



THE GLOBAL MECHANISM
LE MÉCANISME MONDIAL
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الآلية العالمية



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أمانة إتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة التصحر

REPORT

ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON APPROACHES TO RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR THE UNCCD

Bangkok, Thailand, 9-10 November 2000



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I. Background

1. During the Third Conference of Parties (COP.3) of the UNCCD in November 1999 (Recife, Brazil), the Global Mechanism (GM) and the UNCCD Secretariat were “encouraged to organise, during the 2000, regional and sub-regional workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean on procedures to access existing financial mechanisms, with the aim of mobilising and channelling financial resources for implementation and the transfer of technologies”. (Decision 9/COP.3 Para.11)

2. In response to Decision 9/COP.3, the Global Mechanism (GM) and the UNCCD Secretariat organised the Asia Regional Workshop on Approaches to Resource Mobilisation for the UNCCD in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-10 November 2000. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Government of Japan, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), held in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

3. The Workshop was not meant to be a pledging conference for financing UNCCD-type programmes and projects, but rather aimed at examining how to approach donors for the purpose of facilitating the transfer of resources for anti-desertification programmes. Indeed, the task of the GM, as elucidated in article 21 of the Convention is “...to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms...and to promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channelling of substantial financial resources... to affected developing country parties.” As such, this workshop would be instrumental in building partnerships between donors and recipients for the purpose of implementing the Convention.

4. As part of the GM’s Operational Strategy, the mobilisation of resources for UNCCD implementation would involve an iterative and participatory approach, i.e.,:

- To integrate, on the one hand, NAP and SRAP objectives and activities into government (intergovernmental) processes of strategy formulation, planning, budgeting and negotiation of external funding; and
- To mainstream, on the other hand, NAP objectives into the frameworks of interventions and programmes of the financial and technical co-operation agencies.

5. In view of the above-mentioned approach, the overall objective of the workshop was:

- To develop and adopt approaches that integrate the NAP/SRAP objectives and activities into governmental/ intergovernmental processes of strategy formulation, budgeting and negotiation for external funding; and
- To mainstream NAP/SRAP activities and objectives into the frameworks or procedures of interventions and programmes of financial and technical co-operation agencies.

6. The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To sensitise countries on issues related to integration of NAPs into national development planning processes;
- To examine opportunities for accessing resources through existing financial mechanisms and current development assistance frameworks; and
- To assess opportunities for financial synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions.

7. To achieve the above objectives, the agenda of the meetings included the following topics, in the form of presentations and /or brainstorming sessions:

- **Mainstreaming/integrating NAP/SRAP into National Planning Frameworks:** After providing an overview of the various initiatives undertaken by countries in the Region on developing NAP/SRAP, a session was dedicated to understanding the mechanics of integrating NAP/SRAP into the national development planning processes. In this respect, the interface between NAPs/SRAPs and the government's relevant sectoral or national strategies and plans, in addition to budgeting for domestic and external resource were highlighted.
- **Development Assistance Framework and linkages with NAP:** The representatives of both bilateral and multilateral donors highlighted the major elements and factors that recipient countries need to consider when requesting financial support. For instance, the Country Assistance Strategy of the World Bank, the Country Strategic and Opportunities Paper of IFAD, and the Country Co-operation Framework of UNDP are the main entry points for establishing contacts between donors and recipients, which could include proposals made in support of UNCCD.
- **Non-conventional development assistance:** The available funding instruments and related procedures for resource mobilisation under other environmental conventions, which could benefit the UNCCD, were identified, including the interface between land degradation and GEF focal areas, and the AsDB Technical Assistance Grant for Combating Desertification. The GM's mandate and its role as matchmaker and interface between supply and demand was reiterated.
- Implications of the above considerations on the scope and modalities of GM's evolving communication strategy were also addressed.

II. Opening Session (chaired by the GM)

8. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary, UNCCD Secretariat, Mr. Phrang Roy, Director Asia, IFAD, Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Policy Co-ordinator, Asian Development Bank, Ms. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP/UNSO, Mr. Nirmal Andrews, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP/ROAP and Mr. Parviz Koochafkan, Chief, FAO/AGL/AGLL.

9. The Global Mechanism (GM) and the UNCCD Secretariat expressed appreciation to the co-sponsors -- the Government of Japan, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their collaboration in organising the Workshop, and to all participants.

10. Many speakers acknowledged the need to link desertification and land degradation with other development processes such as agricultural, rural and sustainable development and the importance of mainstreaming UNCCD objectives into developing countries' development strategies, donor strategies and related ongoing programmes. As desertification is linked to all aspects of sustainable development, the Convention calls for existing financial mechanisms to be used more effectively and efficiently.

11. To this end, the Managing Director of GM mentioned its catalytic role in forming a partnership with all actors through the GM's Facilitation Committee consisting of three founding members – IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank. In addition, the regional development banks, FAO, UNEP the GEF Secretariat, the UNCCD Secretariat and the bilateral development co-operation agencies are important partners in the process. The Executive Secretary of UNCCD Secretariat also highlighted the role of GM in galvanising support from the international community and expressed its readiness to assist the developing countries in their efforts to implement the UNCCD.

12. The Director of Asia Division, IFAD noted that land degradation was a consequence of marginalisation and poverty. Local accumulation of and facilitating access to resource are the most important elements in resource mobilisation. The accumulation of local resources and the use of indigenous knowledge cannot be overlooked in promoting local action plan and partnership for a self-sustaining mechanism. The role of women as agents of change must also be recognised.

13. The representative of the Asian Development Bank noted that the UNCCD synthesis of national reports indicates that the Convention is coming of age in Asia. The UNCCD implementation could take a static stand-alone approach, but to be more effective, it needs dynamic national action programming within the overall development framework. In this regard, country level co-ordination should be improved for both internal (e.g., among various Ministries, civil society and stakeholders) and external processes (e.g., bilateral and multilateral donors). Domestic resource mobilisation and the actions of local populations will play a decisive role. Partnerships among developed and developing countries can facilitate the process, but only in so far as they promote self-sustaining development in the drylands.

14. The representative of UNDP/UNSO mentioned that the participation at the Workshop from various countries and multilateral agencies demonstrated their keen interest in addressing the UNCCD related issues.

15. The pressure on land resources and vulnerability to dryland in the Asia region were underscored by the representative of UNEP. According to the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), 60% of the region's population depend on 30% of land area; 39% of the region's population live in land prone to desertification and drought. Land degradation and desertification poses complex environmental issues across Asia. It is one of the eight priority areas identified in the Regional Action Plan adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment held in Kitakyushu, Japan, September 2000. The desertification and land degradation related projects are eligible for GEF funding, provided that they relate to the four focal areas.

16. The FAO representative mentioned its Technical Co-operation Fund (TCP) as one tool for resource mobilisation. It also provides assistance in investment project preparations through its Investment Centre.

17. All the partner organisations expressed their readiness to support affected countries in UNCCD implementation and to continue their co-ordination and co-operation.

