

**REPORT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**ON MEASURES TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CCD)  
IN AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES**

**June 1999**

## **FOREWORD**

I very much welcome the opportunity to present this report to the Third Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought on the activities the UK is undertaking in Africa in pursuit of its commitments under the Convention.

I have watched the establishment and maturing of the Convention with great interest. Poverty is at the very heart of the UK's development programme. Poverty and land degradation are intimately linked. Effective actions against land degradation are therefore essential in our battle to help the poor in Africa and elsewhere.

The requirement on developed countries to report regularly to the Conference is an important one. It is right that these reports should be used to judge whether we are living up to our stated commitments under the Convention. But I hope they will also be useful in helping to spread information and lessons learned about the great task we all face in Africa and across the world. That is why we have taken the opportunity to set out some lessons we have learned from our experiences in Africa. I am sure that others will be able to add immeasurably to this. Our agreed aim should be successful and speedy implementation of the Convention.

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**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
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## 1. SUMMARY

The UK is committed to the elimination of poverty, working in partnership with other governments, business, civil society, the research community and multilateral institutions.

The UK recognises that desertification, land degradation and drought are closely related to issues of poverty. There is a strong correlation between the UK's work to combat poverty in affected countries and actions in support of implementation of the Convention. We see it as important not to pursue the objectives of the Convention as stand-alone activities, but to seek to ensure that issues of desertification and land degradation are integrated in the development plans of developing countries.

The UK is developing approaches which help to enhance our support for implementation of the Convention. Focusing on **sustainable livelihoods** is one such approach. In drylands the livelihoods approach means fully involving people in the analysis of their own livelihoods and how these change over time, and then helping them to set and achieve their own livelihood goals.

The UK is addressing the need to support **National Action Programmes** principally through national strategies for sustainable development. We consider that a desertification National Action Programme in a severely affected country could be effectively the same as a national strategy for sustainable development. The UK is keen to seek ways to simplify and rationalise the links and complementarities between nssds and NAPs. A dedicated support unit has been established within the Department for International Development (DFID) to assist in promoting nssds including in countries affected by desertification and land degradation.

The UK has not yet participated in any **partnership agreements** with affected countries in Africa. We are keen to see how the NAP process develops. We plan to consider how best to support national programmes based on priorities established by the affected countries concerned, including through partnership agreements, if appropriate.

The DFID bilateral programme to Africa is administered by six geographical departments with a planned budget of some £450 million this financial year, almost 50% of our bilateral country spending. Commitments specifically to desertification-related activities over the last two years total £53.5 million. Many other DFID programmes help to meet the objectives of the Convention.

We have learned a number of **lessons** through our experiences in Africa:

- Desertification activities are best addressed as an integral component of other development activities and strategies but this makes monitoring the contribution of different activities difficult;

- The legal and political aspects of natural resource management, such as land and resources rights, have a key role in addressing desertification;
- Community based resource management schemes are an important part of strategies to address desertification but expectations of their potential can be overstated and there are many practical difficulties to overcome;
- Activities separate from, or only indirectly related to, land management have an important role.

In **Southern Africa**, desertification and drought severely impacts on the livelihoods of the rural poor because they are the most dependent on marginal land and degraded resources. DFID is actively supporting regional governments in their efforts to halt desertification and manage land effectively.

DFID has significant involvement at a national and provincial level in agricultural policy, land reform and land rights in **South Africa**. As well as number of projects with relevant Government Departments such as Meteorological Services, Agriculture , Wildlife and National Parks in **Botswana**. We are also supporting a range of agricultural, capacity building and environmental management initiatives in **Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland**.

DFID has drawn up individual drought strategy papers for **Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi**. Two examples of DFID projects in **Zambia and Zimbabwe** focus particularly on drought preparedness and mitigation.

In Eastern Africa DFID is supporting initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the poor in the drylands of **Kenya, Somalia** through sustainable agriculture projects and improved use of water resources.

DFID has implemented a drought warning and food aid response unit operated by Save the Children Fund (UK) in **Sudan and Somalia** and drought and early famine warning systems in **Ethiopia and Namibia** through the transfer of remote sensing technology.

In North and West Africa, DFID is supporting government agricultural sector reforms which will help reduce poverty and land degradation in the northern savannah zone of **Ghana**. DFID is working with a number of regional organisations such as Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa (**CMA/WCA**); **Club du Sahel/CILSS**; and **CORAF** to implement work on land tenure, migration, pastoral organisations and farmers' organisations.

