

EuropeAid

THE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

AND THE RIO MARKERS

I n f o r m a t i o n N o t e

September 2010



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(environment sector)

FOREWORD

Objectives, priorities and targets as regards environmental issues follow, at the global level, the three Rio Conventions signed in 1992: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Each convention contains specific articles on development aid. The European Union and the other donors committed to actively support developing countries efforts to comply with these conventions.

"Rio Markers", similarly to DAC-codes, have been created to allow for a quick identification of projects contributing to one or several of the Conventions' objectives. The use of the Rio Markers is compulsory since 2008 – and, since 2009, encoding in CRIS is compulsory for every projects managed by EuropeAid.

The objective of this note is to present the criteria for "Rio-marking" projects – and the way to properly enter the markers under CRIS.

Project managers and geo-coordinators – responsible for CRIS encoding – are the main target for this note – but it is also designed for any person willing to get a basic overview of the 3 Rio Conventions.

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☞ THE RIO CONVENTIONS

The 3 main multilateral agreements on environment were agreed during the Earth Summit, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. **The 3 conventions are:**

- The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC)
- The **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD)
- The **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** (UNCCD)

The European Community is a Party to the three conventions. Therefore, the EC is legally committed to take the conventions into consideration while designing and implementing the community policies and strategies – including the community development and cooperation activities.

The Objectives of the 3 conventions

Biodiversity Convention	Climate Change Convention	Desertification Convention
<p>To conserve biological diversity</p> <p>To use biological diversity in a sustainable fashion</p> <p>To share the benefits of biological diversity fairly and equitably</p>	<p>To achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>To combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.</p>

☞ You will find in **Annex a list of key sectors and activities related to each convention**

☞ **A bit more on...** the Web on biodiversity convention

Convention on biological diversity (CBD): www.cbd.int

SCAD+ site on EC policy and the CBD:

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/sectoral_development_policies/l28102_en.htm

SCAD+ site on EC policy and biodiversity:

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/nature_and_biodiversity/index_en.htm

☞ **A bit more on...** the Web on Climate Change

The UNFCCC web site: www.unfccc.int

SCAD+ site on the European Commission commitments:

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/tackling_climate_change/index_en.htm

DG Climate Action site on Climate change: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm

The IPCC¹ Web site where you can download the reports: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

¹ The Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC) is the expert group that gathers data on Climate change research and provide synthesis for the UNFCCC Parties. The IPCC received the Nobel Prize in 2007.

è **A bit more on...** the Web on Desertification
Convention to Combat Desertification: www.unccd.int
SCAD+ site on European policy and CCD:
http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/sectoral_development_policies/r12523_en.htm

• THE RIO MARKERS

The follow up of the support to developing countries as regards the Rio Conventions is very difficult, due to the complexity of the issues and their transversal aspect – with potential support activities in many different sectors. A shared accounting system, allowing for comparisons, was considered necessary for years. At the same time, a specific accounting systems was also expected to enhance the quality of aid on environmental issues – both for programming purposes (what are we doing today, where should we enhance our support?) and for donors collaboration in the context of Paris Declaration.

In 1997, the Conventions' Secretariats requested the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to monitor aid in support of the objectives of the Rio conventions through its Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

The Network for environment in development cooperation (ENVIRONET) of the OECD proposed the creation of 3 Rio Markers to help determining whether aid activities contribute to the objectives of the Conventions and, if so, to what extent. The Rio Markers were validated in 2004 by the DAC and, after a test period (2004-2008), their use has been made compulsory for OECD members. Furthermore, a new Rio Marker for Climate Change adaptation was approved in 2009 – reporting will be compulsory starting in 2011 on 2010 flows.

i Since 2008, the use of Rio Markers is compulsory for OECD DAC members. Since 2009, their encoding in CRIS is compulsory for EuropeAid. In addition to reporting exercises, the Rio Markers have proved useful for enhancing the quality of development aid as regards the environment.

