



UNITED
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/CRIC(3)/3/Add.2
11 March 2005

ENGLISH/FRENCH ONLY

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
Third session
Bonn, 2 – 11 May 2005
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND OF ITS
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2 (a) AND (b), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION,
AS WELL AS DECISION 1/COP.5, PARAGRAPH 10**

**REVIEW OF THE REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES
TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION
PROGRAMMES OF AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES, 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

1. Following decision 9/COP.6, the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) shall review, *inter alia*, the reports by developed country Parties on their activities in support of the implementation of the Convention in affected African country Parties. Pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat was requested to compile summaries of such reports. The same decision also defined the format and content of reports and, in particular, required summaries not to exceed six pages.

2. The present document contains the summaries of reports submitted by 16 developed Parties before 28 February 2005. The secretariat has also made these reports available on its website at <http://www.unccd.int>.

¹ Reproduced without formal editing.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. CANADA	3
2. CZECH REPUBLIC	4
3. DENMARK	5
4. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	6
5. FINLAND	7
6. FRANCE	9
7. GERMANY	14
8. GREECE	15
9. ITALY	15
10. MONACO	16
11. THE NETHERLANDS	20
12. NORWAY	21
13. POLAND	22
14. SWEDEN	22
15. SWITZERLAND	24
16. UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	26

1. CANADA

Canada has been a strong supporter of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since its inception. Canada was active in negotiations that led to the signing of the Convention, and was quick to ratify it. While Canada is considered an affected country, its primary role in the implementation of the Convention is as a donor.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), as the Federal Government's department responsible for administering overseas development assistance, has been tasked with leading Canada's collaborative efforts under the UNCCD. CIDA works with other government departments, in particular Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, as well as the International Development Research Centre (a Crown Corporation) on a variety of international projects that promote sustainable development. CIDA's collaborative efforts in this field also extend to a number of Canadian partners from the private sector, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This broad range of experience has helped influence CIDA's strategic directions, including the approach taken to address sustainable land management.

Over the reporting period, Canada has provided bilateral support for desertification-related initiatives in Africa, and has contributed to multilateral initiatives and institutions whose programming has a major impact on sustainable development in Africa. These include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Development Bank (ADB). In addition, Canada provided direct support to both the UNCCD secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM).

At the same time, Canada has taken a leadership role in responding to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) with the C\$ 500,000,000 Canada Fund for Africa. The fund, launched at the 2002 G-8 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, includes specific initiatives that help address – directly and indirectly – the issue of desertification. This work complements similar large funding efforts, such as the Canada Climate Change Development Fund, which earmarked C\$ 40,000,000 for programmes in Africa.

This report represents Canada's response to meet the UNCCD secretariat requirement for CRIC 3. It summarizes the key Canadian initiatives undertaken to combat desertification in Africa between 2002 and 2004. Overall, CIDA and its partners supported some 90 major initiatives in 19 African countries during the reporting period. Not only does the report highlight specific desertification-related projects and programmes that have been undertaken, but it also outlines the strategic directions that Canada has taken to address the broader international challenges being faced by African countries. This holistic and integrated approach to the implementation of the Convention reflects the complex nature of desertification.

2. CZECH REPUBLIC

Since its accession to the UNCCD on 24 April 2000, the Czech Republic has actively participated in activities connected to the implementation of the Convention and it also continually contributes to activities of the bodies of the Convention. The Czech Republic acceded to the Convention on the understanding that it does not belong to the countries affected by desertification in the sense of the Convention. It ranks among the “emerging donor countries”. The Czech Republic provides assistance to the affected developing countries through projects concerning such areas as soil degradation, hydrogeology, hydrology and forestry, particularly within its scope for the official development assistance (ODA). Research and scientific institutions, the academic sector, non-profit organizations and the private sector also contribute to the assistance to affected countries.

In addition to financial means, which are limited, the Czech Republic can provide experts, suitable technologies, know-how and information. The Czech Republic has at its disposal considerable experience, particularly in the following areas in which it is able to provide assistance to the affected countries:

- soil and water sustainable management
- development of maps and background materials employing satellite and aerial photographs
- geological, hydrogeological and pedological surveys
- water erosion, floods and drought control and preventive measures
- soil type mapping and definition of indicators for soil degradation
- forest inventory, typology and sustainable management
- afforestation and re-forestation of affected areas
- scientific research
- landscape protection
- reclamation of lands devastated by mining.

The Czech Republic also participates in assistance to developing African countries by means of its ODA projects. A number of these projects have been implemented with a direct impact on matters connected to desertification and soil degradation. There are currently several ongoing projects closely related to such areas as desertification, development of water resources, hydrogeology, agriculture, and improvement of training of local experts. Private companies, universities, research institutions and NGOs are also involved in the implementation. The implemented projects are of great value for recipient countries and the Czech ODA is generally highly valued. The Czech Republic thus contributes to the addressing of global environmental issues.

3. DENMARK

Denmark signed the UNCCD as one of the first countries in October 1994, and ratified it in December 1995. Denmark has also for many years supported activities to control desertification by bilateral as well as multilateral funding, especially in Africa.

Denmark supports many programmes, especially in Africa, that are related to sustainable resources management in arid and semi-arid zones, for desertification control and support of the UNCCD implementation process.

Development activities in the drylands are closely linked to poverty reduction, which is often linked to land degradation and sustainable development. Most of the Danish supported activities are not explicitly linked to UNCCD national action programmes (NAPs), but are related to issues of natural resources management and anti-desertification measures, especially within capacity building, exchange of information, biodiversity and climate protection, and water and land management. There are only a few cases in which Denmark's partner countries in the South have linked new projects in the field of resource management to the UNCCD. However, especially in the African countries there is growing interest in the Convention.

Denmark has supported the regional assistance provided by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (formerly UNSO), which has for instance focused on assisting countries to develop and launch their NAPs. The beneficiary countries included Botswana, Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In addition, the Southern Africa Development Community-Environment and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS), a subregional institution based in Lesotho, received funding to support the cross-cutting activities of support to NAP implementation at subregional level, mainly the exchange of information and experience and the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. By supporting the NAPs, Denmark has wanted to support the national frameworks and to mainstream development in the countries. Among other international organizations to have received support from Denmark are IFAD, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other United Nations organizations, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED).

Denmark has supported programmes administered by Danish NGOs which have focused on agriculture, NAP processes, awareness raising, and natural resources management (NRM) in the drylands, and so on. Among those that have been supported are the Danish 92-Group, Danish Church Aid, Care Denmark, Danish Bee Consult, Danish Save the Children, and the Danish-Ethiopian Initiative.