We recognise the significant contribution that **multilateral organisations** can make to sustainable development. DFID welcomes their increased commitment to poverty elimination in the world's poorest countries. The UK supports a number of multilateral organisations that contribute to the development of the poorest countries particularly in Africa (including the EC, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and the World Bank)

The UK has pledged over £215 million to the **Global Environment Facility** (GEF). We will continue to seek to ensure that the GEF provides significant support to desertification-related activities within the context of its operational strategy.

### **Looking ahead:**

- We will work to encourage developing countries and development assistance partners to take appropriate account of the Convention in planning for sustainable development in Africa and elsewhere.
- We will work to mainstream environmental concerns into the programmes of DFID, the European Community and other development institutions primarily using nssds
- We will, with partners from the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, develop specific dialogues with individual developing countries on national strategies for sustainable development, stressing the linkages with Desertification National Action Programmes.
- We will work to develop the sustainable rural livelihoods approach in a greater number of developing countries, in support of the objectives of the Convention.
- We will continue specific programmes of assistance to African countries. Africa will continue to be a major focus of our bilateral work.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

This is the first formal report to be presented by the United Kingdom in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention. We first set out the policy context within which the UK provides its development assistance. We then talk about our approach to desertification in Africa and highlight some of the activities we are undertaking in support of the Convention in that region. The report also seeks to draw some lessons from our experiences.

The UK operates a statistical system to identify its work on desertification, land degradation and drought. A list of relevant current projects is at Annex 2. If further information is sought on any of the UK's activities, Annex 3 contains details of relevant contact points.

## **3. THE UK'S APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the British government department responsible for promoting development and the reduction of poverty. The Labour Government elected in May 1997 increased its commitment to international development in a number of ways. The new department was established as a fully separate Ministry. The Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, has a seat in the Cabinet. In addition, the Government has significantly increased its commitment to finance official development assistance. UK commitments are due to rise from approximately £2.4 billion (\$3.8 billion) in 1999/2000 to £3.2 billion (\$5.1 billion) in 2001/02. This would be expected to increase the UK's oda to 0.3% of the UK's Gross National Product by 2001.

The policy of the government was set out in *'Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the White Paper on International Development'*. It was published in November 1997. Its central focus is a commitment to an internationally agreed target to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. This overarching target is supported by a number of others. One of these is for the implementation of national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, in order to reverse the trends in environmental degradation at global and national level by 2015. The statement of purpose of DFID is set out in the box below.

DFID aims to work in partnership with other governments committed to these goals, and with business, civil society and the research community, supporting progress to reduce world poverty. It also works with multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, UN agencies and the European Commission.

The bulk of DFID's assistance is concentrated on the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In addition, DFID contributes to eliminating

poverty and supporting sustainable development in middle-income countries, as well as helping countries in Central and Eastern Europe to try to ensure that the largest number of people benefit from the process of transition.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

DFID's aim is the elimination of poverty in poorer countries.

### OBJECTIVES

We shall pursue this through the promotion of sustainable development and in particular by:

- building development partnerships with poorer countries
- working more closely with the private and voluntary sectors, and the research community
- working with and influencing multilateral development organisations
- working with other Government Departments to promote consistent policies affecting poorer countries
- using our knowledge and resources effectively and efficiently

Our specific objectives are:

#### **1. Policies and actions which promote sustainable livelihoods**

In particular we shall contribute to:

- sound policies and pro-poor economic growth
- the development of efficient and well-regulated markets
- access of poor people to land, resources and markets
- good governance and the realisation of human rights
- the prevention and resolution of conflicts
- the removal of gender discrimination

#### **2. Better education, health and opportunities for poor people**

In particular we shall contribute to:

- lower child and maternal mortality
- basic health care for all, including reproductive services
- effective universal primary education
- literacy, access to information and life skills
- safe drinking water and food security
- emergency and humanitarian needs

#### **3. Protection and better management of the natural and physical environment**

In particular we shall contribute to:

- sustainable management of physical and natural resources
- efficient use of productive capacity
- protection of the global environment



## **Country Strategies**

The UK's programmes of assistance in Africa and elsewhere are built around the country strategy process. This sets out individual strategies by which DFID will achieve its objectives, particularly the elimination of poverty. Through this, DFID works with developing country governments and communities to develop programmes which reflect the priorities of the prospective beneficiaries and the comparative advantage of DFID as a development institution. Country strategies are drawn up using a wealth of expertise, both in developing countries (e.g. governments, local NGOs, academics and the private sector) and in the UK (e.g. private sector, NGOs and the research community). Country strategies are therefore specific to the country concerned and take account of their particular characteristics and needs, the activities of other donors, and the context in which DFID is working. For example, DFID plays a full part in UN Round Tables and World Bank Consultative Groups. The Country Strategy is agreed with the respective developing country and is generally produced every three years.

