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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
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**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2(A) AND (B), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION**

**REVIEW OF REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST IN
THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES OF AFFECTED COUNTRY
PARTIES OF ALL REGIONS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY
HAVE PROVIDED, OR ARE PROVIDING, UNDER THE CONVENTION**

Addendum

COMPILATION OF SUMMARIES OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES¹

Note by the secretariat

1. By its decision 1/COP.5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to establish a committee for the review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC). It decided also that the first session of the CRIC, to be held in November 2002, shall review updates to reports already available and/or new reports from all regions.

2. Furthermore, pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat was requested to compile the summaries of reports submitted by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention. The same decision also defined the format and content of reports and required, in particular, a summary of report by developed country Parties not to exceed six pages.

3. The present document contains the summaries of reports submitted by 16 developed country Parties before 15 August 2002. The secretariat has also made these reports available on its Web site (<http://www.unccd.int>).

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AUSTRALIA

Australia has been proactive in assisting other countries affected by desertification with a range of financial, technology transfer and capacity building support measures. Australian expertise in the management of arid and semi-arid landscapes has gained an international reputation for excellence. In southern Africa, Australian research on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation complex has been cooperatively applied by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology to develop drought-forecasting systems. Through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and other research institutions.

Australia has had a long-term advisory role in desertification-related work in several Middle East countries, including Jordan, Iran and Libya. Australian expertise is also being engaged in cooperative research partnerships to address severe land degradation problems in a number of Asian countries.

Australia has, for many years, been working with developing countries affected by land degradation and desertification. Recognizing that prevention of environmental degradation is essential to alleviating poverty and fostering sustainable development, the Government's Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is currently supporting a range of programmes to combat desertification in developing countries worth approximately \$58.5 million. Additionally, the Australian Government provides contributions to a range of multilateral organizations, which either directly or indirectly combat desertification. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) also participates in desertification and land degradation mitigation through funding agricultural research projects executed collaboratively by research institutions in Australia and developing countries. ACIAR has funded a range of projects related to desertification. These projects are concentrated in southern Africa, China, India and South-East Asia and involve a total funding commitment of \$11 million.

BELGIUM

After having participated in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD) from the very beginning in 1992, Belgium became a Party to the UNCCD on 30 June 1997. Belgium has a long-standing history of activities in combating desertification, particularly in Africa. Today, the UNCCD offers an international legal framework for renewed attention to the range of desertification problems and Belgium stands ready to continue and improve its actions in this field.

In accordance with the reporting obligations of the Convention and with decisions 11/COP.1 and 1/COP.5, Belgium presents its report, as an update, on its desertification initiatives in the African region, the Asian region and the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In the introduction, first an overview is given of Belgium's role in the INCD process towards UNCCD and thereafter. Then, the policy plan for Belgian international cooperation is presented. Finally, the relevant decisions and reporting guidance, as well as the organization of the report, are summarized.

Chapters I through III, each representing a geographical region, contain information on the Belgian initiatives to combat desertification. It is presented in the following format:

Part A:

- (i) A short discussion of the activities reported under (ii) and (iii),
- (ii) The consultative processes at all relevant levels,
- (iii) A listing of activities, including financial information;

Part B: Additional activities related to combating desertification, if any.

The present report illustrates Belgium's activities in combating desertification, covering a wide range of application categories, depending on the criteria used for their classification. From an institutional viewpoint, Belgium, through its DGIC (Directorate General for International Cooperation), is active at the direct bilateral level (government cooperation), the indirect bilateral level (NGOs, universities and scientific institutions), the bilateral/multilateral level (actions implemented by multilateral institutions for earmarked contributions) and the multilateral level (core funding). Regarding their nature, the activities can be purely scientific projects, research and development projects or specific development projects.

From the report it is clear that the bulk of Belgian activities to combat desertification are located in Africa. There are 250 initiatives that have been executed or are underway in 38 countries. The financial resources for these amount to EUR 239,981,830. Next come Latin America and the Caribbean with 60 initiatives in 11 countries for a total of EUR 74,123,513, followed by Asia with 82 activities in 15 countries and EUR 56,464,352.

Region	Countries	Activities	EUR
Africa	38	250	239,981,830
Asia	15	82	56,464,352
LAC	11	60	74,123,513
		Grand total:	370,569,695

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic became a Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 24 April 2000, with the intention to assist with addressing the global issues of today's world. It is the poorest countries who often suffer from these global problems most.

The Czech Republic does not belong to the affected countries as defined by the Convention.

The Czech Republic is an accession country of the European Union and one of the so-called emerging donor countries. Although the financial resources of the Czech Republic for foreign development aid are limited, numerous projects in the field of combating desertification have been implemented. The assistance to the affected countries is also provided by scientific and research institutions, universities and private companies. The importance of the Czech development assistance may be seen in providing technology, know-how and information.

Numerous institutions in the Czech Republic are interested in getting involved in the work of the Convention. For their easier orientation in Convention matters, there is a need for improving the information flow between the affected developing countries and the countries providing assistance, not only on financial need but also on the need for technologies and on other problematic issues related to desertification.

Attention should be paid to the potential of the countries having experience, know-how and technologies, but not in a position to provide significant funding. Support from the traditional donor countries within the framework of trilateral projects may bring high quality results and effectiveness.

The Czech Republic has extensive experience and is willing to provide assistance to the affected countries in the fields of development of map background data employing satellite and aerial photographs, geological, hydro-geological and soil survey, climatology, meteorology, and hydrology, soil and water management, landscape management, forest typology, inventory and management, scientific research, reclamation and regeneration of landscape following industrial exploitation and mining, etc.

FINLAND

In Burkina Faso Finland supports the "Forest Fire Control Programme" to strengthen the institutional management capacity of the organizations working against forest fires.

In Namibia Finland supports the National Programme to Combat Desertification to produce a report on the present situation of bush encroachment and to make an action plan on bush encroachment for monitoring, research and control purposes.

During 2001 about EUR 250,000 was spent on these programmes.

In Namibia Finland also supports the "Information and Communication Service for Sustainable Development" to develop information and communication service for the environment to promote sustainable development (2001, about EUR 60,000).

In the Middle East Finland is currently financing a project aimed at improving the capacity of six Arab countries to implement the UNCCD, covering Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Yemen and the Palestinian Authority. This three-year project which started in January 2000 is being

implemented by the countries involved with technical assistance facilitated by UNDP/Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO). The funding, totalling US\$ 1.5 million is channelled through UNSO. The project includes support to national action programmes (NAPs) in four Asian countries and is expected to have a positive impact on the consequent consultative processes and partnership arrangements. Subregional action plan activities facilitated by this project will involve each country in the West Asia region.

The objectives of the project are:

- Launching NAP processes and preparation and implementation of the plans, including arranging national forums;
- Cost-effective mechanism to advance subregional cooperation and integration of NAPs at the subregional level established through supporting a subregional coordinating unit affiliated to the Western Asia Subregional Action Programme Steering Committee;
- Strategies for resource mobilization in place at the national and regional levels and mechanisms for channelling resources to the local level established.

In India Finland funds two NGO projects to raise the awareness about desertification and develop sustainable cultivation methods.

Finland is currently financing the development of meteorological systems in the Caribbean region to promote sustainable economic development and to improve planning and operational decisions in all weather-related socio-economic sectors by providing advanced meteorological services. Funding in 2001 was about EUR 250,000.

Finland does not have any ongoing projects to combat desertification in Central and Eastern Europe.

FRANCE

Le terme de désertification est le pendant médiatique de celui de dégradation des terres. Il trouve son origine dans les grandes sécheresses qui ont affecté le Sahel entre 1970 et 1973. La désertification signifie la dégradation des terres dans les zones arides, semi-arides et sub-humides sèches. La reprise des sécheresses dans tout le Sahel au début des années 1980 et ses conséquences dramatiques pour les populations de la région ont fait lentement émerger l'idée d'une action internationale à long terme et qui soit coordonnée. En effet, l'évolution de l'environnement global, en particulier le réchauffement de la planète, aurait pour effet d'accroître les aléas dans les régions africaines.

La dégradation des terres est un phénomène mondial lié à celui de la pauvreté. En 2001, le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement (PNUE) estime que la dégradation atteindrait plus de 2 milliards d'hectares dans le monde, dont les deux-tiers pour la seule région de l'Afrique. Elle menacerait les moyens d'existence d'1 milliard de personnes.

