

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

“Partnerships to fight Poverty”

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Desertification (UNCCD)

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1. Introduction

Drylands development has been a priority of UNDP for over 25 years. UNDP has contributed to the goals of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to fight poverty and to bring the concerns of the people of the drylands to the centre of the development agenda. Detailed reports on UNDP's contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean were presented at COPIII, COPIV, and COP V and to the CRIC.

The commitment to support drylands development is inherent in UNDP's overall goal to fight poverty; and has been reflected in the organization's various programmes and activities at country level. More specifically UNDP provides a wide range of support for drylands development as an Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and through the UNDP Drylands Development Centre, The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC).

This report highlights UNDP's commitments to the implementation of the UNCCD in its various programmes and Units, in all Regions of the world. Annex 1 provides case examples of the UNDP Drylands Development Centre's IDDP implementation process in selected countries. Annex 2 presents a list of UNDP/GEF projects in fiscal year 2003 for Operational Programmes 1 and 12.

2. UNDP's Drylands Development Centre

The Drylands Development Centre continues to provide core support for drylands development to all affected countries world-wide. The UNDP Integrated Drylands Development Programme coordinated by the Centre focuses on issues critical to drylands development and the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The programme combines policy analysis with institutional capacity building and concrete programme interventions, and is a renewed effort by UNDP to consolidate its support to the implementation of the UNCCD. Through the new programme UNDP is helping countries:

- Mainstream/integrate NAPs into national economic frameworks;
- Move from strategy development to effective implementation of the Convention, including resource mobilisation;
- Promote a stronger integration of drylands issues into UNDP core programmes
- Champion and promote learning, knowledge management and exchange of experiences and to bring this to bear upon and inform policy and programme formulation related to drylands development.
- Establish effective networks and partnerships for implementation at all levels.

2.1. Support through the integrated drylands development programme (IDDP)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg provided a broad endorsement to the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's WEHAB priorities - Water and Sanitation, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity. UNDP has sought to prioritise these key sustainable development issues and show how they can be linked clearly to the Millennium Development Goals, which were explicitly placed at the heart of the intergovernmental agreements reached in Johannesburg.

At Johannesburg UNDP reconfirmed its commitments to work with countries to achieve the Millennium Development goal of halving world poverty and hunger by 2015. In doing so UNDP launched amongst others a partnership on **Capacity Development for Improved Agriculture and the Management of Natural Resources in the Drylands**. The partnership is put into action through UNDP integrated drylands development programme (IDDP) launched in 2002 to assist countries make operational the goals and objective set out in their National Action Plans and other macro economic frameworks. This partnership aims to reduce poverty and hunger in dryland areas by 50% over the lifetime of the programme.

In the past UNDP has supported 60 countries affected by desertification and drought in the preparation of National and Sub-regional Action Programmes for the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). The IDDP builds upon achievements in the implementation of the Convention so far.

The integrated drylands development programme is a UNDP global initiative. The programme is currently being implemented in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States and West Asia¹. The IDDP is to be expanded to other regions once financial resources become available. The IDDP focuses on helping countries in:

- (i) ensuring that issues that affect the drylands are addressed by macro-economic policies;
- (ii) reducing vulnerability to climatic shocks, especially drought and improving adaptation to climate change; and

¹ Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gambia, Iran, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Palestinian Territories, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

- (iii) improving local governance for natural resource management.

The integrated, thematic approach that characterizes the new programme has three intended outcomes:

- National policies and planning frameworks address social and environmental causes of drylands degradation;
- Vulnerability of poor populations in drylands reduced;
- Local communities in drylands benefit from participatory systems of good local governance for natural resource management.

The IDDP is being implemented in three phases; phase 1: programme development; phase 2: country programming; and phase 3: programme implementation. Annex 1 provides information on case examples in the IDDP implementation process in selected countries, and progress to date.

2.2. Synopsis of the IDDP implementation process

In the past year the IDDP has proved to be a practical framework; countries are using it to move from strategy development to effective implementation of drylands activities as called for by the CCD. The most defining feature of the IDDP is its programmatic approach that encompasses other existing and relevant national initiatives. The programmes developed and those under implementation are being based on priority areas identified in national programmes and policies (NAP/PRSP/PRS, etc). For example, in **Swaziland** the national drylands development programme is building on or supporting existing national initiatives to combat poverty and environmental degradation specifically the NAP, Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Swaziland Environment Action Plan and the country's guiding strategy, the National Development Strategy.

Tanzania is using the IDDP to mainstream drylands concerns into its Poverty Reduction Strategy process. To facilitate this process, the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) has seconded a fulltime Environmental Advisor to help UNDP in this work.

In other countries the IDDP is bridging the gap between policy development and implementation. This is the case in **Ethiopia**, a country with one of the lowest human development indexes in Africa -- 0.321. Ethiopia suffers from recurrent food shortages caused by a poor agricultural performance, severe environmental degradation of natural resources and recurrent emergency situations. Recognizing these problems, the government has given priority to governance issues and environmental management that addresses environmental degradation. In collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, UNDP has supported the development of an integrated environment and sustainable drylands management programme (ESDMP). The ESDMP is an integral part of the UNDP country programme; and is to be implemented in all regions and selected woredas. The programme consists of seven components/outputs; its focus as earlier mentioned is on bridging the gap between policy development and implementation including that of the NAP. The UNDP country office has earmarked 2 million US\$ for this programme.

