



# **Synergies between UNFCCC and UNCCD in Africa:**

## **Experiences made in implementing the UNCCD**

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# **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

- **Entered into force 1996 (today: 191 Parties)**
- **Art. 1: desertification means land degradation ... resulting from various factors, incl. climatic variations and human activities**
- **Joint liaison group (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD)**
- **MDGs 1 (poverty eradication) and 7 (environmental sustainability)**
- **2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD)**

## **NAPs, SRAPs and RAP**

- **Implemented through:**
  - National Action Programmes to combat desertification (NAPs)**
  - Sub Regional AP (SRAP)**
  - Regional AP (RAP)/ TPNs (continent)**
- **Committee for the review of the implementation of the Convention (CRIC3) held in May 2005 reviewed status in Africa based on 3<sup>rd</sup> national reports**

## **Thematic review by CRIC3 (1)**

- 1. Participatory processes: Enabling support and awareness raising still needed at field level**
- 2. Legislative and institutional frameworks: Inter-sectoral coordination to be strengthened, national coordinating bodies in need of policy making authority, continuous efforts needed to integrate NAPs into national strategies (PRSP) and international cooperative frameworks (NEPAD)**
- 3. Resource mobilisation: Considerable difficulties remain**
- 4. Linkages and synergies with other conventions: Progress made but largely theoretical**

## **Thematic review by CRIC3 (2)**

- 5. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems: Need to upscale successful practices, need for capacity building**
- 6. Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment: Lack of standardized systems for collecting data; modest progress in developing benchmarks and indicators; country profiles promising tool**
- 7. Access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know how: Technical progress made; need for enhanced international cooperation; capacity building for knowledge management needed**

# Subregional Action Programmes to combat desertification (SRAP)

- Complement and increase effectiveness of NAPs
- Subregional organisations/institutions responsible for preparation, coordination, implementation (CILSS/ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, COMIFAC/ECCAS)
- 4 SRAPs under implementation, 1 SRAP in the process of finalisation (central African subregion)

# Activities under SRAPs (exemples)

- Identification of common priority areas (management of water resources, energy, scientific cooperation, training)
- Implementation of transboundary projects
- Strengthening Early Warning Systems
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening

# Priority areas of SRAP for western Africa and Chad

- Sustainable management of shared water resources, transboundary plant and animal resources
- Sustainable development of energy resources
- Combating pests affecting crops and forest species
- Early warning of drought and mitigation of its impact
- Scientific and technical cooperation
- Information, training and communication
- Development of trade in local products



# Regional Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) under the RAP

- Complementing activities related to the implementation of NAPs and SRAPs
- Vehicle for technology development and transfer
- Exchange of information, experiences and technical know-how among existing and related institutions
- Themes identified by an African ministerial Conference held in 1997



## TPNs (1)

- Rational management of the water resources of major transboundary river, lake and hydrological basins (TPN1)
- Promotion of domestication, processing and marketing of agro-forestry products of socio-economic interest and for soil conservation (TPN2)
- Rational management of rangelands and promotion of fodder crops (TPN3)



## TPNs (2)

- Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems (TPN4)
- Promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies to diversify energy sources, transfer of technology (TPN 5)
- Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems (TPN 6)

# NEPAD's programmes on environment and agriculture

- Program Area 1 of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative: Combating land degradation, drought and desertification (linked with NEPAD's Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme CAADP)
- Priority projects of SRAPs included
- 2 donors consultations held
- TerrAfrica Initiative on sustainable land management launched
- Green Wall for the Sahara – Initiative (African Union Commission, CEN-Sad etc)

# Inter-regional cooperation

- Africa – Latin America and the Caribbean interregional platform for cooperation
- Africa – Asia interregional forum

⇒⇒ Trainings for African experts in Cuba and China, support to pilot projects by Venezuela etc

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