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**Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands**

**Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment
in Drylands project**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session, having considered the initiatives undertaken on the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project by various international organizations and institutions with the collaboration of the secretariat, requested a report on the progress of the LADA project, to be submitted to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its ninth session.

The Committee may recall that the request for an assessment of the extent of land degradation in drylands came from the COP, out of which the LADA project was conceived. LADA is a global initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as the executing agency.

Since its Project Development Fund-B (PDF-B) phase, the LADA project has developed and tested effective assessment methodologies for land degradation in drylands through pilot projects in Argentina, China, Cuba, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia and also through case studies in Argentina, China, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico and Uzbekistan. LADA-related activities have been carried out or are ongoing in Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The objective of the LADA project is to develop and implement strategies, methods and tools for assessing, quantifying and analysing the nature, extent, severity and impacts of land degradation on ecosystems, watersheds and river basins, and carbon storage in drylands, at a range of spatial and temporal scales.

Moreover, the LADA project aims to build national, regional and global assessment capacities to enable the design, planning and implementation of interventions to mitigate land degradation and establish sustainable land-use and management practices.

As a result of this land degradation assessment the following outputs are being achieved:

- Establishment of the baseline, trends and driving forces of land degradation in drylands globally.
- Assessment of the status of land degradation at national and sub-national scale and the driving forces and pressures leading to resources degradation for the pilot countries.
- Developed harmonized participatory local and national assessment tools.
- An analysis identifying cause-effect relations between the different indicators of land degradation within the Driving Force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response conceptual framework.
- A global action plan containing all the findings of the project
- Conclusions and recommendations for further action.

FAO has prepared a progress report on the LADA project: this is submitted to the CST for consideration. The Committee may wish to provide through the COP any recommendations on this subject that it deems appropriate.

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I. Background

1. In the last decades much effort has been put into understanding, assessing and monitoring land degradation in general and desertification in particular. Until recently there was no mechanism in place to collect and disseminate comparable information within countries, across regions and at the international level. To respond to the need for up-to-date and comparable land degradation information, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project to be implemented by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This project has benefited from the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC), the United Nations University (UNU), the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) and other regional and national partners. The present project started in 2006 and will terminate in 2010. It has been prepared through a Project Development Fund-A (PDF-A) phase (2000-2001) and a PDF-B phase (2002-2004).
2. Six countries participate in the project as pilot countries. They are Argentina, China, Cuba, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia.

II. Main objectives of the project

3. The main objectives of the LADA project are:
 - (a) To develop and implement strategies, methods and tools to assess, quantify and analyse the nature, extent, severity and impacts of land degradation on ecosystems, watersheds and river basins, and carbon storage in drylands, at a range of spatial and temporal scales;
 - (b) To build national, regional and global assessment capacities to enable the design, planning and implementation of interventions to mitigate land degradation and establish sustainable land use and management practices.
4. As a result of this land degradation assessment the following should be achieved:
 - (a) Establishment of the baseline, trends and driving forces of land degradation in drylands globally;
 - (b) Assessment of the status of land degradation at national and sub-national scale and the driving forces and pressures leading to resources degradation for the pilot countries;
 - (c) Developed harmonized participatory local and national assessment tools;
 - (d) An analysis identifying cause and effect relations between the different indicators of land degradation within the “Driving Force-Pressure-State-Impact-Response” (DPSIR) conceptual framework;
 - (e) A global action plan containing all the findings of the project;

- (f) Conclusions and recommendations for further action.

III. Time frame

5. The project was approved by GEF in November 2004 and started its activities in May 2006. Its duration is for four years, until April 2010, and a no-cost six-month extension based on the results of a mid-term evaluation is under consideration.

IV. Structure of the project

6. The project operates at different levels. It has a global level component, which is based partly on remote sensing information, partly on modelling of global databases and is complemented by field work. The country level has two components: a national component that combines (global) land use principles and data sets with land degradation information collected at national level through expert knowledge, and a local level component that is based on field work and local expertise.