In **Burkina Faso**, the programme has been included in the national framework for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. UNDP in collaboration with government is finalizing a Programme Support Document (PSD) as part of its country programme for environment and development. The national IDDP will be a component of this PSD. The programme will focus on capacity

building to support local development, environment accountability (economic valuation) and monitoring and restoring of degraded lands.

In **Niger**, where the integrated programme is under implementation, activities are geared towards supporting the efforts of poverty reduction in four dry regions. The programme has been anchored under the food security component of the Country Programme that concentrates on the development of agriculture and livestock rearing, control of desertification, management of natural resources and development of production related to the rural economy.

In **Uganda** the programme is being aligned to the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), the key development framework in the country from which sector plans are derived.

The integrated programme in **Morocco**, namely “Appui a la lutte contre la pauvreté, la désertification et les effets de la sécheresse (PAL-PDS)” supports the strengthening of national institutional frameworks and capacities for poverty reduction and natural resources management. This programme also aims at enhancing participatory approaches and multi-sector coordination for integrated rural/drylands development.

In **Yemen**, the integrated programme is part of the “Decentralization and Local Development Support Programme” (DLDSP). This programme focuses on drylands/poverty/governance linkages, i.e. on capacity building for decentralization. It has been developed as a joint initiative with Capacity 2015.

2.3. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

UNDP has in the past supported 19 LAC countries in their development of national environmental strategies. These activities are built within an overall objective of strengthening development-environment links in order to create high impact in the quality of life of vulnerable groups of the population including people living in the drylands. Throughout LAC, UNDP is supporting various programmes related to drylands development in the context of its regular country programmes. In 2002, UNDP further strengthened its support to countries in LAC by attaching a Regional Team Leader for Drylands Development to the Sub-Regional Resources Facility (SURF) in Costa Rica. Coordination of drylands activities and technical support is now provided through this arrangement. UNDP is currently expanding the IDDP to the LAC Region, where various projects on desertification and drylands development are now at different stages of preparation.

Central America: the programme has two basic components. The Central America La Sombrilla (Umbrella Project) that covers Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama and five national projects for the first five countries.

La Sombrilla aims at coordinating activities of teams of experts in water management, water storage and rain harvesting, forestation, crops, cattle, forage, credit and marketing, community health, transport and roads in the six countries. The following activities are being implemented under the sombrilla:

- Setting-up of teams of foreign and local experts to design integrated rural planning projects/programmes;
- Facilitating international research on land degradation and drylands development and environmental education in primary and secondary schools;
- Facilitating training of local leaders to maintain the balance between natural resources and development;

- Establishing long-term group of expert farmers to train and advise local farmers on agro technologies;
- Organization of regular workshops in Central America to exchange experiences, analyse successful and failed approaches and improved planning practices;
- Setting up a Central American Post Graduate Training Centre on Desertification and Drylands Development.

UNDP is also providing technical support to countries in South America, including, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. In **Argentina**, support is being provided for setting-up a South American Training Centre on Desertification and Drylands Development. This is being undertaken in collaboration with IADIZA (Instituto Argentino de Investigacion de Zonas Aridas). Additionally, technical support is being provided for the development of an integrated plan for the dryland areas in Cuyo and North Western Argentina, and for San Luis.

In **Bolivia**, desertification and drylands development projects/programmes are being developed. In **Peru's** Southern Andes and the Northern Coastal Drylands, regional Universities are being supported in the development of projects for reducing land degradation and the advanced management of dry forests (bosques secos). In **Ecuador**, UNDP is guiding the preparation of a programme for agricultural development for the impoverished population of the Galapagos Archipelago as part of an existing programme for the preservation of local natural resources and biodiversity and the control of invading species. Additionally, support is being provided in collaboration with ESPOL (Escuela Superior Politenica del Litoral) for the preparation of a programme for the reclamation and improvement of ancient technologies of water storage for irrigation and water infiltration into aquifers. Support is also provided for the development and management of a drylands nature reserve in Southern Ecuador in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and for preservation and development of natural medicinal plants. The latter is being achieved in collaboration with the Wong Foundation, and is funded by the World Bank under a PROMOSA (Promotion and modernization of agriculture) programme.

2.4. Central Asia

From 1998 - 1999 UNDP provided financial and technical support to strengthen the NAP process in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and initiated the NAP process in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. NAPs have been adopted in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. A mission was undertaken (this year) to Central Asia to introduce the integrated drylands development programme in the five countries. The programme is to be expanded to this region once resources have become available.

3. UNDP, the GEF and the UNCCD

UNDP has always maintained a strong presence in dryland countries and over the past three years has assisted countries in investing close to \$150 million in GEF and other funding for dryland sustainable management. UNDP recognizes however that this is insufficient to meet the immense and growing needs, and has actively supported the design of the new GEF Focal Area of Land Degradation (desertification and deforestation), and its operational programme on Sustainable Land Management. UNDP considers that Land Degradation has reached such proportions that it is now a global phenomenon that requires strong partnerships and commitments to mitigate it. The renewed partnership and cooperation of major multilateral agencies through the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism provides one concrete indication of UNDP's renewed commitment.

3.1. Implementing the OP 15 (Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management)

Land degradation before OP- 15 accounted for 30% of the UNDP/GEF portfolio. Since the approval of a new GEF Operational Programme (OP15) by the GEF Council in May 2003, UNDP is mobilizing various resources, both existing and additional, to respond quickly to the needs of countries. UNDP participates actively in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Land Degradation, and provided technical inputs into the development of OP 15, and is providing input into the development of further guidance on implementation of the new Focal Area.

