

SUMMARY

of the Third National Report on UNCCD implementation in Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan joined UNCCD in 1996. The following year, 1997, the National Action Program to Combat Desertification (NAP) was designed by effort of the scientists of the Deserts Research Institute of Turkmenistan. Third National Report on implementation of NAP in Turkmenistan represents information on activities conducted after submission of Second National Report in 2002.

In order to integrate UNCCD realization into national development the priorities of the NAP were included into the national and bilateral development plans and programs, such as the National Environmental Action Plan of the President of Turkmenistan (2002), Strategy of Economic, Political and Cultural Development of Turkmenistan till the period of 2020 (2003), UN Development Assistance Framework (2004), Country Program Action Plan 2005-2009 (2005), Central Asian Country Initiative on Land Management (2004).

At the national level realization of CCD is closely linked to implementation of the NEAP. The State Commission on realization of country's obligations under UN environmental convention and program continues to function within the structure of the Ministry of Nature Protection. The Working Group on UNCCD is one of the eight working groups composing the structure of State Commission. The State Commission plays the role of the National Coordinating Body (NCB) while the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna is a National Focal Point (NFP) to Combat Desertification. National Focal Point hosts a Center on Desertification Combat which is headed by the national Coordinator of UNCCD in Turkmenistan equipped with a team of experts.

After submission of Second National Report the significant changes took place in environmental legislation. New Land and Water Codes were adopted in 2004. In Land Code a special article stimulates the responsibilities of land users to conduct pasture conservation measures and not to lead to land degradation. To reinforce the existing legislations the measures on information dissemination is necessary to increase responsibilities of state institutions for rational use of nature resources.

In Turkmenistan no special financial fund to combat desertification was established. Nevertheless, there are numbers of state sectoral funds which direct their resources to implementation of sectoral investment projects to combat desertification. Since 1996, State Environmental Fund of Turkmenistan is functioning to provide financial support to nature conservation measures.

Despite the governmental and international interventions to combat desertification in Turkmenistan coherent and coordinated realization of activities under UNCCD is hindered by programmatic and methodological shortcomings of the National Action Program. With the view of more effective realization of Rio-conventions a project "National Capacity Self-Assessment" (NCSA) financed by the GEF and UNDP started in 2004. The project reveals shortcomings of existing NAP, such as: (i) weak consultation mechanism during design phase, (ii) lack of coherence with national planning and budget, (iii) weak intersectoral cooperation, (iv) lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanism and as a consequences (v) low attractiveness for external cooperation. The NCSA project proposes capacity building action plan one specific recommendations of which is a updating of existing NAP. Presently, NFP conducts negotiation and consultation with external partners to seek for financial and consultation support for updating the NAP based on lessons learnt.

It has been already mentioned that NAP is realized through the governmental and international initiatives. It should be added that after submission of the Second National Report new subregional programs were initiated under UNCCD, such as: Subregional Action Program for the Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification in UNCCD Context (2003), Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management (CACILM) (2004) and Central Asian

Subregional Training Program for Sustainable Land Management (2005). Launching of subregional programs gives a stimulus for more coherent and consolidated efforts on UNCCD realization in the context of Central Asia. The results of NCSA project and the National Programming Framework of CACILM will be effectively used for harmonization of existing national plans and programs.

After submission of Second National Report the measures were taken to involve civil society and non-governmental organizations to the process of implementation of UNCCD as well as the measures to support local communities. In 2005, the non-governmental organization "Society of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan" was elected as RIOD Focal Point. This fact gives a chance to expand the scope of RIOD in Turkmenistan. Besides, in 2004, the project of UNDP and Global Mechanism "Promoting Community Based Sustainable Land Management and Capacity Building in Central Asia" was commenced in Turkmenistan with objective to support capacity building of RIOD and local communities for better natural resources management.

One can state a fact, that during the current phase the capacity building component is given much bigger attention at the national and local levels. Nowadays in Turkmenistan, many projects include the capacity building component while working at the level of local communities and creating rural extension services. At the national level attention is given to creating of enabling environment for land use and strengthening feedback mechanism between governmental structures and land users. Focus is shifted to optimization of existing documents and structures.

Currently, wider involvement of scientific and technical activities to the process of planning and realization of projects on dissemination of technologies and know-how takes place in the country. Broad consultation mechanism initiated under CACILM provides the opportunity for scientific and technical experts from all institutions of the country to participate in formulation of priorities for combating land degradation.

Hence, one can observe significant changes in approaches to implement UNCCD in Turkmenistan since the time of submission the Second National Report in 2002. Such changes are marked by creation of conditions for broader stakeholders participation to the planning process, harmonization of existing plans and programs, intersectoral cooperation, effective consultation and negotiation with external partners.

Third National Report has been prepared by the National Center to Combat Desertification. Thirteen experts of different fields of expertise contributed to the preparation of National Report. The National Coordinator of UNCCD in Turkmenistan, Dr. Muhamet Durikov and Assistant of the National Coordinator, Dr. Jamal Annaklycheva, are responsible for the development of the Report.