A. Global level

7. The global component consists basically of three lines of work.

1. Land use systems mapping at global level

8. Global land use systems are developed at FAO and adapted to the needs of a land degradation assessment. They are based on the analysis of sets of biophysical and socio-economic data (climate, soil and terrain, land cover crops and livestock, and management interventions). The resulting map is refined in national planning assessments. The map units are characterized using the set of biophysical and socio-economic data as DPSIR indicators. These mapping units represent a synthesis of the main drivers of and pressures on land degradation. As such, they are the cartographic basis for national assessment, and the framework in which local assessment takes place, allowing extrapolation from global to local and from local to global.

2. A global study of pressure indicators associated with land degradation

9. FAO, together with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), undertook a detailed global study of the evolution of the aridity index and rainfall intensity, and the status of land cover, soil vulnerability and slope, which are all thought to have a significant influence on land degradation and specifically on soil erosion. The results have been published and are also available in map format.

3. A study of the trends in net primary productivity (NPP) and rainfall use efficiency (RUE) through the analysis of normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data

10. This method takes into account 21 years of NDVI time series data which are then converted into NPP and RUE. RUE is used to eliminate the influence of rainfall variations on NPP. Also the residual trend of sum NDVI (RESTREND) method has been utilized for the same purpose. In this way, areas where the NPP (net of rainfall) has decreased are considered hot spots

for this specific indicator, while the areas where it has increased are noted as bright spots. Another parameter, energy use efficiency (EUE) has been used to reduce the effect of variations in temperature regime. Note that the method identifies vegetation health trends corrected for rainfall and temperature variations. This is one important aspect of land degradation but does not allow comprehensive capture of the whole issue.

11. This method has been developed by ISRIC, and has been tested in China and Kenya in the framework of LADA. Global results are published and available; derived results are available for the LADA countries.

B. Country level

12. Based on the result of the preparatory studies, a seven-step approach has been formulated, which is considered as the modular part of the LADA methodological framework at national and local level. The seven steps of the LADA approach are:

- (a) Identification of land degradation problems and user needs assessment
- (b) Establishment of a LADA task force
- (c) Stocktaking and preliminary analysis
- (d) Stratification and sampling strategy
- (e) Field surveys and participatory assessment
- (f) Information integration
- (g) Monitoring strategies and tools.

1. National component

13. The national component of LADA is carried out by national institutions in the partner countries, supported by the project. It consists basically of collection and analysis of locally available data and information, their processing in order to make them compatible with international standards, and comparison with the results of the global studies. In doing so, the countries are able to refine and detail the maps obtained under the global study and to have a national cartographic base for land degradation assessment. Further development includes the establishment of a national land degradation information system online on a specific LADA website.

14. National expert knowledge is applied to characterize the land use system base map with land degradation and land management characteristics at subnational level. A specific mapping tool, in the form of a questionnaire, has been prepared by the LADA project in collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT). The utilization of this tool allows national knowledge to be applied in a more consistent and comparable way among the different countries. The results of this exercise are compared with

the hot and bright spots identified at global level, and serve as a basis for guiding the local assessment survey described below. The results at national level are already available for Tunisia and Senegal; other LADA countries will follow soon.

15. These studies are complemented by a study of the land cover change to agriculture and urban areas through the analysis of Landsat data. This method has been developed by the GLCN. It uses a comparison between the current land cover as it appears from the most recent Landsat images and the situation as it appears in two other series of images taken in the 1970s and 1980s. Those areas where there has been a change from forest or rangeland to agriculture or urban will be considered hot spots for this indicator. Results are available for Kenya and Senegal and studies are under the way in South Africa, Tunisia and Cuba.

2. Local component

16. Local assessments are being carried out in areas selected by each country following the national land degradation assessment. Each participating country has initiated detailed assessments for at least two sites, supported by national-level policy forums to create the linkage processes to local by-laws, national planning and development practice. The training of relevant professionals in land degradation assessment, impact analysis and related developmental factors is ongoing and nearly completed. These assessments will be made according to low-cost, speedy procedures, and will follow a participatory approach in order to obtain stronger involvement of the local stakeholders. The local component aims at identifying not only the actual status and circumstances of land degradation, but also its historical development and how it is perceived by the people concerned. This will allow a better understanding of the phenomenon, and will provide pertinent information for the definition of response measures. The local assessments analyse indicators in the DPSIR framework, taking into account both biophysical and socio-economic indicators. The detailed assessment methodology is defined in guidelines prepared in collaboration with all LADA countries, the University of East Anglia, the Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) group and WOCAT. The manual and guidelines have been translated into Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian.