Interregional support has been provided by Denmark mainly to international research institutes, among them the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), UNEP and IUCN. Denmark has supported the establishment of research networks within agriculture, water, the environment and good governance, etc. The objectives have been to strengthen the synergies and dialogues between Danish and foreign researchers and institutions. Selected international research

institutions and initiatives within agriculture, health and social science have also been supported by multilateral funds.

In 2001 the Danish Government supported a cooperation of Danish NGOs in the context of the UNCCD. A pilot project of one year was established in cooperation with the Danish 92-Group and Care Denmark to promote knowledge of the Convention among the Danish NGOs. Opportunities for cooperation among NGOs were supported, in order to strengthen projects and to support NRM and UNCCD implementation in the respective partner countries in the south.

The Danish Government acknowledges that there is a need not only in the affected countries, but also in the developed countries, to create awareness of the Convention. There is still a long way to go to full implementation of the UNCCD and to sustainable and well-integrated NAPs according to desertification and drought measures.

Within the frameworks of the European Union (EU), the GEF and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Denmark has participated in debates to promote effective implementation of the UNCCD.

4. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The report provides a comprehensive review of the policies, financial instruments and projects of the European Community (EC) that have contributed and are currently supporting sustainable drylands management activities in Africa over the period January 2000 –December 2003.

The reason for covering this period for the purposes of CRIC 3 reporting is that there was the need to integrate the partial quantitative information on activities relating to Africa submitted by the EC in 2002 in view of CRIC 1.

In addition to this it should be noted that the EC took advantage of the time of submission of the current report (November 2004) to provide the most up-to-date information on EC policy developments relevant for the UNCCD which occurred during 2004.

In quantitative terms, the EC financial support provided through the EC available sources of funding (geographic and thematic) to programmes and projects which address the issues covered by the UNCCD in the period 2000-2003 in Africa amounts to 631,483,211 euros over 189 projects.

Given the complexity of the land degradation phenomenon (the number of very different forms that it takes) and the multifaceted Community policy responses, it is extremely challenging to identify projects and activities carried out solely for combating desertification. Integrated project design (i.e. the acknowledged method for shaping projects and programmes addressing at the same time complex issues as is the case for natural resources management) is an additional difficulty faced in the current undertaking. Chapter 1 of the report contains a detailed explanation of the methodology that has been followed in the search for relevant quantitative information.

Chapter 2 of the report describes the main policy frameworks governing the activities of the Community in Africa. This includes actions supported under the European Development Fund (EDF) and the Mediterranean Partnership. These are complemented by the thematic interventions under the programmes “Environment and tropical forests in developing countries”, “NGO co-financing”, “Food Security”, the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE) and Research and Technological Development. The report quotes interesting and wide-ranging projects in most of these areas. The annexes provide more detailed information on the projects identified as being related to desertification and conducted between 2000 and 2003.

Chapter 3 of the report provides an update on recent major development policy initiatives such as the EU – Africa dialogue and the EC progress report on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that have an overall natural influence on the desertification brief. Ground-breaking activities are taking place within the Poverty and Environment Partnership, which is a multi-stakeholder think tank working on the crucial poverty-environment nexus.

Finally, chapter 4 of the report tackles the cross-cutting themes that have been identified by decision 1/COP.5 as being crucial for an improved implementation of the Convention. In this qualitative part of the report, the EC has attempted to generate a strategic contribution to the thematic topics that will be the subject of presentations and debate during the third session of the CRIC. In this context the EC believes that the “EU-ACP Joint Paper on combating drought and desertification” adopted by the EU – African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Council in 2003 contains in essence the operational principles necessary in the EC view to steer the UNCCD work towards effective key implementation issues such as reformed national policies and processes to address the serious and long-term constraints to sustainable agricultural development.

5. FINLAND

Programme formulation for acacia management for poverty reduction, rural development and sustainable land management through gum arabic production in Africa

On the basis of requests from the prospective countries with regard to implementing a subregional programme and national programmes on this topic, and consultations between Finland, the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI) of the University of Helsinki was contracted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (the UNCCD national focal point) to work together with the participating countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania) and international organizations to formulate a set of projects for a comprehensive programme of cooperation and investment.

The Regional Set-up for the Project: The project strategy follows Article 2 of the UNCCD, which states that the combating of desertification and the mitigation of the effects of drought will include “long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level”.

The projects will promote the inclusion of traditional knowledge and experience, while at the same time introducing and using a variety of new technical, technological and decision-making tools which enhance the ability to cope with the current vulnerability and constraints of gum production in the African drylands. As the UNCCD secretariat is not a project-implementing body, the projects will be carried out under the project administration framework of ICRISAT in Nairobi, Kenya and Niamey, Niger, which will coordinate the overall regional project and provide support services for the national projects. The regional project will be bilingual with English and French as the official languages. The idea is to attempt to reduce the language barriers between the ten above-mentioned countries and to open up/allow free exchange between the national projects of know-how and experience on gum arabic production and marketing.

The main focus of the projects is on supporting the local communities and the national Governments in combating desertification by maintaining and improving a sustainable natural resource base while at the same time strengthening local food security. The projects are supposed to build on an integrated agroforestry systems approach around the two main gum arabic-producing acacia trees, namely *Acacia senegal* and *Acacia seyal*, which already have an established high market share in the gum market. The projects require marketing to international financiers, such as the GEF or the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) based in Saudi Arabia, for funding.

VITRI is creating a practical concept in cooperation with the partner countries, following the newly-established GEF criteria for combating land degradation. The GEF has grouped these criteria under two operational programmes: the Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management (OP 15) and the Operational Programme on Integrated Ecosystem Management (OP 12). The Regional Project comprises coordination and reporting arrangements, regional training and information centre activities, and research and market analysis activities.

The national projects: The ten national projects will be tailor-made for each country, which means that the content of the projects varies somewhat. Some countries have in many ways a fairly advanced situation and in these the project concept builds on what already exists in the country. In other countries, project work will be initiated through pilots comprising management capacity building, field research integrated with existing research institutions, and extension work. Technical cooperation arrangements will be initiated between countries to enhance knowledge transfer through field expertise and training.

The budget for each national project will be a maximum of about 2 million euros per country, which means that the total budget for all projects will probably be around 22.5 million euros. The Finnish contribution towards the programme formulation is of the order of 106,000 euros.

