



The South-South Cooperation on SLM-Finance

Introduction

After more than two years of implementation of the scope acp project, the “desertification” component of the MEAs programme is now right on track. At this stage, it is constructive to measure the progress made in reinforcing national capacities to combat desertification in ACP countries. Are we in line with the overall objective of the Action? Do the project’s activities effectively contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals? To respond to these important questions, we can try to evaluate the degree in which the project’s objectives have been reached through the description of a number of actions we undertook under this project, that underline the role the project played in supporting UNCCD actors at national, subregional and international levels. To address the challenges related to Sustainable Land Management in ACP countries the scope|acp strategy has focus ed on promoting a common and shared vision on resource mobilization for UNCCD implementation, supporting pilot countries from the three regions in the elaboration of National Integrated Financing Strategies, enhancing the Regional Hubs’ roles of coordination and technical support to countries, and establishing regional and interregional South-South partnership platforms to support resource mobilization efforts, manage and disseminate key, up-to-date financial knowledge and success stories on innovative ways to mobilise resources, and support networking of regional experts to foster collaboration, exchange and build capacities.

Sharing a common vision on SLM-Finance

The first action has been engaged in partnership with UNEP and UNDP/LDC SIDS, through regional training workshops in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific. As a result of these capacity-building activities, we have been successful in reaching a common approach on the content and scope of a resource mobilization strategy to support the UNCCD implementation. No longer a set of projects to be submitted to donors, promoting Sustainable Land Management is now perceived as a complex, intersectoral, and interdisciplinary national process, that requires to be mainstreamed into the national development frameworks and set as a high priority. The process promotes a bottom-up and top-down approach with the participation of different categories of actors, from local to national levels, and requires it to be accompanied by appropriate coordination platforms and mechanisms, providing the National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification (NAPs), an impetus for their successful implementation on the ground.

Building South-South Partnership Platforms

These platforms represent the main tool to which all activities either result in or start from. Being a lively platform, it is necessary that case studies and best practices, financing opportunities and project ideas are entered on a regular basis, in order to stimulate partnership-building and new opportunities for stakeholders in SLM. In this context, an example of the relevance of the scope|acp vision and approach can be provided through the emblematical Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative

(GGWSSI). Under this important initiative, supported by the European Union in the framework of the EU-AU Partnership, we agreed with FAO and the African Union Commission to take the responsibility of building up the GGWSSI South-South Partnership Platform on capacity building and resource mobilisation. This recognition at the highest African level on the usefulness of the scope acp tool developed so far is very encouraging.

The way forward

Having said that, we must recognise the other challenges. The first and most important challenge is related to the involvement of stakeholders in the different processes related to NAP implementation and resource mobilisation. Indeed, it is not enough to support countries and subregional organisations to define common approaches and promote the setup of platforms for resource mobilisation. A more important effort must be made to strengthen the capacities of local actors - in particular Local Authorities - in the development planning processes including natural resource management. This requires specific knowledge management programmes and targeted capacity building activities benefitting such actors. Another challenge is to sustain the regional South-South partnership Platforms and build inter-regional bridges on common thematic issues related to SLM finance. This entails emphasising the support to existing key actors' networks, such as women and youth, feeding the platform with useful information on financial opportunities and backstopping partnership building leading to effective financial resource mobilisation. Despite these vast challenges, the international context of Cooperation for Development gives us some positive signals. In fact, the recent outcomes of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4), held in Busan, South Korea, on 31 November 2011, define a new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which relies on South-South and triangular co-operation, both seen as voluntary, practical and actionable initiatives to implement the commitments agreed in the "Busan Partnership" document. It also relies on the idea that "better outcomes can be achieved when development partners engage in long-term 'horizontal partnerships' based on equity, trust and mutual benefit". It is expected that the scope|acp project, as a precursor of this North-South-South cooperation defined in Busan, can be strengthened in the future as a promising tool for triangular cooperation on SLM finance.

