local actors to funding sources?

There is no clear measures directly taken to ensure access by local actors for implementation of UNCCD activities. However, some research and development projects may receive some funds from National Research and Development Fund and National Environmental Fund. However, areas of interest of such sources of fund may varies due to changing of interests.

8.2 Are these measures provisional or permanent, and how can they be sustained?

8.1 is the answer for 8.2.

WORKING OUT NEW, ADAPTED METHODS TO MOBILIZE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES

8.3 Have any other specific mechanisms been determined to ensure financing for the NAP?

NAP financing has been followed a routine mechanism of financial allocation of the country. No any other mechanisms have been determined to ensure financing for the NAP.

8.4 What are the modalities of participation of the various relevant actors in the funding and the management of activities to combat desertification?

The Government is the only source of fund for management of activities to combat desertification. At the lowest administration level, all project proposals will be initiated and aggregated to form a bundle of projects at department and ministry levels respectively. The final proposal will be approve by the parliament. To guarantee successful implementation, the LDD mainly manages activities to combat desertification under Public Service Agreement and monitors the performance by utilizing Public Service Output system monitoring.

8.5 Are international partners supporting these specific financial mechanisms?

No any international partner is supporting these specific financial mechanism.

ANALYZE FLOWS OF INVESTMENT IN DRYLAND DEVELOPMENT

8.6 Has a type of activity that generates sufficient economic return in an environmentally sound way been properly identified and promoted for investment projects?

Many agricultural activities generate sufficient economic return in an environmentally sound manner but the promotion would rather focus on self-subsistence.

8.7 Has the return on investment been properly reinvested to ensure financial sustainability?

It has been done sustainably.

8.8 Has investment in drylands been generating environmental and socio-economic benefits for multiple stakeholders?

Yes it has.

COMPLEMENTARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE SOURCES OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES UNDER (VI) ABOVE, INDICATE MOBILIZATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GLOBAL MECHANISM

AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

8.9 In what way is the national Government allocating money towards effective implementation of the Convention?

The national Government applies the Public Service Agreement and Public Service Out monitoring system.

8.10 What kind of difficulties exists with regard to increasing the existing level of financing?

Difficulties to increase level of financing are:

- limitation financial resource of the Government,
- higher priorities has been considered for more urgent social needs and many other development activities that can generate short term and easily foreseen-able benefits,
- combating desertification means increasing immediate cost of investment but takes quite sometime for the return to be visualized and it can hardly measure the overall benefit.

-Unlike many other phenomena that produce immediate and acute impact on people life, desertification gradually produce impacts people's livelihood.

8.11 Has a National Desertification Fund or other budget line within the Government been established which provide funding exclusively for activities of the NAP?

Neither National Desertification Fund has been established nor exclusive fund for activities of the NAP provided.

MOBILIZATION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY NEEDS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

8.12 Has a plan been formulated for requesting technical cooperation, including envisaged multilateral and bilateral cooperation?

There is no request identified in the plan for technical assistance but practically, LDD welcomes multilateral and bilateral cooperation in detailed operation.

8.13 What technical cooperation support has been received other than financial resources?

No technical cooperation support has been received except involving in bilateral cooperation on conducting research and testing some scientific models.

8.14 What are the needs for capacity building/ technical cooperation, notably from the GEF?

The needs for capacity building/technical cooperation from the GEF are:
 (1)strengthening NFP to be able to access to GEF funding regarding UNCCD implementation.

(2)supporting cross-boundary projects, cross-cutting and synergy activities among Rio Convention.

(3)supporting on information networking technology and management knowledge for exchanging of information, knowledge and technology transfer at sub-regional and regional levels.

8.15 What is the order of priority of the needs identified?

The order of priority is the same as in 8.14.

9. REVIEW OF BENCHMARKS AND INDICATORS UTILIZED TO MEASURE PROGRESS AND AN ASSESSMENT THEREOF

ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND OBSERVATION CAPACITIES

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON DESERTIFICATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

MAINACTORS' ACCESS TO AVAILABLE INFORMATION

MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION CONCERNING AN ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

REGULAR PRODUCTION OF REPORTS

FEEDBACK ON EVALUATION FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

9.1 Are the processes and dynamics of land degradation being monitored in your country?

By and large, the processes and dynamics of land degradation are being monitored but priorities have been given to higher level of intensity and immediate impact on people livelihood. Drought monitoring is prominent among others. Practically, soil salinization and soil erosion have been monitored in some specific localities where there is a need for urgent reaction.

9.2 What measures you have on the ground to assess the rate of resource degradation?

Forest cover has been monitored by interpretation and comparison of the data from the satellite imagery. Soil erosion has been estimated and compared by the application of the universal soil loss equation considering the change in cultural practices and vegetation cover. Expansion of saline soil received from interpretation of satellite data considering the effect of saline on crop growth and forming of salt crust on top soil.

9.3 What is the rate of resource degradation that can be attributed to drought or climate change?

Resource degradation can be attributed to drought and climate change. However, many other influencing factors can be considered too. Limited knowledge does not allow us to sort out for only the effect of resource degradation.