è **A bit more...** on the Web
OECD web site: www.oecd.org
The DAC guidelines "Mainstreaming Rio Conventions in Development Cooperation":
http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/workshops/other_meetings/application/pdf/dac.pdf
The OECD work on the Rio Conventions: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/rioconventions
The OECD reporting Directives on Rio Markers
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/44/46/35646074.pdf>
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/45/45303527.pdf>

The Biodiversity Rio Marker

i **A project will be Rio Marked for Biodiversity** if its activities contribute to at least one of the following:

- protection or enhancing ecosystems, species or genetic resources through in-situ or ex-situ conservation, or remedying existing environmental damage

- integration of bio-diversity concerns with recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research
- the support to developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

The Climate Change Rio Markers

Since 2010, two Rio Markers exist for Climate Change – one which deals with mitigation and one with adaptation. The Rio Marker for climate change mitigation is used to identify projects contributing to stabilising greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere, either through limiting the emissions or through enhancing or preserving the carbon stocks (for example forests). The Rio Marker for climate change adaptation on the other hand is used to identify activities that aim at reducing the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate change and climate related risks.

i A project will be Rio Marked for Climate Change Mitigation if its activities contribute to *at least* on of the following:

- the mitigation of climate change by limiting human-induced emissions of Green House Gases
- the protection and/or enhancement of GHG sinks and reservoirs
- the integration of climate change concerns with the recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research
- the support to developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

i A project will be Rio Marked for Climate Change Adaptation if its activities contribute to reducing the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate change and climate-related risks, by maintaining or increasing adaptive capacity and resilience. This encompasses a range of activities from information and knowledge generation, to capacity development, planning and the implementation of climate change adaptation actions.

And it satisfies the *two* eligibility criteria:

- a) the climate change adaptation objective is explicitly indicated in the activity documentation; and
- b) the activity contains specific measures targeting the definition above.

The Desertification Rio Marker

- **Caution:** The Desertification Convention strictly defines which countries are affected by desertification; projects aiming at fighting land degradation in temperate areas or tropical humid countries cannot be considered as fight against desertification projects under the convention!

For information, the map below indicates the areas concerned by desertification following the Convention (red to yellow areas).

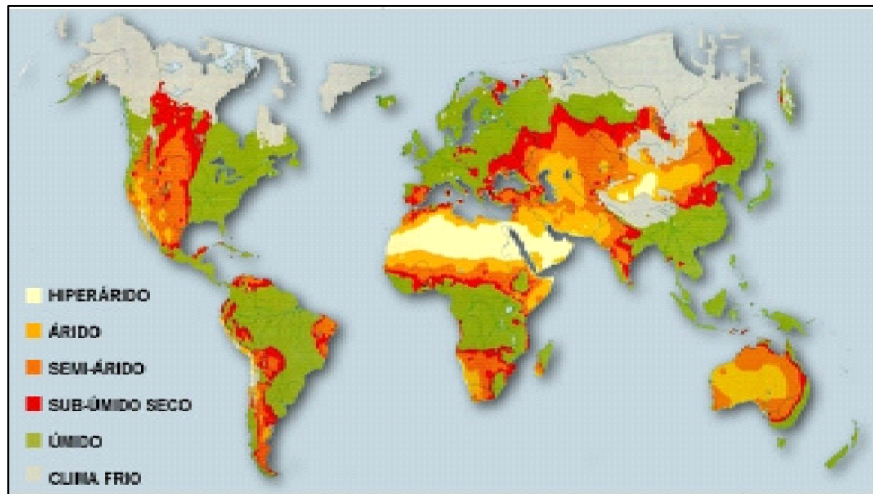


Figure 1 : Map of Arid areas / UNCCD


i **A project will be Rio Marked for Desertification** if its activities contribute to *at least* on of the following:

- protecting or enhancing dry land ecosystems
- remedying existing environmental damage
- integrating desertification concerns with recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research
- supporting developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

ENCODING RIO MARKERS IN CRIS

Following Director E note of the 26th of January 2007, Rio Markers should be encoded in CRIS at the **identification stage** – and the proper encoding is checked by Direction E during oQSG 1. In certain cases, the Markers can be modified during the Formulation stage – as it happens sometimes that new elements arise during the fine-tuning of activities that clarify the potential impacts of the action in relation to environmental issues. The encoding is checked for a second time in oQSG 2.

