

CONCEPT NOTE

Rehabilitation of Natural Resources and Rural Development

Short Description: As a country that is affected by desertification Turkey has gained important achievements in combating desertification and deforestation. These accomplishments were highly appreciated by international organizations. First of all, the ongoing “Land Rehabilitation/Combating Desertification and Forestry” project that is the part of regional cooperation project was very successful and it has been successfully implemented. Within the activities of the project, trainings were organized in the countries affected by desertification in Central Asia, the Balkans and in Africa in order to increase the technical capacities of these countries. Every year, 46 people from 23 countries were trained since 2006 and these training were organized successfully.

On the other hand, Land Degradation and Drought and Desertification of the Least Developed Countries (DLDD) Fighting Capacity Improvement Project is planned for countries in Africa. This project is planned with joint efforts with these countries. With this project, our country aims to share her experiences with approximately 40 countries in Africa.

In this context, the General Directorate was prepared a project to combat desertification for sustainable land management for Sudan, Eritrea and Niger. Along with land management and combating desertification, this project has targets such as natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and regional development.

Expected issues for cooperation: According to results of bilateral meetings and Questionnaire prepared and presented by Turkish delegations to Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Madagascar, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali, Central Africa, Ghana, Niger, and Tanzania. As a result of bilateral meetings and Questionnaire, the expected issues that are considered to make cooperation are below:

- 1- Combating desertification,
- 2- Afforestation,
- 3- Geographic information systems,
- 4- Soil conservation,
- 5- Water collection,
- 6- Science and technology,
- 7- Agriculture and food security,
- 8- Rural development,
- 9- Watershed rehabilitation,
- 10- Biodiversity,
- 11- Dunes stabilization,
- 12- Prevention of salinization.

Objective: To identify factors which contribute to desertification and concrete measures to be taken to combat it and alleviate drought effects. To analyze and follow up the factors that contribute to drought and desertification. To promote a sustainable management of natural resources in the areas (to organize, train and make the population participate in the sustainable management of the natural resources). Train local people and public servants on the combating desertification and afforestation issues. To improve the production and the rural communities conditions of life namely through the adoption of more appropriate technical ways. To rehabilitation of natural resources.

Focus: The project will focus on the following broad areas:

- (a) Assessment of conservation threats to land, biodiversity and natural ecosystems, including over-grazing, deforestation.
- (b) Capacity Building in thematic areas including natural resource management; biological diversity conservation; environmental impact assessment; adaptation to climate change; rangeland management; alternate dispute resolution of environmental conflicts; and protection of ecosystems, forestry, combating desertification, erosion control and rural development..
- (c) Institutional Strengthening - the capacity of relevant institutions, such as the sectoral ministries, agencies and bodies with responsibilities for forestry and desertification, environmental management would be strengthened. This will involve land managements, development of communications and outreach materials and the development and distribution of relevant toolkits, handbooks, manuals and other materials to enable the institutions function effectively.
- (d) Environmental Awareness and Information – raising awareness on better management of the natural resources and protection of the environment. Series of activities will target provision of awareness programmes and information materials.
- (e) Enforcement of the existing and introduced laws and regulations. (i.e. conservation strategies, plans of implementation, etc).

Beneficiaries: The main beneficiaries and target groups of this project will include Government officials, judicial officers, prosecutors, legal practitioners, environmental inspectors, enforcement officials, academicians, civil society (such as women and youth groups), community-based organizations, private sector, and regional administrations.

Activities: The following are activities to be carried out under the project:

- Development of small scale incoming activities.
- Improvement and strengthening of communication channels.
- Promoting environmental public awareness using popular and state of the art communication channels.
- Introducing natural resources rehabilitation and rural development, education programmes in curricula courses at various levels, including scientific research outputs.
- Extending and promoting the utilization of environmental sound intermediate technologies in rural areas.
- Increasing the storage capacity of ground water through the construction of dams, terraces, and water harvesting techniques.
- Compilation of information and data on natural resources surveying, land use mapping and establishing information bank.
- Improvement and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands through reseedling, nurseries, enclosures, and rehabilitation of vegetation cover especially in the marginal areas
- Development of forest cover and afforestation through dune fixation, shelterbelts, community forests, enclosures and greening of public utilities.
- Capacity building, training and scientific research to support sectoral institutions, academic, NGOs, public organizations, trade unions and land committees in all affected local communities
- Training at relevant levels.
- Development Integrated participatory Watershed Project.

- support gender mainstreaming and greater understanding of the different gender roles in combating desertification and land management,
- develop pilot projects on combating desertification, afforestation, forestry, erosion control, water harvesting, sand stabilization, soil protection..

Implementation Modalities: Implementation of the project will be in three phases starting with training officials. Then it will address the needs of a specific area with a pilot Project. The third phase will consist the evaluation and lessons learnt.

The Project will be participatory involving all relevant stakeholders. The Project will create focus on how to address the desertification problem and land management issues collectively.

Partners:

- a) ISDB
- b) TIKA
- c) UNCCD
- d) Governments
- e) NGO's, CSO's, other stakeholders.

Risks and Assumptions:

- (i) The extent of political will and cooperation among the countries cannot be fully determined. However, it is expected that the consultative arrangements built in the project will address this aspect early in the preparatory stages of implementation of the projects.
- (ii) Inadequate baseline data, weak technical capacity. The project activity relating to assessment of capacity, state of the environment and socio-economic situations will provide the required baseline data upon which to design specific demand-driven activities, and to address specific problems.
- (iii) Lack of security will delay any activity.
- (iv) Availability or assignment of competent personnel to handle the activities of the project by the Government. The assumption is that minimal requisite capacity exists that can be built upon with the various capacity building activities and on-the-job arrangements in the project design.
- (v) Regime changes in the countries.
- (vi) Continuity of the same personnel for the trainings may be a problem. It is a must for the same personnel to attend to the training programs for productivity.

Sustainability: The project is intended to provide the initial steps in building an enabling situation for combating desertification and sustainable land management, forestry and rural development in related countries. The sustainability of the project will be enhanced by the strong emphasis on local institutional capacity-building and strengthening of existing national institutions. Through the participatory process of the project, countries ownership will be fortified.