

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

<b>Name of the Partnership/Initiative</b>	
	Strategic Partnership for Mobilizing Civil Society to Combat Land Degradation and Poverty in Southern Africa
<b>Date of initiation:</b>	May 2002
<b>Expected date of completion:</b>	Not applicable, as the partnership will continue until the partners decide to conclude it.
<b>Partners Involved:</b>	
Governments:	The Government of Canada acting through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Intergovernmental organizations:	Southern African Development Community Environment and Land Management Sector Coordination Unit (SADC-ELMS) Southern African Development Community Food Security and Rural Development Hub (SADC – Hub) The Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (GM-UNCCD)
Major groups:	Zambia Alliance of Women (ZAW) as Focal Point for the Southern African Branch of the International NGO Network on Desertification (RIOD); Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG); Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE);
<i>Leading Partner:</i> Name of the contact person: Address: Phone: Fax: E-mail:	The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD Per Rydén, Managing Director 107, Via del Serafico, 00142 Rome, Italy +39 06 54 59 2129 +39 06 54 59 2135 <a href="mailto:p.ryden@ifad.org">p.ryden@ifad.org</a>
<b>Background and Rationale</b>	
a)	Collaboration with NGOs under UNCCD

Although the environmental frame conditions vary greatly within the Southern African Development Community (“SADC”)<sup>1</sup>, ranging from humid, sub-humid, semi-arid to arid climatic conditions and encompassing various ecosystems such as rain forests, woodlands, savannah systems, desert areas and marine environments, all countries experience land degradation in one form or another. Desertification – defined under the UNCCD as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas, due to various factors including climate variations and human activity - and loss of productivity of the natural systems have serious negative impacts on the livelihoods of people and undermine the sustainability of development processes.

Since entering into force in 1996, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (“UNCCD”) has been ratified by all SADC member countries and implementation plans also referred to as national and sub-regional action programmes (NAPs and SRAPs respectively) have been adopted nationally and sub-regionally by six of the fourteen members. Nevertheless, the linked problems of poverty and environmental degradation remain daunting.

Article Five of the UNCCD calls for affected country parties to “facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”), in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought”. Although many attempts has been made, the agencies involved in the implementation of the UNCCD have yet to align their operational processes in such a way that real participation of the Civil Society, including local non-governmental organizations, is ensured as anticipated by the Convention.

b) The Southern Africa NGO Desertification Network (SADC-RIOD)

To this end, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD took in 2001 active steps to facilitate consultations among representatives of NGO members of the SADC region, by supporting an NGO workshop in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2001 to develop a strategy for the period 2001 – 2004, and to plan activities for the achievement thereof. The strategic objectives identified by the NGO representatives were:

- a) Enhance the knowledge, understanding and competence of RIOD network and partners on desertification;
- b) Enhance the capacities of the SADC RIOD network members (financially, institutionally, socially, physically) and those of their partners, particularly local communities;
- c) Support the development and implementation of community-driven initiatives for combating desertification;
- d) Promote the development of a conducive policy and legislative environment for combating desertification; and
- e) Mobilise, maintain and expand the interest and active participation of all partners in combating desertification.

c) Working towards and beyond the WSSD

As a part of activities realising the objectives, the SADC RIOD Network seeks collaboration from

<sup>1</sup> Fourteen countries are allied through SADC: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

potential partners and support for the organization of a series of events associated with the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its outcome.

It is expected that a concerted approach among these partners will facilitate a more coherent approach to UNCCD implementation in the region, at national and sub-regional levels. The Partnership will build upon the comparative advantages of each institution, and is likely to lead to more effective use of scarce external and domestic resources.

d) Legislators' Conference on Desertification

The UNCCD addresses a wide range of interrelated social, economic and environmental issues. Inappropriate policy and legislation is associated with inadequate frameworks and incentives to promote sustainable land management. The Legislators' Conference organised by GLOBE Southern Africa in collaboration with EMG focuses on the development of an understanding amongst legislators of the problems of poverty and land degradation in Eastern and Southern Africa, and of the instruments that are available to address these in terms of national planning and budgeting processes, the UNCCD (and its support agencies) and the international donor community.

**Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative**

This partnership seeks to link, from outset of the above mentioned processes, inter-governmental processes in Southern Africa with activities of the Non-governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations. The partners commit to prepare and implement, disseminate information about, and follow-up to, activities supporting the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. In particular, the partnership is, on a long-term basis, focusing on activities following-up to the WSSD. The partnership will additionally provide a series of constructive input to the process of establishing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Specifically, the partners will seek to engage in complementary activities, joint meetings, enhanced communication, information exchange and co-ordination, which will:

- Enhance the resources available for the implementation of the CCD;
- Promote desertification issues following-up to the Legislators' Conference and WSSD in 2002;
- Create awareness among politicians and legislators about the implementation of the CCD in SADC;
- Establish linkages between the three Conventions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, 1992;
- Assist communities affected by land degradation and poverty in building capacity for resilience and improved livelihood; and
- Enhance capacity within the NGO community to assist in implementing the Sub-regional and National Action Plans of the CCD.

*Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:*

The partnership is primarily formed to strengthen the implementation process of the UNCCD, particularly to combat land degradation and drought and enhance poor rural communities in marginal and drought-prone areas with a capacity for resilience and improved livelihood.

