



United Nations Environment Programme



Distr.
GENERAL
UNEP/GC.10/9/Add.1
2 March 1982
ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Tenth session
Nairobi, 20 May - 2 June 1982
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Addendum

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

Report of the Executive Director

A. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 33/88, 34/187, 35/72 and 36/190. The first of these resolutions requested the Governing Council to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and this request was reiterated in resolutions 34/187, 35/72 and 36/190.
2. The Executive Director is presenting this report for consideration by the Governing Council as the basis of its annual report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. The report describes the implementation of the Plan in the Sudano-Sahelian region since January 1981.
3. During the reporting period, 1/ Benin, Djibouti, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau were added to the list of countries eligible to receive assistance from the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) in combating

1/ 1/ The reporting period for this annual report now coincides with the calendar year.

desertification, as a result of action by the UNEP and UNDP Governing Councils and the General Assembly. The 19 countries now covered by UNSO's desertification control mandate have a population of 212 million and an area of 4.8 million square miles, of which close to 80 per cent is arid or semi-arid.

4. In 1981, UNSO initiated a number of joint UNSO/donor fact-finding, programming and project formulation missions to countries suffering from desertification. As a result, UNSO was able to maintain and even slightly increase the degree of donor involvement and the level of resources mobilized, on behalf of UNEP, for assistance to the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in combating desertification.

5. Thirty-five new desertification control activities ^{2/} were funded during the reporting period, as a result of financial commitments by various donors to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. The total funds earmarked for these desertification control activities amounted to \$7.6 million.

6. UNSO sent planning and programming missions to Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Uganda. These missions, which included representatives of appropriate United Nations agencies, worked closely with the Governments, assessed the problem of desertification in the countries, reviewed on-going activities and discussed the preparation of national strategies including, as appropriate, the establishment or strengthening of institutional machinery for combating desertification. They identified and formulated with the Governments a total of 43 priority projects, requiring \$US44.2 million in external assistance. Only one of the 19 countries covered by UNSO's desertification control mandate, Chad, has not yet been visited by an UNSO planning and programming mission, and consultations are taking place regarding the possible timing of a mission to that country.

7. UNSO has started its resource mobilization efforts for the new desertification control programmes formulated in the four countries newly added to its mandate.

B. Main features of desertification control operations in the Sudano-Sahelian region

8. The principal thrusts of UNSO's desertification control operations during the past year have lain in combating deforestation, In range management, water resources management, sand dune fixation and planning and co-ordination.

^{2/} These included 7 large-scale projects (over \$US400,000 each), 16 small-scale projects, 4 planning and programming missions and 8 project development missions.

1. Combating deforestation

9. UNSO has been supporting efforts to develop wood resources for fuel and other purposes, develop renewable substitutes for fuelwood, and produce fuel-efficient cooking stoves to conserve energy.

2. Forestry

10. UNSO's expanded assistance to countries in afforestation and reforestation has taken the form of a number of new projects. In the Upper Volta, UNSO assisted in the development of three new forestry projects in 1981. In addition to funds available under the UNEP/UNDP joint venture, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is providing \$US96,000 for the preparatory phase of one of these projects. In Mali, UNSO is supporting a programme for the establishment of village and industrial forest plantations in Gao. In the Niger, UNSO has expanded a project for the development of the green belt around Niamey endorsed by the Consultative Group for Desertification Control at its second session, with a major contribution from the Government of Finland. UNSO has also agreed to support an additional project for the regeneration of 2,400 hectares and the establishment of a 600-hectare plantation of gao trees (Acacia albida). SIDA has already contributed towards the technical assistance component of the project and has agreed, in principle, to finance the external costs of the other components.

11. UNSO has been assisting in the preparation of a seminar on the cultivation of jojoba, which will be held in early 1982 in Khartoum under the joint auspices of the Government of the Sudan, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and UNSO.

3. Development of renewable alternatives to fuelwood

12. In the Gambia and Senegal, feasibility studies are being undertaken for the identification and possible development for fuel of agricultural waste products such as ground-nut shells, peat and elephant grass. The Senegal project is being funded through an earmarked contribution by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to the Trust Fund.

13. UNSO has undertaken to support a four-year project involving the installation of wind turbines in urban, village and sparsely populated rural areas of Cape Verde. The project will be executed by UNDP. External financing will be provided by UNSO and from an earmarked DANIDA contribution to the Trust Fund. In Mali, UNIDO, as executing agency, is carrying out an UNSO-financed feasibility study for the establishment of a plant to produce solar energy equipment, including pumps, cooking stoves and solar heaters. This follows a pre-feasibility study carried out in 1980 which showed promising results.

4. Design, development and production of fuel-efficient cooking stoves

14. UNSO is supporting a CILSS (Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) project involving the evaluation, testing and pilot production of different kinds of cooking stoves. SIDA is contributing \$US31,500. UNSO is also assisting the Gambia, with a financial contribution from DANIDA, in the production of improved stoves for use in rural areas.