Programme of catalytic support to implement the UNCCD in West Asia and North Africa
(UNDP/Drylands Development Centre)

In 2000-2002, the first phase of the "Programme of Catalytic Support to Implement the UNCCD in West Asia and North Africa" was supported by the Government of Finland (with US\$ 0.6 million) and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (based in Beirut, Lebanon) in six countries: Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and

Yemen. The programme also supported a few regional processes. Since May 2003, the Programme has continued and expanded as the second phase, supported by the Government of Finland with another 1 million euros. In total, the Programme now also supports the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia and Palestine besides the six countries of the first phase. Two expected main outcomes are: (i) support to national drylands development processes provided through capacity building, advocacy, resource mobilization and innovative programming, and (ii) support to Arab regional and subregional drylands development processes provided through policy advice, technical assistance and knowledge networking. The second phase of the Programme is to be completed by June 2005.

International Programme for Arid Land Crops (IPALAC)/ ICRISAT

Since 1997, Finland has supported the work of the IPALAC and ICRISAT Centre in Niamey, Niger in the development of new methodologies for dryland agricultural practices. The volume of this support has been of the order of 250,000 euros per year.

Improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Global Mechanism

In 2001, Finland made an agreement with IFAD/GM by which Finland made available 1 million FIM (about 168,188 euros) for support to affected countries Parties to the UNCCD at national and subregional levels to identify and enter into the pipeline potential projects for financing by the GEF. Such projects will be identified on the basis of national and subregional action programmes and will support the development and implementation of NAPs within the member countries of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In 2002, Finland contributed an amount of 350,000 euros through the GM for purposes to be agreed upon in due course. In 2003, a further support of 60,000 euros was made available to support pilot projects in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Tentatively, Finland considers continuing its support through the GM in the coming years, with a view to enhancing UNCCD implementation at the international level in a manner complementary to Finland's bilateral relations with affected countries, and with the purpose of identifying and programming projects eligible for GEF and other funding. In this regard, the CRIC could consider re-assessing the coordination and cooperation elements within the mandates of various bodies and structures within the Convention, in particular the secretariat, the GM and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and its Group of Experts, with a view to strengthening their respective roles and areas of comparative strength in supporting national and regional processes and mobilizing resources for implementation.

6. FRANCE

Conformément aux obligations des pays Parties, la France apporte sa contribution à chaque grande convention sur l'environnement : celle sur le changement climatique, celle sur la biodiversité et celle sur la lutte contre la désertification. La France a par ailleurs réaffirmé son intérêt pour le domaine de l'environnement au sommet de Johannesburg en 2002.

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. 190 pays

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).

Conformément à l'article 7 du texte de la Convention, la France engage la majorité de ses actions de lutte contre la désertification dans la région africaine. La France a engagé en 2003 environ 9 millions d'Euros d'aide à la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur le continent africain. La stratégie adoptée par la France en matière de lutte contre la désertification est une stratégie de long terme. Elle consiste à œuvrer au renforcement des capacités des pays touchés Parties 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 l'année 2003, 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 :

- 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, les actions de décentralisation et de lutte contre la pauvreté,
- le renforcement des organisations locales, nationales, sous-régionales et régionales impliquées dans la gestion de l'environnement rural, et notamment dans la lutte contre la désertification et la dégradation des terres,
- le soutien à la recherche scientifique sur la désertification, sur ses causes, sur son suivi et sur les solutions pouvant être développées à la fois dans les pays du Nord et du Sud,
- l'aide à la formation des cadres dans les pays touchés Parties. Ces formations s'exercent à diverses échelles 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.

En France, les principales institutions qui financent la lutte contre la désertification sont le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE), le Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable (MEDD) et le Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (MENESR). L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) et le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) 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 et développement (R&D) concernant la LCD. De nombreux projets, notamment au CIRAD et à l'IRD, ont une action directe et indirecte en termes de lutte contre la désertification.

Ces projets donnent lieu à de nombreux partenariats avec des institutions nationales, régionales et internationales.

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 régional et national dans le cadre d'une politique de financement de projets. L'aide aux pays touchés Parties 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 les retombées de projets de recherche scientifique.

Les autorités françaises sont conseillées par le Comité Scientifique Français de la Désertification (CSFD), lequel est 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 huit 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 de fonds mais aussi par les populations, des résultats de la recherche. Ces projets se sont terminés en décembre 2003.

En 2003, le MEDD réaffirme son soutien à la mise en réseau des organisations non gouvernementales (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 (GTD) et ce travail est relayé par l'ONG Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI). Le CARI a organisé des rencontres d'information et de formation sur la désertification au Sommet de la terre à Johannesburg en 2002, ainsi qu'une manifestation parallèle lors de la dernière COP des pays signataires de la CCD, du 25 août au 5 septembre 2003 à la Havane.

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. L'AFD vient de se doter d'un CIS où figurent les actions de lutte contre la désertification (voir en annexe 2 le résumé du CIS). Les projets de l'AFD de lutte contre la désertification peuvent être résumés de la façon suivante :

- ce sont des projets d'appui à la gestion concertée des ressources naturelles, comme par exemple la gestion des ressources ligneuses (bois énergie et bois d'œuvre), les actions pilotes sur le foncier ou la gestion des ressources pastorales ;
- il s'agit aussi de volets de gestion des ressources naturelles au sein des projets de développement,
- ce sont des projets d'hydraulique pastorale et des projets d'agro-écologie.

Ces différents projets ont en commun des principes d'intervention dont les principaux sont la responsabilisation des communautés bénéficiaires, la participation de ces communautés

au financement des actions et l'appui aux communautés locales par des acteurs professionnels, le plus souvent des opérateurs locaux. Dans de nombreux cas, les projets AFD bénéficient d'un co-financement du FFEM.

Le FFEM est une structure interministérielle créée 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 1999-2002, il a été doté de 67 millions d'Euros. Une enveloppe de même montant a été versée pour 2003-2006. Le FFEM consacre près de la moitié de ses ressources à l'Afrique sub-saharienne. Depuis 2002, il finance des projets de lutte contre la dégradation des sols incluant la désertification et le déboisement. L'action du FFEM en matière de lutte contre la désertification concerne le projet Réseaux nationaux d'Observatoires de Surveillance Ecologique à Long Terme (ROSELT), l'Initiative Régionale Environnement Mondial et Lutte contre la Désertification en Afrique Sahélienne (IREMLCD) ainsi que les volets gestion des ressources naturelles des projets de développement locaux de l'AFD.

