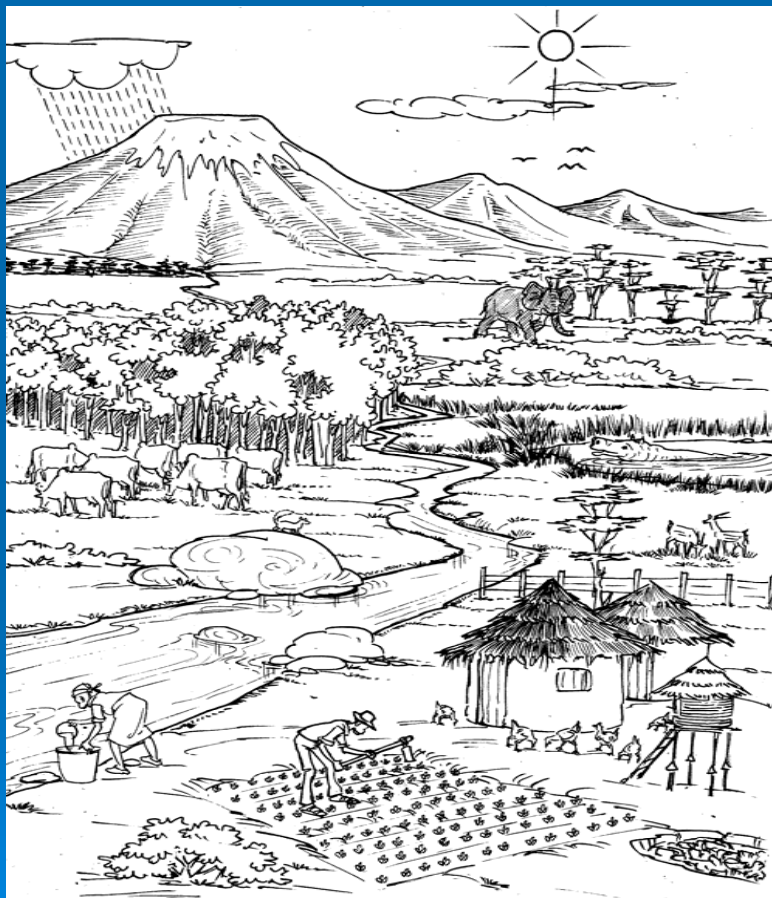




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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for a world without hunger

Combating Desertification and Land Degradation: Sustainable Land Management (SLM)



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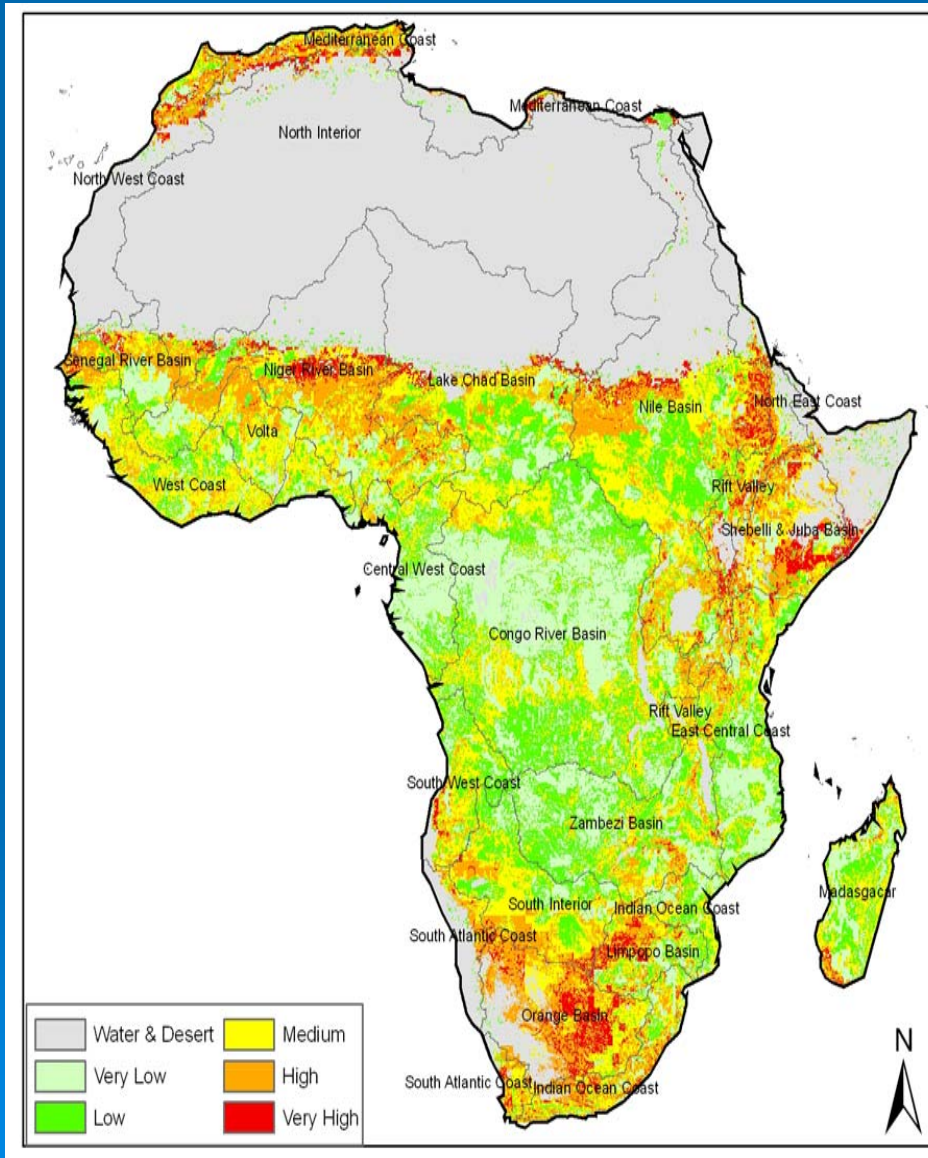
FAO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD-17 (23-27 February 2009, New York)
Expert Panel on Desertification

