

Combat Desertification



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Summary

This document presents undertakings by Sweden in support of the implementation of the Convention as well as a presentation of Sweden's general approach to the Convention. The report is presented in two main sections:

1. Swedish involvement in the implementation of the Convention

Sweden took active part already in the preparatory process of the Convention and has since it entered into force participated in all COP conferences.

A review of Swedish support in dryland areas during the last decade included 101 ongoing or finalised contributions in 17 countries, of which 13 were in Africa. The review included contributions in the natural resources sectors: agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and soil conservation, and in water supply and sanitation. In the year 2000, Sida's financial support to activities related to drylands amounted to approximately 200 million SEK (appr. 20 million USD).

Sida support to dryland development has focussed on sustainable use of natural resources, poverty alleviation and equality between men and women. Production aspects and environmental ones have been handled in an integrated manner.

2. Sweden's approach to the Convention

It has been learnt that desertification cannot be stopped merely by planting trees. Climate, population growth, selection of appropriate methods for forestry and agriculture, social and cultural conditions, micro and macro economic conditions, ownership and the right to use land, equality between women and men are all aspects that need to be considered.

Breaking the vicious circle of poverty – pressure on natural resources – over exploitation – degradation – deeper poverty – etc is a difficult challenge. It may seem an insoluble problem, i.e. to reduce pressure on the natural resources so that a recovery can take place and, at the same time, improve the living standards of poor people in rural areas. One major problem is that dry areas cannot “stand” large investments. The productivity provided by nature is, in certain cases, simply too low to

yield a return on investments in, for example, fertilisers. The struggle against land degradation must therefore be partly conducted outside the natural resources sector, through promotion of general economic growth.

Knowledge about the underlying causes of desertification is still not satisfactory, for example in respect of policy issues, ownership and user rights issues, or the relations between urban and rural areas, and the interaction between areas of high production and low production. Such issues will need to be looked into by the Convention's Committee for Science and Technology. Sweden considers the newly created CST Group of Experts to have a crucial role in identifying the research priorities under the Convention.

In the future, Sida intends to devote a great deal of attention to dryland area issues.

Sida's role in the work with the Convention is to integrate dryland area issues into programmes of bilateral and regional development cooperation, and to contribute its experience gained in this respect in its multilateral work.

Sida's point of departure is to integrate the work on the Convention into ongoing contributions, rather than to develop a new agenda for dryland areas. This means that Sida will be restrictive in its support to new, extensive contributions which are specifically aimed at dryland areas.

It is important to underline that the challenge ahead is primarily not a technical one. There is definitely a need to increase research, pilot activities and training on specific technical subjects. The main challenge, however, is to improve the function of institutions, clarify land tenure, empower local actors and improve economic relations.

The issue of land use has led to a situation with constant uncertainty about land rights for dryland inhabitants. Uncertain ownership conditions cause rapid deterioration of lands when the occupier tries to squeeze out a maximum during a short period. The challenge for sustainability is to find land use forms that build on existing skills, guarantee access to land for productive use and protect productive investments.

Policy formation on land use needs to be pro-active towards sustainable resource use practices. This means not merely conserving drylands but rather encouraging sustainable systems change.

Decentralisation combined with empowerment of the local population is conducive to sustainable use of natural resources, if supported by proper regulatory frameworks, sound economic policies and good governance.

Geographically Sida will give priority to its work on the Convention in East, southern and West Africa.

Support will be given multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally as well as to the Global Mechanism, NGOs and to research.

Internally Sida will seek to incorporate the Convention into its daily work, as will be done also with other environmental Conventions, particularly those on Biological Diversity and Climate Change.

Introduction

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification has the aim of combating desertification and alleviating the effects of drought, particularly in Africa. The background is the extensive degradation of land in the dry areas of the world, caused by both climatic factors and human activities. Ultimately the Convention is about the living conditions of almost one thousand million (or one billion) people who live in the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

The Convention is of clear significance for Sweden's development cooperation – practically all Sweden's partner countries in East, West and southern Africa have dryland areas within their territories.