UNDP has responded actively to requests for training of CCD focal points, and GEF Operational focal points, on the implementation of OP 15; for example for the Africa Constituency (Parakou and Cotonou meetings); Asia constituency and Latin America constituencies (PrepComs); and Central Asian countries (training in Florence; Samarkand and Tashkent meetings). UNDP will continue to mobilize its out-posted and headquarters staff to provide a steady stream of capacity building for this new focal area.

UNDP is preparing projects for immediate submission for funding under OP 15. A few projects are already under preparations that have anticipated the approval of OP 15, such as:

- “Coping with drought and climate change”, a PDF B project under implementation which supports sustainable livelihoods of African drylands populations through better use of local and scientific knowledge on climate effects in farming and herding.
- Ghana Sustainable Land Management, a Medium Sized project, under preparation with a consortium of Universities in Ghana, and following the best results and lessons learnt of the previous UNEP-GEF funded PLEC-Ghana.
- Sierra Leone has requested assistance for coastal zone land use planning that would incorporate elements of LD and biodiversity conservation, as well as livelihood issues in a post-conflict situation. A PDF A has already been approved.
- A draft PDF–A on “incorporating climate change adaptation concerns into integrated watershed plans for three watersheds in the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)” was formulated in March 2003 and is under review. The overall goal of the project is to effectively manage watersheds in the Maghreb region through the incorporation of climate change and adaptation strategies into integrated watershed management practices. The project will aim to mainstream adaptation concerns into local planning and culture. Global and regional benefits are also expected through dissemination of lessons learned.
- PDFs are also being prepared under OP 15 in Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru. These PDFs are expected to develop into projects that combine national needs with regional initiatives on shared training, integrated regional planning, and workshops to share successful and failed approaches in drylands development.

UNDP is also responding to emerging needs of countries by assisting with the preparation of projects focusing on mainstreaming of and building capacity for UNCCD implementation. Proposals are under preparation for Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Uganda, and Zambia among others.

UNDP draws upon its worldwide country presence, where dedicated environmental staff are being trained on GEF matters. Country Cooperation Frameworks are increasingly mainstreaming dryland sustainable development issues. UNDP’s unit dedicated to drylands development (the Drylands Development Centre) is an active partner with the UNDP-GEF unit in responding to country driven demands for assistance to access GEF funding. Already three

national projects and two global capacity building projects are under preparation with the Drylands Development Centre's assistance.

UNDP/GEF has recently established and filled a new corporate post of "Senior Technical Advisor" on Sustainable Land Management, to meet the challenges of UNCCD implementation. Furthermore, UNDP/GEF is considering expanding its out-posted field personnel to include staff dedicated to land degradation in the various Regional Coordination Units around the world.

3.2. Operational Programmes 1 (Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems) and 12 (Integrated Ecosystem Management)

UNDP/GEF continues to encourage countries to submit projects in other fiscal year (especially OP 12 – Integrated Ecosystems Management and OP 1- Arid and Semi –Arid Lands) that have cross-linkages with the Land Degradation focal area. In funding year (FY) 2003, nine new projects were approved by the GEF council in these operational programmes, totalling \$35.87 million GEF and \$80.67 million other financing. Furthermore, an additional 12 new projects were admitted to the pipeline with \$975,000 of GEF preparatory funding (see Annex 2 for the list of projects).

3.3. GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

The GEF Small Grants Programme has established a Working Group to review its Global Strategic Framework in order to integrate elements relevant to the implementation of the UNCCD. This would provide greater guidance to SGP National Coordinators and stimulate greater attention to the UNCCD implementation at the local level. SGP has also initiated dialogue with both the Global Mechanism and RIOD to explore concrete ways in which to express future cooperation.

4. UNDP Support to the Global Mechanism (GM)

UNDP as a "founding father" of the GM and member of the Facilitation Committee has actively supported the development of the 2003-06 GM Business Plan, with a view towards re-energizing donor and government support for the UNCCD implementation. UNDP has led the development of a Joint Publication for COP 6 by members of the Facilitation Committee (FC) of Global Mechanism on Inter-Agency collaboration for the UNCCD implementation. UNDP has appointed a staff member as Focal Point to the FC of the GM. UNDP plans biennial joint planning sessions with the GM for programming a joint workplan that would support the implementation of the Business Plan, particularly focusing on assisting countries with the finalization of NAPs in the context of capacity building and mainstreaming, and securing funding for the implementation of innovative sustainable land management and land recovery programmes.

5. Global Advocacy - The Global Drylands Imperative

UNDP is championing the building and broadening of the knowledge base on drylands issues to enable decision makers reach critical decision-making on drylands development issues. As part of the Global Drylands Imperative², this year, UNDP spearheaded the development of two papers that will be presented, and discussed in two side events at COP6 of the Desertification Convention in Havana, Cuba. These papers cover the following thematic areas:

² The Global Drylands Imperative is a collaboration of international organizations, donors, individuals, non governmental organizations and individuals involved in and/or interested in drylands development.

