



Designing Integrated Financing Strategies (DIFS) ADAPTATION TO THE CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES WORKSHOP

25-26 APRIL 2008, ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN

Background

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (GM) has designed a capacity building initiative to develop national competencies for resource mobilization to combat desertification. The initiative draws on the GM's experience with regard to resource mobilization and mainstreaming of National Action Programmes for Combating Desertification (NAPs) into national planning processes and overarching development frameworks.

DIFS is an initiative under the Regional Programme for Sustainable Development of the Drylands of West Asia and North Africa financed by the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

The GM, in partnership with other SPA members and the Central Asian countries, intends to adapt the DIFS programme to the Central Asian context in support of mobilising finance for CACILM.

What is an Integrated Financing Strategy for Combating Desertification (IFS)?

The strategy is a guiding framework for locating and developing a mix of financial resources to fund programs and projects related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM). While helping to develop the appropriate blend of funds – namely from internal, external and innovative sources – the strategy also uncovers potential barriers in resource identification, allocation, and disbursement.

An IFS highlights aspects in the policy, fiscal, legal, institutional, and human resource environments that act as barriers to mobilizing resource or implementing programs. The IFS not only provides guidance for mobilizing finances from the three main sources of finance, but also, proposes solutions for overcoming the barriers in the enabling environment.

Accompanying the development of the IFS, is a consultative process that engages all relevant national and external stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue for reaching a common understanding on the nature and solutions to the problem of land degradation. This broad-based engagement and participatory process is key to the success of mobilising substantial finance for SLM.

Who are the Participants?

The Ashgabat workshop will involve the following actors participating in the 2nd CACILM SC:

- UNCCD NFPs
- CACILM Multi-country Secretariat (MSEC) staff
- Heads of CACILM National Secretariats (NSECs) in the 5 CACs
- Available members of the National Coordination Councils (NCCs) in the 5 CACs
- Interested members of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) for CACILM

Workshop Agenda

The work programme is spread over two days to present and discuss all issues related to the preparation and implementation of the CACs DIFS programme. The main segments are:

- A. Introduction to DIFS
- B. Understanding how to design IFS
- C. Adaptation of DIFS to the Central Asian Context
- D. Preparation and Implementation of DIFS in the CACs

Refer to the detailed agenda on page 5.

Workshop Objectives

Overall Objective

Participants understand the DIFS programme, initiate the process for adapting it to the Central Asian Countries context, and agree on the implementation modalities.

Specific Objectives

1. Learning Objectives

NSEC heads and NCC members participating in the seminar have a good understanding of:

- The meaning and relevance of an “Integrated Financing Strategies (IFS)” ;
- The process accompanying the development of an IFS; and
- The systematic identification, catalytic actions and mobilisation of a blend of financing (national, external and innovative) for meeting short, medium and long-term financing needs.

2. Technical Objectives

A process is triggered to adapt the existing DIFS training materials to the context of the Central Asian Countries (CACs), namely through:

- Enhancing the structure of DIFS to suit the CACs;
- Outlining the content of the CACs DIFS;
- Identification of existing IFS sections that need to be modified, added or deleted;
- Agreeing on the means and approach to adapt the existing DIFS training material.

3. Working Objectives

At the end of the Ashgabat workshop, partners agree on the next steps needed to be undertaken to prepare and implement the CACs DIFS programme, namely through:

- Finalizing the DIFS implementation approach in CACs;
- Identifying tasks that need to be undertaken to prepare and implement the DIFS programme;
- Assigning roles and responsibilities of all partners (MSEC, NSECs, NCCs, SPA);
- Agreeing on a timeframe for preparing and conducting the MSEC/NSECs and national DIFS training workshops.

Training Material

Participants are encouraged to read the GM DIFS Practical Guide to have an overview of the contents of the DIFS training programme and start thinking of the required adaptation work to make the programme relevant to the Central Asian context.

Access the full DIFS Practical Guide on:

<http://www.global-mechanism.org/upload/DIFS/index.html> (please wait until the page loads)

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WORKSHOP AGENDA

DAY 1		
Time	Module	Moderator
A. Introduction		
9:00-9:15	Workshop objectives and expected results	GM
9:15-9:45	CACILM resource mobilization status and activities	MSEC
9:45-10:30	The international and regional contexts for resource mobilization GM approach to resource mobilization within CACILM - Discussion	GM
10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00-12:00	NCC and NSECs role and activities related to resource mobilization	NSECs
B. Understanding how to design IFS (Interactive session)		
12:00-12:30	What is an Integrated Financing Strategy?	GM
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:30	DIFS objectives and expected results	GM
	DIFS structure, training approach and methodology	GM
	DIFS Components – An Overview	GM
	Discussion	
15:30-16:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
C. Adaptation of DIFS to the Central Asian Context (Working sessions)		
16:00-17:00	General structure of the CACs DIFS	GM-CACs
	Contents outline of the CACs DIFS	GM-CACs
17:00-17:30	Discussion and Wrap-up for Day 1	

DAY 2		
Time	Module	Moderator
9:00-9:30	De-briefing on Day 1	GM
C. Adaptation of DIFS to the Central Asian Context - Continued (Working Sessions)		
9:30-11:30	Identification of IFS sections that need to be modified, added or deleted	GM-CACs
10:30	Coffee/Tea Break during the session	
11:30-12:00	Presentation of results of Session C	GM
12:00-13:00	Means and approach to adapt the existing training material - Discussion	GM-CACs
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
D. Preparation and Implementation of DIFS in the CACs (Group discussion)		
14:00-14:30	DIFS implementation approach - Training of MSEC and NSECs - National Level workshops	GM-CACs
14:30-15:30	Tasks that need to be undertaken - Discussion	GM-CACs
15:30-16:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:00-17:00	Roles and responsibilities of all partners (MSEC, NSECs, NCCs, SPA)	GM-CACs
	Timeframe for preparing and conducting the MSEC/NSECs and national DIFS workshops	GM-CACs
17:00-18:00	Discussion and Wrap-up of the workshop	GM-MSEC