Le début des années 90 est marqué par l'adoption à Rio des conventions pour l'environnement mondial, celle sur le changement climatique, celle sur la biodiversité et celle sur la lutte contre la désertification. La Convention des Nations Unies sur la Lutte Contre la Désertification (CNULD ou CCD et UNCCD pour le sigle anglais) a été signée en 1994, et la France l'a ratifiée en 1997. Ce texte est composé de 40 articles et d'annexes organisées par région du monde. La désertification y est abordée sous les angles de la recherche, du développement et de la coopération nécessaire entre les pays Parties. Il propose des pistes d'actions, des cadres d'analyse et des méthodes scientifiques pour enrayer la désertification. 178 Etats sont actuellement Parties à la Convention.

Dans le texte de la Convention, la désertification est le résultat d'une combinaison entre les phénomènes écologiques, parmi lesquels l'érosion due aux variations climatiques et les activités humaines. Lutter contre la désertification signifie soutenir les activités de recherche et de développement portant sur l'environnement naturel dans le contexte de la lutte contre la pauvreté et contre les inégalités (accès aux ressources).

La France engage chaque année environ 30 millions d'euros dans ce sens, et son action s'exerce principalement sur le continent africain. La stratégie adoptée par la France en matière de lutte contre la désertification est une stratégie à long terme. Elle consiste à œuvrer au renforcement des capacités des pays Parties touchés pour qu'ils puissent mettre en œuvre des dispositifs de suivi des mécanismes de désertification et aider les populations à anticiper la sécheresse. La France encourage également une gestion des espaces endommagés et menacés qui se traduit par la réhabilitation de ces espaces et par une exploitation économique durable de la part des populations locales. La France fait une priorité de la lutte contre la désertification et contre la dégradation des terres (LCD).

Pour les années 2000 et 2001, la France a confirmé ses engagements en matière de lutte contre la désertification et s'est montrée attentive à rendre la Convention plus opérationnelle. Ainsi, l'aide française en matière de lutte contre la désertification se répartit entre:

- Le soutien à la recherche scientifique sur la désertification, sur ses causes et sur les solutions techniques pouvant être développées, à la fois dans les pays du Nord et du Sud;
- Le renforcement des organisations régionales et sous-régionales, nationales et locales impliquées dans la gestion de l'environnement rural et notamment dans la lutte contre la désertification;
- L'aide à la formation des cadres dans les pays Parties touchés. Ces formations s'exercent à divers niveaux d'appréhension de la désertification: ainsi, elles portent aussi bien sur les enjeux locaux que sur les enjeux internationaux, et pour ces derniers en particulier, sur les négociations dans le cadre des conventions sur l'environnement mondial;
- L'appui aux groupes majeurs, notamment aux opérateurs privés et à la société civile, pour les actions concertées de lutte contre la désertification sur le terrain.

En France, les principales institutions qui financent la lutte contre la désertification sont le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE), le Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement (MATE) et le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM). Le Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de la Recherche ainsi que l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) y contribuent également.

Les instituts de recherche tels que l'Institut de Recherche et de Développement (IRD), le Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), l'Institut National de Recherche Agronomique (INRA), le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) ainsi que certaines Universités apportent leur soutien à la recherche-développement (R&D) concernant la LCD.

L'aide bilatérale permet de définir les principes d'action de la France pour la mise en œuvre de la CCD. Le MAE est chef de file dans l'élaboration de la stratégie française de lutte contre la désertification, et son action s'exerce aux niveaux régionaux et nationaux dans le cadre d'une politique de financement de projets. L'aide aux pays Parties touchés pour l'élaboration de leur plan de lutte contre la désertification fait partie des priorités du MAE. Cette aide peut être directe, via le soutien à la rédaction des Programmes d'Action Nationaux (PAN), ou indirecte par l'envoi de matériel ou par les retombées de projets de recherche scientifique.

Les autorités françaises sont conseillées par le Comité Scientifique Français de la Désertification (CSFD), composé d'experts pluridisciplinaires. Le CSFD intervient comme organe de consultation, de conseil et d'orientation sur les politiques de mise en œuvre de la LCD. Le CSFD réalise également un travail de recherche et de capitalisation d'expériences sur la LCD, sur la base de 10 projets financés par le MAE qui sont menés dans la région d'Afrique en collaboration avec l'IRD, le CIRAD, l'INRA et avec des équipes de scientifiques des pays du Sud.

Ces projets suivis par le CSFD visent à développer les connaissances et les technologies appropriées pour la lutte contre la désertification et à renforcer les capacités des équipes scientifiques des pays du Sud. Ils s'appuient sur les structures mises en place par la décentralisation et travaillent à la diffusion et à l'appropriation par les pays du Sud, par les décideurs et les bailleurs mais aussi par les populations, des résultats de la recherche.

Le MATE apporte depuis 2000-2001 son soutien à la mise en réseau des ONG françaises impliquées dans la lutte contre la désertification. Ce processus a débouché sur la création d'un groupe de travail français sur la lutte contre la désertification multidisciplinaire - Groupe de Travail sur la Désertification (GTD). Ce travail est relayé par l'ONG Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI).

Les ONG sont des opérateurs généralement proches des populations touchées par la désertification. Cette initiative du MATE favorise dans un premier temps la diffusion des principes de la CCD dans le milieu des ONG, puis l'échange d'expériences et l'harmonisation des stratégies de lutte au plan local. Au

plan institutionnel, elle rapproche les ONG des organes de la Convention et du milieu des scientifiques, des ministères et des organisations internationales. Au vu de ses premiers succès, cette expérience sera poursuivie et amplifiée dans les années à venir.

Le Fonds Français Pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) est une structure interministérielle créé en 1994 pour favoriser la protection de l'environnement mondial dans les pays en développement et en transition. Il apporte des ressources additionnelles et sous forme de dons à des projets d'investissement qui ont un impact positif en termes d'environnement global. Pour la période 1994-1998, il a été doté de 67 millions d'euros. En 1999, le mandat du FFEM a été reconduit pour une deuxième phase de 4 ans et de même montant. 40% des engagements du FFEM se situent en Afrique.

Parmi les projets menés par le FFEM dans le cadre de la LCD, l'Initiative Régionale Environnement Mondial et Lutte Contre la Désertification (IREMLCD) répond tout particulièrement à la première des recommandations formulées par la COP 5, qui porte sur le développement des processus participatifs impliquant la société civile. Cofinancé par le MAE et le FFEM, ce projet de plus de 3 millions d'euros vise à organiser et à simplifier l'accès au financement de projets de taille moyenne (inférieurs à 50 000 euros) pour des porteurs de projets non gouvernementaux. Le maître d'ouvrage est le CILSS (Comité permanent Inter-Etat de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel). Le CSFD assure un suivi de la mise en œuvre.

L'AFD est l'opérateur principal du dispositif français de financement de projets d'aide au développement. Ses décaissements s'élèvent à 800 millions d'euros par an. Parmi les projets d'aide au développement engagés par l'AFD en Afrique, nombreux sont ceux qui présentent une composante environnementale et de lutte contre la désertification. L'AFD, consciente de l'importance de cette problématique pour la lutte contre la pauvreté, a commandité une étude auprès du CSFD afin de promouvoir la lutte contre la désertification en des termes opérationnels, conformément à sa logique d'action.

La France contribue à l'aide multilatérale régionale en appuyant les organisations régionales et internationales qui travaillent principalement dans la région africaine. Ces institutions sont notamment spécialisées dans le suivi de l'environnement écologique et climatique, ainsi que dans la mise en œuvre de systèmes d'alerte précoce à la sécheresse pour les populations de la région. Elles participent au développement de systèmes africains d'informations sur l'environnement. Elles élaborent des Programmes d'Action Sous-Régionaux et Régionaux (PASR et PAR) pour définir des politiques de LCD cohérentes.

Pour la région de l'Afrique en 2000-2001, la France soutient le fonctionnement de l'Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) et notamment son programme Réseau d'Observatoires et de Surveillance Ecologique à Long Terme (ROSELT). L'OSS a pour mission principale d'élaborer un dispositif de surveillance transfrontière de l'état de l'environnement dans la région, afin d'identifier des solutions permettant de faire face à la désertification et à la dégradation des terres. ROSELT est un projet de suivi de l'environnement à partir d'observatoires pilotes mis en place dans la région depuis 1995. Ce

programme, organisé à la fois aux niveaux régional et national se trouve progressivement intégré dans les PAN des pays.

