

Portfolio review of IFAD-funded programmes and projects related to UNCCD objectives

An IFAD-GM collaboration

Introduction

In 1997, the first session of the Conference of Parties in Rome selected the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to host the Global Mechanism (GM) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). IFAD and the GM have since collaborated on a number of programme activities to support UNCCD implementation. Together, they have conducted a review to assess how IFAD's programmes and projects relate to UNCCD objectives. The portfolio review analysed project design documents for 185 loans and 708 grants approved between 1999 and 2005. Its purpose was to:

- ▶ document IFAD's interventions that are relevant to the UNCCD
- ▶ enhance IFAD's support to the UNCCD
- ▶ encourage other development partners to undertake similar reviews to enable further mainstreaming of the UNCCD objectives in their operations

The findings will be used as a baseline for future monitoring and to refine the methodology applied. To support mainstreaming of UNCCD objectives in IFAD operations, and in those of other interested development partners, IFAD and the GM will ensure that lessons learned and current innovations are documented in "Learning Notes".

Approach

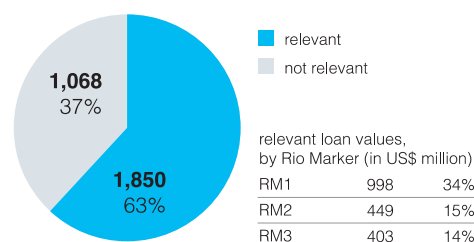
Programmes and projects approved between 1999 and 2005 were selected for review based on whether they targeted arid, semi-arid and/or dry sub-humid areas, followed by an assessment on whether they addressed UNCCD objectives.

Ranking is attributed according to the Rio Markers¹ developed by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and classification is based on the Relevant Activity Codes (RACs)² developed by the GM.

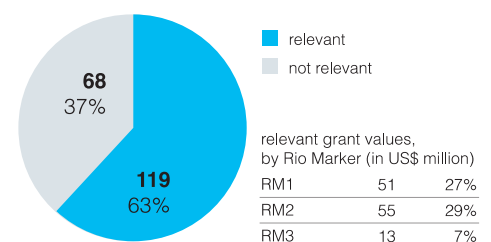
Main findings

1. Over the seven years under review, the value of resources approved for IFAD programmes and projects supporting UNCCD objectives was equivalent to US\$1.85 billion for loans, about 63 per cent of the total approved value, and US\$118.68 million for grants, also equivalent to about 63 per cent of the total approved value. These figures refer to programmes and projects rated as RM1, RM2 or RM3. See Graphs 1 and 2.

Graph 1. Proportion of approved IFAD loans for UNCCD-related programme and projects, by value (1999 to 2005, in US\$ million)



Graph 2. Proportion of IFAD grants for UNCCD-related programmes and projects, by value (1999 to 2005, in US\$ million)



2. Over the seven years under review, 117 loan programmes and projects (63.2 per cent of all loans approved) and 288 grant programmes and projects (40.7 per cent of all grants approved) were relevant to UNCCD objectives (rated as RM1, RM2 or RM3).

1. Rio Markers identify activities that target the objectives of the three Rio conventions: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the UNCCD. For the UNCCD, RM0=not targeted, RM1=significant objective, RM2=principal objective, RM3=principal objective and in support of an action programme. The Rio Markers were developed in consultation with the Secretariats of the Rio conventions, including the UNCCD, the UNCBD, the UNFCCC and the GM.

2. RACs include over 60 codes and topic descriptions grouped under the four main areas of UNCCD-related interventions: Monitoring and Research, Mitigation and Recovery, Risk Management, and Emergency Response.

