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Second Project Workshop

Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD)

Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran), 29 November – 2 December 2003

Technical Workshop Report

Introduction

1. The second international workshop of the joint UNESCO-UNU-ICARDA-Flanders Project on “Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD)” was held in Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran) from 29 November to 2 December 2003. The workshop was organized by UNESCO Headquarters in collaboration with the UNESCO-Tehran Office and benefited from additional financial support from the UNESCO-Cairo Office. The workshop was hosted by the Fars Research Centre for Agriculture and Natural Resources (FRCANR) and included a field trip to FRCANR’s Extension Station in the Gareh Bygone Plain (29 – 30 November 2003).

2. The following participants attended the workshop:

(a) Field Project Coordinators:

- Dr. Gao Jiangming (China: Hunshandake Sand/Xilin Gol Biosphere Reserve sub-project);
- Dr. Boshra Salem (Egypt: Omayed Biosphere Reserve sub-project);
- Prof. Sayyed Ahang Kowsar (Islamic Republic of Iran: Gareh Bygone Plain sub-project);
- Mr Mohammad S. Al-Qawabah (Jordan: Dana Biosphere Reserve sub-project);
- Dr Muhammad Akram Kahlown (Pakistan: Lal Suhanra Biosphere Reserve sub-project);
- Dr Richard Thomas (Syria: Khanasser Valley sub-project);
- Mr. Mohamed Ouessar (Tunisia: Zeuss-Koutine Watershed Area sub-project);
- Dr Muhtor G. Nasyrov (Uzbekistan: Karnab Chul sub-project).

Note: Dr Wang Tao (China: Heihe River sub-project) was unable to attend the workshop due to an audit at his institute.

(b) Project Core Management Group:

- Dr Richard Thomas (ICARDA Headquarters, Aleppo);
- Dr Abdin Salih (UNESCO-Tehran Office);
- Dr Thomas Schaaf (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris);

- Prof. Iwao Kobori (UNU Headquarters, Tokyo);
- Dr Zafar Adeel (UNU-INWEH, Hamilton);
- Dr Rudy Herman (Flemish Government of Belgium, Brussels).

(c) Experts from Belgium:

- Prof. Donald Gabriels (Ghent University);
- Prof. Dirk Raes (K.U. Leuven).

(d) Experts from the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Several scientists from the University of Shiraz, the Fars Research Centre for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a staff member from the UNESCO-Tehran Office also enriched the workshop with their participation in the opening ceremony and subsequent individualized interactions. The address list of the participants (field project coordinators, project core management group, and the Belgian experts) is appended as Annex 1 to this report.

Workshop Objectives and Content

3. The workshop objectives were to review the assessment methodology for the project and to finalize the project management and implementation structures. As regards the assessment methodology, UNU had provided research grants to six of the sub-projects so as to prepare preliminary assessments for the study sites. The field project coordinators presented their results at the workshop, which were discussed following each presentation.

Assessment Methodology

4. Following the SUMAMAD Project objectives, most presentations covered the following issues:

- (a) Assessment of the current status of integration between the conservation of natural resources, community development and scientific information as well as the mechanisms for management and cooperation, all of which could feed into an overall dryland management concept.
- (b) Identification of practices for sustainable soil and water conservation with the local communities. Practices involving traditional knowledge as well as modern expertise, or a combination thereof, to be tested with a view to combating environmental degradation, increasing agricultural productivity, and enhancing resource conservation.
- (c) Identification of training needs on the handling of data collection and inventory techniques.
- (d) Identification of one or two income-generating activities, based on the sustainable use of dryland natural resources.

5. Following a discussion on similarities and differences of the various sub-projects and sites, the workshop participants then identified and worked out a number of parameters, which should be addressed by all sub-projects in the course of 2004, which – as stipulated in the project document – is also a main task to be accomplished during Year 1 of project implementation. The parameters are as follows:

a) State of Natural Resources:

- Characterization of climate (averages, variation, intensity, return periods);
- Characterization of hydrological situation (groundwater and surface water);
- Land characterization (geology, topography, soil characteristics);
- Maps (topographical maps, land-use maps, major vegetation units);
- Biomass quantification;
- Biodiversity – richness and distribution of species.

b) Socio-economic Stresses:

- Population (growth, density, households, dynamics);
- Poverty levels;
- Economic indicators (like per capita income);
- Access to public health (including water and sanitation);
- Education facilities.

c) Environmental Stresses:

- Livestock status (including grazing intensity);
- Vegetation cover loss
- Natural hazards (droughts, floods, fires, sandstorms, duststorms);
- Water resources decline – quality & quantity;
- Land degradation.

d) Indigenous, Innovative & Adaptive Approaches

- Economic valuation of:
 - Agricultural approaches
 - Pastoral approaches
 - Local micro businesses
 - Ecotourism
 - Non-agricultural livelihoods
 - Water resource development & management practices
- Evaluation of
 - Lifestyle changes
 - Land tenure systems
 - Migration patterns (environmental refugees).

e) Poverty Alleviation & Income Generation

- Employment generating activities (number of people involved, environmental impact assesment)
- Reinvestment of benefits
- Livelihood profile
- External investments

- Governmental policies.

6. Workshop participants also identified various tools for the assessment as follows (the persons indicated in brackets will provide a generic description of the tools by the end of January 2004, and will send these outlines to Dr Th. Schaaf, UNESCO). This information will be provided to all project partners for subsequent application in the sub-projects and can be used for development of relevant training activities within the project. The tools identified include the following:

- GIS and remote sensing technologies, including “Participatory GIS”, or “P-GIS” (*Dr B. Salem*);
- Water/soil balance simulation model (*Prof. D. Raes*);
- Economic valuation of natural resources;
- Community surveys: Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal (*Mr Al-Qawabah*);
- Human Development Index, HDI (*Dr S. Kowsar*);
- SWOT Analysis (*Mr Al-Qawabah*);
- Multi-level framework analysis (*Dr R. Thomas*);

The workshop participants also highlighted the linkage of these tools to capacity building. For example, this should be consideration when planning for exchange of expertise and experience amongst the sub-project teams. It can also lead to specific training activities, such as training on statistical methods.

7. All project sites will be concerned with the overall objectives and activities of the project, i.e. soil and water conservation to combat dryland degradation and fostering income generating activities with a view to ensure sustainable dryland management and development. In addition, and to cater to the specific situation at each sub-project site, the field project coordinators also identified national (site-specific) priorities that they would address at the respective project site as follows:

China:

- Natural hazards – sandstorm control;
- Livestock and lifestyle changes;
- Water use efficiency.

Egypt:

- Practices for soil/water conservation;
- Income generating activities;
- Socio-economic stresses.

Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Natural hazards – droughts and floods;
- Employment generating activities;
- Economic indicators.

Jordan:

- Biodiversity – richness and distribution of species;

- Vegetation cover loss;
- Economic indicators.

Pakistan:

- Water resources management – rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge;
- Wind and water erosion control;
- Income generating activities.

Syria:

- Economic valuation of water resources management;
- Local micro business
- Local employment generating activities.

Tunisia:

- Evaluation of techniques for water management;
- Operational tools for watershed management;
- Income generating activities.

Uzbekistan:

- Socio-economic stresses – population;
- Livestock stress;
- Vegetation cover loss.

Project Funding and Implementation

8. The Flemish Government of Belgium will provide project funding through a funds-in-trust agreement with UNESCO, which will benefit in particular the sub-projects in Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Tunisia. It is hoped that the Italian Government will also provide funding through a funds-in-trust agreement with UNESCO which would benefit Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, and possibly China (to be complemented by funding from the Chinese Academy of Sciences). As was already practiced in the “pre-project phase” in 2003, UNU-INWEH will be in charge of issuing Flemish project funds to the field project coordinators through contractual agreements, while UNESCO will be in charge of organizing the annual international project workshops.

9. While the exact funding figures for the implementation of site specific project activities deriving from Flemish funding will be provided as soon as possible, it is estimated that about US\$ 20,000 per project site and per year will be made available. In addition, US\$ 5,000 per project site and per year will be made available for the organization of one or several national workshops (so as to allow interactions among local people, scientists, governmental officials within the context of the project). Moreover, US\$ 500 per project site and per year will be made available for the preparation of national reports. It is expected that the funding will be available for the project sites in March 2004.