18. Following the opening statements, the Managing Director of GM presented an overview of the Workshop. He reiterated that the Workshop would deal with approaches to resource mobilisation and that the principle task of GM as the Financial Mechanism of UNCCD is "... to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, ... and to promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channelling of substantial financial resources... to affected developing country parties." as set out in article 21 of the Convention. The GM is not a fund but rather a partnership builder because the problem of land degradation and desertification, as clearly stated in the Convention, is closely linked to the development process itself, in particular, to all aspects of rural development, to agricultural development, to poverty eradication and to sustainable development. Financial mechanisms which already exist for all these purposes, must be used more efficiently and effectively.

19. In order to address desertification and land degradation properly, it is necessary to involve technical Ministries such as those responsible for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, Water and Rural Development, as well as the Ministries of Planning and Finance which lead the negotiations for international financial assistance. One of the main tasks of the GM is to contribute to the mainstreaming of the Convention into the development objectives of both developing countries and donor organisations. The funds the GM has at its own disposal are invested in the process leading to development of investment packages having a multiplier effect.

20. The Workshop is an important step in finding a more systematic way for GM to provide support and promote co-operation in the Asia region, by listening to the experiences of NAP and SRAP preparation/implementation, the views of donor organisations and recommendations on how to access the funds available for the Convention. The involvement of regional organisations in addressing transboundary issues would be important.

21. Similar workshops have been carried out in Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and for Northern Africa. These workshops have found that the name of the Convention does not make clear the wider understanding of the issues involved, and that resources must be channelled to the structure of Government that is best equipped to carry out investment projects and programmes. The GM considers it as its responsibility to work with all parts of Government and all organisations in the development co-operation community to promote active involvement.

III. Mainstreaming/Integration of NAP/SRAP into National Planning Frameworks (Co-chaired by Kazakhstan and IFAD)

22. Presentations on “Options for Consultations in the UNCCD Implementation Process” by Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten, Principal Co-ordinator for Policy and Programme Development, UNCCD Secretariat and on “Integration of NAP/SRAP into National Development Planning processes” by Ms. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan (representing UNDP/UNSO), provided the basis for discussion. The representative of the UNCCD Secretariat mentioned that the initial phase of awareness raising and institution building had been completed and that assistance and partnership building has started for those countries with NAPs. Given the limited resources available, the process of securing multi-source funding needed to be pursued, and that assistance in building a partnership could be provided by the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat and other multilateral agencies. A broad coalition to support the UNCCD implementation process would take time to become operational. Some of the challenges are to meet the need to synchronise funding and planning activities and to match the long-term demand and supply for funding. Various levels of progress made and expertise developed thus far will contribute to the identification of best practices. Dialogue and co-ordination at the national level are essential. The consultative processes by UNDP and the World Bank should be fully utilised for this purpose. The participatory process steered by NAP is an evolving exercise subject to monitoring and evaluation. “Push factor” was needed in the form of “Chef de File” who could serve as a facilitator from the country, as well as the “Pull factor” to provide incentive for donors. In pursuing resource mobilisation, it was important to address the question “What’s in it for me?” in reference to the donors, the Governments and the people at the grassroots level.

23. The representative of UNDP/UNSO expressed concern for the lack of commitment on the part of Governments toward dryland issues as illustrated by the small number of NAPs completed. There seemed to be a tendency on the part of the Governments to focus more on environmental issues in the urban rather than the rural areas. Financially, multiple sources (e.g., domestic funds, participatory fees, external assistance) need to be tapped in order to meet the needs. The ineffective use of resources was due to: a) top-down programme formulation; b) sectoral approach leaving out socio-economic aspects; and c) contradictory policies/programmes. Resource mobilisation involves better use of existing resource, creating saving schemes, using fiscal instruments, improving performance, prioritising resource allocation and reallocation. UNDP/UNSO expressed its willingness to support the strengthening of institutions and the improvement of methodology and monitoring. Integrating desertification issues into other development frameworks and placing the issues as high priority agenda at the national level are critical in mobilising resources from the international community.

24. A question posed by the representative of UNDP/UNSO prompted a lively discussion on who the “Champion of UNCCD” should be at the local level. Whether it was the individuals, Government institutions or civil society, the “Champion” had to be a believer in the concept and success of combating desertification, who could network and build partnerships and bring about change in planning and programme implementation.

25. In this regard, the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat and other multilateral organisations could provide “assistance”, particularly in training and capacity building. It was suggested that in addition to new mechanisms, ongoing programmes should be examined to explore possibilities of dovetailing UNCCD issues to other development frameworks, as well as to consider reallocating resources and tapping into national and local resources. The UNCCD Secretariat suggested that countries could use the presentation of their reports during the Ad Hoc Working Group of Review of UNCCD Implementation at COP.4 to propose how meetings between developed countries and the affected countries could take place.

Box 1: Questions raised during the meeting

- How do we enhance co-ordination at the national level to ensure that desertification issues received due attention by the Ministries concerned with negotiating aid packages (e.g., Ministry of Finance or Planning)?
- How do we enhance co-ordination of donors with/within the affected country?
- Why is there insufficiency of high level political commitment?
- How can grassroots level “Champions” gain access to decision-making process?
- How can the GM and the UNCCD Secretariat help – e.g., by simplifying the application process by developing a form which provides information in a systematic way on all demands of multilateral donors, by developing a matrix indicating all projects and responsible institutions, by developing a Help Guide for Project documents, etc. (which FIELD would be able to provide)?
- What are the prospects for national desertification funds?

IV. Development Assistance Framework and Linkages with NAP/SRAP

A. Conventional Development Assistance (co-chaired by Pakistan and ESCAP)

26. “An overview/analysis of trends, strategic thrust and relevance of donor assistance to UNCCD with particular reference to Asia” was given by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism. Desertification and land degradation are caused by poor land management and are often aggravated by chronic droughts. Estimating ODA for UNCCD implementation is not easy because of its cross-cutting nature. The pilot study by the OECD/DAC to assess “Aid targeting the three Rio Conventions” provided some useful insights into the technical issues involved in specific data collection needs of the three conventions. The study estimated that for 1998, the bilateral ODA for UNCCD was US\$562 million, or only 1.7% of the ODA (which is based on a highly conservative estimate). The study’s main finding regarding UNCCD was that the desertification-related aid as a strong sectoral focus; over 90% of reported activities were in the sectors of agriculture, water supply, forestry and general environmental protection. The study also found that data reporting and monitoring need to be strengthened in order to systematically capture direct and indirect resource flows for both bilateral and multilateral assistance provided for UNCCD implementation. To achieve this objective, the GM’s Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) has been designed in consultation with the stakeholders and OECD/DAC.

27. As UNCCD implementation will lead to an end in the vicious circle of rural poverty, it is important to link NAPs into poverty reduction strategies. In light of the decline in ODA flows, multi-pronged approach to resource mobilisation is important; i.e., developed countries need to accord high priority to desertification and land degradation issues while developing countries need to increase efficiency of existing resource, perform a gap analysis and include UNCCD as an agenda in the donor consultations at the country level.