1. Land Tenure Reform and the Drylands
2. Pastoralism and Mobility in the Drylands

The first paper raises questions and the challenges faced in land tenure reform in the drylands. It discusses land tenure reform and its importance for sustainable development of the drylands and draws attention to case studies of land tenure reforms. Furthermore it outlines issues that decision-makers ought to address to tackle the problems of land tenure reform faced by many drylands communities. The second paper sets out to challenge the myths and misconceptions surrounding nomadic pastoralism; it draws attention to the fact that in the drylands, pastoralists make a major contribution to the national economy, although often these contributions are not recognized. It presents a vision of future pastoral livelihoods and identifies and discusses policies necessary to achieve this vision. The challenges and issues raised in these two papers have been transformed into concept notes for developing concrete programmes as possible GEF funded projects under Operational Programme 15. These are intended to form the basis of serious global programmes around the two themes.

6. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

UNCDF supports poverty reduction through local development programmes and micro finance operations. The UNDCF programmes promote a decentralized participatory approach to the provision of basic infrastructure and the management of natural resources. This is managed through the *Local Development Programmes (LDPs)*, a demand-driven capital funding mechanisms that are given to and managed by local governments to be used in conjunction with local contributions. UNCDF currently has programmes in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In **Burkina Faso**, UNCDF programmes concentrate on environmentally sensitive rural areas in the Northern Sahel Region and in the neighbouring Namentenga Province. In the Sahel, UNCDF is supporting a national programme that embodies Burkina Faso's anti-desertification policies. This project has enhanced access to water for livestock raisers. In Namentenga, the project has supported community managed small irrigation schemes.

A wide range of programmes are also being implemented in **Mali**. In the North of the country a 14 – year investment has concentrated on the delivery of small scale irrigation systems. In the Seno Gondo region, the programme promotes social, economic development through a participatory planning process of human, financial and natural resources. The programme is comprised of a number of projects that are all designed, in an interrelated manner, to address poverty by supporting productive activities both agricultural and pastoral while promoting participatory natural resources management and restoration.

In **Niger**, UNCDF is working together in partnership with the Belgium Survival Fund and civil society organizations to support the efforts of the Government to improve livelihoods and protect its fragile ecosystems from collapse. This programme promotes a decentralized participatory approach to the management of natural resources through local governments³.

7. UNDP Water Programme

UNDP's water strategy is directed by a commitment to assist countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, with an emphasis on poverty reduction and reduced child mortality. Major parts of poor people in the world live in arid areas and depend directly on the adjacent

³ For more information on UNCDF programmes see <http://www.uncdf.org>

natural resources, including water, for their livelihoods. Many of the drylands people are self-subsistent small scale farmers who in addition keep some livestock. For them it is a question of survival to retain as much water as possible, yet in these arid areas a substantial amount of the rainwater is lost through surface run-off, evaporation and percolation. The soil is often of poor quality with a low percentage of organic matter. When the rains come and the water runs off, topsoil is carried away, gullies are formed and the water is lost and soil fertility is further reduced. The **UNDP Water Governance Programme** is supporting a Transboundary River Basin Initiative (TRIB). The TRIB aims to foster inter-riparian dialogue to strengthen emerging river basin institutions. It is financed through a global UNDP trust fund established in January 2000 with seed money from the US government. The TRIB programme is currently lending support to several river basins. The programme covers the Mekong, Niger, Senegal and Nile Basins and the Rio Frio Sub-basin. The main programme activities are fostering inter-riparian dialogue to strengthen emerging basin institutions. In addition, the Water Governance Programme is continuing its support to ecological sanitation activities in Mexico, Sri Lanka and India as an alternative and appropriate methodology for sanitation and agricultural production in water scarce regions⁴.

8. The Special Unit for TCDC - Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

As the principal funding source of technical cooperation within the United Nations development system, UNDP has particular responsibility for the promotion and support of TCDC in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, programmes, and organizations of the United Nations development system. Among other things the Special Unit for TCDC has supported a number of activities that promote the implementation of the Convention, including work on New Rice for Africa (NERICA). Demand has been growing for varieties of New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which resulted from innovative collaboration with the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA), the Government of Japan and other partners. In response, the Special Unit supported the creation of the NERICA Consortium for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa and the African Rice Initiative (ARI), which aims to increase the dissemination of NERICA varieties in Africa. ARI has been recognized by the New Partnership for Africa's Development as one of the most promising initiatives for the improvement of food security in Africa. Work was also begun to develop additional NERICA varieties, including rain-fed lowland types, and to increase local African rice production to over 744,000 tons. This constitutes savings of up to \$88 million in rice imports per year and will also help to preserve millions of tons of precious topsoil⁵.

9. Future directions of UNDP support to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

The new institutional and management changes UNDP has put in place both at headquarters and in the field, including the creation of the Drylands Development Centre in Nairobi and the strengthening of GEF staff dealing with land degradation issues, have improved support to drylands development. UNDP will step up its support to countries in the formulation of programmes/projects to access GEF funding under the new focal area of OP 15. UNDP will use this new GEF opportunity as a basis for designing effective programmes to improve livelihoods for the populations of the world's drylands. More specifically, in countries where the NAP process has not been completed, UNDP will support capacity building and mainstreaming measures, using both GEF and other resources, to develop a conducive enabling environment for the implementation of the UNCCD, as well as to prepare pilot

⁴ For more information on the UNDP Water Programme see <http://www.undp.org/water>

⁵ For more information see <http://www.undp.org/tcdc>

demonstration projects to combat land degradation. In countries where the NAP process has been completed, UNDP will assist countries to prepare innovative demonstration and investment projects to promote sustainable land management and land recovery.

UNDP will actively pursue global advocacy initiatives for dryland sustainable development, including several new initiatives in land tenure reform and pastoral mobility. UNDP will be working with the various structures of the UNCCD, including the Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Thematic Networks, and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), to further enhance global initiatives for the support of the Convention and for building synergies between conventions.

