

Using partnerships to generate finance to address priority land degradation issues

What?

The Asia and Pacific Programme targets areas where the link between desertification and poverty is acute. Through partnerships between governments, civil society and development agencies, it establishes long-term National Financing Strategies (NFSs) to address priority land degradation issues.

Why?

The Asia and Pacific region is home to two-thirds of the world population who live below the poverty line. Most of these people are highly dependent on land resources for their livelihoods and therefore sustainable land management (SLM) is critical for the region's economic and social development.

How?

All the programme's initiatives are oriented towards generating financing for UNCCD implementation by:

- engendering a common understanding of the root causes of desertification
- broadening stakeholders' participation in SLM and forging partnerships between national and external actors
- enhancing enabling policy, legislative, institutional and incentive frameworks for improved land management and poverty alleviation
- securing conventional and innovative financing for UNCCD implementation in the long term

Where?

At subregional level, in 2001, the GM established the Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries (SPA) - a multi-donor consortium of bilateral and multilateral institutions designed to enhance collaboration between the Central Asian Countries (CACs) and their external partners. The SPA's main outcome is the **Central Asian Countries' Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)** - a Global Environment Facility (GEF) ten-year, multi-country, multi-donor programme, promoting sustainable land management (SLM). CACILM was developed together with the CACs, the SPA and other institutions, with the ADB at the helm. The GM supported the process financially, technically and by mainstreaming SLM into select SPA members programming frameworks. Over ten years, an estimated USD 1.4 billion will be invested in SLM-related activities. The launching phase is being financed with approximately USD 155 million with contributions from the countries (USD 25m), the GEF (USD 20m) and development partners (USD 110m).

In the Middle East, the GM is developing the **Sustainable Arid Land Management Programme (SALAM)**, a complementary initiative to further strengthen national efforts to address land degradation-related issues. This 5-year, multi-country programme brings together the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and their neighbouring Arab States in a partnership promoting SLM practices with a view to improving livelihoods and providing ecological services.

In Southeast Asia, the GM is organizing expert thematic consultations and training on emerging donor financing tools and modalities to enhance key national stakeholders' capacity to develop national financing strategies for the synergistic implementation of the Agenda 21 Conventions.

In West Asia, the GM is implementing a training programme on **Designing Integrated Financing Strategies (DIFS)**, building on the GM's mainstreaming experiences in North Africa, and seeing to increase national stakeholders' capacity to develop long-term integrated financing strategies for UNCCD implementation.

At national level, in collaboration with national and international stakeholders, the GM is developing NFSs for the implementation of National Action Programmes (NAPs) in **Jordan** and **Lebanon**.

This process aims to enhance knowledge of:

- the current financing situation and financial flows for SLM
- public financial management and budget processes
- how to improve trade and market access for wine, olive oil and other products, so as to increase investment in drylands
- donor policies and modalities for obtaining bilateral and multilateral funds
- innovative financing sources.

In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the GM is identifying entry points for mainstreaming SLM into national planning and budgetary allocation processes, and, with private-sector partners, is seeking innovative financing from climate change financing mechanisms, compensation for environmental services and trade.

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