

# THE GLOBAL MECHANISM'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION ENGINE ON LAND DEGRADATION:

## FIELD



### BACKGROUND

Collecting and disseminating information on supply and demand for funding for the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) is one of the Global Mechanism's (GM) main functions (Article 21, CCD).

The GM has addressed this aspect of its mandate primarily by compiling comprehensive baseline information on desertification-related funding sources, programmes, projects, flows and trends in financing. This information is made available to the Parties to the CCD and other interested organizations and individuals through the GM's Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD) - an on-line and CD-ROM resource.

### OBJECTIVES

Through FIELD, the GM generates resource mobilization-specific information, which can be used in the process of matching supply and demand for funding for CCD implementation. Specifically, FIELD aims to:

- raise awareness on the status and prospects of CCD financing;
- facilitate access to information on the existing and potential sources of funding for the CCD;
- increase the visibility of activities undertaken by affected country Parties and their development partners to implement the Convention;
- foster dialogue, interaction, co-operation and knowledge sharing between agencies involved in CCD financing and implementation;
- promote partnership building and improved co-ordination of land degradation control initiatives;
- process and analyze data to facilitate the identification of resource gaps, opportunities and synergies;
- support decision-making processes by providing information and tools to monitor and assess investments in drylands; and, by so doing, ultimately
- contribute to resource mobilization efforts for CCD implementation.



### THE CCD IN ACTION

COMBATING LAND DEGRADATION AND POVERTY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

## MAIN FEATURES

The GM maintains FIELD by drawing on information contained in official reports submitted to the Conference of Parties (COP) and other reliable sources of information, such as development agencies' annual reports, websites and publications.

FIELD covers both traditional and non-traditional funding sources, including innovative opportunities for CCD financing originating from foundations, the private sector, and NGOs.

FIELD contains the following inventories: donor profiles, country profiles, relevant policies and strategies, available financial resources, ongoing and closed projects, project proposals, financial analyses, lessons learnt, publications, statistics, news and events related to combating land degradation and poverty world-wide. The 2002 edition launched a new inventory on drought-response activities obtained from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). These inventories currently contain about 6,000 records, including over 4 500 abstracts of relevant financial resources, projects, organization profiles, and statistics. FIELD also contains some 1 500 full text documents and thousands of links to external websites and other valuable sources of information.

The information contained in FIELD covers six regions, 187 countries, over 250 donors, and about 3 500 aid activities worldwide.

FIELD can be accessed at the following Internet address: <http://field.gm-unccd.org>

## THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BEHIND FIELD IMPLEMENTATION

In line with the guiding principles underpinning all GM operations, FIELD has been developed with a view to capitalizing on other institutions' knowledge, experience and expertise. This has forestalled the duplication of efforts, and enabled the GM to adopt standards and apply cost-effective implementation procedures that minimize operational and maintenance costs.

The first FIELD prototype (2000) was developed with the technical expertise and backstopping of FAO and IFAD. In consultation with OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the GM built on the standards and definitions used by the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Pilot activities with donors, recipients and international institutions were conducted in 2001, with World Bank funding. This enabled the GM to test the prototype, collect substantive information, and identify sustainable data-sharing practices. In 2002, a major data collection effort enabled the GM to expand its coverage of the "supply side" and at the same time, review, streamline and enhance the layout and architecture of FIELD.

The GM is currently working with OECD-DAC to assess the quality of CCD aid data. The discrepancies found between national reports and official ODA statistics will be discussed at the DAC Working Party on Statistics.

Since January 2003, the GM has been working in collaboration with the World Bank, OECD, Bellanet and the Development Gateway Foundation to build an interface between FIELD and the Development Gateway's AiDA initiative (Accessible Information on Development Activities), which will enable the GM to extend its outreach and disseminate over 3 500 desertification-related projects through the Gateway.

## THE WAY AHEAD

As indicated in the GM-Facilitation Committee (FC) Business Plan for 2003-2006, the GM will:

- continuously update the on-line version of FIELD and publish CD/DVD-ROMs on a regular basis in order to increase the quality, value, and accessibility of FIELD;
- upgrade and adjust the technical components of FIELD in response to evolving demand, with the overall objective of enhancing the system's accessibility and reliability;
- collaborate with FC members to build interfaces between FIELD and the FC institutions' databases and to analyse and disseminate information on lessons learnt, the cost of land degradation, and investment gaps and opportunities;
- seek increased involvement of other stakeholders to ensure greater accuracy, comprehensiveness, timeliness and quality of data;
- provide the information and knowledge needed to undertake comparative reviews and analyses, with a view to enhancing and facilitating the predictability of resource flows for the CCD;
- play a sustained brokering role in the areas of capacity-building and knowledge networking for resource mobilisation. In this context, FIELD will be a vehicle for facilitating access to, sharing and transferring relevant data, information and knowledge; and
- use FIELD in the context of GM's Information, Knowledge and Communication (IKC) Strategy, as a tool for generating and disseminating analyses, key findings, messages and other communication material to sensitize donors and mobilize resources for the CCD.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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