Desertification and UNCED

- Desertification LD in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas caused by human activities and climatic variations.
- Acknowledged as a major Economic, Social, and Environmental Problem in all regions
- A major focus and concern of UNCED (Chapter 12 of Agenda 21).
- Earth Summit – 1992 Rio/ called UNGA to establish IGNC to prepare a Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- Convention came to force in 1996 and Secretariat established in Bonn, Germany to support it.

Land Degradation in Africa



- Severe natural resources degradation
- Increasing trend of severity and extend of land degradation from the humid zones of the Congo and Zambezi basins (24 to 29%) to the dry areas of the Nile, Niger and Lake Chad basins (78 to 86%)
- Agricultural production is falling at about 3 per cent per year as a result.
- The loss in gross annual income estimated at USD 9 billion (*TerrAfrica, 2006*).

New Context and UNCCD Strategy

➤ **UNCCD new strategy (2008-2018) ICCD/COP(8)/16/2**

“Request the Executive Secretary, in this context, on the basis of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008 –2018), to submit for the consideration of the CSD, inter alia, the following matters:

- (a) The need to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, including sustainable land management;”

➤ **Sustainable Land Management ICCD/COP(8)/16/5**

“Invites developing countries to develop an enabling environment for sustainable land management consistent with national policies;”

SLM Approach

- **Agro ecological principles** minimum soil disturbance, ground cover, crop rotation, improved planting material, organic matter management, integrated plant nutrition and pest management, integrated crop/livestock/agro-forestry farming systems.
- **People and ecosystem centred** people learning (notably through farmer field schools), cultural and gender sensitivity, community-based participatory planning and technology development, within locally recognised geographic units/ landscapes/ catchments
- **Multi-stakeholders** (private, public NGO) and **cross disciplinary** (agriculture, environment, energy, planning, finance).
- **New opportunities**: bio-energy production, PES, CDM/carbon funds, ecotourism, fair-trade and 'natural (organic) products.
- **Programmatic approach** for mainstreaming and up-scaling: long term investment frameworks aligning development partners to support: on- the- ground activities, policy reforms (land tenure, land planning), institutional reforms, budget reforms.



Emerging Program for SLM (Examples)

- Country Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management (CPP/SLM) to realize SLM principles, objectives and framework in SSA.
- TerrAfrica partnership combining synergistically efforts of many partners at international (20 agencies), regional (NEPAD Secretariat) and national level (SSA Countries).
- National platforms being established in SSA countries in line with the TerrAfrica and GEF SIP framework: Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso.
- Technical and financial assistance from the World Bank / GEF, other multilateral and bilateral organizations.
- High Level Ministerial Declaration on African Agriculture in the 21st Century, Windhoek, Namibia (9-10 February 2009) recognized SLM, including reclaiming dry and degraded land, as the key to agricultural revitalization and to the green Revolution in Africa.

Major Challenges

- Building widespread commitment to SLM agenda and how to organize relevant partners to formulate a country SLM investment framework and work together.
- Moving toward long term program-based approach, rather than maintaining project based investments..
- Building larger and stronger coalition to boost investments through inter-linkages and synergy (land degradation, climate change, biodiversity) to provide opportunities for SLM to address the challenges of CC adaptation and mitigation and ecosystem services.

Policy Options



- Improved land management options (i.e. Agroforestry, new ways of harvesting water, combining organic and inorganic sources; group management of land resources at watershed level, payment for ecosystem services).
- Maximizing synergy from crop-livestock interaction.



Policy Options



- Diversification of Prod. System (Crop farming?)
- Livelihood diversification SOW-UV (Netherlands) findings in Ethiopia shows broadening livelihood outside agriculture is viable options to reduce poverty and income fragile ecosystems.



Policy Options

- Increase investments in SLM by devoting adequate budget resources at both national and international levels in accordance with the Maputo Declaration (NEPAD), the Abuja Declaration on Africa Green Revolution and in line with commitments for the achievements of MDGs 1 and 7.
- Seize the opportunity of emerging range of new market based opportunities (payments for environmental services, eco-tourism, biofuels/bioenergy, niche markets, organic products) to harness the promotion and funding of SLM.

Thank you



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