

UNCCD: Sustainable Land Management for Adaptation to Climate Change
Side event, 13 December 2007,
13.00 to 15.00, UNFCCC COP 13, Bali
Upon invitation from Luc-Marie Gnacadja (Executive secretary, UNCCD)

Englisch:

- The **arid regions** of our world are the **losers of climate change**. This concerns, in particular, the least developed countries of Africa but also large emerging economies such as China and India. If temperatures rise by three to four degrees Celsius, water scarcity for another 350 to 600 million people in Africa will ensue. China and India are already experiencing a growing number of heat waves and an increase in extreme precipitation and flooding.
- It is, above all, the **poor in rural areas** who are **most vulnerable** to the impacts of climate change and who have hardly any capacity for adaptation to climate change unless they are given assistance. Simultaneously, we find that the importance of **agriculture** and the role of **land and vegetation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions are not being given sufficient attention**.
- **From our point of view, development policy and climate protection are thus inextricably linked**. Without successful climate policies, we will not be able to reach the Millennium Development Goals. **Sustainable land use is indispensable both for mitigating climate change and for adaptation to the consequences of climate change**.
- The 10-year strategy for implementing UNCCD contains a clear recognition of the link between desertification and climate change and commits the UNCCD institutions to deepen their knowledge about these links and to share it with relevant climate fora. We support the implementation of the 10-year strategy and expect clear proposals for action for the Bali negotiations. There is a **need for action** with a view to creating synergies as quickly as possible, based on cooperation with partner governments and other donors, regarding the implementation of the three Rio conventions.

Proposals:

- **Investment in sustainable land management** must be an integral **part of strategies for adaptation to climate change**. This applies, in particular, to countries that are economically highly dependent on natural resources.
- Mitigation **financing** must take **greater account** of **land use** issues. So making the instrument for investment in sustainable land management efficient and giving poor countries access to the CDM are issues that must be placed on the development agenda.
- At the same time, financing of activities in developing countries in response to climate change is not a new "sector". Rather, **climate financing** is part of overall financing for sustainable development and must be **oriented** to the **principles of the Paris Declaration**.
- The **best practice experience from desertification control** and from UNCCD national action programmes can serve as a basis for defining visions for **adaptation programmes** in arid regions. There is a need for action with a view to creating synergies between action programmes for adaptation to climate change, desertification control, and biodiversity conservation.