**Expected results:**

- Enhanced availability of financial, technical and human resources for CCD implementation;
- Increased public and political awareness about the devastating impact of land degradation and poverty;
- Increased capacity in SADC NGOs and community-based organizations to improve the participation of communities in decisions relevant to drought and land degradation;
- Presentation and dissemination of community-based views afflicted by land degradation and poverty in the SADC;
- Function of a regional multi-stakeholder forum for CCD implementation;
- Production and dissemination of legislative guidelines to implement the UNCCD in the SADC countries, developed through a participatory research and consultation process; and
- Availability of video, meeting proceedings and reports and ready available information online on the internet promoting the CCD in SADC.

**Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

The primary target for this initiative is:

- NGOs and community-based organizations assisting rural poor communities affected by land degradation and drought in arid, semi arid, and sub-humid areas in SADC countries
- Government and Parliamentary decision makers in Southern Africa, in particular those branches of government responsible for the implementation of CCD related issues; and
- Civil society, international organisations, research and scientific communities.

**Coordination and Implementation mechanism**

The Partnership defines a series of specific commitments by each partner, which ensures a clear understanding of the distribution of roles and responsibilities. Each partner is responsible to implement and supervise the activities they are involved in, and the overall facilitation and overview is ensured by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD.

**Arrangements for funding**

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD is charged with the role to identify and mobilize new additional sources for funding activities implemented under this initiative. Because of the initiative's long-term commitment, no specific budget has yet been defined, but funding for the initial activities is secured by the Government of Canada, through CIDA, on a contribution of Canadian Dollars 200 000.

**Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

The partnership is supporting capacity building at various levels:

- Specific targeted information disseminating and skills training workshops and seminars for

the various stakeholders and communities;

- Training and awareness seminars and exchange visits focusing on transferring traditional and technology knowledge for affected communities, local and national NGOs and Community-based organizations assisting in implementing the CCD National and sub-regional action plans; and
- Collection, compilation and dissemination of information to legislators, intergovernmental and governmental partners, NGOs and rural poor communities.

**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)**

The partnership aims at, inter alia, providing inputs to:

- The Community Exchange and Training Programme of the Global Mechanism and RIOD Network;
- World Summit on Sustainable Development – September 2002 and relevant side events and activities, such as the Implementation Conference;
- Southern Africa Development Community Environmental Ministers Meeting (2003);
- African Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN) 2003;
- The Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2003);
- Relevant High Level Meetings on Regional Cooperation in African, such as NEPAD, AU, ECA and meetings of international agencies, such as UNEP, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, GEF etc

**Monitoring Arrangements**

The activities under this partnership are continuously monitored by each of the stakeholders. Specific monitoring mechanisms will be established, depending on the characteristics of the events. The overall process monitoring is ensured by the Global Mechanism. Newsletters and annual reports will provide an overview for donors and other relevant or interested partners. Additionally, the partners will keep external partners informed through their respective home address on the internet.

**Other relevant information:**

Web-site (if available):

[www.globe-sa.org](http://www.globe-sa.org)  
[www.gm-unccd.org](http://www.gm-unccd.org)

**Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:**

*The International NGO Network Against Desertification (RIOD) in Southern Africa:*

*Mrs. Lillian Mushota  
 SADC RIOD Focal Point  
 Zambia Alliance of Women  
 P.O. Box 50266, Lusaka  
 Zambia  
 Fax: 2601254134*

E-mail: [zaw@zamnet.zm](mailto:zaw@zamnet.zm)

*The Southern African Development Community – Environment and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS):*

*Mr. Jobo Molapo  
Director  
Private Bag A284  
Maseru 100, Lesotho  
Fax. +266 310 190  
E-mail: [sadcelms@lesoff.co.za](mailto:sadcelms@lesoff.co.za)*

*The Southern African Development Community Food Security and Rural Development Hub (SADC-Hub)*

*Mr. Rudolph A. Polson  
Regional Coordinator  
P.O. Box CY 270, Causeway  
12th Floor, Social Security Centre  
Parklane  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Fax. +236 4792408  
Email: [rpolson@fanr-sadc.co.zw](mailto:rpolson@fanr-sadc.co.zw)*

*For the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA):*

*Mrs. Joana Talafre,  
Desertification Convention Office,  
Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit, Policy Branch  
200 Promenade du Portage  
Hull, Quebec K1A 0G4  
Canada  
Fax: (01) 819 994 3669  
E-mail: [joana\\_talafre@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:joana_talafre@acdi-cida.gc.ca)*

*For the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) – Southern Africa:*

*Mr. Francis Caas  
Executive Director  
26 Derwent Road, Gardens,  
8001 Cape Town,  
South Africa  
Fax: (27) - 21 - 422 0285  
E-mail: [fcaas@globesa.org](mailto:fcaas@globesa.org)*

*Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG):*

*Mr. Stephen Law  
Director*

*P. O. Box 13378  
Mowbray 7705  
South Africa  
Fax: (27) - 21 - 448 2922  
E-mail: [dryland@global.co.za](mailto:dryland@global.co.za)*

*The Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:*

*Mr. Per Rydén  
Managing Director  
Global Mechanism  
C/o International Fund for Agricultural Development  
Via del Serafico, 107  
00142 Rome, Italy  
Fax: (39-06) 54592135  
E-mail: [p.ryden@ifad.org](mailto:p.ryden@ifad.org)*

**To be submitted to:**

**WSSD Secretariat**

ATTN: Ms. Monika Linn, Senior Adviser on Sustainable Development  
Address: Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-2234, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Phone: 1 (917) 367 20 89; Fax: 1 (212) 963 42 60  
E-mail: [linnm@un.org](mailto:linnm@un.org)