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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 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

The present document represents an addition to document ICCD/CRIC(3)/3/Add.2, and contains summaries of reports by developed country Parties (Japan, Turkey and United States of America) submitted after 28 February 2005. The secretariat has made all the reports available on its website at <http://www.unccd.int>.

¹ Reproduced without formal editing.

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1. JAPAN

Placement of the report

It is stipulated in Article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (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 (COP) is to review such reports. Based on decision 11/COP.1, reports from affected African country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions were reviewed at COP 3 and COP 4, respectively. Furthermore, an Ad Hoc Working Group met from March to April 2001 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 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".

This national report of Japan is being submitted prior to the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 3), scheduled to be held in Bonn from 2-11 May 2005. It gives many examples of Japan's efforts, over the period 2001-2002, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in Africa and other regions, particularly Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

This report is compiled based mainly on data reported to the Creditors Reporting System (CRS) of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Since the structure of the national report has changed from that of the previous report (submitted in April 2002), which describes relevant examples implemented in and before 2000, Japan submits this new national report for the years 2001 and 2002 instead of revising the previous one. The exclusion of contributions through international organizations is one of the major changes. Whole Japanese support relating to the UNCCD should be considered in conjunction with the previous report attached to the current report.

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 United Nations 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 to which the country should make an international contribution.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, was the most important gathering for related international efforts made 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 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 second largest donor country to the UNCCD.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Japan announced its policy for environmental cooperation mainly through its Official Development Assistance (ODA), entitled the Environmental Conservation Initiative for Sustainable Development (EcoISD), as a revision of the former initiative, the Initiatives for Sustainable Development toward the 21st Century (ISD). The philosophy of EcoISD consists of “Human Security”, “Ownership and Partnership”, and “Pursuit of Environmental Conservation and Development”. Environmental problems threaten the survival of human beings, and so it is important to tackle them from the viewpoint of “Human Security”. It is vitally important that developing countries assume the primary responsibility and role for tackling such problems through their own “Ownership” and that the various stakeholders in the international community work together in a spirit of “Partnership”. In order to facilitate the “Pursuit of Environmental Conservation and Development” in developing countries, it is extremely important that developed countries provide support for the necessary environmental considerations in development, and extend cooperation for environmental protection, taking into account the differing economic and social conditions of each country concerned. In this regard, Japan’s environmental ODA amounted to 292.7 and 396.8 billion yen on a disbursement basis in fiscal years 2001 and 2002 respectively (accounting for 23.9 per cent and 34.1 respectively per cent of the total ODA disbursed by Japan in the year concerned).

Japan promotes actions in the four areas in the EcoISD, which are Efforts to Address Global Warming, Pollution Control, Fresh Water Issues, and Conservation of Natural Environment. Conservation of Natural Environment includes “management of nature reserves, forest-related issues, prevention of desertification, and natural resources management”.

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 a variety of sources.

Japan's efforts under the UNCCD process

A summary of Japan's implementation of the UNCCD is as follows:

(1) Consultative processes and partnership agreements

Japan had been actively making contributions to the UNCCD even before it officially became a party to the Convention in December 1998. During the intergovernmental negotiations for the UNCCD, Japan served as a bureau member and chaired the Second Working Group, positively participating in the drafting process.

(2) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels

i) Support through ODA

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, Technical Cooperation, Grant Aid for General Projects and Yen Loans. In addition, with a view to enhancing scientific and technical capabilities to combat desertification in various countries, Japan dispatches Japanese experts overseas and accepts trainees from abroad. Details of each project are described in chapters III to VI of the report. The total amount of ODA provided for the implementation of the UNCCD in 2001 and 2002 is summarized in the table below.

Table: Amount of ODA provided for the implementation of the UNCCD (million yen) (Projects not reported in the DAC/CRS report are included in brackets.)

Region	Africa	Asia and Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	Central and Eastern Europe	Total
2001	14,825.232 (11.65)	40,016.662	2,225.581	111.752	57,179.227 (11.65)
2002	7,230.317 (31)	16,316.727 (18)	1,062.032	143.955	24,753.031 (49)

ii) Support through financial contribution for the UNCCD secretariat

Japan is the second largest contributor to the UNCCD activities. Japan's contributions to the core budget of the UNCCD for the years 2001 and 2002 are as follows: US\$ 1,340,000 (2001) and US\$ 1,388,000 (2002).

Japan also supports various UNCCD activities through its voluntary contribution. In 2001 and 2002, activities supported by Japan include: thematic programme networks (TPNs) 3, 4 and 5 launch meetings, the third Asia-Africa Forum on the UNCCD, fourth and fifth Asian focal points meetings, support for participation of affected developing country Parties at COP 5 and

CRIC 1, Committee for Science and Technology (CST) Ad Hoc Panel on Early Warning Systems, support to the national action programme (NAP) and policy instrument formulation of seven Asian countries, national workshop on synergies in Mongolia, national workshops for the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, and South Pacific subregional workshop.

iii) Other support

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 for all Asian national focal points meetings. Japan has also provided support for three Asia-Africa Forums on the UNCCD to promote information sharing and the strengthening of relationships.