28. Funding opportunities, criteria, application processes and relevant activities/programmes in Asia were discussed by multilateral (i.e., IFAD, UNDP, AsDB, European Commission) and bilateral donors (i.e., Australia and Japan). Most donors mentioned that the request for assistance had to be initiated by the countries concerned. The GM and the UNCCD Secretariat could provide information and guidance in this process. Donors were requested to ensure the involvement of UNCCD focal points in the negotiation process at the national level. The GM mentioned its plans to organise a seminar on financing of UNCCD implementation for senior management of banks and donors and a ministerial meeting on UNCCD for Ministers of Finance and Planning in the Middle East and North Africa.

29. The need for multi-source funding and the effective and efficient use of existing resources was stressed as well as the need to place high priority to desertification and land degradation issues in mobilising resources. The micro-finance approach was cited as a replicable approach. The meeting was reminded of the role and contribution of civil society as well as the potential use of local resources.

**Box 2: Recommendations made during the discussion on
Conventional Development Assistance**

- Information on available funding for UNCCD implementation should be disseminated to relevant authorities negotiating the funding (e.g., Ministry of Finance, Planning)
- The GM was encouraged to pursue its efforts to secure funding from all available sources including the GEF
- National representatives of donors could, with the assistance from the GM and the UNCCD Secretariat, disseminate information guidelines on how to access the respective funds, tailored to each affected country
- Requested donors to consider support for TPN-4
- China commended the organisation of training programmes and study tours by UNDP, UNEP and AsDB and offered technical assistance. In this regard, the representative of UNDP/UNSO suggested that the importance of technicians to listen to farmers should be included as a training aspect. The GM was also requested to provide advice for training programmes to build on indigenous knowledge
- Expanded opportunities of GEF funding should be taken advantage. For example, since the regional development banks have been allowed to apply directly to the Council instead of having to go through implementing agencies, AsDB has eight projects in the pipeline nine project approved.

B. Non-Conventional Development Assistance (co-chaired by Iran and the UNCCD Secretariat)

30. “Land degradation: UNEP’s Action in the Framework of the Global Environment Facility” was presented by Mr. Y. Natori, Deputy Regional Director and Representative, UNEP/ROAP. The strategic approach of UNEP focuses on: 1) assessment of land degradation; 2) development of tools, methodologies and best practices for sustainable land management; 3) management of rehabilitation of transboundary ecosystems; 4) integrated management of land and water in international river basins; and 5) targeted research. Operational programmes have desertification-related projects funded by GEF.

31. Some participants noted the difficulty in accessing GEF funds due to the three focal areas set by the GEF Council – namely, biodiversity, climate change and international waters. In this regard, comments were made as to whether desertification should be included as an additional focal area of GEF. It was noted that the SRAP for West Asia would propose project ideas to be submitted to the GEF and that the GM would be ready to assist in this process.

32. “Synergies in Prevention of Land Degradation, Enhancing Food Security, Soil Fertility, Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration” was presented by Mr. Parviz Koochafkan, Land and Water Development Division, FAO Interdepartmental Group on Desertification. A synopsis of land degradation in Asia was

provided and cross-cutting themes were identified among various action frameworks and elaborating on the mutually enforcing nature of land degradation, soil management, food security, climate change and biodiversity. The commonalities addressed in all these areas are national plans/strategies, working with land users, participatory and integrated approach, combined short and long-term benefits, and partnership building. The possibility of sequestering carbon through modifying land management systems was discussed as well as the importance of integrating normative work into the field level while feeding success stories and best practices from the field level into normative work. Joint field programmes could be developed with demonstration areas in countries aiming at complementarity and synergies. A pilot implementation may be carried out for conservation agriculture and M-Tillage using success stories and other regions' experiences through South-South co-operation.

33. The GM's mandate and its role as matchmaker and interface between supply and demand was reiterated in the presentation by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism on "A partnership builder instrument to combat desertification and drought". The GM resources were to be used as a catalytic resource leading to multiplier effect. The activities of GM include: 1) support NAP and SRAP process; 2) identify innovative funding opportunities through e.g., debt swaps, debt relief, carbon sequestration; 3) provide linkage between HPIC Initiative and UNCCD; 4) prepare an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral co-operation programmes available for UNCCD implementation (i.e., FIELD). The need for resources to deliver its mandate was underlined.

34. An entrepreneur from India, Mr. N.K. Jaisalmeria, Horticultural Farmer, presented a success story from the private sector through transfer of CAZRI technology for developing *Ber* orchard in arid and semi-arid regions, illustrating a case of win-win project which was economically viable and socially beneficial while combating desertification and achieving environmental conservation objectives. The incentives in this project were low capital requirement, low water requirement and minimum management requirement. The reasons for success include: wide spread acceptance, economic viability, multiplier effect which created access to more subsidies and loans, simple technology and positive socio-economic impact.

35. "The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol: Can it help leverage resources for mitigating desertification?" was presented by Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Senior Environment Specialist, Environment Division, Asian Development Bank. Three co-operative implementation mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol are: Emission Trading (ET), Joint Implementation (JI) and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). CDM provides for "share of proceeds of CDM projects" to be credited to the CDM Adaptation Fund for climate change. There is a proposal that ET and JI should also be subject to similar levies for the Adaptation Fund. Under the Protocol, CDM need not wait till 2008 to start (such as for ET and JI), but can start as soon as the Protocol is ratified. It was noted that the CDM Adaptation fund could be used for rehabilitation of land degradation as linked to climate change. However, rules for contributions to (as levy on CDM projects) and use of such funds are yet to be negotiated at COP.

36. Synergies between mitigating climate change and land degradation exist since climate change is likely and already manifest in extreme weather events, forest fires, droughts and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, GHG emission reduction is necessary but not sufficient in the short-medium term to mitigate climate change. Therefore, carbon sequestration in biomass and soil is an important option to mitigate climate change. A number of win-win options exist for enhancing carbon sequestration, land productivity, soil and crop biodiversity, access by local communities to new and additional financial resources for better land husbandry, which contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

37. During the discussions, it was pointed out that carbon sequestration projects should be assessed not only by their cost-efficiency but also by their potential contributions to the achievement of other sustainable development objectives such as environmental protection, poverty eradication, food security and rural agricultural development.

38. The GM noted that as the resource flow under CDM would not be subject to budgetary constraints but rather be market-driven by the demand for carbon emission reductions, the fund represents an innovative source of additional funds raised from the private sector.

V. Information and Communication (chairmanship continued from IV.)

39. The GM representative presented its plan to establish an inventory of financial resources available for implementation of UNCCD. “The Information System, a tool to match supply and demand” was presented by Mr. Simone Quatrini, Information System Manager/Financial Analyst, Global Mechanism (FIELD). In response to the provisions of the Convention and Decisions 24/COP.1, 25/COP.1 and 9/COP.3 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, the GM is establishing the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) which will serve as a tool to match supply and demand and requires co-operation of all parties in data collection. The guiding principles are to build a demand-driven information system, non-duplicative of existing resources of information, but drawing on other institutions’ knowledge, experience and expertise, highly flexible and cost-effective in its operations and maintenance.