5. Range management

15. New projects supported by UNSO include a project in the Sahelian region of the Upper Volta, designed to introduce ecologically sound range management. As a result of joint UNSO/SIDA missions to the Sudan, agreement has been reached on assistance to the Government of the Sudan in the management of grazing resources around permanent water supplies, for which SIDA has agreed to make a large financial contribution.

16. UNSO is supporting the continuation of a successful post-graduate training programme in pastoral management for nationals of CILSS member countries and Guinea. With the co-operation of the Institute of the Sahel and of UNESCO as executing agency, training is provided at the Ecole Tropicale Supérieure de Médecine Vétérinaire in Dakar.

6. Water resources management

17. During the past year, UNSO has continued to support a major project for surface-water and ground-water exploration and utilization in Cape Verde endorsed by the Consultative Group for Desertification Control at its second session, which is financed in part through a Trust Fund contribution from the Government of Italy. UNSO has also expanded a previously approved feasibility study for the operation and management of bore-hole wells in Mauritania drilled and equipped with aid from the African Development Bank. UNSO is also assisting the Government of the Niger in drawing up a major anti-erosion programme in the upper basin of the Maggia river.

18. UNSO has continued to support a joint OAU/FAO/UNESCO/UNSO effort for the restoration and integrated biological development of the Fouta-Djallon massif. In December, UNSO assisted in the formulation of a pilot project in this area. The pilot project will be presented for approval at the next (March 1982) meeting of the Standing Committee on Drought, Desertification and Natural Disasters of the OAU Council of Ministers.

7. Sand dune fixation

19. UNSO has formulated a programme to control sand movements in critically affected areas of Mauritania. It is also examining, with other Governments of the region, specific sand stabilization projects which could apply some of the findings and recommendations emerging from the research phase of the Mauritanian programme. In Somalia, an on-going project for the stabilization of coastal sand dunes endorsed by the Consultative Group for Desertification Control at its second session has been greatly expanded by UNSO with contributions from the Governments of Italy and Australia to the Trust Fund. Following a joint mission to the Sudan, UNSO and SIDA, in close collaboration with the Government, have jointly formulated a major project for sand dune stabilization. A project for the protection of oases against sand encroachment in the Bilma region of the Niger is also being prepared following a formulation mission in December 1981.

8. Planning, co-ordination and monitoring

20. UNSO assisted the Governments of Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Uganda in preparing initial plans and programmes for combating desertification. With UNSO assistance, the Governments of the Gambia and the Upper Volta will be formulating such plans in early 1982.

9. National involvement, popular participation and training

21. In the development of project proposals, UNSO places particular emphasis on the optimal use and further training of existing national cadres, before looking to external expertise. Another important element which UNSO attempts to emphasize and build into the design and monitoring of projects it assists is provision for popular participation and training. An on-the-job training component is also included in practically all projects, and supplemented where necessary by fellowships and observation tours of desertification control activities in other countries.

C. Programming and resource mobilization

22. UNSO resource mobilization efforts in 1981 included the joint missions with representatives of donor Governments for the identification and formulation of projects. There were six main missions of this kind during the reporting period: two with DANIDA, two with SIDA and one each with representatives of the Governments of Finland and Yugoslavia.

23. At the time of the preparation of this report, UNSO had identified with the Governments of the region a total of 231 priority projects requiring investment of \$693 million, of which a total of over \$350 million has been committed from bilateral and multilateral sources, including the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities. This covers only a very small part of the region's needs for external financial support to combat desertification.

D. Co-ordination and inter-organizational co-operation

24. UNSO has continued to maintain close working relationships with regional and other bodies, both within and outside the United Nations system, and has participated in various meetings having a bearing on the process of desertification in the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region.
25. In March 1981, UNSO representatives participated in an interagency meeting on action against desertification and measures to be taken for the protection of the African environment, which was held in Nairobi under the joint sponsorship of UNEP and UNDP.
26. UNSO representatives also attended the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris in September 1981. Anti-desertification projects and strategies formulated in part with UNSO support, were included in the submissions and presentations to the Conference by Sudano-Sahelian countries.
27. UNSO has continued to work closely with CILSS. It was represented at meetings of the CILSS Council of Ministers in January and June 1981 and reported on its activities. It was also represented at a meeting of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) in December 1981.
28. During the reporting period, UNSO participated actively in the third session of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control. In September 1981, it also participated in the work of the Interagency Working Group on Desertification convened by UNEP and contributed to the compilation of a compendium of all desertification control activities being carried out by the various agencies in the United Nations system.
29. In September/October 1981, in pursuance of various General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Secretary-General sent a multi-agency drought mission to assess the medium-term and long-term needs of the drought-afflicted populations of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda as well as the emergency needs of Kenya. UNSO participated in the mission on its own behalf and on behalf of UNEP. The mission reports on the five drought-stricken countries, which were presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, noted, among other things, the close relationship between drought and desertification.

E. Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish:

(a) To note the steps taken by UNSO, on behalf of UNEP, towards the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 19 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region and related regions;

(b) To authorize the Executive Director to submit this report and the decision of the Governing Council thereon on the Council's behalf to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council as the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.