Le MAE contribue au financement du Centre Africain pour les Applications de la Météorologie au Développement (ACMAD) et soutient le Centre Régional d'Agro-Hydro-Météorologie (AGRHYMET) du Comité Inter-États de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS) : sa participation pour trois ans (1999-2001) se chiffre à 1,5 millions d'euros pour ACMAD et à 1,2 millions d'euros pour AGRHYMET. Ces instituts basés à Niamey (Niger) assurent un suivi des paramètres de la désertification et du climat. Ils contribuent à l'élaboration et à l'harmonisation des politiques nationales de gestion des ressources naturelles.

La France appuie le programme d'action régional, l'Initiative Globale Désertification (IGD) de l'Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (UICN) au Burkina Faso. Ce programme désertification envisage notamment de coordonner le suivi du processus de mise en œuvre des PAN dans les pays de la sous-région. Il s'engage également à valoriser l'expérience de l'UICN en matière de conservation de la biodiversité dans le cadre de la Lutte Contre la Désertification (LCD), en réponse au thème des synergies formulé par la CCD.

La France participe à la lutte contre la désertification au travers de l'aide multilatérale internationale : elle contribue pour 7% au financement du Fonds Mondial pour l'Environnement (GEF) et pour 25% au Fonds Européen de Développement (FED). Ces institutions sont notamment engagées au titre de la lutte contre la pauvreté dans les politiques de lutte contre la désertification et la dégradation des terres. Néanmoins, la désertification ne constituant pas pour le GEF un compartiment spécifique de l'environnement global, il est difficile d'évaluer les sommes exactes consacrées à la lutte contre la désertification et la pauvreté. Cependant, et au titre de la transversalité, le GEF participe au financement de la LCD à travers des projets multifocaux qui concernent les trois principaux compartiments de l'environnement mondial (effet de serre, biodiversité et eaux internationales) ainsi que la lutte contre la dégradation des terres. Entre 1991 et 1999, les projets transversaux du GEF ont contribué à la LCD ainsi qu'à la lutte contre la déforestation pour plus de 350 millions de dollars.

La CCD et les recommandations émises par la COP 5 insistent sur la création de synergies avec les autres conventions relatives à l'environnement. En plus des actions relevant directement de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de Lutte Contre la Désertification, la France finance des projets qui interviennent de façon indirecte dans la LCD. De nombreux projets élus au titre de la lutte contre l'effet de serre ou de la protection de la biodiversité ont également des répercussions indirectes en terme de LCD, par exemple:

- Les projets d'agro-écologie (semis direct) qui sont mis en œuvre dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique visent un fort impact anti-érosif et s'appuient sur une gestion raisonnée de la ressource en eau;

- Les projets de gestion des réserves de faune et de flore contribuent à la réhabilitation d'espaces auparavant dégradés et permettent une valorisation économique de ces ressources par les populations limitrophes;
- Les projets de gestion des ressources naturelles intègrent une composante de lutte contre la désertification.

En 2000-2001, les autorités françaises ont confirmé leurs priorités en matière de LCD en soutenant principalement la région africaine, à travers leur appui à de nombreux projets de recherche, de développement et de formation.

La France a aussi choisi d'accroître sa contribution à la lutte contre la désertification dans la région du bassin méditerranéen. L'aide bilatérale française en région méditerranéenne s'exerce principalement à travers la mise en place du projet Réseaux d'Observatoires pour le Suivi de l'Environnement à l'Est de la Méditerranée (ROSEEM) dans les pays du Mashreq (Jordanie, Liban, Syrie). Inspiré du projet Réseaux et Observatoires de Surveillance Environnementale (ROSELT) en Afrique, ROSEEM est soutenu par le MAE et par le MATE avec un cofinancement de l'«Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands» (ACSAD) et de l'OSS.

Enfin, la France soutient des activités de recherche sur la lutte contre la dégradation des terres en Amérique Latine.

GERMANY

Since the beginning of the 1980s, support for resource management in arid zones and desertification control have played an important role within the framework of German development cooperation. Since the middle of the 1990s, this sector has become even more significant thanks to the UNCCD, which raised awareness among the African, Latin American and Asian public and development policy-makers of the growing threat to natural resources in the arid zones of those continents. German technical and financial cooperation currently supports over 250 projects accounting for a total volume of commitments of about EUR 1.5 billion. Some 60 per cent of the projects supported are being carried out in 25 African countries (the focus region of the UNCCD), 25 per cent in Asia and 15 per cent in Latin America. In the two-year period 2000-2001, Germany approved some 91 new projects in 28 African countries (EUR 90 million), some 60 projects in 17 Latin American countries (EUR 39 million) and some 32 projects in 14 Asian countries (EUR 52.6 million).

In Africa, activities in the field of desertification control are supported in the following countries: Angola, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

It must be noted that our partner countries in South America have consciously and visibly established links between a number of these projects and their

national action programmes (NAPs) and the process of UNCCD implementation. Presently, Germany provides financial and technical support in the field of natural resource management and desertification control to the following Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. As part of a new project in Cuba, support will be provided for the NAP and watershed management.

In Asia, Germany supports natural resource management and anti-desertification measures in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Palestinian Territories, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

The Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have decided to draw up a Subregional Action Programme (SRAP) to Combat Desertification. The German side complied with the proposal of the UNCCD secretariat to provide technical and financial assistance to that initiative. By getting involved in this way, Germany wants to give expression to the great significance it attaches to regional cooperation in Central Asia in the field of the environment and natural resource protection. Important elements of such regional cooperation will include capacity building, exchange of information, biodiversity protection, water and land management.

The German Government is aware that in ratifying the UNCCD, it has assumed the obligation to foster implementation. In order to be able to do that, the German Government is continuously endeavouring to mainstream the UNCCD into bilateral and multilateral development cooperation. For this purpose the German UNCCD Project was created (1999) to support cooperation and coordination among German actors and with multilateral agencies engaged in combating desertification. The German UNCCD Project, implemented by German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), has turned out to be a useful instrument for supporting the implementation of the UNCCD in developing countries on the one hand and following up mainstreaming efforts in Germany on the other hand.

One of the first instruments that the German government created as early as 1995 to support the UNCCD process was a Special Fund. Originally endowed with some EUR 3 million, that Special Fund has already assisted a wide range of mainly African countries in drawing up their NAPs. In 2002, another special fund for Asia became operational.

Through an additional annual contribution of EUR 0.51 million to the UNCCD budget ("Bonn Fund"), Germany supports events organized by the UNCCD secretariat aiming at the regional or interregional exchange of information and experience.

The German Government has engaged in an intensive exchange of information to encourage multilateral and regional organizations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank to participate in desertification control programmes in Latin America and Central Asia. In

addition, it has motivated German scientists involved in arid zone research to form a network and take a more active interest in the process of UNCCD implementation. Through a UNCCD network that has existed for a number of years now, relevant institutions and projects within Germany's programme of bilateral cooperation exchange relevant information on desertification control and UNCCD implementation. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to raise the German public's awareness of the urgency of desertification problems.

During the period covered by the report, the German Government has endeavoured to involve German NGOs more closely in the implementation of the UNCCD. An analysis of the involvement of German NGOs in this field so far has shown that whilst NGOs are generally interested in cooperation in the field of resource management and desertification control, UNCCD implementation has not yet led to a significant rise in the number of projects dealing specifically with the UNCCD because the partner NGOs from the developing countries' projects have not yet submitted the relevant applications. There is therefore a need for the NGOs to be involved more closely in the programme and project planning of the NAP countries.

There are a number of encouraging examples now of the UNCCD lending fresh impetus to desertification control and of an impressive number of developing countries having completed their NAPs or being about to finalize them. Yet it is still a challenge to make the UNCCD a universally accepted strategic framework for resource management in dry areas of the world. There are a number of developing countries that have produced NAPs, but there are still instances of development programmes and initiatives in important UNCCD-related areas being made without reference to these NAPs and their guiding principles.

In those countries affected by desertification, there is a need to improve coordination between the administrative areas responsible for desertification control. The UNCCD focal points must be strengthened for that purpose. Civil society involvement should be greater than before in the planning and implementation of the measures and the measures must be focused to a greater extent than before on the economic needs of the population. It should be ensured that desertification control efforts have a broad impact by creating a system of incentives, an appropriate economic framework and new strategic alliances and partnerships.

This is why vigorous steps urgently need to be undertaken - both by developing countries and by donors - to mainstream the UNCCD into the central efforts for social and economic development, in particular into national strategies for poverty alleviation and strategies for sustainable development. In this context, it also appears urgent to reach international agreement on quality standards for UNCCD implementation and to give greater attention to understanding the economic aspects of desertification control and of resource management in arid zones.