40. The features and components of the first prototype of the FIELD system are designed with the purpose of facilitating access to public domain information on UNCCD financing, which might be available in a variety of formats and data repositories, such as documents, publications, proprietary databases, web-sites, online information systems or networks. A pilot phase will be carried out with interested representatives from the donor and recipient communities in order to ensure that stakeholders’ requirements are taken into account in designing and developing the FIELD information system, as well as to test its user-friendliness and its functional and operational effectiveness. Information stored in or referenced by the FIELD system will be mainly disseminated via the Internet, in the form of an on-line information service accessible from the GM’s homepage and from other partners’ websites. In addition, CD-ROMs and written reports with specific data and analysis will be published on a regular basis.

41. The GM representative welcomed co-operation from the countries and regional research institutions (e.g., ICARDA and ACSAD) with expertise in building database relevant to land management. The GM also offered to develop electronic templates to assist the preparation of national reports to COP, which would enable easy access to relevant data.

VI. Partnership Building and Resource Mobilisation (co-chaired by Vietnam and UNDP)

42. “Country Experience: a case study on financial linkages, and partnership building as a tool for resource mobilisation” was presented by Mr. Jiafu Lei, Director General, CCICCD/SEC, State Forestry Administration, People’s Republic of China, Mr. Yang Youlin, Division Director, CCICCD/SEC, State Forestry Administration, People’s Republic of China and Prof. Hongbo Ju, General Director, TPN 1 Task Manager, Chinese Academy of Forestry. The representatives shared their country’s experience on financial mechanism and enabling measures to implement UNCCD and NAP at the national level, elaborating on the related policies and technical co-operation such as the plan to convene a co-ordination meeting in co-operation with the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP/UNSO and the AsDB. This approach showed how partnership building is a good tool to mobilise resources. The importance of technical co-operation was highlighted in establishing partnerships, integrating local actions and state policies, promoting participation of NGOs and the private sector and in capacity building through training of decision-makers and the local people.

Box 3: Specific recommendations

- Help affected countries complete their NAPs and promote effective use of limited resource for implementation of UNCCD and NAP
- Develop pilot projects to promote exchange of knowledge, experiences and technical co-operation
- Strengthen TPNs with a view to prepare and implement them
- Accelerate inter-regional/sub-regional co-operation (e.g., Asia-Africa Research and Development Center)
- Increase financial contributions for UNCCD and NAP implementation
- The GM should take into account the specific recommendations made at the National Focal Point meeting on 7-8 November 2000.

43. “The Regional Technical Assistance Grant for Combating Desertification (RETA)” was presented by Mr. Nessim Ahmed, Policy Co-ordinator, Asian Development Bank. RETA, a joint initiative of the GM and the AsDB, aimed to assist nine countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, People’s Republic of China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan) in refining, adopting and implementing NAPs using conventional and non-conventional sources of funding. Under a co-financing scheme, the first phase will begin in November 2000 with a budget of US\$450,000 to be co-financed on a parallel basis by additional donors. The scope of the initiative includes: analysis and/or preparation of sub-regional or national policy/strategy papers; convening of national and sub-regional forums on UNCCD implementation; and identification of concepts for investment, technical assistance and capacity building. The objective of the RETA is to support, in a systematic way, the process of NAP implementation in the nine countries, starting from each country’s current situation with regard to its NAP. The GM noted that a proposal to pursue a similar form of co-operation with the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank has been under discussion.

VII. Working Group Sessions (co-chaired by ICARDA and the GM)

44. The objectives of the Working Group Sessions were to identify constraints and challenges, propose solutions to overcome those challenges and suggest how the GM could assist. First, the GM gave an overview of the themes and methodology of the working group session. The “Communication Strategy” was presented by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism and “Introduction to Working Group Sessions Exercises” was presented by Ms. Khalida Bouzar, Programme Officer-Asia and North Africa, Global Mechanism.

45. The participants were then split into two groups; one working group consisted of countries of West Asia and Central Asia and was facilitated by Ms. Khalida Bouzar, the Global Mechanism; the other group consisted of South, East and Southeast Asian countries and was facilitated by Ms. Lena Lindberg, UNDP/UNSO. Each worked on both themes: a) Integration of NAP/SRAP into national and sub-regional resource mobilisation strategies; and b) Development of a Communication Strategy and FIELD.

46. The Groups identified the following common reasons why NAPs have not been developed in some countries (the points listed do not necessarily apply to every country without NAP):

- Limited financial resources (UNCCD does not have such funds like other Rio Conventions);
- Low interest level of both developed countries and the donor community; North-South co-operation and available international expertise
- Weak political commitment at the national level; National Focal Point not influential enough in policy-making; poor co-ordination between different agencies and levels; lack of legislative framework; and

- Information gap and non-transparency.

The principal constraints to integrating NAPs into national, sub-regional and regional development strategies were:

- Limited financing; limited human resources; weak commitment and willingness to share human and financial resources;
- Low level of awareness on the importance of NAP at all levels and on the socio-economic impacts;
- Conflicting policies between different agencies/levels; and
- Limitation of nomenclature of the Convention (desertification is still misunderstood).

47. To overcome the existing constraints, the following solutions were suggested:

Awareness raising

- Conduct awareness campaigns in developing countries from local to national level including decision-makers;
- Enhance awareness of national representatives of IDC; strengthen advocacy of UNCCD with IDC;
- Re-examine terminology, as ‘desertification’ is not conveying the message;
- Establish UNCCD awards to “champion” farmers; and
- Engage UNCCD Asia “Ambassador” for awareness raising and resource mobilisation.

Partnership building and capacity building

- Strengthen capacity in resource mobilisation strategy, proposals for funding, and financial mechanisms;
- Ensure better co-ordination -- committees should involve both managers and technicians;
- Provide assistance and support to Parties involved in dryland development and productivity in a sustainable manner (legislative incentive) and ensure economically viable enterprises;
- Increase national contributions to UNCCD-related local activities;
- Promote active participation of affected stakeholders in decision making;
- Strengthen advocacy of UNCCD with IDC;
- Ensure better impact of anti-desertification programmes/projects;
- Ensure availability of reliable information; and
- Ensure participation of development partners at an early stage.

Planning Framework

- In view of delayed NAPs, formulate and implement NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs simultaneously, bearing in mind that the NAP serves as the foundation, and drawing on the interaction between them; and
- UNCCD should be the umbrella framework.

