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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**

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## *Integrated Drylands Development Programme*

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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
- It evolved (2002) from UNSO, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, 1973
- DDC leads UNDP efforts towards drylands development and CCD implementation

## A comprehensive UNDP response to land degradation

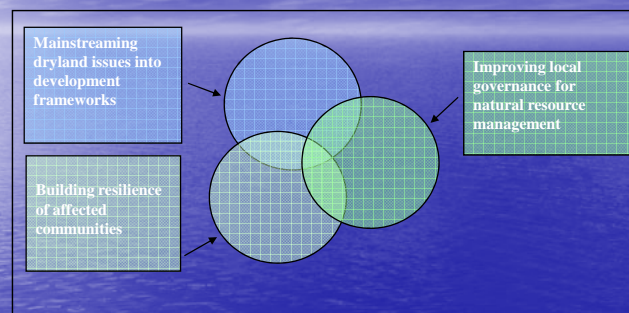
- UNDP launched the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) to tackle poverty and land degradation in rural/dry areas
- It is implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre in Africa and the Arab States
- It represents an innovative and flexible framework that combines policy support with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