UNDP will continue its strong and active involvement in the Facilitation Committee of the GM, in order to promote inter-agency cooperation with a focus on poverty alleviation and achievement of the MDGs. It will give a major thrust to continued mainstreaming of environmental, and more specifically, desertification-related issues, into its Country Cooperation Frameworks through the integrated drylands development programme. UNDP will be at the forefront of initiatives to rejuvenate donor commitment and interest in drylands sustainable development and awaits with anticipation successful results from UNCCD implementation as it approaches its tenth year of ratification.

Annex 1: Progress on the Drylands Development Centre's Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP)

The Integrated Drylands Development Programme has three distinct phases:

Phase I: Programme Development – was initiated in 2001. In this phase the Drylands Development Centre undertook a review of the status of implementation of drylands activities, including National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification (NAPs) in 16 countries as a basis for defining entry points for interventions under the new programme. This involved extensive consultations with governments, civil society, UNDP country offices, and other development partners to present the programme framework, and identify the nature of activities to be undertaken. This led to the preparation of country briefs and/or reports defining the principle areas of support to each country; analysis and synthesis of reports, identification of regional and global activities and drafting of a programme document. A technical workshop followed in February 2002 to review the programme document, receive additional inputs and feedback from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The workshop validated the programme document.

Phase II: Programme Formulation – The IDDP has been developed as part of, and as a complement to, various frameworks for national development and goals set out in NAP and in macro economic frameworks. In this phase each country identifies priority areas within the IDDP that respond to one or all the three thematic issues addressed by the programme, and formulates a national programme based on these.

In general countries have undertaken the activities listed below as a first step in the development of their national integrated drylands development programmes. However as conditions vary from country to country, individual countries adapt the IDDP requirements to match their needs. Conduct a detailed assessment of areas identified for support from the Drylands Development Centre;

- Facilitate the analysis of established “good practices” in the thematic areas of the new programme;
- Conduct a participatory stakeholder workshop to identify programme priorities; and consolidate workshop outputs into a comprehensive programme document;
- Conduct consultations with donors to support in-country resource mobilization process.

Twelve countries are currently in this phase. Four countries are finalizing their national programmes; programme formulation has started in eight countries and the remaining two countries are expected to begin their national programme formulation by the third quarter of 2003. Discussions are on-going with fifteen additional countries where we intend to extend the programme.

Phase 3: Programme Implementation – The IDDP is now being implemented in four countries, **Mali, Morocco, Niger and Yemen**. The programme is fully streamlined in UNDP programmes on environment, poverty reduction and governance and is achieving results in improving people's livelihoods. This has made possible the earmarking of UNDP TRAC funds and resources from other UNDP specialized funds for implementation. This is in addition to bilateral and resources being mobilized at national level for programme implementation. UNDP TRAC funds have been earmarked in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Niger, Morocco and Yemen. Funding from bilateral sources has been mobilized at country level in Tanzania, Yemen, and Morocco, and national resources are being mobilized in all participating countries. In the four

countries where the programme is under implementation 6.8 million US\$ have been mobilized for activities aiming at sustainable development in the drylands.

Case examples of the IDDP programme in selected countries

Swaziland

Climatic variability, increasing rural population and poverty and the scourge of HIV/AIDS has placed tremendous strains on the livelihoods of the inhabitants of Swaziland living in its drylands. In Swaziland, poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon with over 80% of the national incidence of poverty accounted in the rural areas. To address poverty issues, the Government in its Poverty Reduction Strategy has identified the poor, in terms of where they live, their gender, how they earn, to be able to focus poverty reduction efforts in areas where the poor live. The PRS, a major tool for development has obvious linkages with the CCD and rural poverty, however drylands issues do not feature prominently.

Swaziland is one of the countries the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (formerly UNSO) supported in the preparation of a National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. The National Action Programme (NAP) was developed through a consultative process and approved by Cabinet in 1999 and is currently a working document. At present, the main focus of Government is to raise financial resources and obtain technical support for the implementation of the NAP. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), the National Focal Point for the CCD has made great strides in mobilising human and financial resources to implement elements of the NAP; however more effort is needed to ensure the NAP implementation. The NAP has raised expectations at the local level. Swaziland has made a strong effort to support local level initiatives to combat desertification, responding to the needs of the communities, however facilitating a bottom-up planning approach and channelling resources to the local level for implementation of small scale projects has been difficult⁶.

The Swazi Government and UNDP have jointly developed an integrated drylands development programme, known in Swaziland as the National Drylands Development Programme (NDDP). The completed NDDP has been formulated on the basis of UNDP's Country Cooperation Framework through a participatory consultative process involving all major stakeholders. The programme with a total cost of US\$2.4 million is to be implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. It will be implemented in the dryland areas in the north south band along the eastern side of Swaziland referred to broadly as the Eastern Western Lowveld. The NDDP consists of three broad outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of 24 specific activities. The NDDP will effectively confront the substantial environmental and social challenges in the drylands; and is intended to combine a variety of national and international initiatives into one overriding programme. It builds on or supports existing national initiatives to combat poverty and environmental degradation specifically the NAP, Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), Swaziland Environment Action Plan (SEAP) and the main guiding strategy the National Development Strategy (NDS).