Note: The Instruction Note of the 30 October 2009² provides revised templates for the identification phase. Both the *DAC Policy Marker* and the *Rio Markers* that best describe the focus of the activity should now be indicated in the new Identification Fiche templates *for all implementation*.

 EUROPEAN COMMISSION	
STANDARD	
A → KEY DATA	
1. → CRIS number	
2. → Title	
3. → Country (or region)	
4. → Marker(s)	Choose one or more markers from the CRIS DAC form (section on policy objectives/markers)
5. → DAC code & sector	
6. → Total EC amount (+ % of indicative programme)	→ M€ (+ % of IP)
7. → Programming Document	CSP/NIP Multi-annual thematic document
8. → Proposed Aid Modality	Standalone project approach

The DAC Policy Markers are:

- Participation development/good governance
- Aid to environment
- Gender equality (including WID)
- Trade Related Assistance

The Policy marker system facilitates monitoring and co-ordination of Members' activities in support of the DAC policy objectives for the 21st century. These cover the areas of economic well-being, social development, environment sustainability and regeneration and democratic accountability, protection of human rights and the rule of law. The definition of the DAC Policy Markers can be found here: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/49/53/25698333.pdf>

i The encoding of the Policy Markers and the Rio Markers is done on the **"DAC Form"** bookmark at the "Measure/ Project" level.

² Note AIDCO/CM D(2009) 330278, ref. Ares(2009)306627

08/09/2010 10:07:17 Decision (Level 1)

Visas Attached documents Pipe-line & forecasting Measure / Project External Monitoring / Evaluation / Audit Contracts

General information Persons in charge Analytical breakdown Riders Financial breakdown

Key search Advanced search Print

Identification

Decision Number 2009 / 020-409 Former system reference
 Domain DCI-ALA - Development - Latin America Status EC - Ongoing (80/GESTO80/AC)

Information

Registration date 10/09/2009
 Request date
 Person in charge
 Title Municipal agreement for reduction of deforestation

Description

Total cost 5,892,000.00 EUR EU contribution 4,910,000.00 EUR
 Zone benefiting from the action BR - Brazil
 Procedure PE Written procedure SGVista reference
 Delegation in charge BR - Brazil Entity in charge AIDCO B

Comment

The encoding of Policy Markers and Rio Markers should be done at the "Measure / Project" level

08/09/2010 10:10:03 Measure / Project

General information Persons in charge List of projects Allocations DAC Form Statistical breakdown Implementation report Attached documents Decision (Level 1) Contracts

Key search Advanced search Print

Identification

Decision Number DCI-ALA / 2009 / 20409 Project seq. No 0

Information

Status EC - Ongoing

Project Title Municipal agreement for reduction of deforestation

Project Description

CSP/NIP links

	Strategy Paper reference	Title	Amount
1	BR - 3 - 2	Promoting a sustainable social development	

Access to "Dac Form" from the "Measure / Project" page

The Rio Markers "ticking boxes" are at the bottom of the DAC Form.

The Rio Markers ticking boxes are placed at the bottom of DAC Form

The Policy Markers ticking boxes are placed at the top of the Section on Policy objectives/markers

The "Comments" box could be used to indicate any comments or questions concerning

General policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aid to environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender equality (including WID)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trade Related Assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Combat desertification	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

Three choices are proposed: not targeted, significant objective and main objective. If in many cases the choice appears obvious – notably for *not targeted*! – for certain type of actions it might prove difficult to define if the objective is "main" or only "significant". The following principles should then be used:

Main or significant objective?