This document presents undertakings by Sweden in support of the implementation of the Convention as well as a presentation of Sweden's general approach to the Convention. The report is presented in two main sections:

1. *Swedish involvement in the implementation of the Convention.* This section describes Sweden's involvement in Convention work as well as the work Sida has done hitherto in affected areas and it presents experience that has been gained.
2. *Sweden's approach to the Convention.* This section presents the overall approach to the incorporation of the Convention in Sida's work, presents strategic priorities in this respect, and proposes activities and contributions in Sida's programmes of multilateral, regional and bilateral development cooperation.

Since the Swedish development cooperation programme is administered by Sida, this report deals primarily with Sida actions and programmes.

The present report has been compiled by Göran Björkdahl on the basis of contributions by Lennart Bondesson, Inge Gerremo and Anders Hjort af Ornäs.

1 Sweden's involvement in the implementation of the convention

1.1 Consultative processes and partnership agreements in which Sweden is involved

Sweden took active part already in the preparatory process of the Convention and has since it entered into force participated in all COP conferences. Further, Sweden is an active member state within the internal EU collaboration regarding the Convention.

In order to support the integrated implementation and to promote synergy effects between the UN environmental conventions, Sweden will in 2002 initiate a pilot programme in Zambia and Vietnam.

1.2 Sweden's involvement in the implementation of action programmes in drylands

Sida's contributions in dryland areas

A review of Swedish support in dryland areas during the last decade included 101 ongoing or finalised contributions in 17 countries, of which 13 were in Africa. The review included contributions in the natural resources sectors: agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and soil conservation, and in water supply and sanitation. In the year 2000, Sida's financial support to activities related to drylands amounted to approximately 200 million SEK (appr. 20 million USD). Tables 1 and 2 describe Sida contributions during the last decade.

Table 1. Direct contributions in dryland areas**AFRICA**

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
NATUR	Bilateral research projects/support to research organisations	Burkina Faso, Tanzania Namibia
	Bilateral development programmes in agriculture, forestry, soil conservation and the environment	Lesotho, Tanzania, Tunisia
	Bilateral environmental programmes in the water sector	Namibia
	Multilateral development programmes in land management, soil conservation, forestry and improved cooking stoves	Sahel (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger)
	Bilateral development programmes in	Sahel (Senegal, Mali,
	Support to decentralised natural resources management	Burkina Faso, Niger)
	Rural Development	Burkina Faso
SAREC	Bilateral research projects – mainly via Swedish applications	Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania
	Regional research programmes/networks	DHP, PINEP, RPSUD
	International research organisations	ICARDA, ICRISAT, CIFOR
INEC	Water transfers	Zimbabwe
SEKA	Humanitarian Assistance	A number of countries in southern, western, and eastern Africa

ASIA

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
NATUR	Bilateral development programmes in agriculture, forestry, soil conservation and the environment	India, Sri Lanka
SAREC	Bilateral research projects – mainly via Swedish applications	China

LATIN AMERICA

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
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Table 2. Contributions which partly concern dryland areas
AFRICA

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
NATUR	Bilateral development programmes for agriculture, forestry, soil conservation and the environment	Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
	Bilateral programmes for water, health and sanitation	Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe
	Regional programme for water and sanitation	CREPA/West Africa (15 countries)
	Regional research and methods development programmes/networks	Incl. CIFOR, FARMESA, RSCU-RELMA, SADC-ELMS, AAS, SPGRC, SPAAR, SACCAR, ASARECA
	International research organisations	ICRAF
	International NGOs	IUCN, IIED
	Global forestry development programme	FAO
	Global research and methods development programmes	FTPP, FAO
	Global water networks	GWP
SAREC	Bilateral research cooperation	Ethiopia, Burkina Faso
	Regional support for development research	AAS, IFS
	International research organisations and institutes	CIFOR, ICIPE, ICRAF, ILRI, IPGRI
SEKA	Contributions to NGOs, e.g. for tree planting	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
DESO	Regional environmental statistics	Southern Africa

ASIA

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
NATUR	Bilateral development programmes for agriculture, forestry, soil conservation and the environment	India
NATUR	Regional research and methods development programmes/networks	Incl. CIFOR
	International research organisations	ICRAF
	International NGOs	IUCN, IIED
	Global forestry development programme	FAO
	Global research and methods development programmes	FTPP, FAO
	Global water networks	GWP
SAREC	Regional support for development research	IFS
	International research organisations and institutes	CIFOR, ICIPE, ICRAF, ILRI, IPGRI