3. A total of about US\$2 billion in loans and grants was committed to relevant programmes and projects (rated as RM1, RM2 or RM3), 46.8 per cent of which principally targeted UNCCD objectives (rated as RM2 or RM3).
4. Nearly US\$2 billion in cofinancing was leveraged from IFAD partners for implementation of UNCCD-related loan programmes and projects. Financing partners for loans rated as RM2 or RM3 include governments, beneficiaries, the OPEC Fund, the West African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank.
5. In line with CCD priorities, 46.8 per cent of the IFAD portfolio that directly targets the objectives of the UNCCD (that is, projects rated as RM2 or RM3) was invested in Africa, for a total of US\$430.55 million. Similar investments in Asia and the Pacific are worth US\$278.62 million, or 30.27 per cent of the total, and those in Latin America and the Caribbean are worth US\$169.59 million, or 18.42 per cent of the total.
6. According to the RACs developed by the GM, IFAD's involvement in combating desertification focused on four broad topics: risk management, planning and mitigation, monitoring and research and emergency response.

The distribution of loans was:

- ▶ 55.64 per cent for risk management – production support, agriculture and resource conservation
- ▶ 43.57 per cent for planning and mitigation – community development, services and infrastructure, and resource management planning
- ▶ 0.26 per cent for monitoring and research – knowledge management
- ▶ 0.52 per cent for emergency response – population health, relocation and/or rescue and rehabilitation of production systems

The distribution of grants was:

- ▶ 38.65 per cent for risk management – agriculture, livestock systems and water conservation
 - ▶ 31.88 per cent for planning and mitigation – community development, governance and legislation, and drought mitigation
 - ▶ 28.50 per cent for monitoring and research – technology activities and research and science
 - ▶ 0.97 per cent for emergency response – population health, relocation and/or rescue
7. All programmes and projects adopted a participatory approach and the design documents reflect IFAD's attention to gender and environmental considerations.
 8. IFAD's key institutional partners in the implementation of these programmes and projects are: ministries of agriculture and the environment, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres – such as the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) – NGOs and community groups.
 9. Half of the loan programmes and projects classified as RM3 refer to all three Rio Conventions, equivalent to 7.03 per cent of the portfolio.
 10. There appears to be a positive correlation between the rating attributed to country and subregional strategic opportunities papers and that attributed to the relative loan: 67.85 per cent of loans related to strategic opportunities papers rated as RM3 are principally aligned to the UNCCD (that is, the loans were rated as RM2 or as RM3). One third of the strategic documents approved in 2005 were rated as RM3.
 11. IFAD and the GM collaborated on numerous occasions during the period under review. An example is the integration of priorities outlined in the UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs) into IFAD's country and subregional strategic opportunities papers.
 12. IFAD's efforts to support the UNCCD are enhanced by its role as an executing agency of GEF. The Facility's Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management is an opportunity for IFAD to further address the links between poverty and environment.

Conclusions

Mainstreaming of sustainable land management should go beyond focusing on poverty reduction strategies because there are significant synergies to be leveraged also among the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the CBD, the National Adaptation Programmes of Action for least developed countries of the UNFCCC, and the NAPs of the UNCCD. The partnership between IFAD and GEF should further enable countries to build on such synergies.

Strategy papers serve as the first entry point for mainstreaming UNCCD objectives. The Environmental Screening and Scoping exercise for projects was also identified as an important tool to mainstream CCD objectives. The Learning Notes on the environment and on GEF are instrumental in directing IFAD's support to the implementation of the Rio Conventions, as well as addressing the nexus between poverty and the environment.

The review demonstrates IFAD's commitment to the UNCCD and highlights areas for improvement. The enhanced collaboration between IFAD and the GM is expected to lead to:

- ▶ increased mainstreaming of UNCCD in IFAD programmes and projects
- ▶ better reporting of UNCCD-related activities
- ▶ learning from experience for effective replication and scaling up of effective interventions

Contacts

Sheila Mwanundu

Senior Technical Adviser
Environment and Natural
Resource Management
Technical Advisory Division

IFAD

Via del Serafico, 107
00142 Rome, Italy
Telephone: + 39 06 54592031
Fax: + 39 06 54593031
E-mail: s.mwanundu@ifad.org

Kwame Awere-Gyekye

Programme Manager for
Eastern and Southern Africa

Global Mechanism

Via del Serafico, 107
00142 Rome, Italy
Telephone: + 39 06 54592199
Fax: + 39 06 54593199
E-mail: k.awere@ifad.org

Links

www.ifad.org
www.gm-unccd.org