17. The local assessment activity gives also the opportunity for revising and ground-truthing the national and global assessments.

C. Integration of the different levels

18. LADA aims at integrating the findings of the local, national and global assessments, both horizontally and vertically.

19. Horizontally, harmonization of the assessment methodology between countries allows for comparison of results and easier communication and sharing of experience among the pilot countries and other countries willing to adopt the LADA approach. Both the national approach and the local approach have been worked out in conjunction with all LADA partner countries.

20. Vertically, the utilization of a common methodology for the creation of the land use systems base map makes it possible to establish linkages between the findings of the global and country level components, allowing for comparison of the results at different levels.

D. Holistic approach

21. LADA considers land degradation as a complex phenomenon, with different aspects that need to be evaluated together in order to get a complete picture and to be able to envisage the most appropriate responses.

22. Land degradation is the reduction in the capacity of the land to provide ecosystem goods and services and assure its functions over a period of time for the beneficiaries of these. In the approach adopted by LADA, seven key assets of ecosystems are defined in a way that makes it easier to relate them to goods and services provision, thus providing a more consistent basis to quantify their relevance in relation to land degradation assessment. The seven assets are listed below:

- (a) Social and cultural benefit
- (b) Maintaining biodiversity
- (c) Soil health
- (d) Water quality and quantity
- (e) Opportunity value
- (f) Biomass: total organic carbon (OC) production
- (g) Biomass increment

23. These can be represented in diamond diagrams.

Figures 1–4: Transformation of land use and consequent changes in ecosystem goods and services: deforestation and introduction of agricultural activities.

Figure 1. 1980: Primary forest

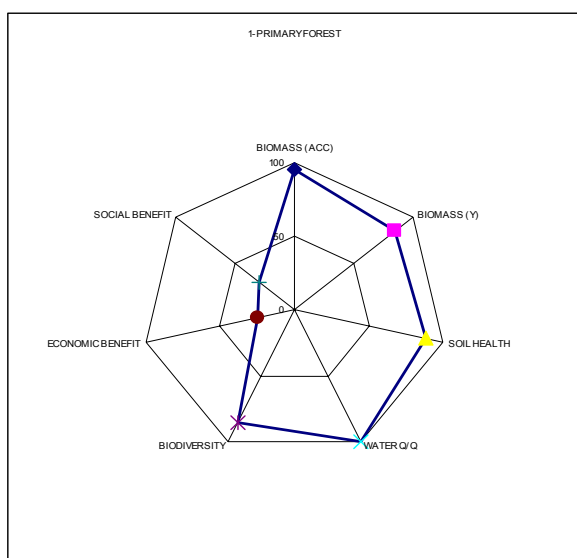


Figure 2. 1987: Subsistence agriculture

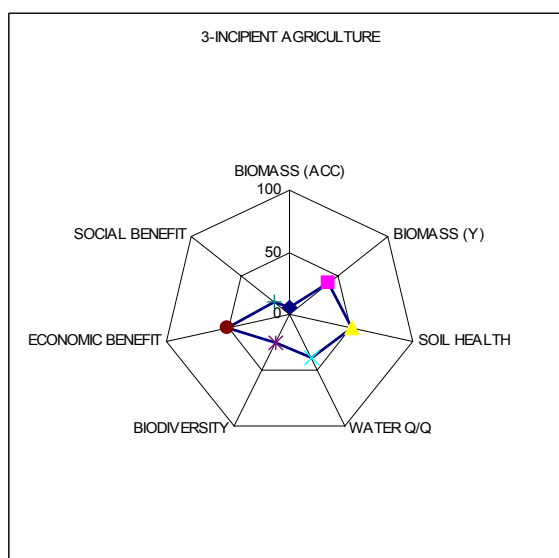


Figure 3. 1996: Sustainable agriculture
(improvements implemented)

