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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
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IMPLEMENTATION OF URGENT ACTION FOR AFRICA
AND ACTION IN OTHER REGIONS:
COMPILATION OF INFORMATION

Contribution from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CEDARE	Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe
CILSS	Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAD	United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICIPE	The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IGADD	Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Desertification
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INCD	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
MFI	Multilateral Financial Institutions
NAP	National Action Programme
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
PACD	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USD	United States Dollar
SPA	Special Programme for Sub-saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report has been prepared in response to the resolution of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD) entitled "Work Programme for the Interim Period" (A/AC.241/L.24) adopted at its 6th Session in January 1995 which invites *inter alia* United Nations Programmes and Agencies to "submit to the Secretariat updated reports on measures taken or planned for the implementation of urgent action for Africa". The report outlines the main initiatives undertaken by the Fund since adoption of the resolution on urgent action for Africa at INCD 5 in June 1994.

2. IFAD's activities in response to the resolution on urgent action should be seen in the context of the Fund's longstanding operations in support of the rural poor in dryland areas to harness their own potential, both in Africa and other developing regions, through its regular programme and its *Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification* (SPA) initiated in 1986. IFAD recognizes the complementarity between its lending operations and the provisions of the Convention, and is committed to translating the CCD into meaningful action in partnership with all relevant actors.

II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

3. The Fund has established an Inter-Departmental Task Force to assist in achieving optimal complementarity between the Convention's programming process, IFAD's lending operations, the Fund's Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) Programme and the activities of other institutions in supporting countries in the implementation of CCD.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMME FOR ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CCD IN THE INTERIM PERIOD

4. In April 1995, IFAD's Executive Board approved a pilot *Technical Assistance Grant Programme for Assistance to African Countries in the Implementation of CCD in the Interim Period*. The pilot phase has an initial allocation of USD 1.15 million. The programme of TAGs offers IFAD the flexibility to meet the needs of affected countries for varying degrees and types of assistance in the early phases of preparing and implementing NAPs. This will serve to reinforce and extend the impact of current and future IFAD lending operations in dryland areas in Africa, and will begin to lay the foundations for IFAD investment operations in support of CCD implementation.

5. The broad objective of the programme is to facilitate implementation of the Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa for the benefit of the rural poor in dryland areas. The specific objective of the programme is to strengthen the local dimensions of the NAP preparatory process through assisting countries to maintain the focus of the consultative and programming processes on the needs of the small farmer, pastoralist, and other low income resource user groups in regions affected by drought and desertification. The programme has the following complementary components:

- (a) Articulation of local dimensions of NAP process;
- (b) Support for initiation of the NAP process in individual countries;
- (c) Sub-regional support for NAPs;
- (d) Information dissemination on the local dimensions of CCD implementation; and
- (e) Support to the CCD Interim Secretariat.

IV. AWARENESS BUILDING

6. Lack of awareness of the Convention and its provisions is a fundamental constraint to successful implementation. The Fund is therefore pursuing activities to raise awareness of CCD among different constituencies.

A. Simplified Version of the Convention.

7. IFAD has collaborated with the CCD Interim Secretariat and the Centre for Our Common Future to produce a simplified version of the Convention entitled "Down to Earth: A Simple Guide to the Convention to Combat Desertification, Why it is Necessary and What is Important and Different About it". The Fund has also provided financing for its production, in partnership with the Swiss Development Cooperation and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The simplified version is intended to make the CCD more accessible to the wide range of actors who need to work together in its implementation.

B. Symposium on Poverty and Land Degradation to Commemorate World Desertification Day.

8. In order to commemorate World Desertification Day established by the United Nations General Assembly as 17 June, IFAD is convening a Symposium on Poverty and Land Degradation at the Italian Parliament in association with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The symposium will cover issues related to local participation in NAPs from technology, institutions and policy perspectives. Participants will include members of the IFAD/NGO Forum and other NGOs (including RIOD), Italian parliamentarians, representatives of the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Environment, representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Interim Secretariat of the CCD. During this Symposium the following two studies sponsored by IFAD will be launched:

- A. Down to Earth: a Simplified Version of Convention; and
- B. The Impacts of Male Outmigration on Workload of Rural Women and its Implications for Resource Conservation.

