

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods, Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience in the Drylands

LESSONS FROM THE UNDP INTEGRATED
DRYLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The UNDP Drylands Development Centre is a unique global thematic centre that provides technical expertise, practical policy advice and programme support for poverty reduction and development in the drylands of the world. The Centre's work bridges between global policy issues and on-the-ground activities, and helps governments to establish and institutionalize the link between grassroots development activities and pro-poor policy reform. The main areas of focus are mainstreaming of drylands issues into national development frameworks; land governance; making markets work for the poor; decentralized governance of natural resources; and drought risk management.

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/sustainable_landmanagement.html



Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CERUM	Multiple Use Resource Centre – Mozambique
CONAFIL	Benin local finance committee
DARIDAS	Department for the Development of Arid and Semi-arid Zones – Mozambique
DDC	UNDP Drylands Development Centre
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
IDDP	Integrated Drylands Development Programme
INGC	National Institute for Disaster Management – Mozambique
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GSPR	Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction
MAP	IDDP Market Access Project in Kenya
MICOA	Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs – Mozambique
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAP	National Action Plan to Combat Drought and Desertification
NGO	Non-government Organization
PADZAB	Programme to Support Drylands Development Activities in Benin
PLAGE	Local environmental development and management programme - Benin
PRSD	Poverty Reduction Strategy Document
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/GEF-SGP	UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Executive Summary

Widespread views of drylands as unproductive wastelands have created barriers to their economic development. In fact, these regions are culturally and environmentally valuable areas with assets – such as pasture lands, drought-resistant plants, energy and mineral resources, and unique ecosystems – that can contribute significantly to overall national poverty reduction and development plans.

There are close to 2 billion people living in drylands areas, and many of them pursue local livelihoods adapted to their distinct environments. However, in most cases their productivity and wellbeing could be improved through increased access to basic services, materials and infrastructure, along with training and capacity building regarding sustainable management of vulnerable land and water resources. This is particularly important as climatic variability and extreme weather events are threatening traditional farming and livestock-raising practices, leading to new challenges and conflicts related to desertification, land degradation, droughts and natural disasters.

Since 2002, UNDP's Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) has been working with governments, civil society and local communities in the drylands to build and strengthen their capacity for sustainable natural resources management as a basis for building resilience, reducing vulnerability and improving livelihoods. This work is managed by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC), a thematic centre of excellence that works with UNDP Country Offices in Africa, the Arab States and West Asia to implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Most of the countries with dryland areas have adopted national action plans under the UNCCD, but progress in their implementation has been slow, especially where they have been developed as stand-alone strategies without clear links to other national planning frameworks and budgets.

In December 2008, the European Commission (EC) entered into an agreement with UNDP to fund additional activities under phase two of the IDDP. Building on on-going IDDP projects, the European Union has supported:

- a) mainstreaming drylands issues into development policies, plans and budgets;
- b) enhancing the capacity for local governance of natural resources as a basis for mitigating conflicts and promoting resource-based economic opportunities;

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