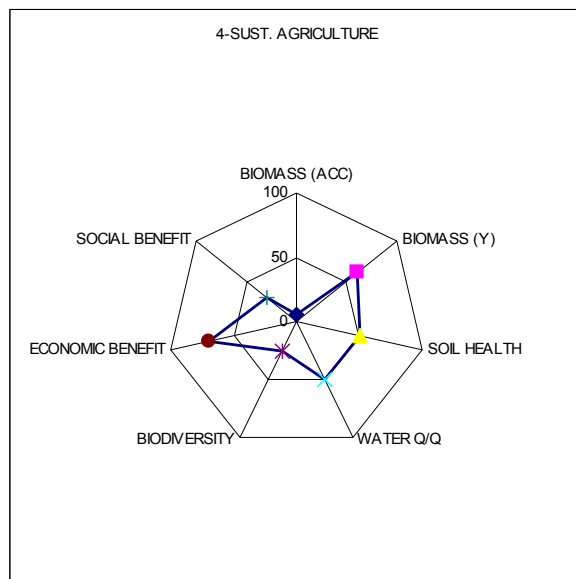
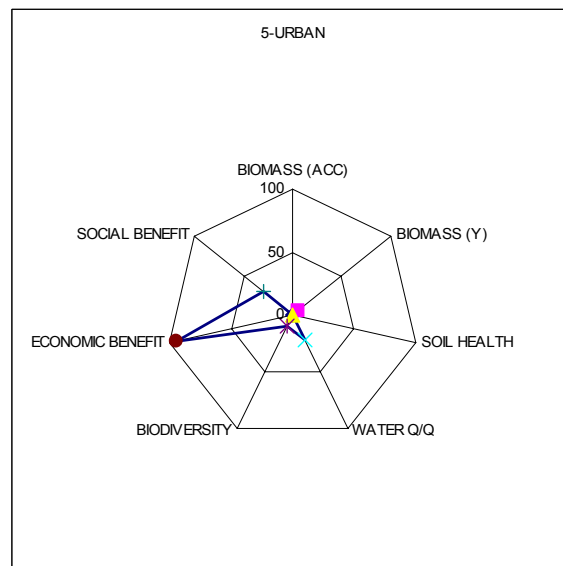


Figure 4. 2002: Urban settlement
(transformed into building land)



Source: Not yet published

24. This complexity is dealt with in two ways:

(a) **The multi-scale approach:** this allows for different issues to be addressed at the most appropriate level. In fact, although at all levels (global, national and local) both biophysical and socio-economic aspects are taken into consideration, this is done through the assessment of different indicators, or different ways of assessing the same indicator. This allows each user to be given the most pertinent information for his or her needs, as outlined below.

(b) **The user's perspective:** the point of view of the user is particularly important in the LADA methodology. This is because different users may have quite different perspectives on a given situation, to the point that a sign of degradation for one is an improvement for another. LADA recognizes this situation in order to provide decision makers with a more complete and better tailored set of information.

V. The LADA approach

25. LADA has four main project components:

(a) Development of the LADA approach: land degradation assessment guidelines, network and information system;

(b) Carrying out global and regional land degradation assessments;

(c) Carrying out local assessments in hot spots and bright spots in pilot countries;

(d) Carrying out a major analysis and preparation of a strategy for global action.

26. To each component is attached a corresponding outcome, as follows:

(a) An improved needs-based and process-driven approach to drylands degradation, assessment tested and disseminated at global, national and local level;

(b) Global and national maps with information on land degradation indicators;

(c) Detailed local assessments and analysis of land degradation and its impact in the pilot countries;

(d) A proposed global action plan, incorporating the main findings from the project and conclusions and recommendations for further action. Following the result of the mid-term evaluation of the project, this outcome may be shifted towards providing support to the UNCCD 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).

27. This LADA approach integrates biophysical and socio-economic components of land degradation at different scales, recognizing that socio-economic issues are also driving pressures that impact on land conditions. The LADA approach further recognizes that land degradation assessments should:

(a) Capitalize on existing initiatives;

(b) Focus on the goods and services of the drylands;

(c) Work with local stakeholders;

(d) Make use of a standardized methodology that would allow the monitoring of land degradation over time.