V. ARTICULATION OF LOCAL DIMENSIONS OF NAP PROCESS

9. A major concern for IFAD is to ensure that National Action Programming reflects a local level orientation in line with Convention orientation. In order to assist countries in adopting a bottom-up approach to NAPs with a corresponding emphasis on action at the local level, the Fund is building on its project experience to provide some relevant guideposts in this direction.

10. IFAD in collaboration with the CCD Interim Secretariat is currently laying the foundations for an International Meeting on "The Importance of Local Participatory Development Programmes in the Implementation of CCD" to be convened in early 1996. The meeting would bring together representatives of government, NGO networks, and bilateral and multilateral agencies as well as private sector.

11. The Fund is also engaged in analytical work related to this topic. A study is underway on "Enhancing the Flow of Funds to the Local Level: Operational Considerations in National Action Programming."

VI. NGO COLLABORATION

12. IFAD's *modus operandi* places a strong emphasis on collaboration with NGOs at various levels, particularly in the field. This is reflected in the Fund's efforts towards CCD implementation.

13. The theme of IFAD's Annual NGO consultation on June 15-16, 1995 is "Poverty and Land Degradation". The consultation, with the participation of about 40 partner NGOs, will focus on how IFAD and NGOs can work together in supporting national action programming, and will provide substantive inputs to the Symposium mentioned in Section IV above.

14. Under the Fund's NGO extended cooperation programme grants have been approved for the World Resources Institute (WRI) to promote African NGO capacity in policy dialogue for CCD implementation, the Canadian Hunger Foundation (CHF) to examine the feasibility of establishing a network on drought resilience that would link farmers to research and other institutions, the International Juridical Organization (IJO) to examine institutional and legal issues related to CCD implementation in CILSS countries, and SOS Sahel to examine the Impacts of Male Outmigration on Workload of Rural Women and its Implications for Resource Conservation.

VII. NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

15. IFAD has the commitment backed up by resources to support African countries to prepare NAPs in the Interim Period. The Government of Niger has requested IFAD to play a leading role in the NAP process in that country. Discussions are underway to determine the nature of support to Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Uganda, Botswana, and Ethiopia. The Fund is very open to exploring the nature of support requested by any other countries signatory to the Convention. In addition, discussions are taking place with IGADD and CILSS in the context of sub-regional action programmes.

16. IFAD and the FAO convened a brainstorming meeting in May 1995 with the participation of the CCD Interim Secretariat on "Preparation of National Action Programmes under the CCD". The focus of the meeting was on NAP process and content as well as the manner in which the two institutions could best collaborate in assisting countries in preparing NAPs, drawing on respective comparative advantages.

VIII. INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

17. Implementation of CCD objectives in the Interim Period is explicit in IFAD's lending programme strategy for Africa, as outlined in the Fund's Programme of Work and Budget for 1995. This is in line with IFAD's recognition that its most direct contribution to combating desertification and the effects of drought is through the development and financing of programmes and projects that could serve as replicable responses to poverty and environmental degradation in dryland areas.

18. The following projects of direct relevance to the Convention have been approved since September 1994 for financing under IFAD's Regular Programme and SPA: Burkina Faso, Special Programme for Soil and Water Conservation Phase II (Total cost USD 24.44 million); Central African Republic, Livestock Development and Rangeland Management Project (Total cost USD 32.45 million); Eritrea, Eastern Lowlands Wadi Development (Total cost USD 20.11 million); Madagascar, Upper Mandare Basin Development Project (Total Cost USD 8.42 million); Mali, Income Diversification in Mali Sud (Total cost USD 27.04 million); Mauritania, Second

Oasis Development and Rehabilitation Programme (Total cost USD 17.22 million); Namibia, Northern Regions Livestock Development (Total cost USD 15.09 million); and Zambia, Southern Province Household Food Security (Total cost USD 23.41 million) and Smallholder Irrigation and Water Use Programme (Total cost USD 11.18 million).