LATIN AMERICA

Department	Type of contribution	Country/contribution
NATUR	Regional research and methods Incl. development programmes/networks	CIFOR
	International research organisations	ICRAF
	International NGOs	IUCN, IIED
	Global forestry development programme	FAO
	Global research and methods development programmes	FTPP, FAO
	Global water networks	GWP
SAREC	Regional support for development research	FS
	International research organisations and institutes	CIFOR, ICIPE, ICRAF ILRI, IPGRI

Focus and experience

- Sida's action programmes for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and equality between women and men are well in line with the intentions of the Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Sida emphasises production and market aspects as well as the sustainable use of natural resources in its country programmes. These aspects are handled in an integrated manner rather than on a separate agenda, an approach that can also be found in the Convention.
- Sida has considerable commitment in dryland areas, particularly in eastern, southern and western Africa. The work covers a broad spectrum, from support to NGOs at the local level to global contributions of a policy character. It includes both development and research programmes.
- Sida has worked successfully with soil conservation in national and regional programmes, primarily in East, West and southern Africa.
- Sida has extensive experience of popular participation in forestry, agriculture and soil conservation.
- As far as work on the Convention is concerned, Sida has a comparative advantage in eastern, southern and western Africa.
- In both East and southern Africa Sida has long-standing cooperation with regional organisations which can play an important role in the work with the Convention, for example SADC-ELMS.
- Through the Global Water Partnership Sida has access to an innovative model for networking.
- A great deal of research into dryland areas is financed by Sida, chiefly via Sida's Department for Research Cooperation, SAREC. The support is channelled through Swedish applications, regional networks and international organisations. A number of Swedish institutions are involved.

Limitations

- Sida’s experience of arid and semi-arid lands is deliberately limited – most work has been done in dry sub-humid areas where natural conditions for production are better.
- Dryland areas are included in many bilateral programmes, but there is no particular strategy on how work with these areas shall be pursued.
- Integration between forestry and agriculture has gradually increased, while other sectors are still only loosely linked to the contributions.
- Sida-financed research is often pursued separately, and not in direct interaction with the development programmes. Research should be pursued independently to a certain extent, but in other cases synergy effects should be achieved through close cooperation between research and development, for example in respect of “local knowledge”.
- The potential for coordination between Sida’s departments in respect of work in dryland areas has not been fully exploited.
- Synergy effects between the UN conventions on desertification, climate and biodiversity, respectively, has not yet been properly planned for.
- With the exception of a few research-oriented programmes, pastoral systems are rarely included in Sida’s contributions portfolio.
- Livestock issues have been given low priority, with the exception of fodder production.
- Sida has little experience of support to irrigation programmes.
- The interaction between urban and rural areas and the relationship between dry areas and more productive areas has not been addressed to any great extent.

2 Sweden's approach to the convention

2.1 The Convention and desertification

Background

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification¹ came into force on December 26, 1996, and the work of transforming it into practice is now well advanced. Since the Convention emphasises the development in Africa's dryland areas, Sida's contributions are very significant for Sweden's actions under the Convention. This is further accentuated by the Convention's broad definition of drylands: arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It therefore covers most African countries, apart from the humid Central African states. By and large all Sida's partner countries are among those that are affected to some extent by desertification and drought. Even dryland areas in other continents, including Europe, are covered by the Convention.

Fact box

- The Convention to Combat Desertification came into being through a decision of the Rio Conference, as did, for example the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- The objective is to combat desertification and alleviate the consequences of drought in the areas affected, particularly in Africa, through integrated, long-term strategies.
- One basic concept is to build on local expertise and capacity.
- The Convention emphasises the importance of science and research.

The problem of desertification² was first taken seriously in connection with the extensive drought in the Sahel region between 1968 and 1973. As a consequence of the drought, the UN established a special office for the problems in the Sahel region – UNSO (United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office). Sahel came to be a symbol for desertification in Africa.

¹ The full title of the Convention is: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

² "Desertification" refers to land degradation caused by human activities and climatic variations – often in combination. Desertification can consequently occur far from the desert.

However, there are also considerable problems with land degradation and drought in southern and eastern Africa, in countries where Sida has extensive commitments. The drought in southern Africa in 1992 and 1993 was a striking example of this.