Youssef Brahim,
Coordinator North Africa & South-South Cooperation
The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

African Hub (AUC)

In collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Center based in Dakar, the Africa Hub has conducted a hazardous waste workshop for francophone countries of western Africa from 24-26 January 2012 in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop focused on biomedical wastes and both public and private sectors were actively involved. The capacity of these stakeholders, who deal with hazardous waste, particularly medical waste, was enhanced, together with their capacity to manage and plan their wastes disposal activities to mitigate risks linked to activities related to hazardous waste. Thanks to support from the Hub, the nine member states of the drought region of West Africa (CILSS) are now benefitting from information contained in the updated website and data base of the Sahelian Pesticide Committee and are now in a better position to control and manage pesticides in their countries. For further information, please contact the African Hub Coordinators: Ms. Fatoumata Ndoye (fnjallow@yahoo.com) and Mr. Livingstone Sindayigaya (sindayigaya@yahoo.com).

Caribbean Hub (CARICOM)

The Caribbean Hub has engaged in the delivery of a Customs and Judicial Training Seminars in April in the Dominican Republic and June in Trinidad and Tobago respectively. In the month of March, the development of the project's first Learning Kit for use by Customs Administrations was realized with a specific focus on a better understanding of MEAs, Legal Provisions, Detection Methods, Health & Safety, Detention and Disposal, Inter-Agency Cooperation and Reporting & Feedback. The Second Meeting for the MEAs Best Practice Committee was reconvened via videoconference on February 27th with the main expected result being the determination of the criteria to be used for the selection of Caribbean Environmental Best Practices. The first batch of interns under the Internship Facility initiated under the project in November 2011 has commenced working by March 1st and will continue for the remainder of the year as Member States identify the interns selected to participate in this activity. For additional information please contact the new Caribbean Hub Coordinator, Ms. Therese Yarde (tyarde@caricom.org).

Pacific Hub (SPREP)

Over this period work has been focused mainly in three areas, negotiation skills training, mainstreaming and Year 4 planning. National negotiation skills training was carried out in the Cook Islands, 27-28 October, for 20 participants from 7 Ministries, and in Niue, 21-23 November, for 14 participants from 4 departments. Tuvalu requested that the training be put back to 2012 due to other commitments.



Mainstreaming ensures vital ecosystem services are protected in Kiribati

For mainstreaming, national training was carried out in the Cook Islands, 30 October- 4 November, on the IEA process for 26 participants from 9 agencies/divisions. Assistance was provided to the Cook Islands National Environment Service to formulate their National Environment Strategic Environment Framework, which links to the next Cooks National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) currently being prepared. A follow-up visit was provided 19-22 December, using matching funds. Follow-up visits were also made to Kiribati 29 November-6 December (using matching funds), and 17-18 January, to assist the Environment



Year 4 activities planning group EMG Division, SPREP, and Mr Mamadou Kane, UNEP.

Department in the finalization of the National Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP) in preparation for integration into the second Kiribati Development Plan and submission to Cabinet. Nauru has requested assistance to develop an integrated environmental policy, following the Kiribati model. A planning session was held 10-12 January by the Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Division of SPREP to map out Year 4 activities. This was attended by Mr Mamadou Kane, the new project manager, who also visited Samoa, Fiji and Kiribati to meet project stakeholders and discuss the project implementation and future capacity building needs. For further information please contact the Pacific Hub coordinator Dr Jill Key (Jillk@sprep.org).

URC

While the Durban Platform lay the way towards an agreement for a post-2020 architecture, a crucial outcome of the Kyoto track was the agreement to extend the Protocol to cover a second commitment period starting 1 January 2013. Building on the success of the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) a policy dialog has been launched to explore how the market mechanism can continue to play a key role towards a post-2020 architecture. UNEP Risø Centre continues to support capacity development for the CDM in ACP-countries and to coordinate activities with the Nairobi Framework Partners in support of Programmes of Activities (PoAs), development of standardized baselines including the suppressed demand methodology, national and regional grid emission actors (GEF). Big steps are taken in the Small Islands with a national GEF study completed for Sao Tome and Principe's and halfway through in the state of Belize - just in time to conclude the first PDDs in both these countries. A regional GEF for 9 countries in the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has been validated and will be made available to DNAs for endorsement. In Botswana and Malawi four PoAs on biogas, landfills, energy efficiency and rural electrification are under way supported to PoA-DD level and the former, also has six PINs in the Pipeline with three Letters of Endorsement issued. In the months ahead regional and national workshop will be organized in the Pacific targeting the countries of Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga, the Africa Carbon Forum will be held in Addis Ababa 18-20 April followed by the Latin American Carbon Forum 2012. For further information please contact Ms. Miriam Hinojosa (milh@risoe.dtu.dk), Project Coordinator at the UNEP Risoe Centre.

