

LIAISON – LAND, SECURITY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

RATIONALE

Land is the shared ground for many life-sustaining natural assets: productive and fertile soil, forests, water, and biodiversity. If well managed, land provides fundamental ecosystems goods and services such as food, water and energy security, which help build the most vulnerable rural communities' resilience .

The challenges of security and resilience are of prime importance in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). In fact, land degradation and security hot spots frequently overlap. Yet often the international community fails to address land-related global and local security and resilience issues in an integrated way.

Achieving international sustainability and development goals, in particular those relating to natural resource security and resilience, requires interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches, which look at the landscape as a whole, including the people who depend on it.

In September 2013, the 11th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) decided to establish a liaison office of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD in Rome “[...] recognizing the importance and need to continue with coordination and interaction with United Nations agricultural agencies and donor community” (Decision 6/COP.11).

As a result, on 1 April 2014 the GM Liaison Office at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, which houses the GM Programme on Liaison – Land, Security and Resilience (LLSR).

MISSION

The main aim of the LLSR Programme is to increase investments in sustainable land-based practices to improve people's livelihoods, while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

To achieve this objective, the Programme seeks to cooperate with all the Rome-based agencies and the donor community. It complements ongoing initiatives by focusing on the promotion of investments in sustainable **land**-based systems, which address DLDD. It also works to improve the **resilience** of local communities, while taking into account all aspects of **security**, and contributing to building a land degradation neutral world.



PRIORITIES

The LLSR Programme has **four** priorities:

- **LIAISON** - To further strengthen the engagement of Rome-based agencies and institutions in UNCCD implementation;
- **LAND** - To promote sustainable investments and management in land-based systems addressing DLDD;
- **SECURITY** - To assess the inter-linkages between DLDD, food insecurity and forced migration as drivers of global insecurity; and
- **RESILIENCE** - To improve people's livelihoods by increasing their resilience to food and water insecurity, drought and climate change.

LIAISON

Fewer resources are invested in UNCCD implementation than in the other Rio Conventions. Rome is an important UN hub, hosting key players in the agricultural and natural resource use sectors.

The LLSR Programme will guarantee liaison with the Rome-based agencies, diplomatic representations and national and international organizations by:

- mobilizing new funding for UNCCD implementation through opportunities arising from the Sustainable Development Goals;
- mainstreaming the UNCCD into the activities of the Rome-based agencies, representations and institutions; and
- raising awareness amongst Rome-based decision-makers on the contribution the UNCCD makes to sustainable development.

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LAND

Desertification and land degradation affect 1.5 billion people and 1.9 billion hectares of land globally. 75% of the world's poor are directly affected by land degradation. The LLSR Programme will promote investments in sustainable land management through:

- the identification and promotion of sustainable financing mechanisms for landscape restoration; and
- mainstreaming sustainable land management investments into international processes related to land, soil, food security, water and forests.

SECURITY

By 2025, up to 2.4 billion people worldwide may be living in areas subject to periods of intense water scarcity. This may displace as many as 700 million people by 2030. In the next decade, some 50 million people may be displaced as a result of desertification.

The LLSR Programme will address these challenges by:

- evaluating the land-migration-food security nexus and the implications of DLDD as drivers for migration; and
- up-scaling innovative finance for SLM to boost food security.

RESILIENCE

Drought-affected areas have steadily increased since the 1970s, with more intense and longer droughts than ever before. In this context, the LLSR Programme will:

- build national capacities and enhance resilience to drought and climate change; and
- support the implementation of national drought policies, land-based adaptation to climate change, and synergies related to sustainable land management finance.