Japan has been positively supporting the formulation of NAPs by various countries. In particular, Japan supported seven Parties in formulating their own NAPs. Considering it important to enhance recognition of the UNCCD, Japan provided support for a workshop in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea to raise awareness amongst 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. In 2001-2003, Japan provided financial support for the launch meetings of TPNs, such as the launch meeting of TPN 3 (Islamic Republic of Iran, May 2001), TPN 4 (Syrian Arab Republic, July 2002), and TPN 5 (Mongolia, July 2003). In addition, Japan participates in TPN 1 on desertification monitoring and assessment, and TPN 5 on strengthening capacities for drought impact mitigation and desertification control.

(3) Study and research on desertification

i) Contribution to the CST

Regarding the activities of the CST, Japan, with the UNCCD secretariat, hosted an Ad Hoc Panel on Early Warning Systems, which was re-established at COP 4, in June 2001 in Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi Prefecture. The outcome of the Ad Hoc Panel was reported at COP 5.

ii) Domestic research processes

A variety of study and research activities are being conducted by Japanese institutions. For example, the Ministry of the Environment 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 Centre, Tottori University.

(4) Support for NGO activities

In Japan, financial assistance has been provided to NGOs in and outside Japan through various schemes including the Japan Fund for Global Environment (Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency of Japan).

(5) 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 (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Japan recognizes the importance of enhancing the synergies of environmental conventions. Japan supported the National Forum on Combating Desertification and Promoting the Synergistic Implementation of Interlinked Multilateral Environmental Conventions in June 2001.

2. TURKEY

Turkey is one of the 191 countries that has become a Party to the UNCCD. The Convention was signed by the Minister of Environment on behalf of the Turkish Government in 1994 in Paris. The Convention was approved and ratified by the Turkish Parliament in 1996 and 1998, respectively, with Law 4340. Turkey's perspective for accession to the Convention is not only to promote the implementation of measures needed but also to express its solidarity with other affected countries, in particular developing country Parties, and to cooperate with all stakeholders in global environmental issues.

Turkey was an affected developing country Party when it became a Party to the Convention. Taking into account the recent development performance accomplished by the country as a whole, Turkey is now taking part as a developed affected country in Convention-related activities. It belongs particularly to the regional group of Annex IV of the Convention (Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean). Turkey has regularly participated in the activities of the regional action programme (RAP) and subregional action programme (SRAP) of Annex IV since 1998.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention at national level. By doing this, the Ministry closely cooperates with other relevant national institutions and stakeholders. The Ministry also pays particular attention to strengthening regional and international cooperation.

The national coordinating body (NCB) was established for evaluating and reviewing the achievements made and difficulties faced in the implementation of the Convention at national level. It is composed of technical and administrative staff of key institutions that are the key

actors involved in combating drought and desertification. A subject-specific division at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry serves as the NCB secretariat. The NCB meets regularly and serves as consultant body for all national activities and related institutions throughout the country. The NAP, as a prerequisite responsibility of the country Parties, was finalized in mid-2004 as a result of several meetings and consultations during a three-year period. It has been completed through consensus with representatives of several Ministries, (Environment and Forestry, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, etc.). Several NGO representatives are also members of the NCB. The draft text of the NAP was endorsed by the Minister of Environment and Forestry and then sent to the Parliament for approval.

In order to effectively coordinate Convention-related issues, a specific Division for Combating Desertification was established at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and was assigned as the secretariat and coordinator of the NCB activities in close contact with the national focal point.

Since the NAP is the key operational tool for transforming the provisions of the Convention into concrete actions and measures, it is realized that the NAP should address and identify the existing conditions in the country and then gather all relevant information with the active participation and contributions of all stakeholders at all stages.

3. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead United States Government Agency implementing the UNCCD overseas. The tenets of the Convention, calling for a bottom-up and participatory approach to combating desertification, echo the focus of USAID's approach to natural resource management (NRM), improved agriculture practices, and integrated water resource management (IWRM). The mainstay of USAID's involvement in the UNCCD is carried out through its Mission and Washington-based activities that address the root causes of desertification.

USAID addresses the goals of UNCCD through programmes that address sustainable agriculture, improved agricultural practices, natural resource management, conservation of natural resources and integrated water management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid habitats.

USAID and its partner organizations focus on building the capacity of communities and local institutions to utilize new technologies and tools to improve management of agricultural lands and natural resource areas. Community based natural resource management (CBNRM) promotes the devolution to, and capacity of communities to effectively manage their resources.

The information in this report is representative of United States activities that support the tenets of the UNCCD in financial year 2003. The funding levels in the report are conservative approximations of the agriculture and environment programmes that are attributable to combating desertification.

USAID bilateral programmes are developed in consultation with host country government officials and civil society stakeholders. In financial year 2003 USAID contributed US\$ 29,093,000 to fund activities in support of combating desertification in Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

In addition to bilateral activities, USAID supports efforts to combat desertification through its contribution to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). In financial year 2003 CGIAR received approximately US\$ 7,000,000 to support its work in addressing desertification. In a world where 75 percent of poor people depend on agriculture, new knowledge must be mobilized for creating agricultural technologies that promote growth, reduce poverty, and make more prudent use of the earth's dwindling natural resources. For over 30 years, CGIAR scientists and their collaborators have demonstrated the value of science-for-development partnerships. In addition to CGIAR, other regional or global programmes addressing desertification in Africa received over US\$ 5,000,000 in USAID funding in financial year 2003.