48. In this regard, it was suggested that the GM could/should provide guidance to affected countries, based on the following:

Resource mobilisation

- Speed up the delivery process of Potential Donor Profiles;
- Identify funding opportunities for proposals in the pipeline;
- Support capacity building for project development targeting donors;
- Support the countries in establishing a mechanism for fund disbursements and for finance;

- Explore ideas for innovative funding mechanisms (from GEF to farmers' financial participation; from World Business Council on SD support to fundraising campaigns with the general public in affected countries; from GVT budget to NDFs);
- Ensure in co-operation with the UNCCD Secretariat that UN funding institutions such as GEF contribute effectively to the activities of UNCCD since GEF financial support to combat desertification activities is unbalanced, compared to other Rio Conventions;
- The GM with the UNCCD Secretariat, review the activities of Climate Change and Bio-Diversity Conventions for best practices on resource mobilisation, capacity building and UNCCD implementation;
- The GM with the UNCCD Secretariat, ensure that UNCCD is one of the top priorities in the agenda for Rio+10 and in the Commission for Sustainable Development and assist country delegates in advocating for UNCCD; and
- UNCCD/COP.4 should request GM and the UNCCD Secretariat to promote the inclusion of UNCCD financing as one of the focal areas at GEF Assembly 2001.

Mainstreaming

- Ensure mainstreaming of UNCCD in financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors;
- Support consultative process for resource mobilisation;
- Organise high-level meeting to raise awareness of decision-makers and major stakeholders (Ministries of Planning, Finance, Economic, Environment, Agriculture, Forestry) at sub-regional level to increase national investment in drylands
- Propose a format for mainstreaming UNCCD and NAP in financial negotiations (affected countries co-operation negotiations with developing banks, bilateral agencies, etc.); and
- Facilitate and support start-up activities on the ground.

49. With regard to FIELD, it was suggested that: 1) FIELD be built on platforms of databases already available in national, sub-regional, regional and international institutions active in UNCCD; and 2) an electronic newsletter be produced to disseminate information on new developments in resource mobilisation twice a year.

VIII. Recommendations

50. The recommendations emanating from the Workshop can be summarised as follows:

51. The Global Mechanism should:

- i) Ensure mainstreaming of UNCCD in financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors** and support consultative processes for resource mobilisation. Enhance country level co-ordination of both internal (e.g., among various Ministries, civil society and stakeholders) and external processes (e.g., bilateral and multilateral donors). Ensure participation of development partners at an early stage.
- ii) Seek multi-source funding and promote the effective and efficient use of existing resources.** Place high priority to desertification and land degradation issues in mobilising resources. Explore ideas for innovative funding mechanisms (from GEF to farmers' financial participation; from World Business Council on SD support to fundraising campaigns with the general public in affected countries; from GVT budget to NDFs).
- iii) Ensure the involvement of UNCCD focal points in the negotiation process** at the national level. Disseminate information on available funding for UNCCD implementation to relevant authorities negotiating the funding (e.g., Ministry of Finance, Planning).

National representatives of donors with the assistance from the GM and the UNCCD Secretariat could, disseminate information guidelines on how to access the respective funds, tailored to each affected country. Speed up the delivery process of Potential Donor Profiles. Propose a format for mainstreaming UNCCD and NAP in financial negotiations (affected countries co-operation negotiations with developing banks, bilateral agencies, etc.)

- iv) **Help affected countries complete their NAPs** and promote effective use of limited resources for implementation of UNCCD and NAPs. In view of delayed NAPs, formulate and implement NAP/SRAP/RAP simultaneously, bearing in mind that the NAP serves as the foundation, and drawing on the interaction between them. Strengthen TPNs with a view to prepare and implement them. UNCCD should be the umbrella framework.
- v) **Ensure that UN funding institutions such as GEF contribute effectively to the activities of UNCCD.** The GM and the UNCCD Secretariat should promote the assessment of biophysical and climatic conditions for the purpose of UNCCD implementation and resource mobilisation. UNCCD/COP.4 should request GM and the UNCCD Secretariat to promote the inclusion of UNCCD financing as one of the focal areas at GEF Assembly 2001. Ensure that UNCCD is one of the top priorities in the agenda for Rio+10 and in the Commission for Sustainable Development and assist country delegates in advocating for UNCCD.
- vi) **Support capacity building for project development targeting donors and ensure better impact of anti-desertification programmes/projects.** Strengthen capacity in resource mobilisation strategy, proposals for funding, and financial mechanisms. Provide assistance and support to Parties involved in dryland development and productivity in a sustainable manner (legislative incentive) and ensure economically viable enterprises. Develop pilot projects to promote exchange of knowledge, experiences and technical co-operation. Support the countries in putting a mechanism for fund disbursements and for finance. Identify funding opportunities for proposals in the pipeline. Facilitate and support start-up activities on the ground.
- vii) **Promote active participation of affected stakeholders in decision making.** Ensure better co-ordination -- committees should involve both managers and technicians. Increase national contributions to UNCCD-related local activities. Recognise the importance of the accumulation of local resources, the use of indigenous knowledge, the role of women as agents of change in promoting local action plan and partnership for a self-sustaining mechanism.
- viii) **Conduct awareness campaigns** in developing countries from local, to national level, including decision-makers. Strengthen advocacy of UNCCD with IDC. Enhance awareness of national representatives of IDC. Organise high-level meeting to raise awareness of decision-makers and major stakeholders (Ministries of Planning, Finance, Economic, Environment, Agriculture, and Forestry) at sub-regional level to increase national investment in drylands. Re-examine terminology, as 'desertification' is not conveying the message. Establish UNCCD awards to "champion" farmers. Engage UNCCD Asia "Ambassador" for awareness raising and resource mobilisation
- ix) **Ensure availability of reliable information.** Build FIELD on platforms of databases already available in national, sub-regional, regional and international institutions active in UNCCD. Produce an electronic newsletter to disseminate information on new developments in resource mobilisation twice per year.
- x) **Take into account the specific recommendations made at the National Focal Point meeting on 7-8 November 2000.**

ANNEX: A

Asia Regional Workshop on Approaches to Resource Mobilisation for the UNCCD
Held At
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
9-10 November 2000

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday, 9 November 2000

8:00-9:00 Registration for participants that did not attend the UNCCD focal points meeting

1. Opening Ceremony

9:00-9:35 Chairperson and Opening Statement by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism

Statements by:

- Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary, UNCCD Secretariat
- Mr. Phrang Roy, Director Asia, IFAD
- Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Policy Co-ordinator, Asian Development Bank
- Ms. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP/UNSO
- Mr. Nirmal Andrews, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP/ROAP
- Mr. Parviz Koohafkan, Chief, FAO/AGL/AGLL

9:35-9:45 Introductory overview of the agenda including objectives and methodology of the workshop, by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism

9:45-10:00 **COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

2. Mainstreaming/Integration of NAP/SRAP into National Planning Frameworks

10:00-10:30 “Options for Consultations in the UNCCD Implementation Process”, presented by Mr. Grégoire de Kalbermatten, Principal Co-ordinator for Policy and Programme Development, UNCCD Secretariat.

10:30-11:10 Integration of NAP/SRAP into National Development Planning processes, presented by Ms. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP/UNSO.

