



Proceeding

4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa

“Contribution of Networking and Knowledge Sharing towards Improving Access to Finance,”

9th December 2020



Compiled by
Josephine Wanjiku, Rebeccah Nenkei, Paul Tuwei, Michael Mukolwe and Yuki Honjo

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Cover caption

Screen shot of participants, invited guests and presenters during the 4th Regional Forum for Horn of Africa.

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Sincere thanks also go to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Kenya, JICA Headquarters and JICA Kenya Office for presiding over the official opening and closing ceremonies of the Forum.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AI-CD	African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa
ASALs	Arid and Semi-arid Lands
AU	African Union
CADEP-SFM	Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management
CAMP	Comprehensive Agricultural Master Plan
COVID	'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease
COP	Conference of Parties
DECC	Director of Environment and Climate Change
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
DRLSP	Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme
EAT	East Africa Time
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRSS	Forest Research Support Services
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GGW	Great Green Wall
GLO	Global Land Outlook
GoK	Government of Kenya
HDI	Human Development Index
HoA	Horn of Africa
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ITFPs	International Technical and Financial Partners
ITK	Indigenous Technical Knowledge
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (,
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
NaFORRI	National Forestry Resources Research Institute
NAP	National Agricultural Programme
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PCN	Project Concept Note

PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PROSCAL	Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihood
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WB	World Bank
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of AI-CD

The African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa (AI-CD) was developed against the background that;

- i. The Sahel and Horn of Africa region face mounting development challenges and environmental deterioration.
- ii. Much of the region is dry and highly degraded and suffers from frequent and severe droughts.
- iii. Climate change is likely to accelerate desertification within the region.

Therefore, addressing desertification and strengthening resilience to climate change was identified as the key strategy to making nations of the Sahel and Horn of Africa achieve sustainable development. The AI-CD was therefore developed to; enhance knowledge and experiences sharing, and facilitate technology transfer among African countries in order to collectively combat desertification.

1.2 Formation of AI-CD

Recognizing that drought and desertification had not been given sufficient international attention despite their importance and urgency, AI-CD was formulated and initiated during UNCCD COP 12 in Ankara, Turkey in 2015. In July 2016, the then Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a Preparatory Meeting in Nairobi, towards the launch AI-CD. The AI-CD was thereafter launched in August 2016 during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Side Event held in Nairobi, Kenya. During the launch, a statement was signed by the MENR, JICA, Government of Senegal and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to; accelerate efforts to combat desertification and strengthen nations and communities resilience to climate change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. The Initiative is a 5-year project implemented from 2016 to 2021.

1.3 Objective of AI-CD

The main objective of AI-CD is to contribute to making nations and communities resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. This objective is achieved through three outputs, namely; Building networks, knowledge sharing, and improving access to finance. The actions under each output are as follows:

Building networks: A robust network among participating countries and development partners is built for combating desertification and strengthening resilience to climate change.

Knowledge-sharing: Knowledge and experiences on combating desertification are shared among African countries to enhance the effectiveness of development efforts in the region.

Improving access to finance: Access to available international development finance is improved to promote measures for combating desertification in the region.

1.4 Harmonization of AI-CD with Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management Activities in Kenya

In the Horn of Africa, AI-CD is implemented in seven (7) countries, namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, with Kenya being the regional hub. Activities of AI-CD are implemented jointly with those of related Initiatives within participating countries. In Kenya, AI-CD activities are harmonized with those of Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM), a collaborative project between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), KEFRI, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

CADEP-SFM is expected to contribute to capacity building of stakeholders on sustainable forest management, which will be achieved through five components, namely; Policy Support, Pilot Implementation through County Governments and Private Sector, REDD+ Readiness, Tree Breeding and Regional Cooperation. The Regional Cooperation component aims to enhance capacity of stakeholder in the Horn of Africa by promoting knowledge sharing and transfer of technologies for strengthening resilience to climate change within the region.

To accelerate knowledge sharing, transfer and adoption of existing good practices, the CADEP-SFM Regional Cooperation component is mandated to build capacity of partner institutions within AI-CD participating Horn of Africa countries. Capacity is built through various scheduled CADEP-SFM/AI-CD regional events which include; fora and meetings, technical trainings, and workshops.