All DFID activities in a country are undertaken within the framework of this country strategy. For instance the extent to which DFID focuses on desertification activities will flow directly from the priorities which are put forward by the developing country itself and will not be imposed from outside. We believe that there is scope to enhance the extent to which actions in support of the Convention are reflected in priorities for action put forward by developing country governments in Africa, both in bilateral discussions and during Round Tables and Consultative Groups.

## **4. THE UK AND DESERTIFICATION**

DFID recognises that desertification, land degradation and drought are closely related to issues of poverty. They are therefore very relevant to the policy framework set out in the White Paper. The Convention is a very useful instrument which rightly reflects the many factors which contribute to desertification, land degradation and drought and the broad range of actions which need to be taken to address the problem sustainably. We particularly welcome the emphasis which the Convention places on consultation with and participation by all elements of society. There is a strong correlation between the UK's work to combat poverty in affected countries and actions in support of implementation of the Convention.

The UK has considered carefully how best to serve the objectives of the Convention and fulfill our commitments under it. We see it as important not to pursue the objectives of the Convention as stand-alone activities, but to seek to ensure that issues of desertification and land degradation are integrated in the development plans of developing countries. Therefore, we

have not established dedicated programmes of support for Convention commitments per se. Instead, we have sought to incorporate desertification concerns into our development assistance programmes in Africa and other regions. Through these means, we are undertaking activities to fulfill our commitments under the Convention, for instance in respect of promoting an enabling international environment in the implementation of the Convention, technology transfer, scientific research and development, information collection and dissemination and financial support.

In support of this integrated approach, the UK is developing a number of specific initiatives which will be of major assistance in addressing desertification. They are designed to promote our poverty elimination goals in ways which recognise the interlocking elements of economic, social and environmental concerns within sustainable development.

### **Sustainable livelihoods**

The livelihood approach is a way of thinking about the objectives, scope and priorities for development. It is a way of putting people at the centre of development, building on strengths and thereby increasing the effectiveness of development assistance

Through the application of this broad approach DFID aims to improve the lives of poor people and to strengthen the sustainability of their livelihoods. The six core objectives of this approach are:

- better access to high quality education, information, technologies and training and better nutrition and health;
- a more supportive and cohesive social environment;
- more secure access to, and better management of, natural resources;
- better access to basic and facilitating infrastructure;
- more secure access to financial resources; and
- a policy and institutional environment that supports multiple livelihood strategies and promotes equitable access to competitive markets for all.

This approach will also provide a structure for debate and discourse that will help DFID and its partners to respond better to the views of poor peoples and their own understanding of poverty - both its income and non-income dimensions. Most important it will facilitate the identification of practical priorities for action that are based on the views and interests of those concerned. This is consistent with to the collaborative approach that is the basis of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

In drylands the livelihoods approach means fully involving people in the analysis of their own livelihoods and how these have been changing over time, and then helping them to set and achieve their own livelihood goals. People - rather than the resources they use or the governments that serve them - are the priority concern.

### **National strategies for sustainable development**

In the White Paper the UK Government committed itself to meeting the International Development Goal for national strategies for sustainable development:

"There should be a current national strategy for sustainable development, in the process of implementation, in every country by 2005, so as to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015."

A dedicated support group has been established in DFID to assist in implementing strategic action for securing sustainable development in developing countries. Building on the processes and plans already in place in a country, the aim is to seek to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development; to overcome constraints to integrated development planning; and to assist in developing in-country capacity through the strengthening of partnerships between stakeholders.

The support group will consist of a multidisciplinary team of advisers and administrative support. Working closely with colleagues from all disciplines, and through various entry points, the team will offer country programmes an additional resource of advice and assistance for strengthening in-country mechanisms for integrating social, economic and environmental issues and concerns into development planning and policies.

The UK is conscious of the problems faced by developing countries with limited resources, who have to report on actions under a number of multilateral environmental agreements. The UK is keen to seek ways to simplify and rationalise the steps which need to be taken by these countries. We believe that there is real scope to do so in the case of national strategies for sustainable development (nssds) and Desertification National Action Programmes (DNAPs).

The links and complementarities between nssds and the National Action Plans of the CCD are many and include:

- the importance of building on existing work and processes
- the importance of environmental sustainability
- the need for consultation, participation and implementation at all levels

- the essential principle that governments and other in-country stakeholders own the process
- building local capacity to design, implement and monitor

In dryland countries where rangelands comprise one of the major renewable natural resources, the implementation of a DNAP is likely to address the priorities on which the sustainable development of the country depends. Thus, the similarities and inter-relationships are so strong that we consider a DNAP in a severely affected country could be effectively the same as an nssd.