GREECE

According to data provided by the Service for International Development Cooperation of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Environment, the Greek state has participated in programmes of rural development applied in developing countries of Africa and the Balkans. These programmes aim at rural development and contribute directly and indirectly to combating desertification.

More specifically, during the period 1997-2001 fifteen programmes were applied to Ethiopia, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Benin, Madagascar and Tanzania. The programmes include activities such as the construction of water deposits, the water supply of rural communities, combating drought, water storage, forest management, food technology, management of natural resource and crop and animal production.

The total funds spent on these programmes amounted to 600,435,021 drachmas (EUR 1,762,098.37), shown in the Table below.

Year	Drachmas	EUR
1997	2,000,000	5,869.41
1998	47,685,021	139,941.38
1999	72,000,000	211,298.62
2000	232,750,000	683,052.09
2001	246,000,000	721,936.90
Total	600,435,021	1,762,098.37

IRELAND

Ireland is a strong supporter of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification particularly in Africa (UNCCD), which is one of three major conventions which emerged from the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. Following signature and subsequent ratification, Ireland became a Party to the Convention on 29 October 1997.

Ireland believes that desertification presents a major threat to those living in developing countries. Ireland continues to mainstream commitments and obligations under the Convention into the Ireland Aid's bilateral aid programme activities in affected priority countries. We also support activities to combat desertification through our contributions to multilateral forums.

Following signature and subsequent ratification, Ireland became a Party to the UNCCD in October 1997. Ireland has participated actively in the various Conferences of the Parties which are signatory to the UNCCD and has made both mandatory and voluntary contributions to the UNCCD since 1998. In 2002, Ireland made mandatory contributions of US\$ 16,440.

Ireland's priority countries in Africa are the primary focus of its support for the implementation of UNCCD in developing countries. The attached tables for 2000-2001 in section (iii) outline brief descriptions and budgets for projects Ireland Aid has funded which fall within the remit of the Desertification Convention.

Ireland works through strong partnerships with the governments and people of its programme countries. We support programmes identified by, and responding to, the needs and priorities of those governments. Our Embassies have expressed to those governments an interest in supporting the preparation and implementation of national action programmes. No direct request for such assistance has resulted. However, many of the programmes we support are related to implementation of the Convention and details of these programmes are provided.

ISRAEL

This report covers the years 2000 and 2001. It presents the Israeli activities as a developed country party to the UNCCD, most of which involves capacity building and technology transfer through interacting with trainees and experts from affected developing country Parties. Most of these activities were carried out by the Center for International Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV), assisted by several Israeli research and teaching institutions. Other organizations interacting with trainees and experts from developing affected country parties are Israeli academic organizations, and especially the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Agricultural Research Center of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. In these modes Israel participated in combating desertification in some 50 affected developing country Parties, in Africa and Asia (including four Arab countries in these regions), and in Latin America. Funding for these activities has come from various sources - the Government of Israel, Israeli universities and research institutions, philanthropic donations, and partnership with other developed country Parties and international organizations. For 2000 and 2001 combined, the Israeli assistance to developing country Parties amounted to US\$ 10,248,850, which is divided between Africa (US\$ 3,088,750), Asia (US\$ 6,076,500) and Latin America (US\$ 1,083,600).

Africa

MASHAV's capacity-building and technology-transfer

The Center for International Cooperation (MASHAV) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs carried out capacity-building and technology-transfer activities directed at 27 African countries in 2000 and in 27 African countries in 2001; and in the two years combined - 30 different African countries (not including North Africa and Egypt, and including Cape Verde) affected by desertification. These included:

- Courses commissioned by MASHAV and carried out at several teaching and training facilities in Israel. Trainees and experts from affected African countries (altogether 244 in 2000 and 184 in 2001) participated in 29 such courses in 2000 and 21 courses in 2001; in the two years combined, 428 African trainees and experts attended 40 different courses in Israel, lasting 2-6 weeks each, at a cost of US\$ 722,000 in 2000 and US\$ 757,000 in 2001.
- "In-country" courses administered by MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts and carried out in African countries. Twelve courses attended by a total of 421 participants, were delivered by 28 Israeli experts in 10 African countries, at an overall cost of US\$ 180,000 in 2000; nine courses, attended by a total of 280 participants, were delivered by 18 Israeli experts in four African countries, at an overall cost of US\$ 108,000 in 2001.
- Three MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts carried out short-term consulting missions in two African countries, at a cost of US\$ 9,000 in 2000, and seven Israeli experts carried out short-term consulting missions in four African countries, at a cost of US\$ 39,000 in 2001.
- MASHAV operated long-term agricultural demonstration projects, one in each of five African countries in 2000 and of three African countries in 2001. An Israeli expert functioned as project manager in each of these countries, throughout a whole-year mission at a total cost of US\$ 667,000 in 2000, and a total cost of US\$ 450,000 in 2001.

A more detailed account of long-term cooperation with five African countries is provided in the report. Altogether the investment of MASHAV in the partnership with African affected countries amounted to US\$ 1,574,750 in 2000 and to US\$ 1,354,000 in 2001. These figures do not include the cost of travel between Israel and the African countries.

*Capacity-building and technology transfer through studies
in academic institutions in Israel*

Studies in the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: During 2000 and 2001 one student from an affected African country enrolled at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research (BIDR), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, for a two-year programme, reading for an M.Sc. degree in desert studies. The overall expenditure was US\$ 27,000 for the two years combined, generated from sources raised by the BIDR from various sources, within and outside Israel.

Studies in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: During years 2000 and 2001 students from Ethiopia, Madagascar, Uganda and Zambia (one from each country) enrolled in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, reading for a M.Sc. degree in agriculture.

*Capacity-building and technology transfer through
scientific exchange and cooperation*

Scientific exchange carried out by the Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation of the BIDR: The Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation (BCSC), the instrument of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research for cooperation with other countries, carried out in 2001 three exchanges with two African countries, on issues relating to combating desertification, at an overall cost of US\$ 25,000.

*Cooperation between Israeli research institutions and
research institutions in African affected countries*

The United States Agency of International Development (USAID) supported in 2001 six research cooperation projects in areas relating to combating desertification between Israel and four African affected countries at a total investment of US\$ 384,000. The Israeli research institutions matched this contribution by providing the salaries of the Israeli researchers and additional in-kind contributions.

Asia

MASHAV's capacity-building and technology transfer

MASHAV carried out capacity building and technology transfer activities directed at 10 Asian countries (not including Jordan and the Palestinian Authority) affected by desertification (nine in 2000 and 10 in 2001). These included:

- Courses commissioned by MASHAV and carried out at several teaching and training facilities in Israel. Altogether 187 trainees and experts from affected Asian countries participated in 31 such courses in 2001, and 154 persons participated in 20 courses in 2001. The courses lasted 2-6 weeks each, and the costs were US\$ 617,500 in 2000 and US\$ 717,000 in 2001.
- "In-country" courses administered by MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts and carried out in Asian countries. In 2000, 12 courses attended by a total of 1652 participants, were delivered by 68 Israeli experts in six Asian countries, at an overall cost of US\$ 180,000. In 2001, 1,064 trainees and experts participated in these courses, at a cost of US\$ 228,000.
- Eighteen MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts carried out short-term consulting missions in four Asian countries, at a cost of US\$ 69,000 in 2000, and 38 Israeli experts carried out such missions in four Asian countries at a cost of US\$ 186,000; in the two years combined Israel carried out short-term consulting missions in five affected Asian countries.
- MASHAV operated long-term agricultural demonstration projects, one in each of four Asian countries. Eight Israeli experts functioned as project managers in each of these countries, throughout a whole-year mission during 2000 at a total cost of US\$ 1,130,000, and six Israeli experts carried out long-term consulting projects in three Asian countries at a total cost of US\$ 1,811,000 in 2001.

Altogether the investment of MASHAV in the partnership with Asian affected countries amounted to US\$ 1,612,500 in 2000 and to US\$ 2,942,000 in 2001.

Cooperation with Arab countries in combating desertification

MASHAV carried out during 2000 capacity-building and technology-transfer activities directed at four Arab countries - in Asia (Jordan and the Palestinian Authority) and in North Africa (Morocco and Egypt). Eight short-term missions of Israeli experts to these countries included courses in which 313 trainees participated, at a total cost of US\$ 369,000. During 2001, 13 Egyptian trainees and experts participated in 10 courses in Israel and 18 Israeli consultants carried out short-term consulting mission to Jordan, at a total cost of US\$ 66,000.