The NDDP is placing a very high priority on local governance for natural resource management to ensure local communities in Swaziland's drylands benefit from participatory systems for the management of their natural resources. This is in response to Swaziland's very unique land tenure system. The drylands of Swaziland cover two distinct tenure systems: (a) Title Deed Land (TDL) which is land that the owner has a formal legal right to use, sell or lease; and (b) Swazi National Land (SNL) which is land held and administered under customary law.

⁶ Swaziland National Drylands Development Programme, May 2003

Swazi Nation Land is divided into various chiefdoms, which are administered by chiefs on behalf of the King. The chief is the sole authority for land allocation on SNL; the person or homestead allocated the land has usufruct rights only and does not own it. Nevertheless, SNL tenure is considered reasonably secure: once land has been allocated for arable cropping, the user may retain it permanently, or subsequently divide it for use by his sons. The chief may in theory only take the land away after compensating the user with alternative land of comparable size and quality. This unwritten 'law' applies both to irrigated land and rainfed land.

Existing land use is dominated by extensive communal grazing, with large areas covered by dense or open bush vegetation. The latter consists of various *Acacia*. Although boundaries in these areas of natural vegetation are not formally marked, livestock grazing and other usage is *de facto* restricted by chiefdom allegiance. Although deeply ingrained, traditional attitudes to and practices for livestock are under increasing pressure. Evidence suggests a growing recognition among livestock owners of the need to make adjustments. The Government has embarked upon a continual education programme for livestock farmers on the disadvantages of keeping large herds and old animals with the ultimate aim being to encourage a more commercial approach to livestock farming that would see a reduction in numbers and reduced stocking rates and improved environmental conditions. Additionally, land availability for livestock grazing is rapidly declining due to population increases, increases in arable land and land degradation that is rapidly taking former grazing areas out of production. Recurrent drought in the dryland areas has accelerated land degradation increasing pressure on remaining areas and unsustainable stocking rates⁷.

Uganda

Uganda is one of 49 Least Developed Countries, with a Human Development Index of 0.444. Since 86% of the population of Uganda live in rural areas poverty is largely a rural phenomenon. The overwhelming majority of the poor depend directly on land and water for survival. They derive most of their food and income from crops they plant, the livestock they rear, and the fish they catch. Over 16 million people out of a total population of 21 million are engaged in crop farming in Uganda. However due to population growth, unsustainable methods of cultivation, overgrazing, increasing urbanization and industrialization, Uganda's natural resources are coming under ever increasing pressure. This has resulted in land fragmentation, overgrazing and soil erosion, all of which are reducing agricultural productivity and depleting the country's stock of natural resources⁸.

The most fragile ecosystems in Uganda are the highlands and drylands. Uganda's drylands are concentrated in the cattle corridor covering sixteen districts that are populated mostly by pastoralists who keep large herds of cattle. The dominant natural vegetation in these districts is acacia shrubs with grasslands. These districts experience frequent droughts, precarious water supply, communal conflicts, and dominance of land ownership.

In the past UNDP has supported Uganda to develop a National Action Plan (NAP), completed in 1998 and a national desertification fund (NDF). The Government proposed the establishment of a Uganda National Fund to Combat Desertification in 2001 and worked with the Global Mechanism to prepare a "Roadmap for Resource Mobilisation" for the implementation of NAP" in 2002. To back the NAP implementation process the Drylands Development Centre is supporting the government in the development of its national integrated drylands development programme. To start the IDDP process a study was carried out to identify, document and analyse best practices for combating desertification as a basis

⁷ See Swaziland National Drylands Development Programme, May 2003

⁸ See Uganda –Common Country Assessment, 2000

for formulating a national IDDP. This study revealed a variety of coping practices used by communities in Uganda's drylands. On the basis of this study, the IDDP has been formulated taking into account the possibility of scaling-up of these best practices, priorities identified in the NAP, the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), Decentralization Policy, NEMP and NFP. The completed programme is made up of four results areas that will translate into various projects and 14 major activities; it will be implemented in the 16 districts with prevalent drylands conditions.

In the last few years, Uganda has undertaken a major decentralization process. Given this characteristic, the IDDP in Uganda is making the DEAP – District Environment Action Plans (where these have been developed) its entry point. This is mainly because NAP priority issues are being captured under the DEAP. The advantages of aligning the IDDP to the DEAP are: the DEAP are statutory requirements for each district; have already established and tested processes; have established tools for mainstreaming DEAP into District Development Plans. The DEAPs have an established fiscal transfer framework for financing activities that ensures this is undertaken within district structures and functions. Where DEAP is not already in place, the development and implementation of these in the country will become a significant component of the IDDP. The programme is also being aligned to the PEAP, the key development framework in the country from which sector plans are derived. Programme development has been completed and implementation is planned for the third quarter of 2003.

Niger

Niger is a poor country. A total of 63 percent of the population lives below the poverty threshold. Poverty is primarily a rural and feminine phenomenon: 9 out of 10 poor people live in rural areas and three in four are women. In order to deal with this, Niger has developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) to cover three years. The PRS gives priority to the following areas: (a) stabilization of the macro-economic framework; (b) development of productive sectors; (c) access of poor people to basic social services; (d) good governance, strengthening of human and institutional capacities and decentralization. To help implement the PRS, the United Nations system in cooperation with the Government of Niger, Civil Society Organizations, and with the participation of development partners formulated a new country programme for the period 2004 – 2007. This programme focuses on governance and growth, basic social services and food security. In particular the food security component will concentrate on the development of agriculture and livestock rearing, control of desertification, management of natural resources and development of production related to the rural economy. It is under this area that the integrated drylands development programme is being anchored. The programme currently in its implementation phase is supporting the efforts of poverty reduction in four dry regions. The integrated programme is also building on the success gained in the implementation of the Commission Foncière (COFO) programme.

