Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Land Management
as a Best Practice to Enhance Rural Development
in the ESCWA Region
Beirut, 25 – 27 March 2009

Integrated Drylands Development Programme
A Comprehensive UNDP Initiative for Sustainable Land Management

by

Mr. Elie Kodsi
Team Leader for Arab States Dry Lands Development Center

United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP)

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UNDP and Sustainable Land Management

• Sustainable Land Management has been a priority of UNDP for over 30 years
• This commitment is clear in UNDP’s development agenda to fight poverty and assist countries achieve the MDGs
• It is reflected in UNDP’s Strategic Plan (2008 - 2011) particularly with respect to UNCCD implementation
• Two dedicated units: UNDP GEF and the Drylands Development Centre supporting Country Offices in their efforts to combat land degradation
The Drylands Development Centre (DDC)

- DDC is a specialized centre of UNDP dedicated to fighting poverty in the drier parts of the world
- DDC leads UNDP efforts towards drylands development and CCD implementation

A comprehensive UNDP response to land degradation

- UNDP launched the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) to tackle poverty and land degradation in rural/dry areas
- It is implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre in Africa and the Arab States
- It represents an innovative and flexible framework that combines policy support with institutional capacity building and concrete programme interventions at national and local levels
Integrated Drylands Development Programme

IDDP addresses 3 interlinked issues that are important to poverty alleviation and sustainable land management:

- Mainstreaming of drylands development issues into national policy and planning frameworks;
- Strengthening governance of natural resources (institutional capacity, decentralized management)
- Building resilience of affected communities (livelihoods diversification, market access and adaptation to drought)

Programme Thematic Areas

Overall objective
To support drylands development and UNCCD implementation through policy advice, technical assistance, catalytic funding and innovative programming
What the Programme is about?

- IDDP brings partners together towards dryland development and UNCCD implementation
- It is responsive and demand driven
- It acts as a catalyst or broker for promising initiatives - to make things happen

What it offers?

The services provided by the Programme include:
- Policy support
- Technical backstopping
- Project development
- Facilitating partnerships
- Catalytic funding
- Knowledge sharing
How it operates?

- Strong operational linkages with existing UNDP network mainly Country Offices through which national projects are implemented
- Catalytic funding and technical services used to mobilize partners and leverage funds (from donors and national governments) for Programme implementation
- Has evolved into a multi-donor Programme (UNDP, Norway, Finland, Denmark and EU among others) and operates in 20 countries

IDDP in the Arab Region

- Programme operational since 2001; based in Beirut
- Mainly funded by the Government of Finland, UNDP and national partners
- Provides support to: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Yemen
- Originally conceived to move forward CCD implementation in the region, including the elaboration of NAPs
Evolution of the Programme

- Initially, focus was on processes - i.e. assistance was geared towards the elaboration of National Action Programmes (NAPs) to Combat Desertification.

- As NAPs were ready, support shifted to their implementation through innovative programming for poverty alleviation and sustainable land management.

Programme Highlights
Mainstreaming

- Mainstreaming is a major objective of the programme to ensure that adequate attention and resources are made available for drylands development.
- It is a long-term process and the programme has taken active steps to support it at the global, regional and national levels.
  - Contribution to the development of global mainstreaming guidelines
  - Support to the adoption of sustainable land management as a key regional priority for UNDP programming in the Arab Region
  - Support to national mainstreaming efforts especially in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Lebanon

Mainstreaming - Morocco

- The Programme was instrumental in the design and implementation of a major Poverty - Desertification Programme (USD 3.5 millions)
- Lessons learned supported the implementation of the main national strategies and plans, mainly the 2020 Rural Development Strategy and the National Human Development Initiative
- As a result of mainstreaming efforts, significant resources are now allocated for dryland development from the national budget
Mainstreaming - Tunisia

• Regional Action Programmes (RAPs) to combat desertification were elaborated in four governorates.
• The preparation of the RAPs was conducted within the framework of the governorate planning exercise.
• Integration (and funding) of a large number of RAP priority projects into the Eleventh National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2007 – 2011), the main development framework of the country.

Mainstreaming - Algeria

• Support to the design and establishment of the National Desertification Fund
• It supports sustainable land management and local development initiatives
• The Fund is currently operational and financed by the Algerian Government with a total biennial budget of 1.5 billion USD.
Mainstreaming - Lebanon

- Establishing and strengthening a dedicated CCD Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture
- Development of a financing strategy for NAP implementation in partnership with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
- Support to development and financing of NAP priority projects (About 10 million USD for water harvesting, reforestation and local development)

Governance of natural resources

- The Programme has invested considerable efforts in the promotion of good land and water governance including contribution to the development of:
  - The UNDP Global Land Tenure Initiative (regional workshop, case studies and follow-up actions);
  - The Regional Water Governance Programme (2009-2012) spearheaded by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States
Governance – Water

- UNDP launched a Water Governance Programme for Arab States in January 2009 with the goal to improve the effective use and management of scarce water resources.
- Areas of support:
  - Integrated Water Resources Management
  - Local management of water resources, water supply and sanitation
  - Capacity building and institutional strengthening
  - Cross-cutting themes: adaptation to climate change, transboundary water management and gender mainstreaming
- To date, the Programme is endorsed by 7 countries: Tunisia, Yemen, Libya, Djibouti, Jordan, Qatar and the Palestinian Territories

Building Resilience of Affected Communities
Market access - Lebanon

- The project "Rural Dryland Development through Innovative Market Approaches" was launched to enhance market access for small producers
- Activities include advocacy for dryland products, capacity building to meet market requirements and networking with appropriate market outlets.
- A ‘Drylands’ trademark was developed as a marketing umbrella for small producers
Building Resilience of Affected Communities
Market access - Lebanon

Building Resilience of Affected Communities
Livelihood Diversification - Morocco

- Support to the implementation of the Southern Oasis Programme.
- Aims at rehabilitating the oases of southern Morocco while alleviating poverty and enhancing local livelihoods
- Enhances livelihoods by supporting diversification options including the development of ecotourism services & facilities
Building Resilience of Affected Communities
Livelihood Diversification - Morocco

• Initial support (2006-2007) catalyzed a momentum leading to a reformulation of a larger programme linked to ongoing decentralization and local development efforts in 12 districts

• Revised programme document approved in December 2007 with a total budget of USD 18 million

Conclusion

• Lessons learned from IDDP implementation (and confirmed by several independent evaluations) is that the integrated approach adopted by the programme is effective in promoting sustainable land management through action:
  - at the policy/planning level to ensure that an enabling environment and resources are made available
  - At the institutional level to enhance good governance of land resources particularly at the decentralized level
  - At the community level to promote good practices, enhance livelihood options and alleviate poverty