

Unveiling opportunities for sustainable land management

What?

A cross-cutting and complex phenomenon, desertification cannot be addressed in isolation. To the contrary, it requires a comprehensive, consistent and integrated approach involving various spheres of policy-making at national and international levels.

Policies influence human behaviour. Good policies can secure peaceful, balanced and sustained economic development, while safeguarding natural resource availability for future generations. Bad policies can result in disasters, poverty and conflict.

Through its Policy Analysis Programme, the GM studies the impact of different policies on decisions to invest in drylands. It then uses the results to promote the right policy-mix for sustainable land management (SLM).

The main findings of this analytical work are published in the form of a policy series, consisting of accessible thematic papers that focus on specific policy reviews, impact assessments and cost-benefit analyses. The series is issued regularly to policy-makers, distributed at relevant policy fora and shared with the public through the Internet and the media.

Why?

In light of the evolving international financial architecture, characterized by new aid allocation modalities and increasingly important domestic budgeting processes, the GM is adapting its operational strategy and business model to effectively assist partner countries in the appraisal of risks and opportunities, actions to take and changes to make.

As part of this business model, the GM is providing cutting-edge financial advisory services to governments, institutions and communities involved in combating desertification worldwide. These services are rooted in consolidated knowledge, comprehensive reviews and solid analysis of strategic and thematic issues relevant to UNCCD implementation.

Within this framework, the Policy Analysis Programme aims to generate a better understanding of the barriers, trade-offs, opportunities and incentives that policies can determine for sustainable land management financing. It is thus primarily intended as an instrument to inform policymaking of the combination of policies needed or the alternative measures to be put in place, to influence decisions to invest in drylands.

How?

The GM considers policy analysis to be an essential prerequisite for mainstreaming SLM into national development frameworks and for promoting effective national financing strategies (NFSs) for UNCCD implementation.

More specifically, through the Policy Analysis Programme, the GM aims to:

- improve the understanding of policy issues and options, by periodically disseminating the findings of thematic surveys, reviews and analyses related to SLM financing, thereby stimulating dialogue, action and innovation
- promote policy coherence and increased development effectiveness, by highlighting the key dimensions of the nexus between land and natural resource degradation, rural development and poverty reduction, as well as opportunities to generate economic incentives for investing in drylands
- increase stakeholders' capacity to secure and monitor SLM financing by facilitating, through the GM's FIELD system, the transfer and analysis of information on available funding instruments, sources and flows related to the implementation of SLM programmes and initiatives
- mainstream UNCCD objectives into overarching development frameworks, by identifying opportunities for integrating them into relevant national, regional and international policy frameworks, with a view to increasing domestic, international, public and private investment in SLM activities.

Topics currently being considered for review include:

- the benefits of SLM investments and the costs of inaction
- official development assistance policies, instruments, priorities, allocation modalities and delivery mechanisms
- national expenditure frameworks and budget allocation policies in affected countries
- potential or innovative financial mechanisms, such as compensation for ecosystem services, emissions trading, climate change adaptation, micro-finance and remittances
- private-sector engagement based on corporate social responsibility policies and principles
- macroeconomic policies impacting SLM financing
- cross-cutting impacts of sectoral policies on land and natural resources
- barriers to and opportunities for SLM resulting from international agreements and national legislation.

For more information:

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