9.4 Are there any early warning mechanisms set up in an effort to mitigate the effect of drought and desertification?

Early warning mechanism has been set up to inform public about risky areas where drought, flooding and land-slide may occur. However, there is a need for innovative technology and networking for up to date and more accurate warning system.

9.5 In your opinion, to what extent have the results from these measures have been used to facilitate better policy formulation or responses?

It is too early to answer this question.

9.6 What are the measures taken for harmonization of existing mechanisms and systems?

The existing mechanisms and systems are already corresponding.

9.7 What monitoring system has been formulated to assess and evaluate the impact of the NAP? Has it been adopted?

The Public Service Outcome system has been adopted to ensure successful implementation of NAP and the impact of NAP can be achieved from how the implementation meets the targets.

10 NEWLY INTRODUCE INDICATORS, ACCORDING TO DECISION 10/COP.5

LISTING, ADAPTING AND INTEGRATING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES INTO THE NAP

10.1 Which scientific and technical activities relating to desertification control and drought mitigation have been identified under the NAP?

Land use planning, land use monitoring, and research and development on saline soil expansion and control are activities under NAP.

10.2 Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities been considered with a view to determining their conformity with the principles of the Convention? If so, how and by whom was this done?

The NFP and the NCB consider that the scientific and technical desertification control activities are fully conformed with the principles of the Convention.

10.3 What proposals have been made to integrate the scientific and technical community into the NAP process?

The proposal to establish an automatic data receiver and transmission system for soil moisture monitoring could be the case.

10.4 What arrangements have been made to adapt scientific and technical activities under way to the NAP process?

Output of bio-technology researches have been disseminated and implement on the ground.

10.5 Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities specifically recommended in the NAP been implemented, what progress have they made and what are their results and impacts?

They are fully implemented with favorable results.

10.6 What consultation procedures have been implement with the scientific and technical community?

The organization of consultation meeting has been conducted to come up with the MOU for scientific and technical cooperation such as the establishment the automatic data receiver and transmission system for soil moisture monitoring.

10.7 What mechanism has been set in place to facilitate consultation?

Except of organizing the meeting consultation can be done through e-mail and interactive dialog through internet system.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CST USED IN COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

10.8 What lessons have been drawn from implementing the recommendations of the CST?

10.9 What use has been made of experts from the roster of independent experts drawn up by the secretariat?

No use.

11.Thailand country profile

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by :

Name of focal point institution/ministry/office:

Date:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

Telefax:

E-mail

		indicator	source	year	unit
		<u>Biophysical indicators relating to desertification and drought</u>			
1.Climate		Index of aridity		-	-
		Normal rainfall (m)		2005	1,579.3
		Rainfall standard deviation		-	-
2.Vegetation and land use	Land use	NDVI		-	-
		Vegetation cover (% of total land area)		2001	35.7
		Land use (% of total land)		2001	4,518,663
		Arable crop land (sq.km)		-	.52
		• Irrigated		-	-
		• Rainfed		2001	-
		Pasture (sq.km)		2004	141,700
		Forest and woodland (sq.km)		2001	167,590.9
		Other land (sq.km)			8
3.Water resources		Fresh water availability (million m)		2006	416,319.8
		Fresh water resource per capita		-	4
				2004	
				2004	198,791
				2004	-
4.Energy	Consumption			2004	1,002.75
					13.04
				-	60,269
					3,520

5.Type of land degradation	Production	Agricultural water use (million m)		-
	Renewable-Consumption by sector	Industrial water use (million m)	2004	
		Energy use per capita(kg oil equivalent)	2004	35.5
		Agricultural energy use per hectare (metric ton)	2003	13.9
		Energy from renewable excluding	-	5.7
		Renewable and waste	2003	2,848,000
			2003	-
			2003	21,520,000
			2004	41.95
			2005	27,360,000
			0	
6.Rehabilitation		Industry (% of total)		0
		Residential (% of total)		53.3
		Agriculture (% of total)		276,786.5
		Soil-salinization (sq.km) (% of total area)	2006	6
		Soil-elotion(sq.km) (% of total area)	2006	143.42
7.People and economy		Degraded forest (% of total area)	2006	
		Rehabilitation of degraded crop land	2004	64,758,500
		Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland(km)	2004	19,522,700
		Rehabilitation of degraded forest (km)	2002	0
			-	45,235,800
			1997	0
				1.8
		<u>Socio-economic indicators related to desertification and drought</u>	2006	69.9
				79.9
		Population (total)	-	26.16
			263,040,9	

8. Human development	• Population: urba	2002	20
	• Population: rural	2006	167,394,4
	Population growth (annual%)	2000	80 9.8
	Life expectancy (year) (male)	2000	- 44,457
	(female)	2000	61.4
	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live birth)		-
	GDP (curren US\$)		5.8
	GNI per capita (curren US\$)		1.1
	Nation poverty rate (% of population)		1.7
	Crop production (metric)		52,426
9. Science and technology	Livestock production (metric ton)		1.7 26,362
	Primary education completion rate (% age group)		1.7 26,064
	Number of women in rural development (total number)		
	Unemployment (% of total)		
	Youth unemployment rate (% age 15-24)		
	Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above) (total)		
	Illiteracy male (% age 15 and above) (total)		
	Illiteracy female (% age 15 and above) (total)		

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