1. Focal point institution:

Name of focal point	National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan
Address including e-mail address	Bitarap Turkmenistan str.15 Ashgabat 744000 Turkmenistan durikov@online.tm
Country-specific websites relating to desertification	No web-sites

2. Status of NAP (please provide information relevant to the status in your country only):

Date of validation 1997	Body/institution/Government level which validated the NAP Governmental Commission
NAP has been integrated into the national development strategy:	National Environmental Action Plan of The President of Turkmenistan (2002), Strategy of the Economic, Political and Cultural Development till the period of 2020 (2003)
NAP implementation has started with or without the consensus of partnership agreement	Implementation has started without the consensus of partnership agreement

3. Member of SRAP/RAP (please provide information where appropriate):

Name of subregional and/or regional cooperation framework	Involvement specifically in topics such as water harvesting techniques, soil erosion etc.
1. Subregional Action Program for the Central Asian Countries on Combating Desertification in UNCCD Context (2003)	Central Asian Subregional Training Program for Sustainable Land Management (2005)

4. Composition of the NCB (indicate whether it is a Government or civil society organization, and provide information on the representatives' gender):

Organization	Men/women
1. Ministry of Agriculture	17 men 3 women
2. Ministry of nature Protection	
3. Ministry of Water Economy	
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
5. Ministry of Energy and Industry	
6. Ministry of Defense	
7. Ministry of Health and Medical Industry	
8. Ministry of Justice	
9. Ministry of Economy and Finance	
10. National Institute of State Statistics and Information	
11. State Enterprise on Caspian Sea Issues	
12. National Hydro-meteorological Committee	

13.	State Corporation "Turkmengeologiya"	
14.	State Custom House	
15.	Department of "Turkmemiryollary"	
16.	Department of "TURkmenhovayollary"	
17.	State Concern "Turkmenavtoyollary"	
18.	National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna	
19.	Main State Service "Turkmenstandart"	

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?	RIOD network functions in Turkmenistan which includes 20 organizations of civil society
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6.Total number of acts and laws passed relating to the UNCCD: 12

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

	Title of the law	Date of adoption
1.	Law on Nature Protection	1991
2.	Law on Protection and Rational Use of Flora	1993
3.	Law on Forest	1993
4.	Law on Land	2004
5.	Law on Water	2004

7. The consultative process

Number of partnership agreements that have been concluded and/ or are being initiated within the framework of the UNCCD (please provide information where appropriate):

Official title of partnership	Donor(s), international organization(s), and/ or agencies of the UN system involved	Date of (expected) conclusion
Support to UNCCD implementation in Turkmenistan	GTZ-CCD	Since 1998
Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management	ADB, UNDP, GTZ-CCD	2004
Central Asian Subregional Training Program for Sustainable Land Management	UNCCD Secretariat, GM IFAD	2005

List of consultative meetings on UNCCD implementation (please provide information where appropriate):

Name of consultative meeting		Date/ year	Donor countries involved	International organizations or agencies of the UN system involved
Subregional Meeting under CACILM				
1.	1 st Task Force Meeting of CACILM	23-24.08.2004 Almaty		Organizations of SPA: GM, ADB, GTZ-CCD, CIDA, SDC, ICARDA, IFAD, UNDP, UNCCD Secretariat
2.	2d Meeting of Task Force and 1 st Multicountry Meeting on CACILM	11-15.04.2005 Dushanbe		-----//-----
3	3d Task Force Meeting	24-25.06.2006 Almaty		-----//-----
4	4 th Task Force Meeting	17-19.11.2005 Tashkent		-----//-----
5	5 th Task Force Meeting	15-17.02.2006 Bishkek		-----//-----
National Meeting under CACILM				
6	1 st National workshop	19-20.08.2005 Ashgabat		GM, ADB, GTZ-CCD, UNDP
7	2d National Workshop	20.09.2005 Ashgabat		ADB, UNDP
8	3d National Workshop	07.02.2006 Ashgabat		UNDP
Regional Meeting of GTZ-CCD projects				
9	1 st meeting	12-17.05.2003 Almaty		GTZ-CCD, GM, UNDP, REC
10	2 nd meeting	12-18.05.2006 Issykkul		GTZ-CCD, GM, UNDP, REC, CAMP
11	3 rd meeting	11-14.05.2006 Ashgabat		GTZ-CCD, GM, UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP
Subregional Training Program meeting				
12	Launching meeting	15-16.05.2006 Ashgabat		GZT-CCD, GM, UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP, OSCE

Name of country which has taken over the role of *Chef de file* (please provide information where appropriate): GTZ –CCD project since 1998 supports NFP through implementation of pilot project and personnel capacity building

8. Name up to 10 projects currently under implementation which are directly to the UNCCD.

Name of project	Project implemented within the framework of the NAP/ SRAP/ RAP? (Yes/ No)	Project implemented within the framework of	Timeframe	Partners involved	Overall budget
1. Combating Land Degradation in Three Regions of Turkmenistan	yes	NAP	2000 - 2006	GTZ-CCD (Germany)	\$ 420 000
2. Central Asian Subregional Training Program for Sustainable Land Management	yes	SRAP	2006- 2007	GM, IFAD	\$ 77 000
3. Capacity Building and On-the-Ground Investments for Integrated and Sustainable Land Management (PDF-A)	yes	CACILM	2006	GEF, UNDP	\$ 40 000
4. Turkmenistan – National Capacity Self-Assessment	no	UNDP	2004 - 2006	GEF, UNDP	\$ 200 000
5. Promoting Community Based Sustainable Land Management and Capacity Building in Central Asia	yes	NAP	2005 - 2007	GM, UNDP,	\$ 200 000