Over time it has been learnt that desertification cannot be stopped merely by planting trees. Climate, population growth, the selection of appropriate methods for forestry and agriculture, social and cultural conditions, micro and macro economic conditions, issues concerning ownership and the right to use land, equality between women and men etc, all these factors are involved. There is also a lack of knowledge about the complex relationships between them. In other words it is difficult to separate the problem of desertification from general development issues. It is not only the natural resources sector that is affected.

One precondition for the application of the Convention is therefore that most of Sida's departments are involved – as is the case with the other international conventions originating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED.

Fact box

- The Convention covers arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas totalling some 5.1 billion hectares.
- The definition of a dry area is an area in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration falls within the range from 0.05 to 0.65.
- Almost one billion people live in areas affected by drought and desertification.
- Of the drylands in the world that are used for agriculture, 70 per cent are affected by land degradation.
- Each year sees the loss of six million hectares of productive farming land.

The production capacity of dry areas

In a given climate, production in the agricultural sector depends on the fertility of the soil and access to water, as well as methods of cultivation and technologies selected. Small farmers in dry areas choose their technologies on the basis of a number of factors, for example, tradition; knowledge; availability of capital, labour and seeds; spreading risks; the land-ownership situation, and so on. Unsuitable technologies and land use, in interaction with climatic factors, can degenerate the land, while suitable farming methods have the effect that the fertility of the soil can be retained and erosion and salinisation avoided.

The availability of water is of decisive importance for biological production in dry areas, as well as for health and sanitation. Dryland areas do not just have low amounts of rainfall. The rainfall is also irregular. The rainy season varies in length and intensity each year and variations are also great between years. In dry areas it is particularly important to make the best possible use of available water, to avoid evaporation and to strive to use the water for production purposes or for replenishing the ground water. In other words food security in dry areas is dependent

on the uncertain availability of water, and harvests in these areas vary considerably from one year to another. The cultivation strategy of small farmers in these areas is often to minimise risks rather than to maximise production.

In dry areas existing water resources – rivers and wetlands – are of great significance. These *wetlands in drylands* are not only more productive and have larger concentrations of people. They are also extremely valuable from the perspective of biodiversity. In dry areas irrigation is an important method of increasing productivity where access to rivers, lakes or groundwater so permits. However, dry areas have high levels of evaporation which often leads to salinisation. Water quality, drainage aspects and selection of technologies are of decisive importance for sustainable irrigation. Irrigation in dry areas is difficult, risky and capital-intensive. Small farms are usually obliged to use existing natural water resources economically – for example through methods for *rainwater harvesting*.

The productivity of farming activities which are dependent on rainfall is low in dry areas. This, in combination with poor infrastructure and considerable distances to markets, has the effect that investments in agriculture in dry areas carry the risk of low levels of profitability.

In semi-arid areas the nomadic pastoral system is the traditional way of using the land. However, population growth is threatening the pastoral system in several ways: conflicts with settled farmers are increasing, and there is a risk that the land cannot support large herds of cattle. This leads to an increase in the strains on vegetation and to land degradation. When drought occurs, the pastoralists' herds of cattle suffer considerable losses.

An increasing amount of attention is being given to local, traditional knowledge on the sensitive ecosystems in dryland areas. This knowledge is based on empirical experience and is therefore extremely valuable. Taking it into consideration in design and planning also favours involvement of local actors.

The challenge

Breaking the vicious circle of poverty – pressure on natural resources – over exploitation – degradation – deeper poverty – etc is a difficult challenge. It may seem an insoluble problem, i.e. to reduce pressure on the natural resources so that a recovery can take place and, at the same time, improve the living standards of poor people in rural areas. One major problem is that the dry areas cannot “stand” large investments. The productivity provided by nature is, in certain cases, simply too low to yield a return on investments in, for example, fertilisers. The struggle against land degradation must therefore be partly conducted outside the natural resources sector, through promotion of general economic growth.

But even where arable land is concerned, a great deal can be done in respect of methods development, training and advisory services, local organisations and processes, institution development, research, policy work, and so on. Improvements in infrastructure and trade can play an important role.

It should also be pointed out that the wide definition of dry areas – arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid – covers an enormous range where

biophysical and socio-economic conditions for development are concerned.

