

## Facilitating access to sustainable land management financing

### What?

Established by the GM in 1999, FIELD is a knowledge hub that facilitates access to authoritative information on SLM policies and strategies, funding programmes, investment projects, successful partnerships and success stories.

Through an Internet portal accessible at <http://www.gmfield.info>, readers can easily search from among some 13,000 official documents that are interlinked and cross-referenced. Searches can be made by country, organization, sector (OECD), SLM-relevant activity codes (RACs), and development objectives.

This large information base is used to generate knowledge of specific value for resource mobilization and policymaking processes both at national and international levels. In particular, it allows GM partners to identify financial resources, monitor investment trends, document financial needs, and measure returns on investment.

### Why?

The UNCCD mandated the GM to develop a comprehensive database of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention. Recent independent evaluations have underlined the importance of tracking SLM-related financing and investments in order to monitor progress in UNCCD implementation and inform decision-makers on the scope and level of stakeholder involvement at national and global level.

The objective of FIELD is to promote a more effective use of existing resources as well as to identify innovative opportunities for SLM financing. This includes opportunities arising from new Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) allocation modalities, debt relief, sector-wide approaches (SWAps), domestic and foreign direct investments, market and trade-related issues, renewable energy, payments for ecosystems services, carbon financing, corporate social responsibility and private philanthropy.

The GM believes that better use of better information and knowledge leads to better policies and better development outcomes. Through FIELD, the GM supports the development of a culture of evidence-based policymaking as a basis for improving the allocation of resources and achieving sustainable impacts.

### How?

The GM uses FIELD to develop information packages for target audiences who need to be aware of the financial risks, opportunities, costs and returns of investments in SLM. Target audiences include national and international policy makers who need knowledge on what drives stakeholder engagement and the incentive measures and strategies available for integrating SLM principles into policies, programmes and investment frameworks.

FIELD is constantly updated through targeted research, content maintenance and quality control. To improve accuracy of information and cross-country comparability, the GM is collaborating with primary data owners to promote reporting harmonization, standardization of indicators, and decentralised data collection. Today, FIELD can rely on multiple sources including national reports, the OECD Creditor Reporting System and SLM portfolio reviews. This enables the GM to monitor investment trends and generate reliable analyses and scenarios.

## New FIELD Portal

In January 2007 the GM launched an upgraded version of the FIELD portal, which – in addition to a completely restyled graphical layout – contains the following innovative features:

- **Advanced Search, Geographic Search, and Guided Search**  
Three enhanced search engines allow readers to launch queries and build reports by simply browsing an interactive map, following guided navigation paths or entering combinations of keywords, topics, and filters.
- **Dashboard**  
A suite of analytical tools that facilitate data interpretation and decision making, the dashboard currently contains a selection of downloadable maps, statistics, and graphs in PDF format and will soon be expanded to include dynamic data mining and charting tools.
- **Contribute**  
Intended as a platform to foster dialogue, participation and direct engagement in global efforts to defeat desertification, this section offers a variety of tools for sharing knowledge, managing content and supporting specific SLM initiatives.
- **Subjects**  
To further facilitate accessibility, the vast amount of information available in the FIELD database has been clustered according to main subjects, displayed on the Main Page and in a dedicated section called Inventories, accessible via the top navigation bar.  
As in previous versions of the portal, pointers to key documents and news items of particular relevance to SLM financing are listed in a section called Highlights.

FIELD is financed by UNCCD country Parties and several other partners, particularly the World Bank and IFAD, through voluntary contributions. Significant support is provided through the TerrAfrica partnership.

Visit FIELD at <http://www.gmfield.info>

**For more information:**

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