La France contribue à l'aide multilatérale régionale en appuyant les organisations régionales et internationales qui travaillent 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 2003, le MAE et le MEDD soutiennent le fonctionnement de l'Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), et notamment son programme 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 différents pays.

Le MAE contribue au financement du Centre Africain pour les Applications de la Météorologie au Développement (ACMAD) et soutient le Centre Régional de formation en agrométéorologie et en hydrologie (AGRHYMET) du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) : sa participation pour cinq ans (1999-2003) 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 de lutte contre la 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 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 pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEM) 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. La dégradation des terres constituant pour le FEM un compartiment de l'environnement global depuis la COP 6 en septembre 2003, il reste encore difficile de recenser les projets de lutte contre la dégradation des terres relevant du FEM. Cependant, et au titre de la transversalité, le FEM 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) et leurs interactions avec la dégradation des terres.

Répondant au texte de l'annexe I de la Convention, la politique française de lutte contre la désertification est aussi une politique de lutte contre la pauvreté et contre les inégalités dans l'accès aux ressources. L'engagement de la France dans les projets d'appui au développement local au Burkina Faso et dans l'IREMLCD en Afrique Sahélienne en sont deux exemples. Ce choix d'action est conforme aux politiques de LCD développées par d'autres pays développés Parties, par les organisations internationales comme la Banque Mondiale et le FEM ainsi que par l'Union Européenne (UE). Ces projets favorisent la participation de la société civile des pays touchés Parties aux choix de lutte contre la désertification.

Dans le cadre de l'initiative sur la dette des pays pauvres très endettés (PPTE), la France a mis en place des contrats de désendettement-développement pour un montant de 128 millions d'Euros sur quatre ans dans quatre pays africains. Ces contrats ne concernent pas la gestion des ressources naturelles, mais il est prévu à terme 23 contrats de ce type pour un montant total de 3,7 milliards d'Euros. La gestion des ressources naturelles serait un des domaines principaux d'affectation de ces montants.

Enfin, la France valorise le thème des synergies entre les trois conventions internationales sur l'environnement évoqué dans l'article 8 de la CCD. Elle soutient notamment de nombreux projets portant sur l'environnement orientés vers la lutte contre l'effet de serre et la protection de la biodiversité qui ont un impact positif sur la lutte contre la désertification. 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. Ils ont un impact direct sur la désertification. Les montants versés pour l'année 2003 atteignent 2,78 millions d'Euros. 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.

7. GERMANY

The UNCCD presents an important frame of reference for German activities in support of sustainable resource use in African partner countries. The German commitment to UNCCD implementation is positioned within a wider strategic framework of development cooperation.

This comprises the German commitment to attain the MDGs and the goals adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and Germany's Programme of Action 2015 for poverty reduction. The Africa Concept of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provides further guidance for cooperation with the African countries affected by desertification, as do the debates held by the German Bundestag (Parliament) and the priorities defined for bilateral cooperation.

The German Federal Government has created a number of special instruments tailored to supporting African countries in the preparation and implementation of their NAPs. These include a fund for the support of UNCCD implementation in Africa, the UNCCD project for worldwide promotion of UNCCD-relevant activities, and a German UNCCD network to facilitate UNCCD mainstreaming in German development cooperation. However, the main thrust of support for combating desertification in Africa derives from the numerous bilateral technical and financial cooperation projects. Their rich cumulative experience is at the disposal of the convention process, but is not always utilized optimally.

Of the 520 projects for desertification control currently in progress worldwide which are supported by German state and non-state implementing organizations, 237 are being implemented in Africa. Hence implementation activities are doing justice to the priority of Africa as enshrined in the Convention.

Germany considers the formation of new strategic partnerships to be particularly important in efforts to foster the Convention process. The mobilization of financial resources, in particular, is already an element of such partnerships. In this respect there is close cooperation with the GM with the goal of mobilizing, together with other partners, the resources for desertification control envisaged within the context of the GEF Pilot Country Programmatic Partnership.

The German point of view is that efforts to combat land degradation need to be linked even more closely than before with key spheres of economic and social development, notably with poverty reduction. In future, the strategic potential of the UNCCD must be harnessed in a targeted manner to improve the living conditions of rural populations. To this end, the affected countries should identify desertification control activities that contribute perceptibly and in the foreseeable future to an improvement in the living conditions of target groups.

Proceeding from the extensive experience that Germany has been able to collect through its support for UNCCD implementation, this report presents a series of conclusions and recommendations for the Convention's future implementation.

8. GREECE

During this reporting period, Greece has continued implementing the UNCCD both domestically and internationally. On the international level and specifically referring to the region of Africa, Greece has contributed diplomatically and economically. Greece's efforts have enhanced the development of a supportive European diplomacy towards environmental protection and sustainable development in developing countries including the African States. In parallel, the Greek State has contributed financially toward supporting the UNCCD and the GEF in their tasks. A number of projects relating to the mitigation of desertification have been realized through bilateral cooperation with various African states.

9. ITALY

Italy is committed to support the UNCCD implementation process. As a donor country, Italy supports many cooperation programmes in arid and semi-arid zones, especially in Africa.

These programmes are carried out in the framework of poverty reduction strategies. Some of them are explicitly linked to the UNCCD NAPs; others consist in financial support to sustainable natural resources management and other measures to combat desertification, including capacity building activities in affected countries and exchange of information.

By supporting the NAPs, Italy aims to uphold the national frameworks and to mainstream sustainable development in the affected countries' policies and strategies.

In addition, Italy has financially supported some intergovernmental organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNEP, UNDP, FAO, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), GEF and IUCN.

Italy has also supported programmes administered by Italian NGOs. These programmes have promoted sustainable agriculture and the NAP processes, enabled the assessment and monitoring of desertification in affected African areas and contributed to land reforestation in this region. They have been implemented with the full involvement of local NGOs.

Italy considers technical and scientific research as the basis for the fight against desertification, especially at the interregional level. Italy has therefore funded relevant activities of international research institutes, such as the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (IAO); the *Centre de Suivi Ecologique* (CSE), Senegal; the *Fondazione per la Meteorologia Applicata* (FMA) and the *Centre régional de formation en agrométéorologie et en hydrologie* (AGRHYMET).

Finally, Italy has supported research networks within institutions dealing with agriculture, water, land, environment and capacity building.

10. MONACO

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.

Monaco a engagé des activités depuis quatre ans pour assister dans leur lutte contre la sécheresse et la dégradation des sols les pays africains les plus durement affectés par ce phénomène.