Capacity-building and technology transfer through studies in academic institutions in Israel

Studies in the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: During 2000 and 2001 seven students from affected Asian countries enrolled at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, for a two-year programme reading for an M.Sc. degree in desert studies of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research (BIDR), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. At a cost of US\$ 27,000 per student for the two years combined, the overall expenditure was US\$ 135,000, generated from sources raised by the BIDR from various sources, within and outside Israel.

Studies in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: During 2000 and 2001, one student from China enrolled in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, reading for a M.Sc. degree in agriculture.

Capacity-building and technology transfer through scientific exchange and cooperation

Scientific exchange carried out by the Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation of the BIDR: The Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation (BCSC), the instrument of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research for cooperation with other countries, carried out in 2001 13 exchanges with five African countries, on issues relating to combating desertification, at an overall cost of US\$ 75,000.

Cooperation between Israeli research institutions and research institutions in Asian affected countries

Research cooperation with the Agricultural Research Center - Volcani Institute included:

(a) Joint projects aimed at the enhancement of agriculture in arid regions

The following research projects were carried out cooperatively by scientists from China and Israel in both countries:

- Efficient irrigation and minimization of soil erosion in field crops production in arid regions.
- Efficient irrigation and minimization of soil erosion in orchards production in arid regions.
- Intensive cultivation methods for vegetables in arid regions.
- Breeding of wheat varieties for arid regions.

The Israeli partner invested in each of the years 2000 and 2001 US\$ 100,000 in each project. Thus, the overall Israeli expenditure was US\$ 800,000 for the two years combined.

(b) Sino-Israeli binational agriculture research and development fund (SIARF)

In the framework of this bi-national fund the Chinese and Israeli scientists jointly carried out the following desertification-related projects during 2001:

- Breeding of wheat varieties with adaptation to arid regions.
- Optimization of the use of brackish water in arid regions.
- The annual budget for the two projects in 2001 was US\$ 50,000.

Cooperation between USAID and Israel

In 2001, seven research projects in areas relating to combating desertification were jointly carried out by Israeli and four Asian affected countries, at a total investment of US\$ 259,400. The Israeli research institutions matched this contribution by providing the salaries of the Israeli researchers and by other in-kind contributions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

MASHAV capacity building and technology transfer

MASHAV carried out capacity building and technology-transfer activities directed at 10 Latin-American countries affected by desertification. These included:

- Courses commissioned by MASHAV and carried out at several teaching and training facilities in Israel. Altogether 104 (in 2000) and 120 (in 2001) trainees and experts from affected Latin American countries participated in 26 such courses, lasting 2-6 weeks each, at a cost of US\$ 408,000 (in 2000), and US\$ 458,000 (in 2001).
- "In-country" courses administered by MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts and carried out in Latin American countries. Six courses, attended by a total of 315 participants were delivered by 12 Israeli experts in five Latin American countries, at an overall cost of US\$ 66,000 in year 2000. Five courses attended by a total of 146 participants, were delivered by 10

Israeli experts in two Latin American countries, at an overall cost of US\$ 60,000 in 2001.

- These MASHAV-commissioned Israeli experts carried out short-term consulting missions in two Latin American countries, at a cost of US\$ 18,000 in 2000, and US\$ 15,000 in 2001.

Altogether the Israeli investment in the partnership with Latin American affected countries amounted to US\$ 420,000 in 2000 and US\$ 533,000 in 2001.

Capacity building and technology transfer through studies in academic institutions in Israel

Studies in the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: During 2000 and 2001 four students from affected Latin American countries enrolled at the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, for a two-year programme reading for an M.Sc. degree in desert studies of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research (BIDR), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. At a cost of US\$ 27,000 per student for the two years combined, the overall expenditure was US\$ 108,000 generated from sources raised by the BIDR from various sources, within and outside Israel.

Studies in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: During 2000 and 2001 students from Chile and Mexico (one from each country) enrolled in the Division for External Studies, Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, reading for an M.Sc. degree in agriculture. The students were supported by funds raised by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from various Israeli sources.

Capacity building and technology transfer through scientific exchange and cooperation

Scientific exchange carried out by the Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation of the BIDR: The Blaustein Center for Scientific Cooperation (BCSC), the instrument of the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research for cooperation with other countries, carried out in 2001 five exchanges with three Latin American countries, on issues relating to combating desertification, at an overall cost of US\$ 22,600.

JAPAN

Placement of the report

It is stipulated in Article 26 of the UNCCD that each Party is to submit a report on measures taken to implement the Convention. Article 22 stipulates that the Conference of the Parties is to review such reports. Based on decision 11 of the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1), reports from affected African country parties and affected country parties of other regions were reviewed at the third session of the Conference of the

Parties (COP 3) and the fourth session (COP 4), respectively. Furthermore, from March to April 2001, an Ad Hoc Working Group met to complete those reviews. The same decision called for developed country Parties to report, at each session of the COP, on the assistance they had provided or were providing to affected developing country Parties that were reporting for that session. It states that the developed country Parties' reports should contain information on the "consultative processes and partnership arrangements in which they are involved" and the "measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally".

Japan's present national report is being submitted prior to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), scheduled to be held in November 2002. It gives many examples of Japan's efforts, over the period from 1996, when the UNCCD entered into force, to the end of fiscal 2001 (fiscal 2000 for bilateral ODAs), to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in Africa and other regions, particularly Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Because it is difficult to exhaustively document all relevant activities, the report contains only illustrative cases. It is an update of the reports that Japan submitted in August 1999 prior to COP 3 and in June 2000 prior to COP 4 on its activities in Africa and other regions.

Efforts by both the international community and Japan
regarding desertification

The international community has carried out a variety of activities for environmental conservation including holding the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, in Stockholm, in June 1972, which adopted the 'Declaration of the UN Conference on Human Environment'. In recent years, along with the expansion in the scope, scale and types of human activities, various global environment issues have emerged, which are recognized as potential threats to human beings. International cooperation is essential in this regard, because the issue of desertification is related to the sustainable development of various developing countries. Since deterioration of the global environment will substantially affect the world's population, this problem cannot be effectively dealt with by a single nation. Japan regards global environmental issues, including combating desertification, as one of the most important areas in which the country should make an international contribution.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, was the consummation gathering for related international efforts up to that time. The outcome of the UNCED, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and "Agenda 21," detailed the comprehensive efforts relating to global environmental issues. Chapter 12 of "Agenda 21," entitled "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought," sets forth a specific action programme to tackle desertification. At UNCED, basic agreement was reached on the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to draw up a convention to

combat desertification. Japan positively participated in the drafting process and made efforts to formulate a consensus.

This Convention was adopted at the fifth session of the negotiating committee in June 1994 and was signed by 86 countries, including Japan, in October of the same year. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) entered into force in December 1996, and Japan became a party in December 1998. At COP 2, in December 1998, Japan expressed its determination to continue its cooperation in the field of combating desertification as the largest donor country to the UNCCD.

At the 1997 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Environment and Development (UNGASS), then Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced Japan's comprehensive environmental Official Development Assistance (ODA) policy entitled "The Initiatives for Sustainable Development toward the 21st Century (ISD)." The philosophy of ISD was Human Security, Ownership, and Sustainable Development. Human Security stresses the importance of addressing environmental degradation, which threatens human existence and constitutes a security issue in a broad sense. Ownership points out the important need for developing countries to assume the primary responsibility for environmental issues, with supporting countries providing assistance for such efforts. The objective of assistance should be to realize 'Sustainable Development', taking into account the differing economic and social situation of each developing country. Japan's environmental ODA in fiscal 2000 amounted to JPY 525 billion (about US\$ 4.3 billion) (on a commitment basis), accounting for 31.8% of the total ODA committed by Japan that year.

Japan has taken various steps to put the ISD into action. The Programme of Action of the ISD includes "Air Pollution (Acid Rain), Water Pollution, and Waste Disposal," "Global Warming (the Kyoto Initiative)," "Nature Conservation," "Water Issues," and "Development of Public and Government Awareness". One of the key points of the Programme of Action is 'Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management and Strengthening of Cooperation against Desertification'. Specific examples of the activities include the Reforestation and Extension Project in Thailand and the Social Forestry Extension Model Development Project for Semi-Arid Areas in Kenya.

In addition to such bilateral ODA projects, Japan has been making financial contributions to relevant international organizations to support the fight against desertification. Furthermore, various study and research activities on desertification are being conducted by Japanese institutions. Activities of many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) both in Japan and overseas have been supported by various sources.