28. It also recognizes that humans are an integral component of most ecosystems and emphasizes the understanding of the immediate and underlying causes of threats to biodiversity, leading to policy and management interventions at appropriate levels. LADA applies the integrated approach to ecosystem management at local, land use system, and national levels.

29. The LADA methodological framework comprises the LADA approach and a set of tools for the different scales of land degradation assessment, from the global to the subnational level. It incorporates participatory rural appraisals; expert assessments; field measurements; and remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), modelling and other modern means of data generation, processing and dissemination for analysing and sharing information.

30. Key elements of this strategic approach are:

(a) Inclusion of different perceptions of land degradation in a participatory way;

(b) A combination of hard data, expert judgement and local knowledge;

(c) Use of adapted assessment tools for specific environments.

31. To understand the process of land degradation at subnational, national and global levels, the LADA approach relies on the DPSIR framework. The DPSIR framework states that driving forces exert pressures on the environment and that these pressures can induce changes in its state or condition. The subsequent impacts on socio-economic and biophysical attributes cause society to respond by developing or modifying environmental and economic policies and programmes aimed at preventing, minimizing or mitigating pressures and driving forces.

32. The adoption of this conceptual framework implies also the recognition of the dynamic nature of the land degradation phenomenon. Land degradation is in this way defined by comparison with a previous situation, when driving forces exerted a certain pressure on the land. This pressure created the present state of the land, which is having an impact that will drive a response in the future.

33. The time factor is in this way introduced into the system, and it has been considered in the formulation of the assessment methodology at all levels.

A. Indicators toolbox and visual soil assessment tool

34. During the PDF-B phase the development of an indicator toolbox was started, containing a minimum set of indicators that can be measured at local and global scale and which allow for extrapolation at these different scales. Development of the toolbox continued during the full-scale LADA project. The LADA indicators are relatively easy to measure or obtain and are therefore low-cost. They are related to a variety of conditions of the land, in such a way that they can be used to cost-effectively describe the system. This includes information on land-use systems, on soils, on vegetation/biodiversity and on water resources.

35. A specific local assessment tool has also been developed: a set of simple and inexpensive assessment techniques which can be gradually learned by farmers and which are related to their needs for improving land conditions. These VSA indicators are morphological and measure soil characteristics that allow for the transfer of information between sites, soil types, land uses, etc., while providing a cross-check and physical reality to structure descriptors.

B. Capacity-building

36. Capacity-building is one the main objectives of the project. At all stages of interventions, substantial attention is given to training and institutional and technical capacity-building. Particular emphasis is laid on multi-stakeholder involvement and participation, especially for the benefit of land users, farmers and the rural poor at the local level, and of policymakers at national and global levels. Local professionals and extension agents are trained in field assessment of land degradation through adopting a farmer perspective and using a sustainable rural livelihoods approach. Best practices also identify the synergies between different global benefits (biodiversity, climate change, international fresh water basins/river systems) and between global and local benefits (food security, livelihood support, and poverty alleviation).

37. It is worth noting that capacity-building activity will have a special focus at the regional level, through the establishment in the pilot countries of six regional training centres on land degradation issues. The regional centres will be created with the collaboration of the national partners, their trainers will be prepared and the curricula are being defined.

VI. Relevance of LADA for policymaking

38. The new capacities and knowledge base that are being established through the project will constitute a base for more aware policymaking at national and global level. All the information will be made available to interested parties through a set of means such as workshops, publications, web-based information systems and the increased expertise of the national and international organizations involved.

39. Through LADA, land degradation information will be communicated and exchanged in order to complete the linkage to policy process and decision-making. This will be done through policy guidance (in, for example, UNCCD Regional, Subregional and National Action Programmes), GEF and implementation agency interventions in land degradation control, and the identification of priority actions, such as policy and institutional reforms and development investments at all levels. Communication and exchange will be furthered by the implementation of best practice studies to identify lessons learned and means to check and reverse land degradation problems, as will support to monitoring activities on the changing severity of land degradation and the effectiveness of remedial control measures.

