

## East & Southern Africa Programme

### Partnerships as the key to increased investments in sustainable land management

#### What?

The East and Southern Africa region covers 23 countries that suffer the impacts of land degradation and desertification. Food insecurity has become a structural problem and drought and floods are increasingly severe. From the perspective of demography, migration, poverty reduction and urbanization, land degradation therefore poses one of the most compelling challenges to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

More than ten years after the adoption of the UNCCD, measures taken to tackle land degradation in the region are showing some positive results, yet much still remains to be done. The GM is therefore working with key development partners to address the desertification challenge.

#### Why?

The programme focuses on harnessing the UNCCD's potential to rally commitment and support to increase public awareness and understanding of what desertification is, and the cost of inaction at regional, national and local levels. Through enhanced awareness and deeper understanding of the issues at stake, it aims to increase investments in SLM. The programme supports countries in mobilizing financial and technical resources to implement their action plans to address land degradation, desertification and SLM issues.

#### How?

Partnership-building is at the core of the Programme. Through partnerships with governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private business, civil society, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the GM aims to promote an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated response to land degradation and desertification. Special initiatives have been designed to complement country and regional programmes.

**At country-level** the focus is on three priority areas through which to create enabling conditions for investment in SLM:

- mainstreaming SLM and other National Action Programme (NAP) priorities into national policies, strategies and budgeting processes
- enhancing partnerships between governments and their development partners, to establish country-level financing partnerships
- supporting investment programming to catalyze resource mobilization in support of local initiatives.

**At sub-regional level** the focus is on policy dialogue, enhancing coordination of UNCCD implementation and strengthening the capacity of partner institutions to:

- support country-level processes
- exploit the full potential of existing financial mechanisms, and identify new sources of funding
- facilitate information exchange and knowledge-sharing on best practices in SLM
- increase civil society engagement in community-based SLM initiatives.

## Special initiatives & partners

### **The Public-Public Partnership Initiative (PPP)**

This initiative to engage the corporate sector in NAP implementation is being piloted in Kenya and South Africa. It has resulted, inter alia, in the establishment of a National Desertification Trust Fund (NDTF) in Kenya and an agreement between the Government of South Africa and Shell Solar jointly to fund implementation of renewable energy initiatives under the NAP.

The GM has helped develop a strategy for mobilizing private-sector resources in NAP implementation and is discussing a partnership with the Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to consolidate the gains and institutionalize the PPP in support NAP/SLM initiatives, by developing an action plan and operational modalities to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of the PPP.

### **TerrAfrica**

Launched in 2005, TerrAfrica aims to provide a collective response to desertification and land degradation by promoting a multi-dimensional partnership between the governments of Sub-Saharan Africa and their development partners. The GM believes TerrAfrica constitutes a very powerful political and strategic initiative for rallying support and hence for mobilizing substantial financial and other resources for implementation the UNCCD.

GM has played an instrumental role in TerrAfrica by providing advisory support in the development of the partnership. GM has also co-organized, co-financed and participated in a number of TerrAfrica meetings.

In addition, GM designed the TerrAfrica Country Engagement Strategy (CES) and is taking the lead in developing tools, instruments and guidelines for SLM mainstreaming as well as providing analytical and advisory services to countries such as Uganda and Ethiopia under TerrAfrica.

### **For more information:**

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