11:10-11:40 Discussion

3. Development Assistance Framework and Linkages with NAP/SRAP

3.1 Conventional Development Assistance

11:40-12:30 Overview/analysis, trends, strategic thrust and relevance of donor assistance to UNCCD, presented by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

- 13:30-16:00 Panel presentation and discussion on bilateral and multi-lateral donor funding opportunities and procedures for anti-desertification type programmes and projects.
Panellists:
- Mr. Phrang Roy, Director Asia, IFAD
 - Ms. Lena Lindberg, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP/UNSO
 - Mr. Max Kitchell, Head, Environment Australia
 - Mr. Yoichi Iida, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Germany
 - Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Policy Co-ordinator, Asian Development Bank
 - Mr. Bob Baldwin, First Secretary, European Union, Delegation of the European Commission to Thailand
- Discussion
- 16:00-16:15 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**
- 3.2 Non-Conventional Development Assistance**
- 16:15-17:00 Land degradation: UNEP's Action in the Framework of the Global Environment Facility, presented by Mr. Y. Natori, Deputy Regional Director and Representative, UNEP/ROAP.
- Synergies in Prevention of Land Degradation, Enhancing Food Security, Soil Fertility, Biodiversity and Carbon Sequestration, presented by Mr. Parviz Koochafkan, Land and Water Development Division, FAO Interdepartmental Group on Desertification
- 17:00-17:30 The Global Mechanism, a partnership builder instrument to combat desertification and drought presented by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism.
- 17:30-18:00 Experience of private sector in India, presented by Mr. N.K. Jaisalmeria, Horticultural Farmer.
- 4. Information and Communication**
- 18:00-18:30 The Information System, a tool to match supply and demand, presented by Mr. Simone Quatrini, Information System Manager/Financial Analyst, Global Mechanism. (FIELD)

Day 2: Friday, 10 November, 2000

3. Development Assistance Framework and Linkages with NAP/SRAP (continued)

9:00-9:45 Clean Development Mechanism presented by Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Senior Environment Specialist, Environment Division, Asian Development Bank

5. Partnership Building and Resource Mobilisation

9:45-10:15 Country Experience: a case study on financial linkages, and partnership building as a tool for resource mobilisation, by China -- Mr. Jiafu Lei, Director General, CCICCD/SEC, State Forestry Administration, Mr. Yang Youlin, Division Director, CCICCD/SEC, State Forestry Administration and Prof. Hongbo Ju, General Director, TPN 1 Task Manager, Chinese Academy of Forestry

10:15-10:45 RETA, Regional Technical Assistance Grant for Combating Desertification, presented by Mr. Nessim Ahmed, Policy Co-ordinator, Asian Development Bank

10:45-11:00 **COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

6. Working Group Sessions

11:00-11:30 Communication Strategy presented by Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, Global Mechanism

Introduction to Working Group Sessions Exercises presented by Ms. Khalida Bouzar, Programme Officer-Asia and North Africa, Global Mechanism

11:30-13:15 Working Group Sessions

13:15-14:15 LUNCH BREAK

14:15-16:00 Working group sessions (continued)

16:00-16:15 COFFEE BREAK

16:15-16:45 Presentation of Group Reports

16:45-17:30 Discussion

17:30-18:30 Presentation of Chairman's Report and Closing

Annex B

Asia Regional Workshop on Approaches to Resource Mobilisation for the UNCCD Bangkok, Thailand 9-10 November 2000

Chairman's Summary

1. In response to the decision taken at the Third Conference of Parties (COP.3) of the UNCCD in November 1999 (Recife, Brazil)¹, the Global Mechanism (GM) and the UNCCD Secretariat organised the Asia Regional Workshop on Approaches to Resource Mobilisation for the UNCCD in Bangkok, Thailand, on 9-10 November 2000. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Government of Japan, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Asian Development Bank (AsDB). It was held in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) together with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. The representatives of the Global Mechanism, the UNCCD secretariat, IFAD, Asian Development Bank, UNDP/UNSO, UNEP and FAO delivered opening statements. Many speakers acknowledged the need to link desertification and land degradation with other development processes such as agricultural, rural and sustainable development and the importance of mainstreaming UNCCD objectives into developing countries' development strategies, donor strategies and related ongoing programmes. As desertification is linked to all aspects of sustainable development, the Convention calls for existing financial mechanisms to be used more effectively and efficiently. To this end, it is essential to enhance country level co-ordination of both internal (e.g., among various Ministries, civil society and stakeholders) and external processes (e.g., bilateral and multilateral donors). The accumulation of local resources and the use of indigenous knowledge could not be overlooked in promoting local action plan and partnership for a self-sustaining mechanism. The role of women as agents of change must also be recognised. All the partner organisations expressed their readiness to support affected countries in UNCCD implementation and to continue their co-ordination and co-operation.

I. Mainstreaming/Integration of NAPs/SRAPs into National Planning Frameworks

3. Presentations by the UNCCD secretariat and UNDP/UNSO provided the basis for discussion. It was mentioned that the initial phase of awareness raising and institution building had been completed and that assistance and partnership building have started for those countries with NAPs. Given the limited resources available, the process of securing multi-source funding needed to be pursued, and that assistance in building a partnership could be provided by the GM, the UNCCD secretariat and other multilateral agencies. A "Push factor" was needed in the form of "Chef de File" who could serve as a facilitator from the country, as well as the "Pull factor" to provide incentive for donors. In pursuing resource mobilisation, it was important to address the question "What's in it for me?" in reference to the donors, the Governments and the people at the grassroots level.

4. The representative of UNDP/UNSO expressed concern for the lack of commitment on the part of Governments toward dryland issues as illustrated by the small number of NAPs completed. There seemed to be a tendency on the part of the Governments to focus more on environmental issues in the urban rather than the rural areas. The ineffective use of resources was due to: a) top-down programme formulation; b) sectoral approach leaving out socio-economic aspects; and c) contradictory policies/programmes. UNDP/UNSO expressed its willingness to support the strengthening of institutions and the improvement of methodology and monitoring. Integrating desertification issues into other

¹ Decision 9/COP.3 Para. 11

development framework and placing the issues as high priority agenda at the national level were critical in mobilising resources from the international community.

5. A question posed by the representative of UNDP/UNSO prompted a lively discussion on which the "Champion of UNCCD" should be at the local level. Whether it was the individuals, Government institutions or civil society, the "Champion" had to be a believer in the concept and success of combating desertification, who could network and build partnerships and bring about change in planning and programme implementation. In this regard, the GM, the UNCCD secretariat and other multilateral organisations could provide "assistance", particularly in training and capacity building. It was suggested that in addition to new mechanisms, ongoing programmes should be examined to explore possibilities of dovetailing UNCCD issues to other development frameworks, as well as to consider reallocating resources and tapping into national and local resources.