The UK therefore considers that our work to support the establishment and implementation of nssds in countries affected by desertification, land degradation and drought will be of great assistance in implementation of the Desertification Convention. Specifically it will help by:

- increasing the profile of DNAPs, by combining them with efforts to promote nssds;
- helping to integrated desertification issues into the mainstream of development planning; and
- reducing the burden of reporting on developing countries.

DFID is supporting a number of in-country initiatives which contribute to helping countries meet their obligations under the convention. They could also feed into, and inform, an nssd process. An example has been the support to **Botswana** in strengthening their range monitoring and drought early warning systems. The initiatives are providing reliable data and information which informs decision makers, particularly in times of environmental stress. Of equal importance is the stronger collaboration that has developed between line ministries and the opportunities for closer local level consultation in this process.

## **5. UK ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION IN AFRICA**

Almost 50% of DFID's bilateral country spending is allocated to Africa; over £450 million is planned for the current financial year. Commitments specifically to desertification-related activities total £53.5 million. Many other DFID activities help address the objectives of the Convention. Poor people are at the centre of our development efforts. We recognise that the links between poverty and land degradation are demonstrated most clearly in the African region. Africa will therefore remain an important focus of our actions to address desertification and land degradation. We are building new partnerships and implementing new approaches in order to pursue this.

The UK has not yet participated in any partnership agreements with affected countries in Africa. We are keen to see how the National Action Programme

process develops. We then plan to consider how best to support national programmes based on priorities established by the affected countries concerned, including partnership agreements, if appropriate.

## **A. KEY LESSONS FROM DFID EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA**

Our experiences over a number of years have raised a number of lessons for future assistance. We would welcome discussion of these and other lessons.

**Desertification activities are best addressed as an integral component of other development activities and strategies but this makes monitoring the contribution of different activities difficult.** Given the nature of poverty in the region, many DFID interventions are rural based and explicitly address desertification issues. However, DFID interventions are targeted at improving livelihoods and assisting regional rather than trying to address desertification as a specific sectoral issue. This has proved to be a more effective approach but makes it difficult to quantify the contribution of specific initiatives to the objectives of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

**The legal and political aspects of natural resource management, such as land and resources rights, have a key role in addressing desertification.** In Southern Africa, for instance, the enabling framework of national and local government policies and effectiveness, resource rights or endowments, land rights and resettlement issues are critical to addressing desertification. These issues are highly political and some, such as land tenure and resettlement, are only going to be resolved in the longer term. DFID activities in this area address desertification as a long term development goal acknowledging that social and political priorities are often dominant.

**Community based resource management schemes are an important part of strategies to address desertification but expectations of their potential can be overstated and there are many practical difficulties to overcome.** Community based resource management schemes have considerable potential to encourage people to care for resources from which they directly benefit. However, establishing such schemes has proved to be a long term process requiring a good enabling legal and political framework and considerable support for issues such as conflict management. Such approaches are not a solution on their own to desertification and require Government support and other complementary activities.

**Activities separate from, or only indirectly related to, land management have an important role.** DFID activities not directly related to land management or desertification, such as support for national water resources management, rural credit schemes or urban development contribute to sustainable livelihoods and the reduction of land degradation. Changes in the economy and urban conditions have strong links to issues such as water

demand, fuel supplies, rural to urban drift and dependence on communal farms that affect land degradation.

## **B. EXAMPLES OF DFID SUPPORT IN AFRICA**

The following section sets out illustrations of UK support for activities to address desertification in Africa. The Africa programme is delivered through six geographical departments, two based in London and three in the region. These departments have significant delegated authority to develop, in full consultation with authorities and communities in the region, development assistance programmes which reflect the priorities of those stakeholders. Programme components and approaches may differ from region to region, as a reflection of those priorities. The following section sets out activities by these sub-regions. Contact details of the offices and the countries for which they are responsible are given in Annex 3.

### **DFID Support in Southern Africa**

The World Bank report “*Estimating National Wealth: Methodology and Results*” estimates that approximately 80% of the available natural capital in Southern Africa is in the form of pasture or agricultural cropland. Much of this is in arid or semi-arid areas with significant seasonal variations in weather patterns. Such areas are particularly vulnerable to degradation and drought and much land area is already degraded.

Although agriculture represents a fairly small percentage of the GDP of the region, desertification and drought still have significant implications for growth, poverty reduction and food security. The most significant implications are for many of the rural poor, as it is their livelihoods that are commonly most dependent on marginal land and degraded resources.