40. LADA is already actively engaged in similar projects in Central Asia, including the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM), and the Caribbean, has various complementary actions within the TerrAfrica programme and works in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

VII. Status of activities

41. During three years of work, the following activities have been undertaken under the LADA project:

A. Component 1 - Development of the LADA approach: land degradation assessment guidelines, network and information system

42. A management team has been set up within FAO, including the establishment of an internal task force and the recruitment of a project technical advisor.

43. A toolbox of DPSIR indicators has been prepared, and is being revised with the national LADA partners.

44. A new LADA brochure has been prepared and published.

45. The project website, or LADA Virtual Centre, has been restructured on the basis of an extensive user need assessment carried out in collaboration with the *Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo* of Bari. The website can be found at: <www.fao.org/nr/lada/>.

46. A technical workshop and a Steering Committee meeting were held at FAO headquarters in November 2006. Amongst the main recommendations were the need for inclusion of socio-economic data, ground-truthing of the results, and collaboration with other agencies which were involved in work related to the LADA project. The participatory approach was also strongly supported. A mid-term Steering Committee meeting was held in Istanbul in November 2008 where progress was discussed and a mid-term evaluation decided.
47. A methodology for identifying and mapping global and national land use systems has been defined. This methodology takes into account the natural resources base, land use and the socio-economic features of the land. It has been revised by the LADA teams in the pilot countries, which are now using it as a basis for the preparation of their own national stratification.
48. A questionnaire/guidelines for an expert assessment of land degradation based on the land use systems map created with the methodology mentioned above at national level has been prepared in collaboration with WOCAT, and discussed with the national teams in the pilot countries and in international meetings. The tool is finalized and national results in some LADA countries are already available.
49. In Argentina the national land use system has been finalized and the national and local evaluation is ongoing.
50. In China the national land use system has been completed and the dryland parts of China are being evaluated using the LADA/WOCAT manual. Local assessment is ongoing in six areas of the country.
51. In Cuba a draft national land use system has been prepared. The national evaluation and the land cover change study need to be initiated.
52. In Senegal the national land use system, the national evaluation and the land cover change study have been completed. The local assessment is ongoing.
53. In South Africa the national land use system has been completed and the national evaluation has been initiated and half of the country covered. The land cover change study has been initiated.
54. In Tunisia both the national land use system and the evaluation of land degradation at national level have been completed. The land cover change study has been initiated, as has the local assessment.

B. Component 2 - Carrying out global and regional land degradation assessments

55. Information available at the international level on all databases, satellite images, reports and documents relevant for global land degradation assessment has been collated. Data are being made available at the LADA site and at the FAO/GeoNetwork site.

56. Pilot studies for remote sensing of land degradation based on the analysis of long-term series of NDVI data have been finalized in China and Kenya in collaboration with ISRIC. This exercise has been expanded to the whole world and results published.

57. Additional global data on the aridity index trend, the rainfall intensity trend, soil vulnerability, topography, and land cover protection were collected and can be used to calculate a vulnerability index. These studies were carried out in cooperation with IIASA.

58. Vegetation degradation and vegetation improvements based on the NDVI methodology have been identified for each pilot country by ISRIC and were submitted to the national LADA teams for ground verification. An international meeting was organized in early April 2009 in Nairobi that enhanced these results.

C. Component 3 - Carrying out local assessments in hot spots and bright spots in pilot countries

59. A local assessment methodology has been prepared in collaboration with WOCAT and the University of East Anglia, which included a consultation with LADA partners in the pilot countries. A training stage for national specialists on the application of the methodology was carried out in Tunisia in early autumn 2007, followed by training of trainers and an international workshop on local assessment methodologies held in Argentina in January 2009.

60. Stakeholder workshops have been held in each pilot country in order to set up the national team, define the workplan and establish general criteria for the identification of the areas that will be covered by the local assessment. During the workshops, a review of the existing data sets available in each country was undertaken. Local assessments have been done for at least one site in each country. The local assessment manual has been finalized, allowing the start-up of the local assessment studies.

1. Argentina

61. The national stakeholder workshop for Argentina took place in Buenos Aires from 28 to 30 March 2007. The workshop was attended by 18 participants from relevant national and regional institutions.