Knowledge about the underlying causes of desertification is still not satisfactory, for example in respect of policy issues, ownership and user rights issues, or the relations between urban and rural areas, and the interaction between areas of high production and low production. Such issues will need to be looked into by the Convention's Committee for Science and technology.

The Convention rightly emphasises the importance of a long-term, integrated approach in order to contribute to a sustainable use of natural resources. This will in turn contribute in combating desertification and achieve dryland development.

2.2 Sida's strategy for its work on the Convention

Overall points of departure

Sida intends to devote a great deal of attention to dryland area issues. Sida's action programmes for sustainable development, poverty, and equality between women and men are well in line with the intentions of the Convention. The same can be said of several of the instruments used by Sida: for example the guidelines for environmental impact assessments and handbooks for gender equality in agriculture and the water sector. The work on the Convention therefore follows the general focus of Sida's work.

Sida's role in the work with the Convention is to integrate dryland area issues into programmes of bilateral and regional development cooperation, and to contribute its experience gained in this respect in its multilateral work.

Sida's limitations where personnel resources are concerned have the effect that the work on the Convention must be handled in an economical way where staff are concerned. This means, for example, having a geographical and thematic focus, and seeking simple administrative solutions.

Sida's point of departure is to integrate the work on the Convention into ongoing contributions, rather than to develop a new agenda for dryland areas. This means that Sida will be restrictive in its support to new, extensive contributions which are specifically aimed at dryland areas.

Most of Sida's financial instruments can be used for the work on the Convention: 1) country programmes, 2) regional contributions, 3) special environmental programmes – multilateral support, 4) special environmental programmes – bilateral development cooperation, 5) support to NGOs.

Sida's ambition is to have a holistic view of its contributions and activities vis-à-vis the Convention. This type of approach is important for Sida's strategic thinking, programming and reporting.

Strategic priorities

Sida intends to follow the progress of work being done in the Convention's institutions: the Permanent Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Conference of Parties.

Where dryland areas are concerned, Sida intends to continue to give priority to contributions which focus on water resources, soil conservation, methods for popular participation, dryland forests, and issues concerning owner and user rights. On the other hand livestock issues will not be given priority at present, with the exception of aspects relating to fodder.

Sida will follow aspects of special importance for dryland areas, such as equality between women and men, the relationship between urban and rural areas, trade, the macro-economy, the interaction between areas with a high potential and dryland areas.

It is important to underline that the challenge ahead is primarily not a technical one. There is definitely a need to increase research, pilot activities and training on specific technical subjects. The main challenge, however, is to improve the function of institutions, clarify land tenure, empower local actors and improve economic relations.

The issue of land use has lead to a situation with constant uncertainty about land rights for dryland inhabitants. Uncertain ownership conditions cause rapid deterioration of lands when the occupier tries to squeeze out a maximum during a short period. The challenge for sustainability is to find land use forms that build on existing skills, guarantee access to land for productive use and protect productive investments.

The challenge is to place land use into its socio-political frame. Openness and long-term solutions are in the interest of sustainable development also when implications are major changes in land use. By avoiding conflicting interests all long-term planning is blocked, and short-term destructive land use becomes more prevalent. This means:

1. Desertification is in part a symptom of mal-functioning land use systems. Good governance is required for balancing the interests of different stakeholders, all the way from community level to national level.
2. Customary land use practices do not have the capacity to meet growing pressures on land in the form of more people, more claims and less available pastures. Existing local institutions for land use need to be reinforced or supplemented.
3. For historic reasons many political boundaries cut through drylands, calling for regional approaches and international co-operation.
4. Expanding alternative land use forms, particularly farming, into drylands has brought increased vulnerability into livestock production. Poverty issues for drylands need to be connected with new land use forms and alternative sources of income rather than being directly linked with land degradation.

Policy formation on land use needs to be pro-active towards sustainable resource use practices. This means not merely conserving drylands but rather encouraging sustainable systems change.

Decentralisation combined with empowerment of the local population is conducive to sustainable use of natural resources, if supported by proper regulatory frameworks, sound economic policies and good governance.