Parmi les activités menées en 2002-2003 par la Principauté dans le cadre de sa coopération à la lutte contre la désertification, il faut noter :

1. la participation à des projets transfrontaliers de lutte contre la désertification pilotés par le secrétariat de la Convention ;
2. l'insertion, le cas échéant, des objectifs de lutte contre les processus de désertification dans les projets de coopération bilatérale, notamment en Afrique subsaharienne ;
3. les formations à des techniques de culture et de maintien de la végétation ;
4. la sensibilisation et la formation du public à la lutte contre la désertification.

Projets pilotes transfrontaliers

Depuis 2000, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la CCD, Monaco finance des projets pilotes transfrontaliers dans les pays africains touchés par ce phénomène (Burkina Faso/Niger, Algérie/Mali, Tunisie/Algérie).

Ces projets visent à la promotion d'actions pilotes communautaires de gestion durable des ressources naturelles à l'échelon local.

En 2002 et 2003, 55 000 Euros ont été consacrés au projet pilote Burkina Faso/Niger.

En 2003, le financement était destiné à :

- Aménager un forage pastoral au Burkina Faso ;
- Lancer des activités du côté nigérien.

Concernant ce projet, les objectifs spécifiques sont :

- Mettre en œuvre des actions locales pour freiner l'ensablement du cours d'eau du Gorouol ;
- Mettre en œuvre des techniques simples de restauration du couvert végétal dans le cadre de la mise en défense des aires dégradées ;
- Introduction de techniques d'atténuation de la consommation de bois de chauffe et de bois d'œuvre.

La Principauté continuera de soutenir les projets pilotes en 2004 et 2005.

Les projets de coopération bilatérale

Reconstitution du couvert forestier de l'ancienne cédraie libanaise

La forte diminution des surfaces forestières pendant les années de guerre est une problématique environnementale majeure au Liban.

La coopération avec ce pays en matière d'environnement date de la signature en 1993 d'un Protocole d'accord, et de la mise en œuvre dès 1994 d'une Convention-Programme concernant le reboisement. Elle fut suivie d'une seconde Convention-Programme qui couvrait la période 1998-2000.

Dans le cadre de la troisième Convention-Programme établie pour la période 2001-2005, les objectifs principaux sont :

- L'élaboration du plan d'aménagement de deux cédraies (Jaj et Ehden) et leur mise en œuvre avec la réalisation d'infrastructures forestières et le reboisement d'environ 200 ha ;
- L'entretien des cédraies existantes, des plantations et des chemins forestiers sur les sites de reboisement (Barouk, Jaj, Ehden) ;
- L'aide au fonctionnement des pépinières de Debbiyé et Chtaura ;
- L'aide à la formation des agents du génie rural libanais.

Le financement des opérations est assuré pour moitié par le Gouvernement libanais et pour l'autre moitié par Monaco pour un montant de 92 000 Euros par an jusqu'en 2005.

Réhabilitation de la palmeraie de Taldnould au Maroc

Ce projet est entrepris en partenariat avec l'ONG monégasque Monaco Aide et Présence. Il consiste en la réhabilitation de 40 ha de palmeraie qui ont été dégradés suite à la sécheresse de ces 20 dernières années.

Les objectifs poursuivis par ce projet sont :

- Reconstituer l'écosystème de la palmeraie (strates du palmier, de l'arboriculture et des plantations maraîchères/cultures fourragères) ;
- Inciter au maintien et au retour des populations paysannes ;
- Lutter contre la pauvreté par le développement des cultures vivrières, l'élevage ovin et la mise en œuvre d'activités génératrices de revenus (production et conditionnement de dattes, culture du henné).

En 2003, Monaco a contribué au financement du projet pour un montant de 25 000 Euros. Monaco Aide et Présence a apporté un financement de 11 300 Euros pour le forage et l'équipement du puits.

L'aménagement des berges de la vallée de Goffat au Niger

Ce projet, mis en œuvre en 2002-2003 dans la région sahélienne d'Agadez, consistait à réaliser des aménagements de protection des berges d'un kori contre l'érosion, par la mise en œuvre de 835 m de digues en pierres sèches et gabion. 30 200 Euros y ont été consacrés en 2002.

Les résultats enregistrés sont :

- Protection des terres cultivables, utilisées pour le maraîchage ;
- Recharge de la nappe phréatique.

Récupération des terres dégradées et aménagement des mares du plateau de Bougoum au Niger

La région sahélienne du plateau de Bougoum, située au nord de Niamey en bordure du fleuve Niger, bénéficie d'une pluviométrie moyenne de 500 mm/an et est caractérisée par une dégradation continue des terres due au processus de désertification, favorisant l'érosion hydrique. La réduction des terres cultivables sur ce plateau augmente la situation d'extrême pauvreté de ses agriculteurs. De plus, lors des phénomènes pluvieux, les eaux de ruissellement chargées de limons entraînent l'ensablement progressif du fleuve Niger.

Les objectifs de ce projet sont :

- La réduction des effets induits par le phénomène de désertification sur l'environnement ;
- L'augmentation des ressources hydriques disponibles pour l'agriculture et la pisciculture ;
- La régénération du couvert végétal ;
- La diminution du stress alimentaire ;
- La création de nouvelles sources de revenus.

Au final, le projet devrait aboutir à la restauration et la sécurisation de 300 ha de terres dégradées par l'aménagement d'ouvrages anti-érosifs et la reforestation, le surcreusement de 5 mares et le développement de la production maraîchère et fourragère.

En 2003, la première phase du projet a été réalisée, à savoir le surcreusement des 5 mares. Le volume cumulé de ces mares représente une ressource en eau disponible après la saison des pluies (hivernage) de 1 310 m³. Ces points d'eau permettent la mise en œuvre de jardins maraîchers pour les cultures de contre saison et le développement futur de l'aquaculture.

En 2002, 17 400 Euros ont été consacré à ce projet qui se poursuivra jusqu'en 2004.

Formation

Formation dans le domaine de la production de plants en pépinières en 2002 et 2003.

Dans le cadre d'actions visant à freiner l'avancée de la désertification par la promotion de techniques simples de restauration du couvert végétal, une session de formation pour la production de plants en pépinière a été organisée en Principauté pour 10 techniciens originaires

du Bénin, du Burkina Faso, de Côte d'Ivoire et du Niger.