In recognition of the importance of these issues, DFID in Southern Africa is actively supporting regional governments in their efforts to halt desertification and manage land effectively. However, rather than directly targeting support at desertification issues this support is targeted at rural livelihoods and strategies for sustainable development with the overall goal of poverty reduction.

A strong regional influence is the colonial past, the legacy of apartheid and other historical conflicts. This has made political priorities, policy reform, tenure, resettlement and resource rights critical to addressing desertification and has defined many of the opportunities for DFID support.

DFID support fits in with these opportunities and the wide variation in policy and practice affecting land management and agriculture across the region. DFID works with both civil society and government with a portfolio that reflects other donor activity and Government priorities as well as sectoral priorities. DFID support includes projects that help remove the underlying conditions that create desertification, such as land policy reform, and others

that are directly targeted at desertification related issues, such as rangeland monitoring systems.

The types of intervention supported by DFID that are more directly relevant to desertification are described below. This is not an exhaustive list and it cannot fully capture the contribution of projects in sectors such as small enterprise development and infrastructure. It nevertheless provides an illustrative list of relevant DFID bilateral activities.

**South Africa.** DFID has significant involvement at a national and provincial level in agricultural policy, land reform and land rights. There are two ongoing DFID supported community based natural resource management projects in Madikwe and Riemvaasmaak. Other work with relevance to desertification includes support for the Department of Water Affairs on Forestry on issues such as restructuring forest management and the new water act and work with San communities in the Northern Cape.

**Botswana.** DFID is supporting the development of a rangeland management and information system that will help predict and mitigate the effects of drought. There are also a number of projects with relevant Government Departments such as Meteorological Services, Agriculture, Wildlife and National Parks. DFID is currently supporting an environmental review of the impacts of game fences in Ngamiland.

**Namibia.** DFID support includes farming systems research and a project based on providing information for environmental management in Northern Namibia.

**Swaziland.** DFID support has included some assistance with land reform and a significant capacity building programme with the Swaziland Environment Authority whose mandate includes many desertification related issues.

**Lesotho.** There is a DFID supported community based environmental management and agriculture training project and an agricultural policy and capacity building project with the Ministry of Agriculture.

### **DFID Support in Central Africa**

In the semi-arid south east region of **Zimbabwe**, DFID has been funding CARE to rehabilitate small dams to provide water for cattle and small irrigated gardens. Vegetables produced in these gardens can either be used for food or as a source of income during the dry season, while providing a catalyst to encourage villages to take action to prevent erosion and siltation in the upstream catchments.

DFID has also focused on drought assistance activities in support of the Convention in Central Africa. In recent years, DFID has responded to requests from the Government of **Zambia** following each of the droughts with food aid and other forms of help. Following the 1994/95 drought that the British Government's regional office in Harare (DFIDCA) drew up a regional

drought strategy paper. This in turn led to the development of individual papers for **Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi**.

The 1997 Emergency Strategy paper for **Zambia** highlights some of the key objectives of the British Government's drought mitigation, preparedness and preparation programme as being:

- to alleviate the acute suffering of the most vulnerable drought-affected people,
- to strengthen the British Government's knowledge of issues surrounding the economic, social and political impact of drought in Zambia,
- and to develop a portfolio of projects related to drought preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

DFIDCA has committed up to £0.5m per annum for emergency assistance to Zambia. DFID supports the work of a number of NGOs, such as CARE, Water Aid, World Vision, Red Cross, OXFAM and some indigenous community based organisations. DFID support covers a range of activities aimed at strengthening district and village Water and Sanitation, Health and Education committees and providing or renovating key water points.

### **DFID Support in East Africa**

DFID is currently supporting the Emergency Pastoralist Assistance Group (EPAG) in **Kenya** and **Somalia**.

This project aims to improve the health of animal of the pastoralists and agropastoralists in Mandera District (Kenya) and in Gedo region (Somalia), by improving the skills and knowledge of livestock owners and herders in managing community livestock diseases and increasing access and availability of modern veterinary drugs.

- increased knowledge of and skills in basic animal health care;
- effective community drought monitoring and information dissemination;
- increased availability of basic veterinary drugs in the selected communities and;
- effective community organisations established in the project area for management of drug supplies and other self-help activities.