19. Pipeline projects of direct relevance to the Convention include the following: Botswana, Community Wildlife Management Programme; Comoros, Agriculture and Environment Pilot Project; Ethiopia, National Seeds Support; Namibia, Namaland Livestock and Rural Development Project; Niger, Special Programme for Soil and Water Conservation Phase II; Senegal, Rural Micro-Enterprises Programme; The Sudan, North Kordofan Programme; Tanzania, Agricultural Development and Natural Resource Management in Mara Region; and Zimbabwe, South Eastern Dry Areas Programme. A long list of projects is also under consideration for eventual selection of proposals for inclusion in a World Bank/IFAD pipeline of community-based land management projects to be considered for Global Environment Facility (GEF) financing.

20. In addition, a large number of ongoing IFAD supported projects in Africa are setting in place and consolidating the local programming capacity for a bottom-up approach to national action programming. Examples include the Phase I Special Programmes for Soil and Water Conservation in Burkina Faso and The Niger, the Soil and Water Conservation Programme in Ethiopia, and the Local Initiatives Support Programme in Lesotho.

IX. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

21. IFAD has approved several Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) in the time since adoption of the resolution on urgent action for Africa, in addition to the TAG Programme mentioned in Section III above. These focus on research topics of direct relevance to the environmental protection of fragile areas on the fringes of the desert or in desert-prone drylands in the semi-arid tropics. Many of these are expected to generate technologies which could be employed by target groups under IFAD projects including planting of protective trees (date palms) and sand dune stabilization in Oases agriculture in North/West Africa; the establishment of windbreaks in the lowlands of West Africa; planting of hedgerows on croplands and reforestation (rehabilitation) of land which is unsuitable for crop production in Asia and Africa. Where possible, in promoting agroforestry-based technologies IFAD TAG-supported programmes are seeking to develop technologies which address both environmental degradation/desertification as well as household food insecurity, which are common features of rural resource-poor farming agro-ecologies in these regions - also seek to combine these with options for income generation and incentives for pursuit of conservation-based agriculture.

22. TAGs include those to International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) for "Maize Crop Research Programme in Semi-Arid Areas" (USD 1.2 million); to The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)/The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) for "Programme on an Integrated Approach to the Assessment of Trypanosomiasis Control Technologies and Impacts on Agricultural Production, Human Welfare, and Natural Resources in Tse-tse Affected Areas of Africa" (USD 0.8 million). Pipeline TAGs under consideration include support to International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for the Desert Margins Initiative; to The International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) for "Agroforestry Programmes for the Semi-arid Tropics of Eastern and Southern Africa"; to ICIPE for "Sustainable Management and Control of Desert Locust"; to The Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE) for a "Regional Programme for the Sustainable

Utilization of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer in the Desert Prone Areas of The Sudan, Libya and Egypt" and "Programme for Strengthening Biosaline Agriculture in the Gulf States"; and The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) for "In situ Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in Desert Prone Areas of Africa".

X. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR AFRICA

23. IFAD has enhanced its institutional capacity for resource mobilization by the creation of an Economic Policy and Resource Strategy Department. The present programme of work of the department is placing special emphasis on Africa, in the context of building coalitions to assist member states to combat desertification and adopt long-term strategies to mitigate the effects of drought. Africa Region is also given top priority in resource allocation.

XI. CCD GLOBAL MECHANISM

24. In response to an invitation by the Chairman of the INCD, IFAD has submitted for consideration of the INCD a statement of interest and capacity to host the Global Mechanism described in Article 21 of the Convention. IFAD's statement of interest is contingent upon certain conditions which are spelled out in the statement.