SAICM Quick Start Programme

The 12th round of applications for the Quick Start Programme (QSP) closed on the 29th February 2012 and the Secretariat has conducted the initial screening of 27 new applications which will be appraised by the QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee at its 11th meeting on 9th May 2012. The Secretariat is also making arrangements for the 7th meeting of the QSP Executive Board to be held on 7th-8th May 2012. The Executive Board will be presented with the outcomes of the QSP mid-term review and will develop recommendations in light of its findings to the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its consideration and possible decision.

Nine projects out of ten funded under the ACP MEAs window have been making steady progress in implementing their activities. The project in Uganda was officially launched by the Minister for Gender, Labor and Social Development

(MGLSD) and the UNDP Uganda Country Director and a total of 230 people participated. The event increased involvement of the media on this topic for the first time. So far, 52 trade union leaders and 26 government extension workers and labor officers from 20 districts in Uganda were successfully trained on pesticides management and safety issues. A national stakeholder meeting was held on 14th December 2011 and a one-hour talk show on safety issues related to pesticide was aired in the national radio.

A project inception meeting took place in Dakar (Senegal) and Bamako (Mali) on 14th and 19th July 2011 respectively. Facilitators from both countries gathered in Somone (Senegal) from 25th to 30th September 2011 for a regional training session on community-based monitoring of pesticides impacts on health and environment. Twenty-two field guides from the local communities of Pakour and Bonkonto were trained in Paillote from 17th to 19th October 2011. Similarly 24 local facilitators were trained in Mali.

For further information, please contact the SAICM Secretariat (saicm@unep.org).

FAO

In Africa, Environmental Management Plans for obsolete stocks have been completed in Kenya and Malawi. The stocks are safeguarded and disposal is expected in early 2012. In Benin, FAO is assisting the Government in addressing the problem of the elimination of endosulfan stocks. The pesticide was recently added to the Stockholm Convention. A national team was trained and equipped to carry out inventories. Stocks, estimated at about 354 tonnes, were inspected in centralized stores in Cotonou, Paracou, Agbangnizoun and in Togon. Additional funds to dispose the stocks and to develop and promote alternatives were secured from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). During the last week of October, awareness campaigns were conducted in l'Alibori and du Borgou for nearly 700 farmers, and several extension agents and local policy-makers. In the Pacific, a pesticide regulators meeting took place in Wellington, New Zealand on 23-28 May 2011 to discuss the design of a regional system for pesticide registration. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is providing technical advice to this process and hosted a follow up meeting in Canberra early September. Work on assessment of contaminated sites is on-going in Samoa. For further information, please contact Coordinator Mr Mark Davis (mark.davis@fao.org).



FAO PSMS and Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation Training, Johannesburg, 14-25 November 2011.

UNCCD GM

The Global Mechanism (GM) organized together with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) a South-to-South Cooperation workshop on "Technology Transfer between Sahel and Maghreb countries" on last 25-26 January, in Tunis. The participants agreed to use the Great Green Wall (GGW) platform established by the GM to promote partnership building at all levels (including local and decentralised). The GM agreed with the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture on two workshops. The first one (Bou Saâda, 9-12 March 2012) aimed at "enhancing African capacity building on resource mobilisation" to the benefit of the GGW Francophone countries. The second one (M'sila, 28-29 March 2012) focused on 'Socio-Economic Valorisation of Rural Material and Immaterial Heritage'. For further information, please contact Coordinator Mr Youssef Brahimi (y.brahimi@global-mechanism.org).



Participants of the Technology Transfer workshop, Tunis, 25-26 January 2012.

This newsletter is published quarterly and includes opinion pieces by the programme partners as well as an update of latest developments. For more information on ACP MEAs please contact:

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