### **Kenya - Maji Na Ufanisi - Developing Arid and Semi-Arid Land Water Through Local Organisations**

The main objective of this project is to establish sustainable improvements to the water supply in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands through increased access to water in one nomadic and one agricultural area. All economic and social activities in these areas depend on water. A sustainable increase of,



and easier access to water will have a direct impact on reduction of poverty in these areas at household level. The main outputs will be:

- strengthen capacity of water NGOs in arid and semi-arid lands;
- increased application of relevant water approaches;
- increased water conservation;
- stronger links between viable locally based arid and semi-arid institutions and;
- increased support by local bodies for appropriate water solutions under their jurisdiction

#### Oxfam Wajir Pastoral Development Project

Phase 2 of this project aims to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of nomadic settled pastorals communities in the Wager District of **Kenya** by strengthening their sustainable livelihoods and increase their participation in institutions that influence their lives. The project has three main areas of activity:

- support to target communities to meet their practical needs in a sustainable manner;
- building the capacity of community organisations and institutional structures to sustain the ability to target groups to articulate and manage their development needs and;
- increase income generating opportunities through restocking, training and credit

#### **Kenya: The Mere Drylands Farming Project, SOS SAHEL**

The broad objective of this project, administered through the Joint Funding Scheme by SOS Sahel, is helping settlers in the semi-arid zone adopt appropriate farming methods and improve their livelihoods without damaging the natural resource base. The project aims both to reduce the vulnerability of poor people and to increase their productive capacity by:

- helping farmers define their research and extension needs
- putting farmers in touch with resource institutions
- offering a wide range of options to farmers
- developing local extension systems

#### **Kenya: Management of Natural Resources by Pastoralist Communities, SOS SAHEL**

Another JFS project is promoting sustainable management of grazing land, forests, water resources, and other natural resources in the Lorroki and Mount Ngiro catchments and dry season refuges which are under increasing pressure as a result of socio-economic change.

Participatory methodologies will be used to focus community attention on land tenure issues and related environmental concerns. Measures will be adopted to ensure full community involvement in developing mechanisms for improved natural resource management. These will be based upon traditional structures and responsibilities, but will enhance the role of women and youth in planning and decision making, and in pursuit of economic activities. Initiatives leading to an improvement in the livelihoods of the pastoralist communities will be sought and supported.

### **DFID Support in the Horn of Africa and North Central Africa**

AGHD's current country development programmes are limited to **Ethiopia** and **Rwanda**. DFID is also engaged in emergency relief interventions in other countries, most notably **Sudan, Somalia, Angola** and **Burundi**.

DFID sees its proposed emerging involvement in the multi-donor Food Security Programme (FSP) in **Ethiopia** as promoting, *inter alia*, wise and sustainable use of land with a view to conserving land and water resources as well as increasing production of food and other crops. A project concept note for preparatory activities in support of the FSP is currently under consideration by DFID Senior Management.

In **Rwanda**, our approach is to provide programmed budget support which will be allocated by Government of Rwanda within the framework of a negotiated protocol.

Other NGO-managed activities address on desertification issues. In **Ethiopia**, the Koisha Rural Development Project, implemented by SOS Sahel, which has recently been completed, successfully promoted community based management of small watersheds using a combination of bunding, with the planting of multi-purpose grasses and fruit trees. This approach overcame previous local reluctance to allocate scarce land to conservation structures.

DFID is also funding drought early warning and food aid response systems operated by Save the Children Fund (UK), based in Nairobi and Lokichokio, which cover **Sudan** and **Somalia**.

DFID has supported bilateral projects to develop drought and early famine warning systems in **Ethiopia** and **Namibia** through the transfer and local application of remote sensing technology.

These projects, undertaken by Natural Resources International, sought to improve environmental management and sustainable use of renewable natural resources, improve in-country environmental monitoring and to

minimise suffering and economic disruption during periods of exceptional weather.

DFID has put in place low cost receiver technology and provided associated training to help make better use of the environmental information provided by the METEOSAT and NOAA satellites. Applications of this information are widespread through agriculture, forestry, rangeland management, wildlife tracking and management, aquatic resources, migrant pests, drought early warning, flood warning, agricultural production, hydrology and barrage management, as well as transport and meteorological services.

### **DFID Support in West and North Africa**

#### **Approach to rural livelihoods in dryland west Africa**

WNAD is approaching this issue at several levels. In **Ghana** DFID is supporting agricultural sector wide reform by assisting government to better allocate resources against equity and sustainability criteria. Poverty and land degradation are most severe in the northern savannah zone and reforms should enable governments to improve service delivery in these areas.

In **Nigeria** our work is more directly aimed at a local level. DFID is helping develop the capacity of rural civil society organisations many of which are involved in service delivery. Resource degradation in northern Nigeria is severe and a supportive framework for decentralisation and community-led responses, as has emerged in some Sahelian countries, has been lacking.