Important features of the Sida response to the Convention are:

- Sida's work with the Convention shall be in line with the Sida policy on sustainable development;
- Support to policy dialogue and improvement of policy implementation instruments;
- Support to bottom-up approaches, participatory processes, empowerment of local actors as well as to the integration of social and natural sciences;
- Support to sustainable dryland natural resources management;
- Continued focus on agricultural and forestry production in soil conservation and land husbandry programmes;
- Support to research and research networks.

Geographically Sida will give priority to its work on the Convention in Africa, particularly eastern, southern and western Africa.

Multilaterally and internationally Sida will support certain functions directly linked to the Convention, support research into dryland areas via CGIAR, and cooperate in the spirit of the convention with UN agencies (e.g. UNSO), the World Bank and the EU.

The Global Mechanism under the Convention will receive financial support from Sida in order to reinforce its important role in mobilising financial support to affected countries. Support will also be given to the CST Group of Experts, which has an important role in identifying research priorities.

Regionally Sida will support organisations for regional cooperation within the framework of the convention, particularly in eastern and southern Africa. SADC-ELMS and RELMA are two key programmes.

Bilaterally Sida will integrate its work on the convention into ongoing country programmes. Whenever possible and suitable, Sida will support national initiatives and processes related to the Convention process such as the development of National Action Programmes.

Sida will promote further support to dryland area research via a variety of channels. The establishment of national and regional institutions, and mechanisms for regional networking, will be given priority. Sida will work to strengthen its cooperation with Swedish universities involved in dryland area issues.

NGOs play a key role in the Convention process. Sida intends to support a variety of NGOs which, in different ways, are linked to the Convention. This includes both international NGOs such as IUCN and IIED, and small local NGOs.

Internally Sida will seek to incorporate the Convention into its daily work, as will be done also with other environmental Conventions, particularly those on Biological Diversity and Climate Change.

Activities and contributions

Multilateral/international

- 1) Sida supports the convention's organisations through
 - following the development of the Global Mechanism, and having a certain degree of preparedness to support the forthcoming work,
 - taking action to ensure that the Global Mechanism takes full advantage of the experience gained by the GWP,
 - having ensured that a Swedish resource person is attached to the Global Mechanism as Managing Director,
 - allocating certain resources for the Committee on Science and Technology and particularly its Group of Experts,
 - contributing to the participation of developing countries, including NGOs, participation in the international meetings of the Convention, particularly the annual Conference of Parties.
- 2) Sida intends to cooperate in the spirit of the Convention with different UN agencies, the EU and the World Bank by
 - monitoring aspects of poverty and gender equality in dryland areas in the development of strategies and programmes,
 - stimulating processes for popular participation within the framework of multilateral programmes,
 - continuing to promote an emphasis on production aspects in the work on the convention,
 - consider how earlier cooperation with UNDP/UNSO can be maintained but, at the same time, change in focus to strategic activities, for example in respect of methods development or the exchange of knowledge.

Regional

- 1) In southern Africa Sida intends to
 - continue to support SADC-ELMS which has SADC's mandate to be responsible for the work on the Convention,
 - wherever possible and suitable to support regional aspects of the work on the Convention, for example the development of Sub-regional Action Programmes and Regional Action Programmes,
 - work actively to ensure that experience gained in bilateral programmes, such as PTC in Lesotho, are spread regionally.
- 2) In East Africa Sida intends to:
 - use RELMA's expertise and networks to continue to develop methods for soil conservation and popular participation and to devote more attention to dryland areas within RELMA's geographical mandate, for example in respect of rainwater harvesting,
 - use RELMA to publish and spread information related to the Convention,
 - wherever possible and suitable to support regional aspects of the work on the Convention, for example the development of Sub-regional Action Programmes and Regional Action Programmes,

- work actively to ensure that experience gained in bilateral programmes, such as LAMP in Tanzania, is spread regionally.
- 3) In West Africa Sida intends to:
- continue to support a research programme on the integrated use of natural resources in Burkina Faso,
 - continue to support development programmes in decentralisation, rural development and drinking water & sanitation,
 - strengthen its support to sustainable natural resources management,
 - initiate support to transboundary water resources management.