Japan's various efforts under the UNCCD

Here is a summary of Japan's implementation of the UNCCD:

Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements

Japan had been actively making contributions to UNCCD even before it officially became a Party to the Convention in December 1998. During the

intergovernmental negotiations for UNCCD, Japan served as a Bureau member and chaired the Second Working Group, positively participating in the drafting process.

Contribution through the UNCCD secretariat

From 1993 to 1998, prior to concluding the Convention, Japan had contributed a total of almost US\$ 5 million to the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly Resolution 47/188.

Japan had been making substantial contributions to the implementation of the Convention with financial and technological support, organizing meetings, etc. even before officially becoming a Party in December 1998. Through its contributions, Japan has been supporting, for example, various regional meetings in Asia such as ministerial meetings, focal point meetings, experts meetings and workshops; national awareness-raising seminars and regional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and national report preparation by African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean country Parties.

Since 1998, Japan has been promoting the implementation of the UNCCD in various ways through voluntary contributions. In particular, recognizing the importance of promoting the exchange of information and cooperation between Parties, Japan has provided support every year for all four Asian National Focal Point Meetings. Japan has also provided support for three Asia-Africa Forums on UNCCD to promote information sharing and the strengthening of relationships.

Japan has been positively supporting the formulation of a national action programme by various countries. In particular, Japan supported seven Parties to formulate their own national action programmes. Considering it important to enhance recognition of the UNCCD, Japan provided support for a workshop in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea to enlighten the people there. Not only to promote cooperation within regions or between regions, but also to support subregional activities, Japan supported the organization of subregional workshops in the South Pacific.

Japan has been involved in the development of Asia's regional action programme for UNCCD, thematic programme networks (TPNs) providing support for all its kick-off meetings such as the kick-off launching meeting of the TPN1 (Beijing, China, July 1999), the kick-off meeting of the TPN2 (New Delhi, India, March 2000), and the kick-off meeting of the TPN3 (Iran, May 2001).

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Japan has been implementing ODA projects that contribute to combating desertification in areas such as conservation of water resources, reforestation and forest conservation, and agricultural development. There are various ODA schemes through which these projects have been implemented, including development studies, project-type technical cooperation, grant aid for general projects; grant assistance for grassroots projects, and yen loans. In addition, with a view to enhancing scientific and technical

capabilities to combat desertification in various countries, Japan sends Japanese experts overseas and accepts trainees from abroad.

Japan has been contributing to multilateral cooperation through financial contributions to international organizations that are engaged in activities relating to combating desertification. Examples contained in this report are: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD; the World Bank); Global Environment Facility (GEF); African Development Bank (AfDB); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); World Food Programme (WFP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Study and research on desertification

- (i) Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems to mitigate the effects of drought

Regarding the activities of the Committee on Science and Technology, Japan, with the secretariat of the UNCCD, hosted an Ad Hoc Panel on Early Warning Systems of the UNCCD, which was reestablished at COP 4 in June 2001 in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi Prefecture. Dr. Kazuhiko Takeuchi of the University of Tokyo was the chair of the Panel. A highly useful report was drawn up and the outcome was reported at COP 5.

- (ii) Desertification monitoring and assessment

Japan hosted an experts workshop (TPN1 workshop) at the United Nations University in Tokyo, June 28-30, 2000, on desertification monitoring and assessment as part of respect to the TPNs. This workshop was designed to promote scientific and technical cooperation on desertification monitoring and assessment. There were about 70 participants including experts and representatives of UNCCD national focal points from 14 Asian countries, international organizations and other countries. The workshop was held with the cooperation of the Government of Japan, the UNCCD secretariat, the United Nations University, China, and the IFAD. The outcome of this workshop was reported to COP 4.

- (iii) Domestic research processes

A variety of study and research activities are being conducted by Japanese institutions. For example, the Ministry of Environment of Japan conducts research on measures to combat desertification and also provides a Global Environment Research Fund to promote research on desertification. Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Japan Green Resources Corporation are conducting a study on combating desertification in Asia and a study on preventing soil erosion in Latin America. The Ministry of

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry are conducting research on the prospect of utilizing desert areas in Mongolia for agriculture. Study and research activities are also being carried out at the Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University.

Participatory process involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations

In Japan, financial assistance has been provided to NGOs in and outside of Japan through various schemes including the Japan Fund for Global Environment (Japan Environment Corporation), the Promotion of Private-Sector Activities for Global Tree Planting (Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center), the Promotion of NGOs Activities in the field of Agriculture and Forestry (Association for International Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry), and Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (Post Office). Private-sector schemes have also been providing financial assistance.

Linkage and synergy with other environmental conventions

Based on the preamble of the UNCCD, which refers to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, Japan recognizes the importance of enhancing the synergies of environment-related conventions. Japan supported the National Forum on Combating Desertification and Promoting the Synergistic Implementation of Inter-Linked Multilateral Environmental Conventions in June 2001. Japan has been actively promoting international cooperation, through various means, on combating desertification.

MONACO

La Principauté de Monaco a adhéré à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification le 5 mars 1999. Monaco est un Etat riverain de la Méditerranée situé sur la côte Sud de l'Europe, au centre du bassin liguro-provençal, qui est inscrit à l'Annexe IV de la Convention. La Principauté de Monaco n'étant pas directement affectée par la désertification, ses actions pour lutter contre ce phénomène s'inscrivent dans le cadre de ses activités de coopération internationale.

Parmi les activités menées par la Principauté dans le cadre de sa coopération bilatérale et multilatérale pour la lutte contre la désertification, il faut noter: la participation à des projets transfrontaliers de lutte contre la désertification pilotés par le Secrétariat de la Convention, le reboisement et la création d'espaces verts dans des zones arides, l'assistance à des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (ONG) et à des populations au niveau de zones affectées par la désertification, la sensibilisation du public à la lutte contre la désertification.

Depuis son adhésion à la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification en 1999, la part des activités relatives à la lutte contre la

désertification dans les activités de coopération internationale de la Principauté est en constante augmentation. Monaco s'engage, dans le cadre de ses activités de coopération bilatérale, à accorder une haute priorité aux projets relatifs à la lutte contre la désertification qui lui seront soumis et poursuivra, dans les années à venir, son assistance au Secrétariat de la Convention, en participant notamment à des actions de sensibilisation du public et aux projets transfrontaliers pour la lutte contre la désertification.

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1995. So far two national reports have been prepared on the Netherlands support in implementation of the Convention, one for the third session of the Conference of Parties (COP 3) (1999) and one for the fourth session (COP 4) (2000). These reports cover the activities and financial commitments of the bilateral, multilateral and private funding channels. The present document is an update of the earlier reports² but with a distinct focus. It deals with selected thematic issues as determined during the fifth session (COP 5) in October last year (2001).

COP 5 created the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) with the purpose to review the implementation process of the UNCCD in broader perspective. The Committee was asked not only to look at quantitative and financial aspects but to concentrate on seven key thematic issues of strategic importance in the formulation and implementation of the UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs).

These themes (in short) deal with:

- Participatory processes
- Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements
- Resource mobilization and coordination
- Linkages and synergies
- Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems
- Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment
- Access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

The developed country Parties are asked to report to the CRIC on their support in the implementation of the UNCCD with regard to these seven issues. The present report fulfils this request and complements the earlier above-mentioned more quantitative national reports by the Netherlands.

The document is the result of a participatory reporting process in which Netherlands actors involved in UNCCD related activities in drought affected developing countries, were interviewed on the above seven subjects. The

² The first report in 1999 to COP 3 on support to African countries and the second in 2000 to COP 4 on support to non-African countries.

report, therefore, reflects the opinion and experience of the interviewed organizations with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Two broad groups of actors, each representing a different funding channel and, consequently, with their own different perspective, were approached during the reporting process:

- Netherlands embassies in charge of the bilateral cooperation programmes and belonging to the Spearhead Group on Desertification. The Spearhead Group on Desertification is a group of 13 embassies which pay more than average attention to desertification.
- Governmental and civil society organizations and research and training institutes based in the Netherlands, and involved in development cooperation in affected developing countries.

Two questionnaires were developed - one for each group - which formed the basis for the interview process. The questions are based on the Report by the Ad Hoc Working Group and the President's Summary of the Open Dialogue Sessions as documented in the annexes to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Fifth Session (ICCD/COP(5)/11).