62. The meeting confirmed the partner institutions that will collaborate with the project and nominated their respective representatives. The Argentine partners have been keen to start the project activities at subnational level and have expressed their interest in playing a lead role for LADA in the South and Central American region.

63. Follow-up meetings were held in Argentina, in particular for the local and national assessments (February and May 2008) and Argentina also hosted the international LADA workshop on local assessment (January 2009).

2. China

64. About 50 representatives of different ministries, institutes and major projects dealing with land degradation and land use planning attended the national inception meeting in Beijing from 23-25 January 2007, which was hosted by the National Bureau to Combat Desertification (NBCD).

65. The LADA approach, the global project, linkages between global and national activities and the preparation of a document on sustainable land management practices were presented by FAO at the meeting. Several national institutions presented their own work related to land degradation.

66. A training workshop for local assessment was held in the country in October 2009.

67. China is also making an important contribution to the completion of the global net primary production (NPP) study.

3. Cuba

68. Two workshops have been held in Cuba. They were both well attended by about 50 participants. During these events, the national LADA team was established and the LADA methodology and approach introduced to the national counterparts.

69. In particular, the connections between the global and national LADA were considered, and the possibility of Cuba becoming a regional focal point for the Core Advisory Committee (CAC) was discussed.

70. The state-of-the-art information about land degradation assessment and control in the country was presented, and a workplan for the implementation of the project at national and local level defined.

71. One particular issue that was discussed was that of the connections and possible synergies between LADA and the OP 15 GEF project in support of the National Programme to Combat Desertification and Drought (NPCDD) of Cuba, implemented by UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO.

4. Senegal

72. In Senegal, most activities as covered by the global and national assessments have been completed. One local assessment was undertaken and presented during the workshop in Argentina. All local studies will be finalized this year.

5. South Africa

73. A successful workshop and meetings with the national LADA team have set the stage for a successful implementation of the project in South Africa (March 2007). The workshop gathered over 30 experts from various ministries and national projects related to LADA

implementation. South Africa also hosted the international LADA workshop on national assessment (September 2008) and is also making an important contribution to the completion of the global NPP study.

6. Tunisia

74. About 40 participants attended the LADA launch workshop in Tunisia (November 2006), representing many organizations involved in LADA. The context of the project in Tunisia has been defined, through the presentation of the global LADA project, the institutional framework for land degradation assessment, and the monitoring system of the programmes for desertification control.

75. Tunisia has held workshops to train for local assessment (including an international one) and prepared one case study. Additional activities tested in Tunisia were the development of an indicator system together with the University of Sassari. The system is online and accessible through the LADA website.

D. Component 4 - Carrying out a major analysis and preparation of a strategy for global action

76. Best practice studies are on going in the pilot countries, in order to have a baseline of the response strategies adopted. China and Argentina have already published theirs. These studies will serve as a contribution to the DPSIR framework study planned for the latest stage of the project.

77. The Centre for World Food Studies carries out DPSIR quantified studies based on the results obtained with national and local LADA assessments linking socio-economic drivers with the status and impact of land degradation.

VIII. Mid-term review

78. As indicated in the project document, a mid-term review of the project has been organized. Two independent consultants have been hired by UNEP to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the status of the project and its ability to achieve the expected results. The preliminary results are now under discussion and a final report is to be issued soon. Following these results, a no-cost, six-month extension of the project is under consideration.

IX. Conclusions and recommendations

79. The LADA project has made good progress and is on track. It benefits from the active participation of a wide range of partners, UNCCD and all LADA countries.

80. A number of other countries and regional organizations have asked to participate, although there is no financial mechanism in place through which this can be accommodated. Concerted action by the main stakeholders is needed to meet the needs of these countries.

81. LADA outputs provide background information and direct inputs to support UNCCD strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

82. The LADA methodological framework has been sufficiently tested and is operational. It is strongly recommended that it be applied at local and national level for land degradation assessments and together with the WOCAT framework for local assessment of sustainable land management.

83. Parties that are in a position to assist financially in spreading the methodology and its application are invited to do so.
