

THE GLOBAL MECHANISM:  
ENGAGING AT THE  
COUNTRY LEVEL

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Land degradation, while also a consequence of climate change, stems primarily from human activities.

Land degradation constitutes an environmental crisis of global proportions that threatens livelihoods and has a strong bearing on our lifestyles.

Land degradation has enormous economic consequences. The World Bank estimates that USD 42 billion is lost each year due to land degradation.

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Donors are shifting towards country-driven identification of development priorities and country ownership, as called for by the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness*.

International development cooperation and national budgeting processes are coming together for national priority setting for development.

Sustainable land management (SLM) must be an integral part of national development programming, if countries are to attract investments from both their national budgets and international financial sources.

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Resources for UNCCD implementation can be scaled up by understanding the cross-sectoral nature of SLM and increasing interaction between sectors and policy processes that have a positive impact on SLM and rural development.

Such processes include: institution-building and governance; trade and market access for communities and households; education; adaptation to climate change; forestry; and biodiversity in rural production systems.

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TRANSLATING THE PARIS DECLARATION  
INTO FINANCING

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At the *international level*, the GM is involved in strategic, global processes to effectively communicate the message that the UNCCD can make a huge contribution to SLM and poverty reduction.

At the *(sub)regional level*, the GM fosters dialogue and promotes knowledge exchange and learning through expert consultations and special initiatives, with the aim of incorporating countries' experiences into the broader development debate.

At the *national level*, the GM supports interested countries in the longer-term by providing advisory services and capacity-building.

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SUPPORTING AFFECTED COUNTRIES  
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The GM is strengthening its commitment to country Parties by supporting domestic approaches to SLM financing, mainstreaming, partnership-building and policy processes.

While specializing in finance, it also supports new, robust and long-term partnerships that create enabling policy, legislative and institutional environments, conducive for resource mobilization at both the national and the international levels.

The GM promotes a comprehensive, coordinated process through which to mainstream SLM issues into national and international development efforts and donor cooperation frameworks, positioning the UNCCD at the core of development.

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The GM is strengthening its corporate capacity to mobilize resources through a range of strategic programmes, designed to enhance its country-level impact by broadening the Convention's stakeholder basis.

Its strategic programmes engage actors and forge links with sectors that have not traditionally been involved in UNCCD implementation and generate synergies with other environmental conventions.

The specialized knowledge of public finance and private investment that the GM obtains from such sectors and then applies to the national context, offers significant potential for increasing investment flows for SLM.

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Integrated financing strategies (IFSs) identify national priorities, bottlenecks and opportunities, and national and international sources of financing.

IFS development is a broad process, directly linked to the National Action Programme (NAP) process and often involving close cooperation with other financial mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

An IFS aims to upscale domestic and foreign investments by facilitating access to an eclectic mix of public, private, new and innovative resources for UNCCD implementation.

An IFS is expected to result in the establishment of investment frameworks for SLM.

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The GM is convinced that successful financial resource mobilization involves the mobilization of *instrumental resources* (strategic frameworks and policy instruments), *human resources* (stakeholders, organizations and institutions), and *knowledge and information resources* (awareness-raising and capacity-building).

The mainstreaming approach has therefore been long advocated and practised by the GM as a key instrument for enhancing the integration of the UNCCD into development agendas at the country level.

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The GM acts as a hub for a dynamic network of strategic and financing partners, committed to focusing their energies, resources and knowledge on delivering as one.

The GM encourages partnerships between national governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations, which are consistent with the international community's approaches of harmonization and alignment.

The GM forges partnerships with the objective of increasing its corporate service provision, drawing upon the technical and strategic expertise of other organizations for resource mobilization.

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The GM calls for more emphasis on legislative reform, governance issues, institution building and a favourable policy environment.

It therefore engages in and contributes to policy processes including rural development, poverty reduction, agriculture and forestry, which are directly related to UNCCD implementation.

The GM's country engagement firmly places the UNCCD in the context of sustainable domestic development, and supports country Parties in making the UNCCD a more effective vehicle for sustainable natural resource management.

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The Global Mechanism of the United Nations  
Convention to Combat Desertification

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