Like many African countries, most people in Niger derive their livelihoods from the natural resources of the land. UNDP's Drylands Development Centre, in collaboration with a number of partners and donors (DANIDA, Fonds Belges de Survie, UNCDF, WFP) have been supporting Niger since 2000 in developing and implementing an integrated drylands development programme that addresses local development, poverty alleviation, and the governance of natural resources. The programme addresses the social, economic and environmental concerns of communities in an arid country affected by a high incidence of absolute poverty, accelerated land degradation, and high rates of population growth. One component of the programme has established COFO, a team of trained people that work with local institutions to help in land use planning and in solving problems related to land tenure. In Mayahi and N'guigmi, located in the central and eastern parts of the country where the programme is being implemented, COFO is generating, collecting and disseminating information while

raising awareness in topics of land ownership and ecological stewardship; delineating pastoral and agricultural spaces; taking natural resource inventories; assessing in the allocation of property rights while taking into account formal and customary tenure systems; recording land transactions; and delivering land titles. COFOs' work has helped resolve disputes within and amongst communities and has provided farmers with adequate tenure security while strengthening their capacity in natural resource management.

Mali

Mali is one of the 49 Least Developed Countries in the World. The country remains one of the world's poorest countries, and was rated 164 out of 173 countries in 2002, based on the UNDP Human Development Index. Mali is 60 percent desert and subject to drought, soil degradation, and further desertification. In 2001, 64 percent of the population was living below the poverty line, life expectancy at birth was 50 years, infant mortality was 120 per 1000 live births, and the adult illiteracy rate was 68 percent.

In the 1990s, UNDP supported Mali in the formulation of its National Action Programme which was adopted in 1998 as a component of the National Environment Action Plan. To assist the implementation of these plans, the national IDDP has been completed and validated and is now under implementation. The IDDP has been integrated into the national poverty reduction strategy; and into UNDP's country programme on environment and poverty alleviation.

Decentralization process Mali is fully engaged in a decentralization process. During the preparatory phase of its IDDP country programme document, studies revealed that there has been progress in setting up institutions and various committees. However, challenges lie ahead if Mali is to ensure effective local development. Local development must be founded on a participatory community based natural resource management strategy if it is to be effective. In response to the findings of a study, IDDP in Mali will support the decentralization process in:

- Harmonizing rules and regulations presiding over natural resources, environmental protection and land tenure -particularly on aspects related to the devolution of power and the establishment of local accountability. Resources need to profit local populations instead of local power elites.
- Developing indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the decentralization process with respect to local governance for natural resources and poverty reduction.
- Strengthening local revenue systems and local fiscal policies related to natural resources to improve resource mobilization for local development.
- Researching and analyzing policies that affect local communities in the decentralization process.
- Building capacities of local institutions.

Morocco

Morocco is a lower middle-income country with a population of about 29 million, and a gross national income per capita estimated at US\$1,190 in 2001 (World Bank). The country faces significant development challenges; in particular serious concerns about poverty, inequity and disparities between rural and urban areas, deforestation, soil erosion, frequent droughts, and emerging water shortages. The Kingdom is currently undergoing major socioeconomic reforms and has made poverty reduction its overarching goal of development. With a favourable and stable political situation, the new orientation led to the adoption of a "Plan de Développement Economique et Social (PDES 2000 –2004)" and the "Stratégie 2020 de Développement Rural (SDR 2020)" as well as to the design of a new generation of national development programmes. At the institutional level, new structures were created to establish

flexible channels for planning, coordination and implementation of these new programmes – i.e. “Agence de Développement des Provinces du Nord”, “Agence de Développement Social”, “Fonds de Développement Rural”, etc.

Within the IDDP framework, the UNDP Drylands Development Centre has supported the development of a poverty/drylands programme, namely “Appui a la lutte contre la pauvreté, la désertification et les effets de la sécheresse (PAL-PDS)”. The programme was completed and endorsed in July 2002. It constitutes a major pillar of the new UNDP Country Cooperation Framework (CCF 2002 – 2006). The main objective of the PAL-PDS is to strengthen national institutional frameworks and capacities for poverty reduction and natural resources management. This programme also aims at enhancing participatory approaches and multi-sector coordination for integrated rural/drylands development.

The PAL-PDS includes four sub-programmes supporting the implementation of the:

- National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, a key tool for implementing the “Stratégie 2020 de Développement Rural”.
- National Strategy for the Development of Rainfed Zones
- National River Basin Management Programme
- Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Project in the Mountainous Areas of Al Haouz

The implementation strategy of the PAL-PDS is based on the following actions:

- Capacity building for improving participatory approaches, multi-sector coordination and funding mechanisms for integrated drylands development;
- Provision of technical assistance through the recruitment and training of local facilitators to act as an interface between government/sector departments and the local populations
- Provision of catalytic funding for the development and implementation of local drylands development initiatives.

The PAL-PDS is being jointly implemented by the “Ministère de l’agriculture et du développement”, the “Ministère charge des eaux et forets”, “the Agence de Développement Social” and the “Agence de Développement du Nord”. Morocco is unique in that about 80 % of funding earmarked for its drylands development programme will come from national resources. This high national contribution has enhanced the ownership of the process in the country. The overall budget of its programme is estimated at \$3.3 million.