This document does not cover the perspective of organizations which benefit from multilateral funding by the Netherlands, since they prepare their own reports.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand acceded to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) on 7 September 2000.

Measures taken to implement the Convention in New Zealand

To be an "affected country Party", New Zealand must have areas affected or threatened by desertification. At this stage, it is not considered that New Zealand falls under the definition of an "affected country Party" under the UNCCD. However there is potential for land degradation in New Zealand's dry tussock grasslands, and it is therefore necessary to keep the question of whether New Zealand suffers desertification under review.

Although New Zealand is not an affected country Party, a number of policies being implemented domestically are relevant to the aim of the Convention, in particular the need to mitigate drought. Through the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), New Zealand committed itself to managing natural and physical resources sustainably. The RMA thus provides the necessary legal regime for national and regional government to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought when/if required.

Measures taken to assist developing countries to implement the Convention

A number of New Zealand's Official Development Assistance (NZODA) programmes are relevant to the aims of the UNCCD.

NZODA contributes to poverty reduction and helps to secure stability and harmony in the international community, particularly the South Pacific region. There is increasing international recognition that aid must be sharply focused on reducing poverty and promoting environmental sustainability. NZODA contributes directly to these goals, which are aimed at building a fairer world. It recognizes that partnership and participation are key to cooperation between donor and partner countries. Respect for, and promotion of, internationally recognized human rights and good and honest governance form the foundation of development.

NZODA programmes are designed to give developing countries greater choice and opportunity in a world in which globalization is dramatically changing opportunities and options for the weaker and more vulnerable nations. They help to strengthen the links between New Zealand and the peoples of developing nations and to foster understanding and mutually beneficial relationships.

NZODA is delivered through bilateral, regional and multilateral programmes. Geographically, it concentrates its country and regional support on the island states of the Pacific and the developing countries of East and South-East Asia. There are also small aid programmes in East and Southern Africa and in South America. Assistance is provided primarily through educational scholarships, state and private sector linkages, NGOs, and through contributions to the development and relief efforts of the United Nations, Commonwealth and other multilateral organizations.

The Pacific is the area of New Zealand's primary NZODA emphasis. History, geography and immigration have given New Zealand close links with the region. New Zealand's relationships with most Pacific Island countries are warm and close. New Zealand is directly responsible for the Government of Tokelau, and has special constitutional links to the Cook Islands and Niue. New Zealand has extensive bilateral ODA relationships throughout the Pacific, and provides significant support for regional organizations.

The ratification or accession of a number of Pacific Island countries clearly signals the relevance and significance of the Convention to the Pacific region. As Pacific Island countries become increasingly engaged in the UNCCD we expect the further identification of priorities for action in the region.

While the Pacific is the area of New Zealand's primary NZODA emphasis, NZODA also contributes to a small number of programmes in Africa, where the problems of desertification are recognized by the UNCCD as being most pressing. New Zealand's development assistance to Africa is concentrated in the south and east of the continent and focuses on education and non-formal training, rural development and technical assistance.

New Zealand has not yet provided any direct support for the preparation of national action programmes in affected country Parties, but would be willing to do so if identified as a priority by partners in the region.

PORTUGAL

Bilateral Cooperation

During the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) from 19 March to 6 April 2001, Portugal announced its readiness to support Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique in the elaboration of their NAP within its capacities. With Guinea-Bissau it was not possible to pull out with this process. With Mozambique, we conducted a joint mission with the secretariat of the UNCCD to this country, in June 2001. The results of this mission were: technical support by Portugal for the elaboration of the NAP with the secondment of one technician of Portuguese cooperation; the designation of Portugal as "chef de file" of the process; the identification of the Funhalouro District, for the implementation of a development project, as well as the definition of its general objectives. Related to the elaboration of the NAP, a preliminary document is in appreciation for different entities envisaging to hold a National Forum. The cost of the mission amounted to about US\$ 2,500.

Multilateral cooperation

Training technicians from Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP): A training seminar on combating soil degradation, for 11 technicians, took place in Portugal from 28 August to 15 September. The training programme was based on hydric and aeolian erosion, experimental studies and techniques of soil conservation, forest fires and recovery of burned areas, strategies for combating desertification and mitigating of the effects of drought and evaluation of the hydric resources, monitoring and watershed plans. Many public entities, universities and centre of research were involved. The costs of the training were about US\$ 30,000.

African Regional Conference in preparation of COP 5 took place in Maputo, Mozambique, 27-29 August 2001. Financial participation of Portugal amounted to US\$ 10,000.

SWITZERLAND

Introduction

Switzerland's commitment and involvement in the implementation of the UNCCD was previously reported in 1999 at COP 3 (for Africa) and in 2000 at COP 4 (for Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean). The present report is therefore to be read and understood as an update (according to decision 1/COP.5) of the previous ones and consequently is not comprehensive. The update concentrates on activities and the involvement of Switzerland since the last reports showing the 'state-of-the-art'. It reports on new involvement in consultative processes and its support to the preparation and implementation of action

programmes. Indirect support through bilateral programmes is being analysed according to the main thematic issues suggested by the UNCCD reporting grid, i.e. participatory processes; legislative and institutional frameworks; linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions; measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land; drought and desertification monitoring and assessment; and access to technology knowledge and know-how. Such an analysis is reported for each part and is subjective in nature.

Switzerland remained actively involved at every stage of the negotiation process during the Conference of the Parties and has also played an important role in assisting the organization of COP 5 in the UN headquarters in Geneva in 2001. In these processes Switzerland has constantly tried to capitalize on its experiences through its involvement in a wide range of development-related activities on three continents. The focal point for the UNCCD being located within the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) allowed the exploitation of such synergies.

Within its bilateral cooperation, Switzerland continued to give priority to activities on the micro, meso and macro level. The ownership of most programmes and projects is with the population concerned and carried out in close partnership. Women are particularly addressed and its approach on differentiated approaches is widely acknowledged. Switzerland is convinced that the strengthening of the capacity of community level communities are a key condition to ensure a real partnership at all levels, in participatory processes, as well as in the implementation of measures for a sustainable use of resources. SDC has published a brochure showing the approach of partnerships on various levels. It was widely distributed at COP 5.

Swiss participation in the implementation of UNCCD: involvement and approach

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

Swiss efforts continue to respond to the needs of communities and on what they can do themselves in combating desertification. Switzerland advocates financial assistance giving priority to "software" initiatives such as reforming and strengthening institutions, policy dialogue, innovative pilot schemes, etc., and accordingly supports measures aimed at improving the social and economic infrastructure. It is convinced that such interventions are the basis for those negotiations needed in developing national action programmes.

In its bilateral cooperation Switzerland considers those programmes and projects relevant to respond to the mandate of the Convention when their main focus comprises one of the following fields:

- natural resources management in arid and semi-arid areas

- water and soil conservation
- sustainable land-use management
- participatory approaches to natural resources management including
- participation of women
- agricultural production: livestock, crops, forestry
- decentralization, policy and institutional reforms in natural resource management
- strengthening of capacities, training (at socio-organizational, technical, managerial and institutional levels)
- agricultural research (crops, soil, production systems) in arid and semi-arid areas.

These fields of activities and the definition of desertification according to the Convention has led to the detailed list of activities of Switzerland listed in the report. It has to be noted that Swiss development cooperation has a policy to work through a number of focus countries that are mentioned in the respective chapters. It will remain a challenge to link results and lessons learned of long-term bilateral experiences with the process of implementation of NAPS and SRAPs, as well as to reinforce awareness of desertification risks in endangered regions where SDC already supports programmes.

A survey to classify the bilaterally funded programmes in the report according to the thematic issues raised in the UNCCD Help Guide has given the results presented in the report: Participatory processes involving civil society and NGOs and community-based organizations have been addressed as the main or medium priority in over 80 per cent or all programmes on all continents in a similar way. To address the legislative or institutional framework directly has been the case with medium or high priority in about one third of all programmes analysed and a slightly higher focus in Latin American programmes. Involvement in Africa and Asia addresses measures for the rehabilitation of degraded lands with a higher priority. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment has had low or no priority on all continents, reflecting Switzerland's lack of comparative advantage in the field. On the other hand an extremely high priority has been given in all programmes and equally on all continents to access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

Switzerland has always supported - and will continue to do so - the participation of NGOs from the South with voluntary financial contributions, during the negotiation phase of the UNCCD and for the participation in session of the Conference of the Parties. A representative of Swiss NGOs is also part of the Swiss delegation at the Conference of the Parties, with the perspective to reinforce the partnership between Swiss NGOs and NGOs in the South in the future. Swiss NGOs are funding as well projects which are related to the Convention's objectives; the present report includes these projects in the attached list where information was available. Local NGOs are important partners in programmes funded by SDC and Swiss NGOs.