But it is under our regional programme that DFID's work is most directly involved in issues related to desertification and land degradation. Working with regional organisations such as the **Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa (CMA/WCA); Club du Sahel/CILSS; and CORAF** we are supporting work on land tenure, migration, pastoral organisations and farmers' organisations. The aim of this work is to support sustainable, equitable management of natural resources in the region by influencing policy and improving practice. DFID is also supporting action research into joint management of natural resources in **Niger** and **Mali** where communities have found difficulty in developing common property natural resource management systems that take account of livestock mobility and multiple user rights.

#### **Land tenure and resource access in West Africa**

During 1997-98 DFID and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed a study with the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa on land tenure issues.

Policies regarding land management and resource access are of great significance for assuring the sustainable management of west Africa's natural

resources. The last 30 years have witnessed rapid growth of population, urban centres and migratory flows. The region provides very diverse agricultural and ecological settings. Across all zones common issues arise: contradictions between customary and statutory tenure systems; serious drawbacks to registration and titling programmes; increased requirement for conflict management procedures; continues importance of common property resources; and continued importance of the pastoral livestock sector in drier areas.

The study identifies three areas of particular importance for the future:

**decentralisation as a set of processes is under way** in many countries and will have many implications for land and resource access;

**clarification of customary and statutory tenure systems** is needed to mitigate the uncertainty and insecurity which results from dualism; and

**encouraging debate at local, national and sub-regional levels** in order to learn from the different initiatives already underway and give legitimacy to the process of redrafting land tenure codes. There is much valuable experience to be gained from the diverse initiatives underway across the region such as *gestion de terroir* approach of community based natural resource management.

### **Pastoral organisations in West Africa**

This ongoing study is looking at of pastoral organisations in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria** to review strengths and needs. The first phase was an institutional audit of pastoral organisations covering their historical evolution; the profile of emerging organisations; and conditions for strengthening them. The review showed weaknesses including 'creation' by external financiers; an unfavourable political and economic climate; inappropriate legislation; confusion over roles; and weak institutional and organisational capacity. But there are major strengths and opportunities include the growing number of internally created organisations with a central objective; diversity in organisational structure; growing recognition of the need to federate and liaise with other organisations; increased support from governments and donors for pastoral civil society; and decentralisation and political democratisation.

The current phase is one of lesson sharing and dissemination of results. In Niger the process has been taken over by five pastoral organisations, and in Mali by the *Chambre de l'Agriculture*. Further work is planned in **Burkina** and possibly **Nigeria**.

### **Ghana: Agricultural & Community Development Programme, TRAX**

This Joint Funding Scheme project is working in the most environmentally degraded areas of Upper East and Northern Regions of Ghana. The physical features of the area show severely degraded lands due to wind and water erosion. The process of land degradation has been intensified by poor land management such as burning crop residues, non contour ploughing and removal of vegetation. The farmers had little to average knowledge on factors influencing soil depletion and the effects of activities such as tree planting and crop residue on soil fertility.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods of the rural communities and alleviate poverty by making available environmentally sustainable development assistance.

Project activities will help to raise crop production and the environmental resource base in a sustainable and participatory manner. Agriculture skills training will help raise awareness, as well as improve farming practices and dry season gardening. The project will also support and enhance the development capabilities of rural communities and help to raise women's status and income.

A good example of DFID's natural resources research programme has increased commodity production through improved conservation and use of water resources through two linked projects in West Africa. The Soils, Cultivars and Livelihoods project in **North East Nigeria** and the Nutrient Cycling or Soil Mining: Agropastoralism project in **Semi Arid West Africa** were led by the University of Cambridge and the Bayero University Kano. The projects considered the strategies adopted by farmers in responding to varying conditions of rainfall, soil fertility, land and labour availability in semi-arid northern Nigeria. The work of the Soils, Cultivars and Livelihoods project makes an important contribution to the debate on intensification versus environmental degradation because of the detailed analysis of the farming strategies used in the four villages that were studied. The Nutrient Cycling project looked in more detail at the main constraints facing farmers in managing soil fertility needs. The results indicated that a good nutrient balance is corresponded to low land/capita ratios, high available labour per hectare and manuring. The research results were presented to a workshop in Kano with a view to the results being followed through by local NGOs and policy-makers.

## **6. OTHER ASSISTANCE**

### **Multilateral assistance**

DFID recognises the significant contribution that **multilateral organisations** can make to sustainable development, particularly in Africa. It is not possible to give an exact breakdown of the UK funds that contribute through these organisations towards relevant desertification activities in Africa.

Effective co-operation and co-ordination between donors is essential. The member states of the **European Union**, liaise closely both at government level and our development agencies in the field.