- An action should be marked "**main objective**" if it aims **directly and explicitly** to reach one or several of the Convention objectives (see these objectives in former part)
- If the action is composed of several activities among which **one or a few ones** only aim to reach the convention's objective, the marker "**significant objective**" should be used. *Caution, the activities shouldn't be "anecdotal"!*

- **CAUTION:** an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or the implementation of mitigation measures (for example in infrastructures projects) is not sufficient elements to Rio Mark a project!

è See also in Annex the indicative list of key sectors and actions for each convention

An illustration for the Climate Change Mitigation Rio Marker

Ä The objective of the project A is **"creation of a forest protected area and capacity building for long term sustainable management"**. This action aims explicitly at the preservation and improvement of a carbon reservoir (a forested area). The project should be marked "Main Objective" for the Climate Change Rio Marker for Mitigation (it would also be marked main objective for biodiversity, as well as desertification if the protected area is situated in an affected area...)

Ä The objective of project B is **"the improvement of energy supply in the province of Z"**. The specific objective and description of activities provide with some more details: the project consists in the provision of small scale energy production units in a range of villages, using ad hoc solutions. The description of activities indicates that, depending on the villages' capacities and needs, biomass, oil or photovoltaic devices would be put in place. So only some of the activities could be relied to promotion of renewable energies, a way to limit human-induced GHG emissions. Project B will be marked "significant objective" for the Climate Change Rio Marker.

Ä Project C aims at **"increasing exchanges and promoting regional integration between the city of X and W by improvement of transports infrastructures of the river K"**. Two cases could occur:

If the focus on river transport is part of a national/regional strategy of promotion of energy efficient transports – in the context, for example, of a national strategy of reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, then, the "Main Objective" climate change mitigation marker could be used.

If the focus on river transport is due to various objective, among which an environmental one (secondarily), then the project could be marked as "significant objective" for the climate change mitigation marker. It is important in that case to mention these "side" environmental benefits in project description – for example under expected results. *(in practice, this second case is far more frequent, all the more in developing countries which do not have reduction targets under Kyoto Protocol...)*

Ä Objective of Project D is **"Improved economic conditions and reduction of poverty in the Q region through construction of a tar road between O & J"**. The project description indicates that an Environmental Impact Assessment will be implemented and that a specific envelope is allocated for mitigation measures, including tree plantations along the road and in the villages. Even if tree plantation is an activity that "improve a carbon sink" (trees stock carbon), this activity is secondary in the project. The EIA on the other hand is a good practice as regards environment. This project appears to be a good example of environmental integration – but it would be marked "not targeted" for Rio Markers.

è It is important to think about the link between the project and environmental issues *as early as possible*. For same project, a better definition of objectives, adjustments in the activities foreseen etc. could lead to a project highly beneficial for the environment – to be Rio Marked "Main Objective" as opposed to a "not targeted" project.

ANNEXES

- FICHE 1: Key sectors and activities related to the Biodiversity Convention
- FICHE 2: Key sectors and activities related to the Climate Change Convention
- FICHE 3: Key sectors and activities related to the Desertification Convention

Fiche 1A – the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature in Rio in 1992
Ratified by the EC on the 25/10/1993

Objectives:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Its overall objective is to encourage actions which will lead to a sustainable future.

Underlying principles

Biodiversity has a high intrinsic value – from an environmental, genetic, social, economic, scientific, education, cultural and aesthetic points of view.

Biodiversity is a global good – needed to preserve the functioning of key systems that support our planet.

The conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of humankind.