Bilateral

Bilaterally, in the countries affected, Sida intends to

- integrate the Convention into ongoing programmes of cooperation.
- wherever possible and appropriate, support national processes and initiatives related to the Convention, for example the development of National Action Programmes,
- refrain from adopting a donor coordination role (chef de file) in the partner countries but, on the other hand, where appropriate, to support the partner countries' own efforts to coordinate support,
- observe how and to what extent the problems of dryland areas have been included in programmes of cooperation in programme reviews and evaluations,
- in its work on the Convention, focus primarily on dry sub-humid areas and, to a much lesser extent, semi-arid and arid areas,
- work actively to ensure that its extensive experience of soil conservation and popular participation in dry sub-humid areas is spread among countries and regions by stimulating South-South cooperation between bilateral programmes.

Research and capacity building

- 1) Internationally Sida intends to
- follow the work in ICRISAT's Desert Margin Initiative as well as relevant activities in ICARDA,
 - ensure that dryland areas are given relevant attention in the renegotiations of support to CGIAR institutions,
 - consider supporting research into forests in dryland areas in eastern and southern Africa, for example via CIFOR.
- 2) Sida intends to support African research related to dryland areas by:
- stimulating regional research cooperation and capacity building through, for example, SPAAR, ASARECA, SACCAR, DHP, PINEP and RPSUD,
 - further developing a programme for research into forests in dryland areas in Africa through CIFOR,

- supporting institutions that SADC cooperates with, for example the Desert Research Foundation, Namibia,
 - continuing to contribute to the activities and networks of IFS and AAS in dryland areas
 - support the formulation of an African input into the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) through AFORNET/AAS.
- 3) Sida intends to cooperate with Swedish universities, engaged in dryland areas, by
- allocating research funds, via Swedish applications, to the research cooperation of Swedish research workers with institutions in dryland areas,
 - stimulating the participation of Swedish researchers in the work of the Convention's Committee on Science and Technology.

Cooperation with NGOs

Sida intends to support a variety of small and large NGOs which work locally and globally with the Convention through

- continuing to support international NGOs which participate in the international policy debate on the convention, for example IUCN and IIED,
- working actively to ensure that South-based NGOs working in the spirit of the convention are included among the organisations which receive support via, for example, the North-South programme of the Society for the Conservation of Nature, and Forum Syd.

Internal work

Sida intends to:

- make an inventory of the possibilities for, and develop forms for, greater cooperation between the Department for Natural Resources and the Environment and other departments at Sida within the framework of the work on the Convention – with the Department for Research Cooperation in respect of research and capacity development; with the Department for Cooperation with NGOs and Humanitarian Assistance in respect of NGOs and the prevention of natural disasters; with the Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation for the development of trade, small-scale industries, infrastructure, macro-economic issues; and with the Department for Democracy and Social Development in the areas of institution development, local processes and education,
- inform and train members of staff concerned at Sida, the embassies in developing countries and other partners in cooperation on the Convention and Sida's strategy for working with the Convention,
- ensure that dryland areas are given greater attention in the development of the resource base, via the services of associate experts, earmarked research funds etc.

Acronyms

AAS	African Academy of Sciences
ASAL	Arid and semi-arid lands
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening of Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
DESO	Sida's Department for Democracy and Social Development
DHP	Dryland Husbandry Project
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FARMESA	Far-level Applied Methods in Easter and Southern Africa
FOREP	Forestry Research Regeneration Programme
FTPP	Forest Trees and People Programme
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICIPE	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFS	International Foundation for Sciences
IIED	Institute for Environment and Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Centre
INEC	Sida's Department for Infrastructure and Economic Cooperation
INFO	Sida's Information Department
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Centre
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LAMP	Land management and Environment Programme
NAP	National Action Programme
NATUR	Sida's Department for Natural Resources and the Environment
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PINEP	Pastoral Information Network

RELMA	Regional Land Management Unit
RIP	Regional Indicative Programmes
RPSUD	East Afr Research Progr on Sust Use of DrylandBiodiversity
RSCU	Regional Soil Conservation Unit
SACCAR	Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and natural Resources Research and Training
SADCELMS	SADC – Environmental and Land Management Sector
SAREC	Sida's Department for Research Cooperation
SCAFE	Soil Conservation and Agroforestry Extension Programme
SEKA	Sida's Department for Cooperation with NGOs and Humanitarian Assistance
SPAAR	Special Programme for African Agricultural Research
SPGRC	SADC Regional Plant Genetic Resources Centre
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNSO	UNDP Drylands Development Centre
WB	World Bank

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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