Les objectifs de cette activité sont :

- la démonstration du savoir faire monégasque en matière d'aménagement d'espaces verts en zone urbaine ;
- la formation en matière de techniques de multiplication et de production de végétaux ;
- l'initiation à certaines techniques d'études sur le reboisement et sur la gestion de zones naturelles ayant subies des incendies ;
- l'échange d'expérience et la confrontation des techniques utilisées par les stagiaires dans leurs pays respectifs.

Environ 45 000 Euros ont été consacrés à ces formations en 2002 et 2003.

La sensibilisation du public à la problématique de la désertification

Kit éducatif environnemental pour combattre la désertification (UNESCO/UNCCD)

Monaco a financé l'impression et la diffusion d'un kit de formation et de sensibilisation à la lutte contre la désertification édité par l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO) et la CCD dans les pays francophones d'Afrique touchés par ce phénomène. Le kit, édité à 2 500 exemplaires, a été diffusé dans les écoles primaires d'Afrique par le réseau des écoles associées au projet de l'UNESCO dans les pays suivants : Algérie, Bénin, Burkina Faso, Comores, République centrafricaine et Sénégal.

Le kit contient les éléments suivants :

- Un guide du professeur pour « Apprendre à lutter contre la désertification » ;
- Une compilation de cas d'études ;
- Un poster grand format « La désertification dans le monde » ;
- Une bande dessinée pour enfant intitulée « L'école où poussent les arbres magiques ».

Les objectifs de ce projet réalisé en 2003 sont :

- La réimpression des kits dans plusieurs langues, notamment en français ;
- Leur diffusion dans les écoles francophones ;
- L'éducation et la sensibilisation à la lutte contre la désertification.

Monaco y a contribué pour un montant de 15 000 Euros.

11. THE NETHERLANDS

In the Netherlands bilateral cooperation, fifteen embassies of the Netherlands in Africa report activities which contribute to the objectives of the Convention. The Netherlands embassies in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal indicate a direct relation of their activities to the implementation of the UNCCD. Those in Burkina Faso and Senegal are *chefs de file* for the UNCCD and the Embassy in Mali is a member of the Advisory Committee which has been created for the implementation of the UNCCD NAP.

The other embassies mainstream issues of land degradation and desertification in programmes and activities linked to the frameworks of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) that have been formulated by the various countries. Therefore, most reported development activities in dry areas are related to issues of natural resources management and bear relevance to UNCCD objectives; however they are usually not directly linked to UNCCD NAPs.

Seven departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs support regional and worldwide activities relating to UNCCD implementation activities. The Department for Environment and Water (DMW) is the focal point for the UNCCD in the Netherlands and participates in the international policy discussions. DMW advises the minister for development cooperation on desertification issues and is responsible for the translation of international policy into national development policy. It supports the embassies with the integration of UNCCD issues into bilateral programmes. DMW facilitates an activity implemented by the Dutch NGO, Both Ends, which raises awareness in the Netherlands of the UNCCD and is to enhance NGO involvement in the UNCCD process. It aims at capacity building of civil society actors to enable them to become involved in the implementation of the UNCCD. DMW cooperated with the UNCCD secretariat to support affected countries in developing a synergistic approach towards the three Rio conventions and to promote the effectiveness of the NAPs.

With regard to the NGOs based in the Netherlands, and their partners in developing countries, their activities are often relevant to the objectives of the convention in indirect ways also. Many partner organizations of the Netherlands NGOs are located in countries affected by land degradation and desertification. Although their support is usually not directly focused on UNCCD implementation, partners are often involved in programmes and projects aiming at combating land degradation and sustainable livelihoods. The Dutch NGOs all strongly support the empowerment of civil society and as such contribute strongly to UNCCD strategy and implementation.

The resources mobilized by the Netherlands for UNCCD-related activities in Africa do not show large fluctuations over the years. The figures for 2003 may – within reason – be considered representative.

Funds made available through Netherlands Embassies

The decentralized units (Netherlands embassies in Africa) account for a financial volume of 26 million euros during 2003 (see annex 1 of the report). (These expenses are corrected for the UNCCD-related percentages as described in the methodology of chapter 1 of the report.)

Funds made available through major NGOs

It is noteworthy that of the larger amounts disbursed in 2003 on UNCCD-related programmes, the activities under Creditor Reporting System (CRS) code 92010 (Support to national NGOs) show a high score with a total of 128 million euros of UNCCD-related expenses. This concerns the contributions of the Netherlands Government, with a total of 510 million euros (not corrected for UNCCD) to Dutch NGOs working with partners in developing countries. An estimated 25 per cent of that amount is spent in UNCCD relevant activities in Africa, i.e. 128 million euros. The 25 per cent share is not a hard figure because the contribution to the NGOs/microfinance organizations (MFOs) (Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Association for Personnel Service Overseas (PSO), Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO), Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), Plan Netherlands and Terre des Hommes) contains many uncertainties. This calls for an improved monitoring on UNCCD related activities in the future. The reported expenditures by the NGOs (see annex 3 of the report) are not included in the overall estimate in order to avoid double counting.

Funds made directly available by divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands

Projects that fall under the responsibility of units in the ministry located in the Netherlands, excluding those through the major NGOs, would account for 43 million euros.

Total

Of the total of 260 activities that have been funded by the Netherlands Government during 2003, a total of 197 million euros can be regarded as UNCCD-related expenses. When the contributions through the major NGOs are not taken into account the total of expenses for UNCCD-related activities by the Netherlands Government would be 69 million euros.

Policy framework

Sustainable poverty reduction has been the main objective of Dutch development cooperation for many years. To reach this objective, priority has been given to the poorest countries, particularly in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa faces far greater poverty and related problems than any other region in the world. Poverty in dry marginal areas often has direct links to the processes of land degradation and desertification. Therefore, the Netherlands' ODA policy of mainstreaming environmental issues in PRSP programmes, which is also in accordance with the MDGs, is an important strategy to promote the UNCCD implementation goals.

12. NORWAY

This report presents Norwegian support to the UNCCD during the past two years (2002-2003). Three pillars in the Norwegian support are identified as important: multilateral support, bilateral support to NAPs and support through NGOs. The main focus of the Norwegian direct support to the implementation of the Convention in affected countries is on multilateral channels of the United Nations system. Some challenges for future support are also identified. There seems to be a need: (a) to put a higher focus on civil society, particularly by moving national

focal points of the Convention up to local and regional levels, (b) for an increased following up of NAPs in the dialogue with cooperating countries, (c) for a strengthening of research and research networks in dryland areas. Research in drylands areas is identified as a field where Norwegian expertise can contribute with more than 20 years of research experience.