Sovereignty of nations over their genetic resources is recognised, but nations also have the obligations to preserve the resources and use them sustainably

Parties' obligations

Develop national strategies and plans to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity (including the establishment of protected areas)

Mainstreaming biodiversity in relevant sectoral plans, programmes and policies (e.g. transport, water, agriculture)

Ensuring the identification and monitoring of species and ecosystems, as well as of activities that have or could have a negative impacts

Develop programmes for education, information and awareness raising, encouraging research on biodiversity

Additional information

In 2002, Heads of State and Heads of Governments meeting in Johannesburg agreed on the need to significantly reduce, by 2010, the rate of biodiversity loss (the so-called "Countdown 2010" initiative)

Fiche 1B – Key sectors or activities related to the Biodiversity Convention

Protected areas, protection of ecosystems & species

Support for the creation and management of protected areas
 Preservation of endangered species, reintroductions
 Anti-poaching activities, fight against illegal trade of endangered species
 Development of legislative framework for the protection of species and sites
 Support to sustainable development activities in the buffer zones of protected areas
 Capacity building of authorities and personnel in charge of protected areas
 Research activities in protected area management
 Fight against invasive species
 Establishment and operation of the structure of ex-situ conservation (zoos, botanical gardens and conservatories, seed banks, gene banks ...)
 Research activities for ex-situ conservation

Water and sanitation

Protection of water resources, improvement of water quality (when beneficial effects on fauna & flora expected)
 Fight against water pollution (rivers in particular)
 Integrated management and protection of watersheds
 Integrated management of wetlands

Agriculture

Activities to reduce land use change and expansion of agriculture at the expense of natural areas
 Promotion of environment-friendly agricultural practices (including agro-forestry, organic farming),
 Promotion of practices limiting chemical inputs (fertilizers, pesticides), IPM: integrated pest management
 Activities on soil conservation, fight against erosion

Forests

Preservation of forests
 Sustainable forest management (in part. community forestry)
 Fight against illegal logging, against deforestation for agriculture or livestock
 Rehabilitation of areas affected by desertification
 Forestry and agroforestry with high biodiversity value (promotion of natural forest / multi-species plantations)
 Institutional support, awareness

Training, research and teaching in taxonomy, biodiversity, ecology etc.

Awareness and public information

Fishing, hunting, gathering

Promotion of sustainable fisheries (marine, coastal or lakes/rivers)
 Fight against overfishing, illegal fishing, destructive fishing practices
 Inventories and research on the status of stocks, fishing capacity
 Preservation of nursery areas, including mangroves
 Preservation of coral reefs
 Promotion of sustainable hunting practices, Anti-poaching
 Promotion of sustainable harvesting (include. Non timber forest products)
 Development of the legislative framework for the activities of fishing, hunting and gathering
 Institutional support, awareness

Business and Economy

Fight against trade in endangered species, including awareness (of the authorities, consumers), training of personnel (customs etc.).
 Fight against illegal trade in animal products / plants (bush meat, ivory, orchids etc.)
 Activities to prevent importation of invasive species
 Sustainable ecotourism, vision tourism, tourism valuing biodiversity
 Research on economic valuation of biodiversity
 Establishment of mechanisms for equitable access & benefit sharing (ABS) of genetic resources
 Capacity building and awareness

Institutional Support / Obligations under the convention

Preparation of inventories of biodiversity
 Preparation and implementation of national plans and strategies for biodiversity conservation
 Development of legislative frameworks relating to species, ecosystems (including issue of invasive species)
 Mainstreaming biodiversity in national strategic frameworks and local policies in land use
 Development of innovative, long term, financing mechanisms (trust funds, ecological taxes...)
 Capacity building,
 Development of tools for decision support (databases, information systems)

Fiche 2A: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Adopted in New York in 1992

Ratified by the EC on the 15/12/1993

Entered into force in 1994, ratified by 192 Countries

Objectives

The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Underlying principles

Climate change and its impacts are a global threat for all human kind

Small island states, countries with low-lying coastal areas, arid and semi-arid areas and areas vulnerable to floods, droughts or desertification, as well as developing countries with mountainous fragile ecosystems are particularly vulnerable

Yet, the main sources of greenhouse gases emissions are developed countries – hence the principle of *common but differentiated responsibility* (developed countries should bear the majority of the burden)

International actions are needed – abiding to the principles of national sovereignty

The Convention underlies that many uncertainties still remain on the causes and consequences of climate change, and thus further research is needed.

