UNFCCC REGIONAL EXPERT S MEETING
ON
A RANGE OF APPROACHES
“TO ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE “
13 -15 JUNE 2012 , ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

perspective from OSS

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

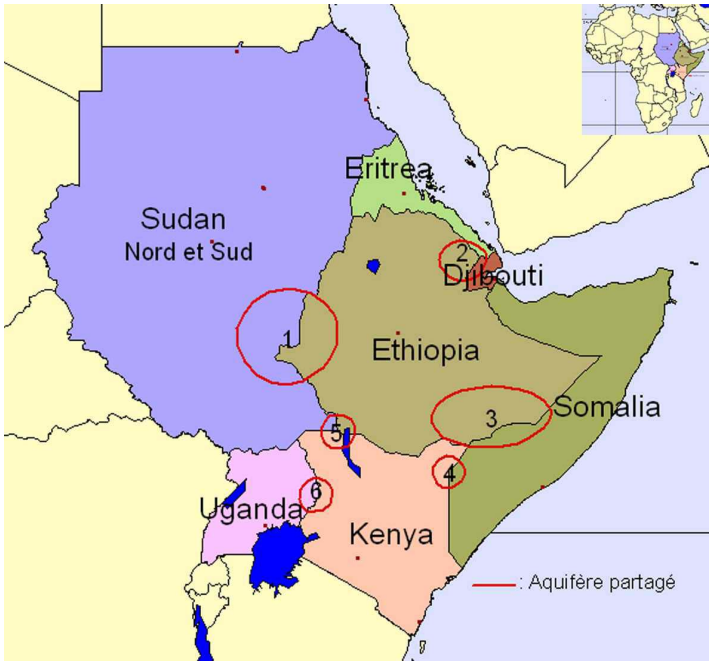
- Background
- ***Recognizing climate change and DLDD: drought and desertification***
- ***Recognizing climate change and DLDD: water pollution***
- Tackling environmental issues in the sub region
- Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: the MEAs
- Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: key steps
- Conclusions and recommendations

Background

The IGAD region is about 5.2 million km^2 ,

- Four-fifths of the region is dry lowlands comprising of arid , semi arid &dry sub-humid
- diverse ecosystems exist.
  - Population is about 206million in 2010 projected to reach 462 million in 2050

The sub-region is the home of about 20 million pastoralists– The largest number in the world



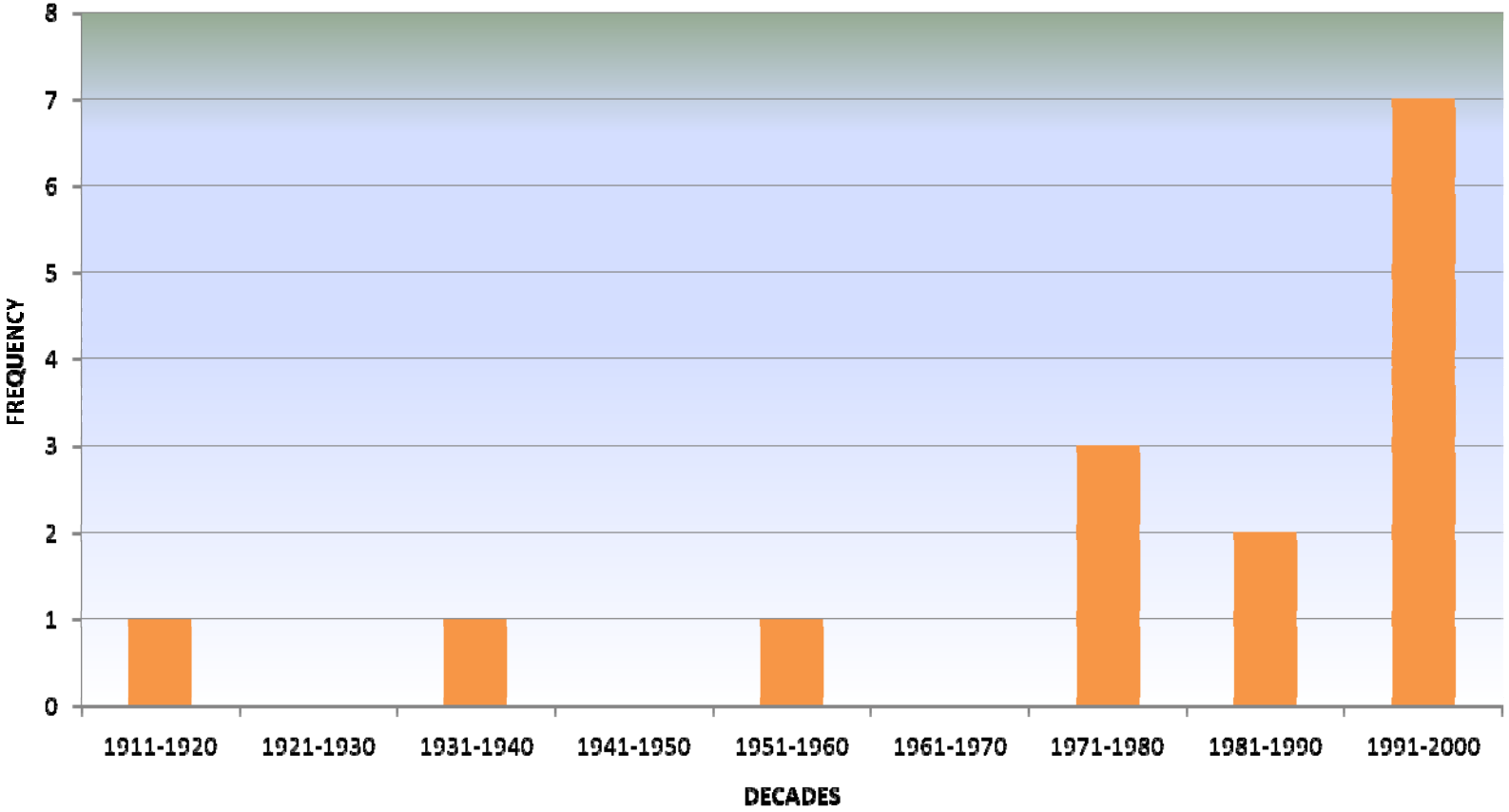
- Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, and Somalia - 1000 m^3 /person /yr or less (experiencing water scarcity)
- By 2025 even Ethiopia and Uganda which are presently with adequate water will be water stressed (1000-2000 m3 /person /yr) while Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan will be in water barrier situation (500 m3/person/yr).
- Increasing pressures from the growing human and livestock populations on land & water Resources.
- The ever increasing degradation of the natural resources.

