



**UNCCD**

**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat Desertification



# **The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

**in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought  
and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

## **A Global Policy Framework for Drought Risk Reduction**

Global Platform, 5 June 2007, Arnaud de Vanssay

[www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)



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## Evolution of UNCCD

Late '60s and early '70s

Severe droughts in sub-Saharan Africa

September 1977

United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD)

June 1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

June 1994

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted in Paris

December 1996

The UNCCD enters into force, 90 days after the 50th ratification is received

- to date **191 countries** have ratified or acceded to the UNCCD



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# Desertification, the concept

## Definition:

**Desertification:** Land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities

Dry zones represents 41% of emerged lands and 2 billions people

1-6% of dryland population are living in degraded zones

90% of dryland populations are living in developing countries

Dryland populations lag far behind the rest of the world in terms of human well-being and development indicators

*Source MA 2005*





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## Article 1: Use of terms

### “Drought”:

Naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems.

### “Mitigating the effects of drought”:

Activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification.

→ An approach based on **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT**







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## How does the UNCCD process function?



**local**

Project Implementation

projects,  
activities

**national**

National Action Programmes (NAP)

Subregional Action Programmes (SRAP)

coordination,  
planning and  
priority setting

**international**

Regional Action Programmes (RAP)

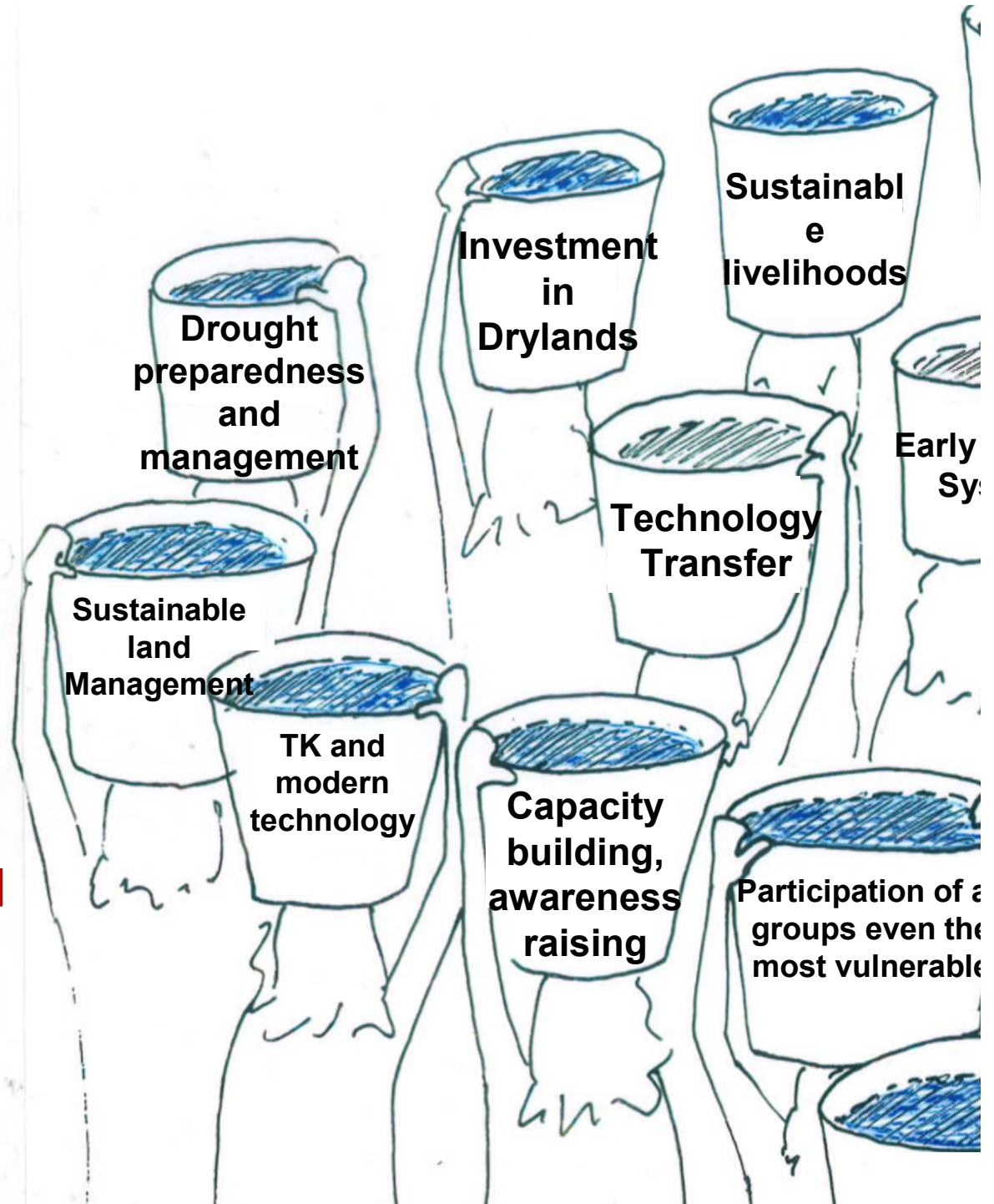
UNCCD as a legally binding international  
agreement, negotiation processes

policy,  
framework  
setting

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The NAPs a comprehensive framework to combat desertification and mitigating drought based on **PARTICIPATION**