13. POLAND

Poland became a Party to the UNCCD on 12 December 2001, with the intention to assist with addressing the global issues of today's world. It is the poorest countries which mostly suffer from global threats such as climate change, desertification, natural disasters, etc.

Poland does not belong to the affected country Parties as defined by the Convention. Although the financial resources of Poland for foreign development assistance are still very limited, a number of projects in the field of combating desertification have already been implemented or are under implementation. The assistance to the affected countries is also provided by scientific and research institutions, universities and private companies, as well as NGOs. So far Polish development assistance is focused on technology transfer, know-how, information sharing and education.

Some of the NGOs and other national stakeholders are interested in getting involved in the work of the Convention. There is a need for improvement in the information exchange between affected developing countries and the countries which may provide assistance in various forms, not only in financial matters but also in the scope of technology transfer, education and other activities addressing desertification issues.

More attention needs to be paid to the potential of the countries having experience, know-how and technologies, but without adequate financial resources. Every support from the traditional donor countries within the framework of multilateral projects will bring higher quality results and additional effectiveness.

Poland intends to provide assistance to the affected countries in many new possible areas of cooperation, such as, among many others, hydrogeology and scientific research.

14. SWEDEN

This document presents undertakings by Sweden in support of the implementation of the Convention as well as a presentation of Sweden's general approach to the Convention. The report is presented in two main sections:

Swedish involvement in the implementation of the Convention

Sweden has already taken an active part in the preparatory process of the Convention and since it entered into force has participated in all COP sessions.

A study of Swedish support in dryland areas during the last decade included 101 ongoing or finalized contributions in 17 countries, of which 13 were in Africa. The study included contributions in the natural resources sectors: agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and land husbandry, and in water supply and sanitation. Swedish International Development Cooperation

Agency (SIDA) financial support to activities relating to drylands was estimated at approximately 200 million SKr (approximately US\$ 25 million) annually. There is no reason to believe that the figure has declined even though the complexity of programmes today sometimes makes it difficult to put a figure on specific activities.

SIDA support to dryland development has focused on sustainable use of natural resources, poverty alleviation and equality between men and women. Production aspects and environmental ones have been handled in an integrated manner.

Sweden's approach to the Convention

It has been learned that desertification cannot be stopped merely by planting trees. Climate, population growth, selection of appropriate methods for forestry and agriculture, social and cultural conditions, micro and macro economic conditions, ownership and the right to use land, and equality between women and men, are all aspects that need to be considered.

Breaking the vicious cycle of poverty – pressure on natural resources – over-exploitation – degradation – deeper poverty, etc. is a difficult challenge. It may seem an insoluble problem, i.e. to reduce pressure on natural resources so that a recovery can take place and, at the same time, improve the living standards of poor people in rural areas. One major problem is that dry areas cannot “stand” large investment. The productivity provided by nature is, in certain cases, simply too low to yield a return on investment in, for example, fertilizers. The struggle against land degradation must therefore be partly conducted outside the natural resources sector, through promotion of general economic growth.

Knowledge about the underlying causes of desertification is still not satisfactory, for example in respect of policy issues, ownership and user rights issues, or the relations between urban and rural areas, and the interaction between areas of high production and low production. Such issues will need to be looked into by the Convention's CST. Sweden considers the newly created CST Group of Experts to have a crucial role in identifying the research priorities under the Convention.

SIDA's role in the work with the Convention is to integrate dryland area issues into programmes of bilateral and regional development cooperation, and to contribute its experience gained in this respect in its multilateral work.

SIDA's point of departure is to integrate the work on the Convention into ongoing contributions, rather than to develop a new agenda for dryland areas. This means that SIDA will be restrictive in its support to new, extensive contributions which are specifically aimed at dryland areas.

It is important to underline that the challenge ahead is primarily not a technical one. There is definitely a need to increase research, pilot activities and training on specific technical subjects. The main challenges, however, are to improve the function of institutions, clarify land tenure, empower local actors and improve economic relations.

The issue of land use has sometimes led to a situation with constant uncertainty about land rights for dryland inhabitants. Uncertain ownership conditions cause rapid deterioration of

lands when the occupier tries to squeeze out a maximum during a short period. The challenge for sustainability is to find land-use forms that build on existing skills, guarantee access to land for productive use and protect productive investment.

Policy formation on land use needs to be pro-active towards sustainable resource use practices. This means not merely conserving drylands but rather encouraging sustainable systems change.

Decentralization combined with empowerment of the local population is conducive to sustainable use of natural resources, if supported by proper regulatory frameworks, sound economic policies and good governance.

Geographically, SIDA will give priority to its work on the Convention in east, southern and west Africa.

Support will be given multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally, as well as to the GM, to NGOs and to research.

Internally SIDA will seek to incorporate the Convention into its daily work, as will be done also with other environmental conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

15. SWITZERLAND

Depuis qu'elle a ratifié la CCD en janvier 1996, la Suisse a poursuivi son soutien actif à la Convention tant au niveau du processus de négociation et d'approfondissement technique et scientifique qu'au niveau des moyens mis en œuvre pour la lutte contre la dégradation des terres dans les pays touchés par la désertification.

Récemment, la Suisse a apporté tout son appui à la création du domaine prioritaire "Dégradation des terres" du FEM. En parallèle à cette ouverture, la coopération suisse, dans le cadre de son programme en faveur de la protection de l'environnement global, a ouvert un secteur "Gestion durable des terres" et a déjà initié plusieurs actions sur le terrain (République Syrienne Arabe, Jordanie, Mali).

La reconnaissance par le WSSD en 2002 de la CCD comme "instrument majeur de réduction de la pauvreté" a stimulé encore la motivation de la Suisse grâce à la convergence entre cette Convention et son engagement vis-à-vis de la réduction de la pauvreté et de l'accès à la sécurité alimentaire dans les zones subissant de fortes contraintes environnementales.

La coopération suisse privilégie le travail avec et en faveur des communautés rurales dans le cadre de processus participatifs allant jusqu'à l'attribution de fonds souples mis à la disposition des partenaires. Par le renforcement de capacités techniques et de gestion, individuelles et collectives, c'est l'*empowerment* des populations rurales, en particulier des petits producteurs et de leurs représentants, que le programme de la coopération suisse s'efforce de faciliter. Pour mieux contribuer à la mise en œuvre de la CCD en Afrique, la Suisse collabore

avec de nombreuses ONG suisses et africaines, mais aussi internationales ou régionales ayant fait la preuve sur le long terme de leur valeur ajoutée quant à la stimulation de la coopération régionale. Enfin, la décentralisation avec la reconstruction des pouvoirs et responsabilités locaux, notamment vis-à-vis de la gestion des ressources naturelles, ainsi qu'une démocratisation de mieux en mieux affirmée ont beaucoup orienté les programmes de la coopération suisse au cours des dernières années.