1.5 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa

Since inception of AI-CD, three (3) Regional Fora have been held in Kenya, implemented by KEFRI in collaboration with JICA and MoEF. These fora are:

- i. 1st AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa held on 1st - 3rd February 2017. The main objectives of the Forum were; development of a roadmap and commitment to implementation of AI-CD; and sharing experiences, challenges and opportunities in combating desertification in Horn of Africa.
- ii. 2nd Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, which was a Ministerial Forum for Horn of Africa, held on 29 June 2017 to promote awareness and mainstreaming of AI-CD at the political level. During this forum ministers and participants from Horn of Africa adopted “Nairobi Declaration” through signing a statement of commitment to combating desertification in home countries.

- iii. 3rd AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa was held on 14th - 16th May 2019. The objective of the Forum was to improve capacity for resource mobilization through development of Project Concept Notes and building partnerships with development partners.

Building on success and lessons of the previous fora, the 4th Forum Regional for Horn of Africa was organized to enhance AI-CD key activities. Due to challenges of COVID-19, the forum was held virtually on **Wednesday, 9th December 2020**.

2.0 Objectives and Implementation of the Forum

2.1 Objectives of the 4th Regional Forum

The main objective of the Forum was to share experiences on opportunities in networking and knowledge sharing which contribute to enhancing access to finance for implementation of AI-CD.

2.2 Implementation of the 4th AI-CD forum for HoA

- The Forum was held virtually on 9th Wednesday, December 2020 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm East Africa Time (EAT). The mode of implementation was on on-line based due to the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented in-person meetings. To ensure success of on-line meeting connectivity through Zoom, a rehearsal with Focal Points, KEFRI and AI-CD Secretariat was done twice, at two and one week before the Forum.
- During the workshop participants from participating Horn of Africa shared progress of AI-CD activities on Networking, Knowledge Sharing, and Access to Finance as follows:
 - **Networking:** Focal Point shared updates on networking activities including any recent contacts and progress with donors.
 - **Knowledge Sharing:** Focal Points shared; updates on Project Concept Note (PCN) development, and status on projects or practices related to combating desertification.

Access to Finance: Invited International Technical and Financial Partners (ITFP) shared their current strategy on financing in a post COVID-19 era, as well as perspectives and priority fields they finance. The ITFP who participated in the workshop included; World Bank Group, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

AI-CD partners who participated in the forum included JICA and ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) who made key presentations on the AI-CD progress.

2.3 Participation

About 40 participants took part in the workshop with Focal Points from Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Nigeria making presentations. Nigeria, though not in HoA region, but in Sahel was invited as it is an English speaking country. However, Nigeria was still expected to participate in the 4th Sahel Regional Forum, which was to be held on 27 January 2021.

An advantage of on-line conferencing was the removal of geographical barriers. Utilizing this advantage, it is proposed to invite participants such as International Technical & Financial Partners located out of Africa.

Some challenges were encountered which included: Internet connectivity, unstable power, some web meeting tools not available in some countries, inadequate in-depth discussion experienced during in-person meetings. However, being the 1st AI-CD workshop to be held virtually, the forum provided learning experiences which will be useful in future meetings.

2.4 Information on Presentation by Focal Points for 4th Regional Forum

Focal Points were expected to develop 2 documents: A word format document - status report and Power point presentation. Content of the documents were to include progress on AI-CD outputs, namely: Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance.

The theme of the 4th AI-CD Forum was: “Contribution of Networking and Knowledge Sharing towards improving Access to Finance”.

On Network building, the reports were expected to include information on any networks build with development partners in the field of combating desertification especially after the 3rd AI-CD Regional Forum for HoA, held in May 2019 on resource mobilization).

The main information expected to be shared on Project Concept Note (PCN) status included:

- What is the project title, objectives, justification for the project and activities proposed.
- Which donors have been contacted.
- What was the feedback from the donors - how far are the negotiations with donors.
- What is the proposed way forward for PCN.

