



Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente

Increasing finance
for sustainable land management

HONDURAS

CONTEXT

The Republic of Honduras is located at the heart of Central America and covers an area of 112 492 km². The country is divided into 18 departments and 298 municipalities.

Honduras joined the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1997, ratifying its participation through Legislative Decree 35-97 of 28 April. One of the country's first actions was to prepare a National Action Programme (NAP) to fight desertification and drought, with the support of the Global Mechanism (GM). Since then, Honduras has prepared and presented national follow-up reports on UNCCD implementation.

The preparation of Honduras's NAP took a participatory, bottom-up approach, which revealed that 2.3 million people - nearly 35% of the country's population - were living in areas highly vulnerable to drought.

Since 2006, Honduras has received direct support from the GM to strengthen its UNCCD implementation activities and raise awareness of desertification and drought as issues of national importance.

CHALLENGES

The major environmental problems facing Honduras are land-use practices that do not consider the land's carrying capacity, unsustainable agricultural production systems, deforestation, insufficient environmental awareness, inefficient institutions and local organizations, ineffective application of legislation, inadequate land management, and inappropriate use of technical and financial resources. These generate negative environmental impacts that compromise future generations' livelihoods.

Some 70% of annual crops and 45% of extensive livestock production are currently taking place on land suitable for forest cover. In addition, the lack of strategies and practices for land-use planning and land management is leading to high rates of deforestation and erosion that contribute to systematic changes in the water cycle, resulting in severe floods and droughts.

These challenges are identified in the NAP's goals, but to overcome them, institutional efforts must be made to raise awareness of UNCCD issues at the highest levels of political decision-making, in order to ensure effective implementation of actions to fight desertification and drought. The implementation of the Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) supported by the GM will contribute to this.

 The Global Mechanism (GM) was established under Article 21 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and began its operations in October 1997. The GM is defined as an organizational entity mandated "to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms... [and]... to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties."

Map courtesy of IFAD



Population: 6.5 million
Population growth: 3.3%
Rural population: 54.5%
Poverty: 64.3%
Extreme poverty: 48%
Human Development Index: 0.672
Illiteracy: 26.5%
Per capita gross national product (GDP) USD 989
Forest cover: 5.4 million ha (48%)

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COMMON OBJECTIVES

- Develop and implement an IFS that identifies, manages and assures internal and external financial resources, including the use of innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the UNCCD in Honduras.
- Develop and implement effective NAP interventions that achieve synergies and optimize the use of available resources while seeking complementarity with other development initiatives, underway or under negotiation, identified in the IFS.
- Coordinate the local- and national-level activities of the various organizations that support integrated natural resource management for effective UNCCD implementation in Honduras.

WHERE DO WE STAND ON IMPLEMENTATION?

The Government of Honduras gives high priority to combating desertification and drought and makes great efforts to implement the UNCCD effectively. The GM supports Honduras in this context.

The Inter-institutional Technical Group (ITG) involves more than 25 participating government institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and international cooperation. Seven important social development projects have been implemented at the local level within the framework of the NAP, and a campaign to inform schoolchildren about combating desertification and drought is also being conducted.

The IFS is being prepared and will allow the identification and assignment of financial resources to implement the Convention through the goals established in the NAP - mitigation of the effects of desertification and drought, and the establishment of sustainable land management (SLM) practices at the national level.

NEXT STEPS

The UNCCD Focal Point and the ITG will continue to develop activities to implement the UNCCD in Honduras, with the GM's support. These efforts will be strengthened through implementation of the IFS and the Country Engagement Strategy, which will ensure that all public, private, civil society and other stakeholders in environmental management participate in the mobilization of resources and the implementation of sustainable actions to fight desertification and drought.

Map courtesy of IFAD



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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