Parties' obligations

Establishing and maintaining GHG inventories

Develop national strategies and plans to combat climate change; for developed countries (Annex I parties), the joint objective is to reduce GHG emissions to 1990's levels.

Encourage the protection and rational management of carbon reservoirs (natural ecosystems/forests)

Prepare for the unavoidable consequences of climate change, including supporting developing countries in adapting

Encourage the development, deployment and transfer of mitigation technologies

Promote research, education and training linked to Climate Change

Parties in Annex II countries commit to support financially developing countries' efforts to comply with the requirements of the Convention (including adaptation)

Additional information

In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted – which entered into force in 2005. The Kyoto Protocol includes binding targets for GHG emission reductions for Annex I countries.

Fiche 2B – Key sectors or activities related to the Convention on Climate Change – Mitigation

Renewable energy

Windmills
Solar energy (thermal, photovoltaic, solar oven...)
Use of biomass (incl. waste) for energy,
Sustainable management of forests for fuel wood
Hydroelectric (micro-power ...), geothermal
Institutional support, awareness

Energy efficiency

In the field of industry, housing ...
Rehabilitation / renovation of coal, oil energy plants...
Transports: promoting energy-efficient transportation (river, rail ...)
Awareness raising, projects acting on the "demand" side (consumer organizations...)
Institutional Support

Fight against pollution

Transfer of "clean" technologies in the industrial sector
Limiting emissions of CFCs, HCFCs (Montreal Protocol)

Agriculture

Promotion of efficiency in fertilization (efficiency in nitrate fertilizers, incl. organic farming)
Promotion of agroforestry, projects limiting slash and burn agriculture
Activities to reduce land use change and expansion of agriculture at the expense of forested areas
Use of biomass, agricultural by-products for energy purposes
Fight against erosion, soil loss, soil salinization
Rehabilitation of areas affected by desertification

Education and public awareness / Forestry

Preservation of forests
Sustainable forest management (community forestry not.)
Fight against illegal logging, against deforestation for agriculture, livestock
Reforestation
Rehabilitation of areas affected by desertification
Institutional support, awareness

Biodiversity / Protected Areas

Support for sustainable management of protected/natural areas (forests, coastal ecosystems and mangroves, wetlands)
Institutional Support

Waste

Reducing methane emissions, waste burning
Promotion of recycling
Use of biomass/waste for energy production

Institutional Support / Obligations under the Convention

Preparation / implementation of greenhouse gases inventories
Economic analysis, development, integration of climate change into development strategies and policies
Implementation of national plans for mitigation of climate change (incl. national action plans for adaptation, NAPA)
Organization / participation of authorities and civil society to national / regional / global climate change meetings
Promotion of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), institutional support
Capacity Building

Research

Support to meteorological services, oceanographic and atmospheric research centres
All research, incl. social and economics, on climate change and its impacts.

Strengthening Civil Society (On Climate change related issues)

Fiche 2B – Key sectors or activities related to the Convention on Climate Change – Adaptation

Environmental policy and administrative management

- Supporting the integration of climate change adaptation in to national and international policy, plans and programmes
- Improving regulations and legislations to provide incentives to adapt

Environmental research

- Adaptation-related climate research, including meteorological and hydrological observations and forecasting, impact and vulnerability assessments, etc.