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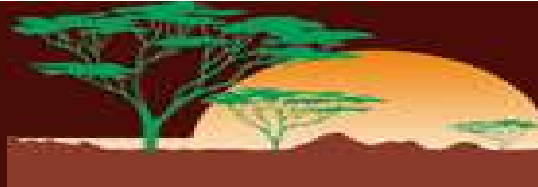
## Achievements: Regional Action Programmes

**Asia TPN5: strengthening capacities for drought impact mitigating and desertification combating**

(Planning for Drought Preparedness and Management Network will be established)

**Africa TPN4: Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems**  
*AFRICAN ORGANISATION OF CARTOGRAPHY AND REMOTE-SENSING (AOCRS)*





## Achievement: Drought Management Center for Central and Eastern Europe

**A country owned initiative (11 countries)**

**Focusing on drought management**

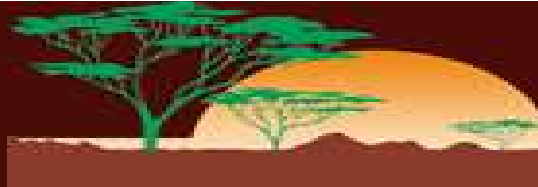
**A collaborative venture with WMO**

**One host country: Slovenia**

→ Project development of a similar initiative in Central Asia

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## Achievement: Mediterranean Training Programme



- A two year collaborative programme between IBIMET and the UNCCD
- 3 trainings for 10 Southern Mediterranean countries successively on LOCUST - DROUGHT – DESERTIFICATION
- One final workshop 16-18 July 2007 to explore possibilities in the Mediterranean Region





## Achievement for Africa:

### **SRAP – Maghreb – UMA: SMAS - OSS**

**3 countries are developing their own institution for drought monitoring**

### **SRAP – IGAD (Report to UNCCD 2004)**

**IGAD-HYCOS, Water harvesting, ICPAC (ex DMC), PUMA**

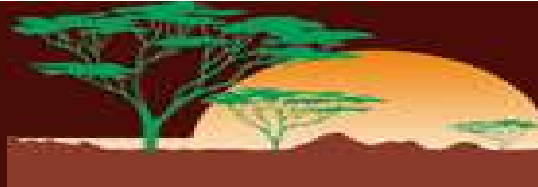
### **SRAP – SADC (Report to UNCCD 2004)**

**SADC Environment and Land Management Sector**

### **SRAP – CILSS (Report to UNCCD 2004)**

**Priority 5: Early warning and mitigation of the effects of drought – Agrymeth**





## Achievement for Asia:

### SRAP Central Asia, to be developed

«Création d'un système d'alerte rapide pour annoncer les sécheresses et en atténuer les effets»

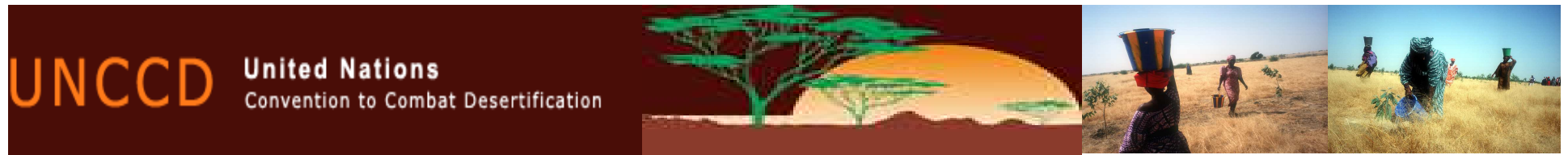
### SRAP – Western Asia

Database on sustainable water management with ACSAD and ICARDA (UNEP ROWA)

### South East Asia SRAP framework:

Programme Area 1: Geo-informatics development for land degradation control and drought mitigation,

(5) To develop and/or strengthen early warning systems and improve their application at the national and sub-regional level for drought mitigation and land degradation control



## Achievement: CST/Group of Experts



### Publication on EWS (2003)

**Decisions**

**Ad hoc panel reports**

### Group of Experts

**Elaboration of guidelines : report prepared for COP8 in Madrid, September 2007**

[http://www.unccd.int/cop/cst/adhocpanel/booklet\\_EWS.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/cop/cst/adhocpanel/booklet_EWS.pdf)

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## To go further

- An existing, country owned and recognized global policy framework for drought risk reduction
  - Drought management - Civil society participation - Linking policy and science
  - Bridging the gap between action and EWS → **Concrete action in selected countries**
  - Case studies database - upgrade traditional knowledge on drought
  - Participation to the next COP in Madrid
- **Towards a common platform on drought ?**





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**Thank you for your attention !!!!**

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