Sans avoir été directement impliquée dans le soutien à l'élaboration des PANs, la Suisse participe cependant régulièrement à la concertation des partenaires sur la gestion des ressources naturelles et la mise en marche d'actions de lutte contre la dégradation des terres dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

L'aide publique suisse dans le domaine de la lutte contre la désertification est gérée par la Direction du Développement et de la Coopération (DDC), qui fait partie du Département Fédéral des Affaires étrangères.

Les ressources allouées aux programmes et projets de la DDC et des principales ONG suisses en faveur du développement rural, d'activités de conservation des sols, de développement agricole et de gestion des ressources naturelles en Afrique s'élèvent à CHF 101 090 660 (US\$ 67 393 800) pour la période 2000-2003, ce qui fait un investissement moyen annuel de 25 millions de francs suisses par an durant cette période.

Par région, les totaux sont les suivants:

Afrique du Nord : 4 796 500 CHF
Afrique de l'Ouest : 60 826 840 CHF
Afrique de l'Est et du Sud : 31 485 500 CHF
Programmes globaux : 3 981 820 CHF
Total : 101 090 660 CHF

Les montants spécifiques à chaque projet/programme et dans chaque pays ainsi que les domaines thématiques et sectoriels dans lesquels ils sont impliqués sont présentés en annexe du présent rapport, qui fournit aussi des indications sur le statut de ces programmes quant à la durée de la phase actuelle (indications sur les engagements pour les années 2004 à 2006).

Les projets et programmes qui répondent aux nécessités de la lutte contre la dégradation des terres et la perte de ressources naturelles productives sont tous orientés vers une amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et sont dédiés le plus souvent:

- au développement rural, avec des efforts particuliers pour l'économie rurale et la gestion durable des terres, de l'eau et de la végétation ;
- à l'agriculture, qui est soutenue par des appuis à une modernisation progressive et une meilleure maîtrise des systèmes de production agro-sylvopastoraux ;
- à la restauration des sols dégradés et des écosystèmes forestiers menacés de déboisement.

Chacun des projets consacre une part importante de ses ressources au renforcement des capacités (techniques, de gestion, d'interpellation), au développement socio-organisationnel et à la formation de ressources humaines qualifiées (notamment en recherche).

Au cours de la période 2000-2003, la Suisse a contribué aux activités spécifiques des organes de la CCD pour un montant total de 1 245 000 CHF (US\$ 830 000).

16. UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

This is the fourth formal report to be presented by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) on measures taken to support the implementation of the UNCCD, in accordance with article 26 of the Convention. Previous reports have covered measures taken to support the Convention in affected country Parties in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe. This report focuses on Africa and covers measures taken since the third report of July 2002 in affected developing country Parties subject to desertification. The United Kingdom also takes the opportunity to illustrate the approach it believes is necessary for successful implementation of the UNCCD objectives in the years ahead.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the United Kingdom Government department responsible for development and the elimination of poverty through the achievement of the MDGs, and is the United Kingdom lead department for the UNCCD. In the context of combating desertification, two linked MDGs are being supported: Goal 1 aims to eradicate extreme poverty and Goal 7 to ensure environmental sustainability. DFID contributes directly and indirectly to the general obligation of the UNCCD to “integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought” through bilateral and multilateral aid programmes.

Poverty reduction in Africa is a primary goal and by 2005-2006, the United Kingdom will have increased its annual bilateral assistance budget for sub-Saharan Africa to £ 1.067 billion and its contributions to multilateral aid to £ 1.218 billion. Further, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom launched the Commission for Africa in February 2004 to take a fresh look at Africa's current situation and make proposals for global action. The Commission will review management of the environment and natural resource base, including developing a sustainable future for agriculture as part of its work. The United Kingdom has identified addressing the development challenge in Africa as one of its priorities for the United Kingdom Presidencies of the Group of Eight (G-8) and EU in 2005.

In its support to sustainable development and the eradication of world poverty, the United Kingdom aims to achieve its goals through its commitments to development partners. DFID works with Governments, civil society, businesses, academic and research communities, and multilateral institutions. DFID now uses Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) (formerly known as Direct Budget Support) explicitly to link the provision of financial assistance to partner Governments' commitments to poverty reduction. For Africa specifically, the United Kingdom Government supports the NEPAD as a basis for a new relationship for development based on mutual accountability between African Governments and development partners.

The United Kingdom believes that it is through poverty reduction that the objectives of the UNCCD can be best achieved. The United Kingdom firmly believes 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 crosscutting approach that is long-term and sustained.

The United Kingdom reiterates its support for the implementation of the Convention's objectives. Assisting with the development and implementation of PRSPs in affected country Parties is the primary way the United Kingdom creates direct synergies with the objectives of the Convention and the measures required to combat desertification.

The United Kingdom believes there are a number of principles key for success in combating desertification. In addition to adopting an integrated, mainstreamed approach it is important to understand and address the underlying causes of land degradation in addition to giving conventional support with technology development and promotion. In Africa this requires an approach that considers, amongst other things, the impacts of restricted access to resources, inadequate rural services and the ability of rural people to address land degradation and, in some cases, conflicts.

The United Kingdom Government is committed to meeting the United Nations target of spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA. Total United Kingdom ODA will rise to almost £ 6.5 billion by 2007-2008. The United Kingdom is working with Governments and other donors to pursue measures to improve the effectiveness of its aid, including the assistance given through United Nations agencies and other multilateral donors.

DFID is closely involved in the regular programmes of multilateral organizations supported by the United Kingdom whose activities relate to the objectives of the Convention. Of particular note in the current reporting period is the United Kingdom contribution to the Third Replenishment of the GEF. Of the £ 2.2 billion new funding agreed in August 2002, the United Kingdom share over four years is £ 102 million with an additional voluntary contribution of £ 15 million. The United Kingdom continues its commitment to other land and water related initiatives such as the international Global Water Partnership.

The United Kingdom is actively engaged through its bilateral and multilateral support programmes in combating desertification and land degradation, in partnership with a large number of affected country Parties in each region and with other donors.
