

Resources Available for UNCCD Implementation

Financial analyses, showcases and knowledge management (FIELD)

Briefing Note

BACKGROUND

The Global Mechanism (GM) is the subsidiary body of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in charge of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention. The GM's specific mandate is "to promote actions leading to the mobilization of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties" (Article 21, para 4, UNCCD).

The GM acts as an honest broker and as a catalyst that not only draws on but also adds value to the interventions of other development partners. One of the main functions of the GM, as spelled out in Decision 24/Annex/COP.1 is to **collect and disseminate information**, i.e. "(a) Identify potential sources of financing ...; (b) Establish and update an inventory of the financial needs of affected developing country Parties for carrying out action programmes, as well as other relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention ...; (c) Identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral co-operation programmes and available financial resources in the form of a comprehensive database ... (d) Disseminate information ... to Parties on a regular basis and make it available, on request, to interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

TITLE OF THE SIDE EVENT

On Tuesday 12 December 2000 the GM organized a side event on "*Resources available for UNCCD implementation: Financial analyses, Showcases and Knowledge Management (FIELD)*".

PURPOSE

The purpose of the side event was to:

- Increase awareness of GM activities related to mobilization of financial resources for UNCCD implementation;
- Present the GM Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (**FIELD**) as a knowledge management tool for collecting and disseminating information related to UNCCD financing, and as an integral part of the GM communication strategy; and
- Show progress made on the establishment of data collection processes with pilot countries and institutions representing the donor and recipient communities.

PRESENTERS

- Introduction and overview of the GM
(Mr. Per Rydén, Managing Director, GM)
- FIELD: Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation
(Mr. Simone Quatrini, Information Systems Manager/Financial Analyst, GM)
- Model of collaboration in knowledge sharing: FIELD-DESELAC initiative
(National Focal Point of Mexico, on behalf of Mr. Rafael Rodriguez Capetillo, Co-ordinator, UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean)
- ODA: Analysis of trends and strategic frameworks with reference to North Africa
(Ms. Valérie Autissier, Consultant, GM/GTZ)
- Assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors: Main findings of financial analyses
(Mr. Kwame Awere-Gyekye, Consultant, GM)
- Assistance from bilateral donors: the case of Belgium
(Mr. Jozef Buys, Chargé de Mission, DGIC, Belgium)
- Approaches to reach out to US Foundations, Washington-based development organizations, and research institutes
(Mr. Fawzi Rihane, Coordinator, Multilateral and Inter-Agency Affairs, IFAD, on behalf of Ms. Vera Weill-Halle, Director, North America Liaison Office, IFAD)
- Building Effective Partnership with the Private Sector for CCD Implementation
(Mr. John Chikati, Regional Co-ordinator, IFDM Regional Partnership for Resource Development)

ATTENDANCE

About 70 delegates attended the side event, coming from developing and developed country Parties, international organizations (including the EU, regional and sub-regional organizations, etc.), representatives from UN agencies, UNFCCC, and NGOs. The side event took place in the Press Briefing Room with interpretation to/from English, French and Spanish.

CONTENTS OF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- **GM Activities:** the presentation by Mr. Per Rydén provided examples of best/good approaches to resource mobilization, highlighting initiatives benefiting from GM direct intervention (such as Fouta Djallon Highlands and Niger-Nigeria Shared Water Resources, Harmonization of Public Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the RETA: the Regional Technical Assistance Programme developed in collaboration between the GM and the Asian Development Bank);
- **FIELD:** Mr. Simone Quatrini presented the FIELD system (Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation) developed by the GM in collaboration with IFAD and FAO, and highlighted its underlying knowledge management features embedded in the system, as well as the progress made by the GM in collecting and disseminating data related to UNCCD financing, particularly through the establishment of pilot activities with donors and beneficiaries. As an example of the participatory and decentralised approach for knowledge sharing, the FIELD-DESELAC initiative was presented by the National Focal Point of Mexico, on behalf of Mr. Rafael Rodriguez-Capetillo of the UNCCD Regional Coordination Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean. Another example of pilot activities undertaken in this direction was provided by Mr. Jozef Buys of Belgium (DGIC). A CD-ROM containing a preliminary inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral co-operation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, as well as other sources and channels of funding, was distributed to the participants. The on-line version of FIELD can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.gm-unccd.org>
- **Financial Analyses:** Ms. Valérie Autissier and Mr. Kwame Awere-Gyekye presented the main findings of the analyses of bilateral and multilateral co-operation frameworks performed after COP.3 by the GM in collaboration with GTZ and OECD/DAC (*Pilot Study on Aid Targeting the Objectives of the Rio Conventions*). These analyses highlighted the overall decreasing trend of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and underlined the sectoral, geographical and programmatic peculiarities of the strategic frameworks of the major development partners. Specific reference was made to North, East and Southern Africa where the GM is establishing collaborative arrangements for resource mobilization involving sub-regional organizations. These presentations allowed to discuss current issues and opportunities, including the need of a more detailed data reporting and classification system that could benefit from the FIELD specifications and from a broader participation of all stakeholders;
- **Showcases:** Mr. Fawzi Rihane of IFAD presented the IFAD-GM Outreach Programme to reach out to the Foundations in USA, and gave examples of the substantial amount of resources that could be mobilized through collaborating with Foundations and NGOs. Examples of the resource potential represented by the private sector was provided in a paper called "*Building Effective Partnerships with the Private Sector for UNCCD Implementation*" prepared by Mr. John M. Chikati (IFDM, Kenya), which included indications for future action based on experiences and lessons learned in East Africa.

OUTCOMES

- The side event allowed the GM to demonstrate continuity of action and follow up of the decisions and recommendations of the UNCCD Parties related to information collection and dissemination, including those resulting from the regional and sub-regional workshops on resource mobilization organized by the GM and the UNCCD Secretariat in the course of 2000;
- Increased level of knowledge of the financial outlook for UNCCD implementation;
- Better understanding of the potential of GM as a brokering institution, and of its activities related to information collection and dissemination, which are instrumental to the match-making function of the GM;
- Expressions of interest from representatives of developing countries and their development partners in collaborating with the GM in fine-tuning and deploying the FIELD system at regional/sub-regional/national levels;
- Dissemination of models of collaboration in knowledge sharing to be replicated in other countries and institutions, in order to rapidly collect a 'critical mass' of relevant data.