Yemen

Yemen is one of 49 countries classified under the group of “least developed countries” of the world. Yemen is ranked at the 133 out of 162 countries covered by the Human Development Report of 2001. Poverty in Yemen is strongly associated with location. It is the product of multiple natural and human factors as well as inappropriate domestic policies and unfavourable external condition. It has a strong rural attribute, 83% of the poor, and 87 % of the food-deprived live in the rural dry areas.

In May 2002, the Government of Yemen prepared a full-fledged poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and presented it to its development partners. The PRSP paper recognizes the need to improve governance to achieve the strategy’s objectives along with the other axes of intervention: achieving economic growth, developing human resources, improving infrastructure and ensuring social protection. Improving governance is treated as a crosscutting area, or a virtual fifth axis of intervention in the PRS.

In 2000, a Local Authority Law was approved. This law provides a good framework for improving local governance. Despite this process decentralization reforms have not yet been felt on the ground in Yemen. Implementing decentralization reforms needs a strategy that

can provide a framework for the division of labour for supporting selected policy development with analytical resources and advisory services. This national strategy would address how to translate the legal framework provided by the decentralization law into an effective system of local councils and administration, committed to transparent and participatory local governance and capable of promoting local development and fighting poverty.

In support of this process, UNDP in collaboration with government developed a programme focusing on drylands/poverty/governance linkages entitled, "Decentralization and Local Development Support Programme" (DLDSP). This programme will focus on capacity building for decentralization. It has been developed as a joint initiative with Capacity 2015. The completed programme document was signed on 19 July 2003 between UNDP, the Ministry of Local Administration and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The programme has a total budget of approximately US\$2 million and is being funded by UNDP, its Drylands Development Centre and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and other external sources.

The DLDSP is expected to result in three categories of outputs – policy, institutions and sectors – all contributing to promoting local development in rural dry areas and ultimately alleviating poverty. The programme will pilot the role that local authorities could play in shaping and implementing the activities of the sector programmes that operationalize the national poverty reduction strategy. It will also support the implementation of a national decentralization plan through the integration of environmental/drylands issues into district development processes.

The DLDSP will be implemented in 2 governorates (Taiz and Hadramawt) and covers 6 pilot districts. All districts are expected to improve their capacity to invest in local infrastructure and services delivery and promote local economic development. The two districts in the Tihama region will also benefit from additional assistance for the identification and implementation of good local practices of drylands management and water conservation. The DLDPS is a pilot programme, which after an initial phase of 16 months, is expected to develop into a major programme financed by multiple donors and international financial institutions.

ANNEX 2: UNDP-GEF Projects Approved in Fiscal Year 2003 for OP 1 and OP 12

UNDP-GEF Full and Medium Sized Projects in OPs 1 and 12 approved in FY 03

- ✓ Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, South Africa (\$3.23 million GEF and \$8.56 million other)
- ✓ Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management, Syrian Arab Republic (\$3.3 million GEF, and \$3.4 million other)
- ✓ Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Moyen-Chari, Chad (\$1.4 million GEF and \$1.44 million other)
- ✓ Conservation of Habitats and Species of Global Significance in Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in Balochistan, Pakistan (\$0.77 million GEF, and \$ 0.21 million other)
- ✓ Conservation and Sustainable Management of Dryland Biodiversity, India (operational document under preparation) (\$4.42 million GEF, and 3.84 million other)
- ✓ Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Dibeen Nature Reserve, Jordan (\$1 million GEF, and \$1.02 million other)
- ✓ Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in the Tassili and Ahaggar National Parks, Algeria (\$3.54 million GEF and \$2.53 million other)
- ✓ Promoting Integrated Ecosystem and Natural Resource Management, Honduras (\$4.21 million GEF, and \$39.36 million other)
- ✓ Demonstrations of Integrated Ecosystem and Watershed Management in the Caatinga, Brazil (\$4 million GEF and \$20.31 million other)

TOTAL: \$35.87 million GEF and \$80.67 million other financing

UNDP-GEF projects approved for preparation in OPs 1 and 12 in FY 03

- ✓ Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity of Taimyr including its Keystone Population of Wild Reindeer; Russian Federation (PDF A)
- ✓ Biodiversity Conservation in Altos de Cantillana Metropolitan Region ; Chile (PDF A)
- ✓ Conservation of Tugai Forest in the Amu Darya Delta of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan (PDF A)
- ✓ Conservation and Management of Steppe and Balkanic Ecosystems in the Macin Hercinian Mountains, Romania (PDF A)
- ✓ Conservation of Dryland Biodiversity in the Amboseli - Monduli Cross-Border Site in Kenya and Tanzania (joint with UNEP) – (PDF B)
- ✓ Integrated Ecosystem Management in Seychelles (with World Bank) – PDF B
- ✓ Community-based model for integrated ecosystem management in the Yakhkesh Mountain area (Alborz Mountain Ranges), Iran (PDF A)
- ✓ Conservation of Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora River Headwaters Region, Republic of Komi, Russian Federation (PDF A)
- ✓ Integrated Ecosystem Management in Northern Bohemia, Czech Republic (PDF A)
- ✓ Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Transboundary Prespa Park Region, Macedonia (PDF B)
- ✓ Renaturalization of peatlands to mitigate climate change, combat land degradation, and ensure conservation of globally valuable biodiversity, Belarus (PDF A)
- ✓ Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Barycz Valley, Poland (PDF A)

TOTAL: \$975,000 of preparatory funding from the GEF