Capacity building/ environmental education

- Education, training and public awareness raising related to the cause and impacts of climate change and the role of adaptation

Water and sanitation

- Sustainable water management, river basin management
- Water efficiency in areas potentially under water stress
- Construction of dams in order to compensate for the regulator role of melting glaciers

Forestry

- Promoting a diverse mix of forest management practices and species to provide a buffer against uncertainty of climate change

Disaster risk reduction /Disaster preparedness

- Early warning systems for droughts, floods...
- Sea defences, wetland, mangroves and coral reefs preservation/ restoration
- Infrastructure for the weather-related extreme events (against floods, storms, storm surges, hurricanes...)
- Raising awareness activities/disaster preparedness
- Institutional support on statistical systems, information systems on disaster preparedness...
- Emergency prevention and preparedness measures, including insurance schemes to cope with potential climatic disasters
- Implement measures to respond to glacial lake outburst flood risk, such as the creation of early warning systems and widening or deepening of glacial lake outlet channels

Rural development and food security

- Promotion of crops resistant to droughts
- Promotion of water efficient agriculture in areas under water stress
- Promote the conservation and production of different animal and crop species
- Support to food security systems in order to cope with crop destruction due to weather extreme events (floods, droughts...)

Health

- Improvement of health systems to cope with new outbreaks of malaria, dengue and other infectious diseases
- Early warning systems for extreme weather events (Cold and heat waves...)

Fishing

- Promoting changes in fishing practices to adapt to changes in stocks and target species

Fiche 3A: The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Adopted in Paris in 1994
Ratified by the European Commission in 1998
Entered into force in 1996, ratified by 179 countries

Objective

The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. Achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously on:

- **Prevention and reduction of land degradation, improved productivity of land**
- **Rehabilitation of degraded land**
- **Conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources**

Underlying principles

The CCD is the more "socially oriented" of the three Rio conventions, and stems from a strong demand of developing countries, in particular in Africa. Two types of countries are defined in the Convention: countries affected by desertification, and developed countries that should support them³.

The Convention defines desertification as the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry areas. Even if land degradation can happen everywhere, it is only in these areas that one can talk about *desertification* (see the map).

Parties' obligations

Adopt an integrated approach to fight against desertification, which includes fighting poverty. This is translated into the development of National Programmes of Action that are integrated in national poverty reduction strategies.

Attempt to develop, in the context of international institutions, an economic environment that is favourable to sustainable development for the countries that are affected by desertification (including on issues related to debt and trade)

Promote and facilitate access of affected countries to technologies that can support the fight against desertification

Encourage international cooperation

For developed countries, allocate sufficient resources to fight against desertification (including in development cooperation)

Additional information

Since 2001, a dedicated committee is in charge of monitoring progress with the implementation of the Convention (the CRIC) through analyses of the national reports. The objective is to improve coherence, impacts and effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at re-establishing the agro-ecological balance of dry lands.

³ The two categories are not mutually exclusive: developed countries can also be affected by desertification, e.g. the US, Mediterranean countries, etc.

Fiche 3B: Key sectors and activities related to the Desertification Convention

Water

Development of sustainable water management / integrated water management
Sustainable management and protection of catchment areas
Integrated management of international rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers

Agriculture

Sustainable Irrigation
Fight against soil salinization / rehabilitation of salinized areas
Sustainable management of grasslands
Promotion of water efficient agricultural practices
Promotion of farming practices that protect soils (agroforestry, "cover crops"...)
Anti-erosion works in rural areas (hedges, walls)
Strengthening agricultural development services, farmers organizations

Forest and natural areas

Protection and sustainable forest management (dry forests)
Protected areas and sustainable management of natural areas
Sustainable management of forests for fuelwood, promotion of alternative energies, energy efficiency at domestic level (improved ovens ...)
Afforestation and Reforestation
Sand dune fixation

Institutional Support

Support to hydrological and meteorological services
Development of legislative and institutional framework (include. land tenure)
Support for the preparation and implementation of National Action Programs to combat desertification (NAPs)
Integration desertification issue in national strategic frameworks and policies on land use

Training, research and teaching

In agriculture, water resources management, farming practices ...
Development of environmental technologies to combat desertification
Development of databases, information systems on desertification

Awareness and public information

Strengthening Civil Society

(On Desertification related issues)