water is a key factor limiting any sustainable development in the sub- region.

Recognizing climate change and DDLD: drought and desertification

- The intense droughts bring serious devastation to the population and livestock.
- Droughts lead to increased exploitation of natural resources in an unsustainable manner since the renewal of these resources is impaired by shortage of water.
- Land degradation, where the land is stripped of its natural systems such as forests and wetlands, follows from overexploitation of these ecosystems and their repeated failure to recover over a long period of time.
- Land degradation often leads to desertification if it is on a large scale; the effects are not easily reversible since the need by the community increases with the increase in populations

Vulnerability to climate change



Frequency of droughts in Uganda over the period 1911 to 2000

Recognizing climate change and DLDD: water pollution

- Climate change leads to failure or reduction in the delivery of ecosystem goods – the products of nature – such as pasture, water, fuel wood and game
- Water pollution in the natural context is a result of salt water intrusion and salinization or mineralization of surface and ground waters
- Agriculture and over-exploitation of groundwater may lead to salinization of the water
- Pollution of surface and groundwater is encountered in towns where there are no proper sewage and solid waste disposal systems

Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: : key steps

Key steps for tackling environmental issues are:

- Implementation of the NAPAs and the recommendations in the Initial National Communications to the UNFCC
- This is backed up by the relevant national policies, laws and institutional set up to give effect to the adaptation activities
- Technical support should be sourced regionally and internationally using IGAD as the vehicle for coordination and cooperation

Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: : key steps

It is important to tackle those issues that can be handled at the national level such as:

- Improved agricultural, forestry and wildlife practices
- Water conservation
- Wetland protection
- Urban growth
- Industrial pollution
- Sanitation and sewerage services especially for the urban centers
- Population control and management

Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: : key steps

At the sub regional / international levels, the key steps are:

- Implementation of transboundary actions regarding shared water, forestry, highland, wildlife and agricultural resources, including pasture lands
- Sharing of information regarding weather, security and water resources
- Setting up early warning systems. Early warning systems should include terrestrial and satellite based surveillance with national focal points empowered to take necessary steps to activate certain actions.

Tackling environmental issues in the sub region: : key steps

- Sub regional coping strategies on transboundary resources should be enhanced through the IGAD cooperation framework
- Vulnerability assessments done at national level should be analyzed at the sub regional level as well since some of these may have transboundary impacts
- Strengthening of the cooperative framework within IGAD and widening its reach in technical assistance to national bodies and coordination of international actions, especially on the MEAs

Conclusions and recommendations

- Drought, desertification and land degradation are serious threats to all the IGAD countries. Although these impacts are caused by the global effect of climate change, there are many activities that the individual countries can do individually and collectively to combat these threats.
- The main vehicle for collective action is IGAD and the multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) which most of the countries are signatory to.

  The countries should therefore join the MEAs which are beneficial to them under the IGAD umbrella.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Coping with drought, desertification and land degradation is critical to the survival of the pastoralists of the region; they are the most affected of the communities since their options for survival are limited.
  - *The pastoralists are the most vulnerable people and in this regard concrete & collective action is required to enable them cope with the severe impacts of climate change.*

Thank you for your attention