In addition to its direct and indirect contributions, Switzerland continues to provide funds to multilateral institutions playing a prominent part in

UNCCD implementation: UNDP, FAO, UNEP, IFAD, World Bank, regional development banks as well as for regional institutions as OSS, CILSS, the CGIAR and others. Within the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Switzerland has strongly advocated a new land degradation window, in the context of its new replenishment, to benefit the UNCCD.

Africa

The focus partner countries of Switzerland in terms of relevant bilateral cooperation of desertification programmes in Africa are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mali in West Africa, and Tanzania and Mozambique in East and Southern Africa.

Switzerland has not been directly involved in new partnership agreements for NAPs in Africa, but through the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD secretariat. However, with its bilateral programmes it has contributed through various activities to combating desertification. It is committed to making the lessons learned and the wide range of experiences made in its involvement of many years through the dialogue with governments and local implementation actors.

The financial resources allocated to activities to combat desertification in Africa are about 124.8 million Swiss francs (US\$ 71 million) for the period 1997 - 2002, which means CHF 20.8 million per year (US\$ 12 million).

Asia

The focus partner countries of Switzerland in terms of relevant bilateral cooperation of desertification programmes in Asia are India, Nepal, Pakistan and Viet Nam; in Central Asia Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; in the South Caucasus Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Switzerland has not been directly involved in any partnership agreements for NAPs in Asia. However, it has financially supported Government activities in relation with the preparation of NAPs in Central Asia and South Caucasus through substantial financial assistance through the UNCCD secretariat. A grant of CHF 525,000 was provided to assist countries like Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Georgia. Even though the funds were channelled through the secretariat, personal follow-ups were made by decentralized Swiss offices, taking ownership of the processes involved. As for other Asian countries, no direct partnerships were maintained.

The financial resources allocated to activities to combat desertification in Asia are about 94.2 million Swiss francs (US\$ 53 million) for the period 1997 - 2002, which means CHF 157 million per year (US\$ 9 million).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Switzerland has not participated in partnership agreements related to NAPs in Latin America. However the approach promoted through the UNCCD, namely to create a multi-partnership agreements between public-private and community or

grass-roots organizations for the implementation of action programmes, has made an important contribution. This approach will therefore also remain the main focus of Switzerland's activities in this region. Switzerland's main partner countries remain Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Cuba. Although Switzerland is, in financial terms, not involved explicitly in the preparation or implementation of NAPs, there are desertification-related activities, aiming at sustainable use of natural resources in dry-land hills of Central America and in Andean highlands of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. It will be a continuing challenges to link and bring in these results to the process of implementation of NAPs and SRAPs as well as to reinforce awareness of desertification risks in endangered regions where SDC already supports programmes.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

This is the third formal report to be presented by the United Kingdom (UK) on measures taken to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention. The first report was presented in June 1999 and covered measures taken to support the Convention in affected country Parties in Africa. The second was presented in April 2000 and covered measures supporting the Convention in affected country Parties in continents other than Africa. This report covers measures taken since the reports of 1999 and 2000 which support the Convention in all affected developing country Parties of the world that have areas subject to desertification.

The UK is committed to the promotion of sustainable development and the eradication of world poverty. In the context of effectively combating desertification, we aim to achieve this goal through our commitments to development partners. We work with governments, civil society, businesses, academic and research communities, and in collaboration with other donors and multilateral institutions.

The UK recognizes that the goal of combating desertification and land degradation is closely related to alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development. There are close synergies between the work we do to support the implementation of the Convention and our work to assist countries affected by poverty. We pay close regard to the need to integrate the objectives of the Convention with other related objectives of development. We consider that the means of addressing issues surrounding desertification and land degradation are best assimilated within the broader contexts of development plans and policies of affected country Parties, whose overall objectives are the eradication of poverty and sustainable development. Combating desertification is challenging and requires an interdisciplinary and cross-cutting approach that is long-term and sustained.

The UK continues to seek means of adding to its general support for implementation of the Convention's objectives. These include assisting with the development and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development (NSSDS) and poverty reduction strategies or similar processes in affected country Parties. These strategies have direct synergies with the

objectives of the Convention and the measures required to combat desertification and all its ramifications. They also offer opportunities which we support for improving coordination between the three United Nations conventions that evolved from the Rio Summit: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the UNCCD.

The UK commitment to development assistance is rising significantly, from approximately UK£ 3.3 billion in the financial year 2001/02 to almost UK£ 4.6 billion by 2005/06. The UK is also working with governments and other donors in pursuing measures to improve the effectiveness of its aid, for example through untying. The approximate financial commitments during the current financial year to each region of the world and, within each, the approximate commitments that address desertification issues, are given in the report, in which the levels of our commitment to each region of the world, in the context of projects and programmes related to desertification, are also indicated.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK government department responsible for development and the reduction of poverty, and is the UK contact point for the UNCCD. As such it is closely involved in the regular programmes of multilateral organizations supported by the UK whose activities relate to the objectives of the Convention. We support the work to combat desertification of the European Commission (EC), World Bank, regional development banks and United Nations agencies. We contribute to the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and support its commitment to National Action Programmes (NAPs) and the funding of desertification-related operations within its environmental programmes. We continue our commitment to the international Global Water Partnership as it supports developing and emerging countries in the sustainable management of their water resources.

The UK is actively assisting, and engaged through its bilateral programmes, in combating desertification and land degradation, in partnership with a large number of affected country Parties in each region. The following sections describe the range of projects and programmes that we support, demonstrating the UK's commitment to combating desertification and land degradation.

Africa

The links between desertification, land degradation and poverty are often strongest in Africa, and this region continues to be a key focus of our commitment to combating their effects. The continent will remain a priority for our development assistance in these fields. Nearly 50 per cent of the UK's bilateral country spending is allocated to Africa, and a commitment of over UK£ 650 million is planned for the current financial year. Commitments to specifically desertification-related activities total nearly £20 million, although many other commitments also address issues of desertification and approaches to its management. These include those made to sustainable rural livelihoods, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies or similar processes, integrated management of water resources, and environmental management and planning. The projects listed the report

illustrate the range of activities and measures in which we are involved that support the preparation and implementation of actions at all levels in affected developing country Parties in Africa.

Our activities in Africa that relate to the Convention continue to reveal strong support for the integration of measures to combat desertification into sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies or similar processes, into sustaining rural livelihoods, and into a wide range of technical programmes in degraded areas. Through our bilateral agreements with many affected country Parties, their regional organizations, and other developed country Parties, we also support poverty reduction programmes with broader objectives. Given the links between poverty and desertification/degradation, this work also supports the objectives of the Convention.

Through these means, we contribute indirectly to the implementation of NAPs and support the development of activities aimed at combating desertification. We support any actions by African country Parties that will strengthen measures and participatory mechanisms taking account of the needs of people affected by desertification, and that will improve awareness of the value of the Convention's objectives.

Asia

Over 40 per cent of the UK's bilateral country spending is allocated to Asia; over UK£ 600 million is planned for the current financial year (2002/03). Commitments specifically for desertification-related activities total over UK£ 111 million, including financial support of nearly UK£ 80 million to two major projects in dryland areas of India. Many other activities in Asia also address issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention. In Asia, combating desertification remains an integral component and priority objective of our commitment to alleviating the poverty of people in affected developing country Parties. The continued support we provide for activities to combat desertification in Asia is similar to that described above for Africa.

Latin America and the Caribbean

An allocation of nearly UK£ 50 million is planned for the UK bilateral country and regional programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean for the current financial year. Within these programmes, commitments relating to combating desertification in the region total over UK£ 300,000, and those that address issues of relevance to desertification within a broader context total over UK£ 10 million. As in the other regions, we support mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean for partnerships and consultations designed to combat desertification with affected developing country Parties.

Central and Eastern Europe

An allocation of over UK£ 80 million is planned for the UK bilateral country and regional programmes for Central and Eastern Europe for the current financial year. Commitments for desertification-related activities in the

region total nearly UK£ 600,000 and we have nearly UK£ 4.5 million committed to activities that address desertification and land degradation issues as integral components of broader programmes.

Central and Eastern Europe is less affected than the three other regions by desertification, but there are areas where the need for desertification to be combated remains a priority. Our commitment to the region remains in support for sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies or similar processes.

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