6. Questions raised during the meeting included:

- How to enhance co-ordination at the national level to ensure that desertification issues received due attention by the Ministries concerned with negotiating aid packages (e.g., Ministry of Finance or Planning);
- How to enhance co-ordination of donors with/within the affected country;
- Why is there a lack of high level political commitment;
- How can grassroots level "Champions" gain access to decision-making process;
- How can the GM and the UNCCD secretariat help – e.g., by simplifying the application process by developing a form which provides information in a systematic way on all demands of multilateral donors, by developing a matrix indicating all projects and responsible institutions, by developing a Help Guide for Project documents, etc. (which FIELD would be able to provide);
- What are the prospects for national desertification funds?

II. Development Assistance Framework and Linkages with NAP/SRAP

A. Conventional Development Assistance

7. An overview/analysis of trends, strategic thrust and relevance of donor assistance to UNCCD was given by the GM, with particular reference to Asia. The presentation was referring to a pilot study by the OECD/DAC which found that data reporting and monitoring needed to be strengthened in order to systematically capture direct and indirect resource flows for both bilateral and multilateral assistance provided for UNCCD implementation. In light of the decline in ODA flows, multi-pronged approach to resource mobilisation was important. In other words, developed countries needed to accord high priority to desertification and land degradation issues, while developing countries needed to increase efficiency of existing resources, perform a gap analysis and include CCD as an agenda in the donor consultations at the country level.

8. Funding opportunities, criteria, application processes and relevant activities/programmes in Asia were discussed by multilateral (i.e., IFAD, UNDP, AsDB, European Commission) and bilateral donors (i.e., Australia and Japan). Most donors mentioned that the request for assistance had to be initiated by the countries concerned. The GM could provide information and guidance in this process. Donors were requested to ensure the involvement of UNCCD focal points in the negotiation process at the national level.

9. The following recommendations were made during the discussion:

- Information on available funding for UNCCD implementation should be disseminated to relevant authorities negotiating the funding (e.g., Ministry of Finance, Planning);

- The GM was encouraged to pursue its efforts to secure funding from all available sources including the GEF;
- National representatives of donors with the assistance from the GM could disseminate information guidelines on how to access the respective funds, tailored to each affected country; and
- China commended the organisation of training programmes and study tours by UNDP, UNEP and AsDB and offered technical assistance. In this regard, the representative of UNDP/UNSO suggested that the importance of technicians to listen to farmers should be included as a training aspect. The GM was also requested to provide advice for training programmes to build on indigenous knowledge.

10. The need for multi-source funding and the effective and efficient use of existing resources was stressed as well as the need to place high priority to desertification and land degradation issues in mobilising resources. The micro-finance approach was cited as a replicable approach. The meeting was reminded of the role and contribution of civil society as well as the potential use of local resources.

B. Non-Conventional Development Assistance

11. The representative of UNEP presented its activities related to land degradation within the GEF framework. Some participants noted the difficulty in accessing GEF funds due to the three focal areas set by the GEF Council – namely, biodiversity, climate change and international waters. In this regard, comments were made as to whether desertification should be included as an additional focal area of GEF. It was noted that the SRAP for West Asia would propose project ideas to be submitted to the GEF and that the GM would be ready to assist in this process. One representative commented on the regrettable absence of representation from one of the key institutions in the GEF, the World Bank.

12. A synopsis of land degradation in Asia was provided by the representative of FAO, identifying cross-cutting themes among various action frameworks and elaborating on the mutually enforcing nature of land degradation, soil management, food security and water resource management. The possibility of sequestering carbon through modifying land management systems was discussed as well as the importance of integrating normative work into the field level while feeding success stories and best practices from the field level into normative work.

13. The GM's mandate and its role as matchmaker and interface between supply and demand was reiterated. The GM resources were to be used as a catalytic resource leading to a multiplier effect. The need for resources to deliver its mandate was underlined.

14. An entrepreneur from India presented a success story from the private sector through transfer of CAZRI technology for developing *Ber* orchard in arid and semi-arid regions, illustrating a case of win-win project which was economically viable and socially beneficial while combating desertification and achieving environmental conservation objectives.

15. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and its potential to help leverage resources for combating desertification was discussed by the representative of the Asian Development Bank. CDM, which is one of the three mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, provides for "share of proceeds of CDM projects" to be credited to the CDM Adaptation Fund for climate change. It was noted that the fund could be used for rehabilitation of land degradation as linked to climate change. The resource flow under CDM would not be subject to budgetary constraints but rather be market-driven by the demand for carbon emission reductions. Therefore, the fund represents an innovative source of additional funds raised from the private sector. Carbon sequestration projects should be assessed not only by their cost-efficiency but also by their potential contributions to the achievement of other sustainable development objectives such as environmental protection, poverty eradication, food security and rural agricultural development.

III. Information and Communication

16. The GM representative presented its plan to establish an inventory of financial resources available for implementation of UNCCD. The Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) aims at serving as a tool to match supply and demand and requires co-operation of all parties in data collection. The GM representative welcomed co-operation from the countries and regional research institutions (e.g., ICARDA and ACSAD) with expertise in building database relevant to land management. The GM also offered to develop electronic templates to assist the preparation of national reports to COP, which would enable easy access to relevant data.

IV. Partnership Building and Resource Mobilisation

17. The representative of the People's Republic of China shared his country's experience on financial mechanisms and enabling measures to implement UNCCD and NAPs at the national level. He also elaborated on the related policies and technical co-operations, such as the plan to convene a co-ordination meeting in co-operation with the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP/UNSO and the AsDB. The importance of technical co-operation was highlighted in establishing partnerships, integrating local actions and state policies, promoting participation of NGOs and the private sector and in capacity building through training of decision-makers and the local people. This case study highlighted that partnerships could be a good mean of leveraging resources.

18. Specific recommendations were made to:

- Help affected countries complete their NAPs and promote effective use of limited resource for implementation of UNCCD and NAP;
- Develop pilot projects to promote exchange of knowledge, experiences and technical co-operation;
- Strengthen TPNs with a view to prepare and implement them;
- Accelerate inter-regional/sub-regional co-operation (e.g., Asia-Africa Research and Development Centre);
- Increase financial contributions for UNCCD and NAP implementation; and
- The GM should take into account the specific recommendations made at the Nation Focal Point meeting on 7-8 November 2000.

19. The representative of the Asian Development Bank presented the Regional Technical Assistance Grant for Combating Desertification (RETA). RETA, a joint initiative of the GM and the AsDB, aimed to assist nine countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, People's Republic of China, India, Mongolia and Pakistan) in refining, adopting and implementing NAPs using conventional and non-conventional sources of funding. Under a co-financing scheme, the first phase will begin in November 2000 with a budget of US\$450,000 to be co-financed on a parallel basis by additional donors. The scope of the initiative includes the following: a) analysis and/or preparation of sub-regional or national policy/strategy papers; b) convening of national and sub-regional forums on UNCCD implementation; and c) identification of concepts for investment, technical assistance and capacity building. The objective of the RETA is to support, in a systematic way, the process of NAP implementation in the nine countries, starting from each country's current situation with regard to its NAP. The GM noted that a proposal to pursue a similar form of co-operation with the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank has been under discussion.