The UK is jointly leading, with the European Commission, an nssd Task Force mandated by the **Development Assistance Committee** (DAC) Working Party. This Task Force will work to clarify what an nssd is, and produce guidance for practitioners on the approach. This work will take account of strategic processes already underway in developing countries.

The UK supports the specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations that deal with development, a number of whose activities directly combat desertification in Africa, including the **UN Development Programme** (UNDP), the **Food and Agriculture Organisation** (FAO) and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development**. The UK also supports the **UN Environment Programme** (UNEP)

The UK plays an active role in encouraging the **World Bank** to increase its commitment to poverty reduction and to mainstream environmental issues into its work. We particularly welcomed the outcomes of the twelfth replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA), which provides loans on highly concessional terms to the worlds poorest countries. The IDA-12 Report strongly reaffirmed IDA's central mission of poverty reduction within the International Development Goals, and agreed to focus resources on protecting the environment, as one of the four key areas of a policy framework for poverty reduction. The UK percentage contribution to IDA-12 of 7.3% makes it the joint fourth largest contributor. Subject to Parliamentary approval, our share of IDA-12 will be worth £511 million.

The UK is also a member of the **African Development Bank**. The Bank's recently published Vision Statement not only endorses the International Development Goals, but crystallises the Bank's operational focus around a number of key areas, including the environment, to which it will give increased emphasis. The Deputies' Report on the recently concluded negotiations for the eighth replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-8), which lends on highly concessional terms to the poorest African countries, includes a commitment to strengthening the Fund's co-operation with the Global Environment Facility and to participating in the implementation of the Convention on Desertification. The UK increased its share of the ADF-8 to 5.5%. Subject to Parliamentary approval, our share of ADF-8 will be worth around £98.6 million.

### **The Global Environment Facility**

The Global Environment Facility plays an important role in support of desertification. The Arid and Semi-arid zones is one of the four key

ecosystems under Biodiversity in the operational programme of the GEF. The UK worked prominently in the GEF Council to introduce guidelines for funding desertification projects and will continue to seek to ensure that the GEF provides significant support for desertification-related activities within the context of its operational strategy. The UK has pledged over £215 million to the GEF since 1991.

## **7. LOOKING AHEAD**

We will continue to look for ways in which to strengthen implementation of the Convention in Africa, through our development assistance partnerships and within the policy frameworks set by the UK's White Paper on International Development. We will pursue a number of further steps.

- We will work to encourage developing countries and development assistance partners to take account of the Convention in planning for sustainable development in Africa and elsewhere.
- We will work to mainstream environmental concerns into the programmes of DFID, the European Community and other development institutions. Our main vehicle for this will be national strategies for sustainable development.
- We will, with partners from the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, develop specific dialogues with individual developing countries on nssds. In doing so, we will stress the linkages with Desertification National Action Programmes.
- We will work to develop the sustainable rural livelihoods approach in a greater number of developing countries, in support of the objectives of the Convention.
- We will continue specific programmes of assistance to African countries. Africa will continue to be a major focus of our bilateral work.

**Department for International Development  
United Kingdom  
June 1999**

## **Annex 1: Abbreviations and Acronyms**

### Annex 1: Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Africa Development Bank
AGHCD	Africa Greater Horn and Coordination Department
CILSS	Comité Interétat Permanent pour la Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DFIDCA	Department for International Development Central Africa
DFIDEA	Department for International Development Eastern Africa
DFIDSA	Department for International Development Southern Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IDA	International Development Association
JFS	Joint Funding Scheme
NAP	National Action Programme
nssd	National strategy for sustainable development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRSP	Natural Resources Systems Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WNAD	West and North Africa Department



## **Annex 3**

### **Desertification Contact Details and Responsibilities for DFID Africa Regional Offices and London Based Departments**

#### **UK Contact Point to the CCD**

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#### **National Strategies for Sustainable Development Unit**

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More information on DFID and its activities can also be found on our website:  
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#### **DFID Southern Africa**

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Fax: 00 27 12 342 3429

Responsible for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland

#### **DFID Central Africa**

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Responsible for Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe

#### **DFID Eastern Africa**

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Telephone: 00 254 271 7609  
Fax: 00 254 271 9112

Responsible for Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

**Africa Greater Horn and Co-ordination Department**

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Fax: 44 (0) 207 917 0019

Responsible for Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sao Tome e Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan

**West and North Africa Department**

DFID, 94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

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Fax: 44 (0) 207 917 0019

Responsible for Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Algeria, Egypt, Liberia, Morocco, Tunisia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bisau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo

**Africa Policy and Economics Department**

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Responsible for the Africa Regional Programme