10. Annual international project workshops will be held on a rotational basis at which all field project coordinators and the core management group will meet to review project implementation. These international project workshops will also serve to decide on project

activities in the subsequent year. An amount of US\$ 30,000 will be provided to the Field Project Coordinator who will organize and host the annual international project workshop. The workshop participants agreed that Tunisia will host the third international project workshop at the *Institut des Regions Arides* (IRA) in November 2004 (after the end of Ramadan). China, Pakistan and Uzbekistan kindly offered to host subsequent international project workshops.

11. The time schedule for the methodology development (and the immediate next project activities) will be as follows:

- 15 December 2003: Finalization of framework methodology (grants provided by UNU in 2003);
- 31 December 2003: Finalization and submission of workshop papers by e-mail to Dr. Th. Schaaf (UNESCO-Paris: t.schaaf@unesco.org) for subsequent publication of the workshop proceedings by UNESCO (length of papers: about 15 pages including graphic material);
- 30 June 2004: Draft assessment methodology available for review;
- 31 August 2004: Review complete;
- November 2004: Final assessment methodology report (to be available at third project workshop in Tunisia).

Training Opportunities

12. Dr Rudy Herman (Flemish Government of Belgium) and Dr Richard Thomas (ICARDA) informed of various training opportunities in Belgium and at ICARDA, which will be beneficial to the SUMAMAD Project as complementary add-ons to the project.

Closing of Workshop

13. The second international project workshop of the SUMAMAD Project ended on 2 December 2003 in an excellent spirit of cooperation and friendship among all project partners. Workshop participants expressed their deep gratitude to Dr Abdin Salih, Director of the UNESCO-Tehran Office and to Dr Sayyed Ahang Kowsar of the Fars Research Centre for Agriculture and Natural Resources for their outstanding organization of the workshop and the warm hospitality which had made the second SUMAMAD Project Workshop a full success.

List of Participants

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Guidelines for Meeting Contractual Obligations

The purpose of this document is to provide general guidance for completion of the contracts between UNU-INWEH and project partners.

Contractual Obligations

1. The terms of reference (TOR) of the contract describe the obligations and responsibilities of the project partner, including a general outline of the budgetary allocation. Typically, an amount equal to 65-80% of the total project budget is immediately transferred to the project partner upon signature of contract. The remaining amount is provided in one or two subsequent installments, with the final installment being released only after all the project obligations have been fulfilled.
2. It is anticipated that all activities will be concluded within the allocated time duration and budget. Project coordinators are responsible for completion of tasks within their sub-project sites and coordination among the project team members. If exceptional circumstances prevent completion of certain tasks, these must be conveyed to the Core Management Group (CMG) prior to conclusion of the contract.
3. The conclusion and closure of contract is contingent on timely submission of project deliverables such as project reports and project financial reports (see description below).
4. Rules within UNU preclude issuing of new contracts to the same entity while other contracts are pending. In other words, contracts for a year must be fully closed before next year's contacts can be issued.

Project Reports

5. The project reports should contain all the information required in the contract and any additional information requested by the CMG. Where appropriate, a list of reference should be provided to fully document the information sources cited in the reports.
6. The official language for the project is English and it is anticipated that the quality of language used in the reports will pass the minimum standards for professional communication.
7. All reports must also be submitted in electronic form.

Project Financial Reports

8. The detailed breakdown of the allocated annual budget into various categories is described within the contract. The total amount reimbursed to each sub-project is based on the actual expenditure, rather than for a fixed total amount. Any unspent amount will be retained by UNU-INWEH for future project activities. Expenditure exceeding the total allocated budget will not be covered or reimbursed.
9. In exceptional circumstances, UNU-INWEH in consultation with CMG, may allow roll-over of one year's unspent balance to the next year's contract. This must be approved prior to the closure of the contract.
10. The financial reports should contain a master table that summarizes the expenditure in each of the budget line identified in the contract.
11. The financial reports must be fully documented by providing original receipts. Any expenditure that cannot be documented by original receipts will not be reimbursed. Translation should be provided for receipts that are not in English.

Submission of Documents

12. The reports and other documents must arrive at the following address by the deadline described in the contract. Please note that there are different addresses for mail and courier delivery; using the incorrect address invariably delays delivery.

Send to:

Dr. Zafar Adeel
Assistant Director (Program Development)

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