V. Working Group Sessions

20. The objectives of the Working Group Sessions were to identify constraints and challenges, propose solutions to overcome those challenges and suggest how the GM could assist. The participants were split into two groups, each to work on both of the following themes: a) Integration of NAP/SRAP into national and sub-regional resource mobilisation strategies, and b) Development of a Communication Strategy and FIELD. The Groups provided inputs as described in the report.

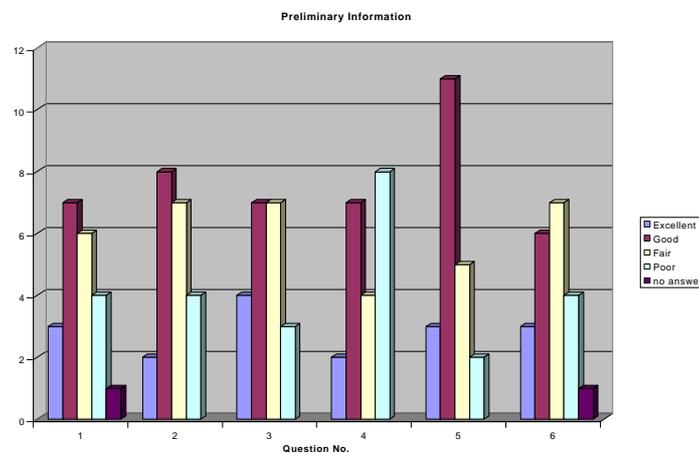
ANNEX: C

Evaluation Results

1. At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire. A total of twenty-one forms were collected. The overall evaluation of the workshop was positive. The questions addressed four aspects of the Workshop: 1) Preliminary Information; 2) Workshop Design; and 3) Workshop Implementation (see attached questionnaire).

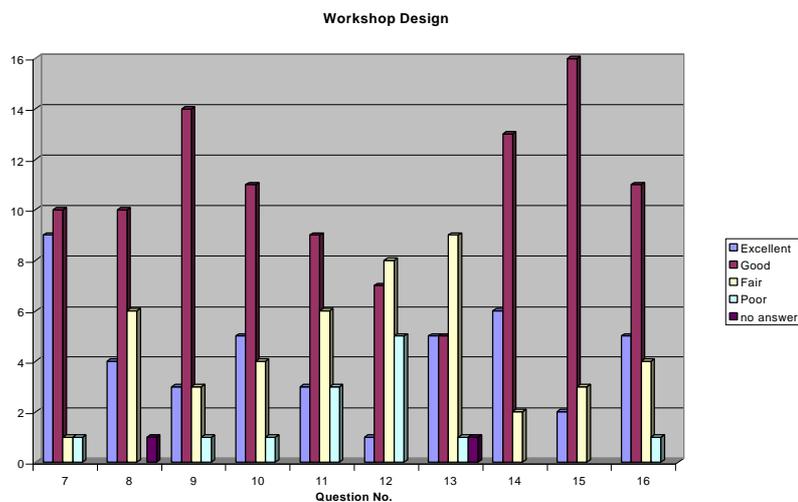
1. Preliminary Information

2. Most questions were answered “Good” or “Fair”. The only aspect rated “Poor” was on 4) Extent to which the Workshop’s content was discussed with the participant’s organisation.



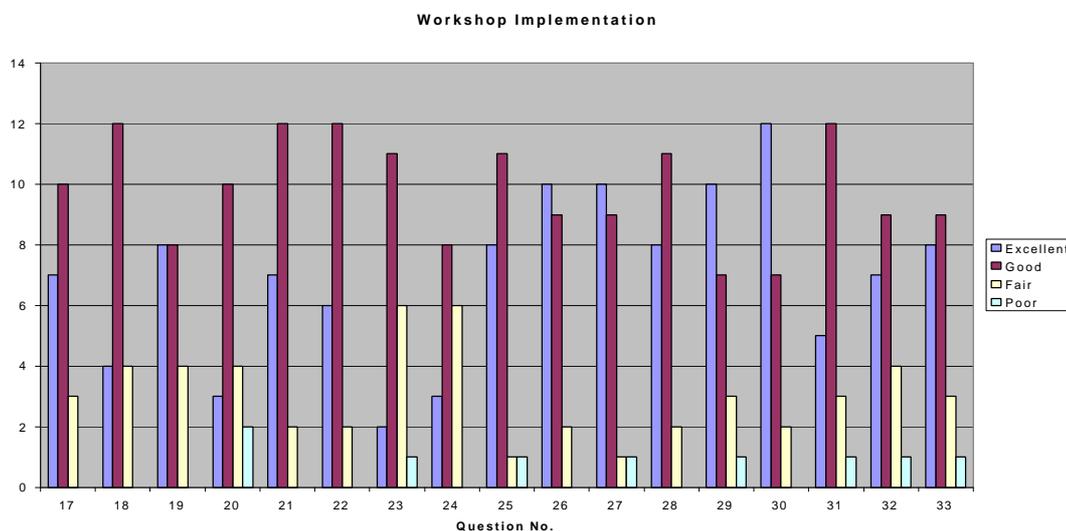
2. Workshop Design

3. The responses show that the objectives were very clear and matched the level of participants. However, a small number of respondents felt that the time spent on each subject was not appropriate. Some respondents were not satisfied with the balance between theory and practice. Overall, the participants were satisfied with group participation.



3. Workshop Implementation

4. Most participants were highly satisfied with the resource persons and methods, and felt that the Workshop's objectives were achieved. The materials used were highly praised and the quality of Secretariat was recognised as excellent. The participants generally agreed that the Workshop was overall very useful.



5. In addition, the participants provided the following comments:

The most useful aspects were:

- workshop design and implementation; group sessions;
- addressing issues such as the importance of desertification and land degradation issues, the need for funds to fulfil obligations of UNCCD, partnership building and resource mobilisation, various funding mechanisms, development assistance framework for UNCCD implementation at national level, integration of NAP/SRAP, how to prepare/promote NAP, the difference between NAP/SRAP/RAP and TPNs, information and communications system development;
- GM presentations and overview; presentations on RETA, FIELD, Clean Development Mechanism, various reports and papers;
- collaboration and information exchange with donors and the opportunity to deal face-to-face with GM people; and
- facilities.

6. The comments received on “least useful aspects” were:

- presentations of UN agencies were lengthy and repetitive of what had been presented in other meetings; the presentations did not relate to LDCs; and
- theory is much bigger than practice; terminology was unclear.

7. Suggestions were made to:

- hold more workshops like this at national and sub-regional levels; provide assistance for Southeast Asia;
- disseminate information to the participants in a more timely manner; circulate detailed agenda in advance;
- promote NGO participation;
- give more time to the whole workshop and the working group discussions;

- improve logistics, e.g., modalities and timing of payment of DSA and travel expenses, hotel reservation and transportation, lack of translation; and
- reduce the number of questions in the evaluation questionnaire.

ANNEX: D

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