On knowledge sharing, Focal Points (FPs) were to share information on other projects are that were being implemented in their countries towards combating desertification.

Using this format the FP shared their draft reports with Kenya (KEFRI). The documents were reviewed by KEFRI, comments and suggestions given on case by case basis on additions/ideas that could enrich the reports. Final reports were shared with AI-CD Secretariat for queuing in readiness for the workshop.

3.0 Official Speeches

3.1 Opening Speeches and Remarks

3.1.1 Speech by Dr. Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, during the Official Opening of the 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa on Wednesday, 9th December 2020

Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office, Mr. Katsutoshi Komori,
Officers from JICA Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan,
Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,
AI-CD Partners and Co-organisers,
Development Partners Online,
AI-CD Focal Points from Horn of Africa, and Nigeria,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is with great pleasure that I join you today to officiate the opening of this Virtual Workshop, of **the 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa on: Contribution of Networking and Knowledge Sharing towards Improving Access to Finance**. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Kenya, and on my own behalf, to welcome you all to the Workshop.

I am happy to note that this 4th Regional Forum, comes after three successful such events held under the auspices of AI-CD that have continued to provide natural resource managers from seven Horn of Africa countries, namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, with a unique opportunity to discuss challenges as well as share practical experiences in environmental conservation, combating desertification, and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures that are of potential in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this Workshop comes at a very difficult time when the world is faced with challenges of COVID-19, a pandemic that has disrupted life and livelihoods, especially for communities that depend greatly on the natural resources, as we all know that there is an intricate relationship between environment health and that of humanity and animals.

A healthy environment provides sustainable support for many communities in Africa who rely on natural resources for livelihood. Therefore, as environmental managers, we need to promote management practices that optimize contribution of natural resources to livelihoods and to the economy. This can mainly be achieved if we all are committed to collectively identify strategies to address the impact of COVID-19 on the environment and the socio-economic development of our region.

Although COVID-19 has disrupted many sectors, it also seems to have given us an opportunity to self-evaluate and be more proactive towards a green recovery path as well as work extra hard in order to return the economy to the growth trajectory it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. As environmental managers, I urge you more than ever before, to put great emphasis on restoring degraded land, combating desertification and halting biodiversity loss, providing opportunities for green jobs if we are to withstand impact of the current pandemic.

Distinguished Participants, allow me to mention that there is currently great commitment by African governments for implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This is amplified by a declaration during a recent special session of the African Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources, held in November 2020, where the Ministers committed to:

- i. Mainstream environmental sustainability, natural resources and biodiversity conservation in stimulus programmes for the post COVID-19 period;
- ii. Invest in the scaling up of initiatives, which contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets;
- iii. Increase efforts in addressing the increasing threats of climate change, desertification and biodiversity loss through the provision of adequate financial and technical capacities; and
- iv. Strengthen green economy initiatives such the Great Green Wall.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in pursuit of the mentioned African government resolution, it worthwhile to note that:

- As populations become larger, wealthier and more urban, there is greater demand for food, feed, fertilizer and fibre, therefore, creating great demand and stress on land, which may lead to further land degradation and desertification.
- Although desertification is a worldwide problem, Africa is indeed, the most affected with two-thirds of the continent being desert or drylands.
- Major causes of Africa desertification and land degradation are human induced, and include; deforestation, unsustainable use of woodland, poor farming practices and overgrazing, overexploitation of our natural resources generally caused by economic and social pressures, inadequate information and knowledge.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to overcome these land and natural resources degradation, we require resource mobilization from within governments and development partners. This implies that we require development of project proposals and funding strategies that can attract finance from bilateral and multilateral development partners and international agencies. I believe that this workshop will not only provide the leadership and useful insights into understanding the opportunities and challenges related access to finance, but also strengthen our collective commitment, confidence and success.

Distinguished Participants, I am informed a Side Event during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi in 2016, the Kenya Government, JICA and other partners committed to accelerate efforts to make Africa more resilient to climate change through establishment of networks, knowledge sharing and improving access to finance. Therefore, it is with much satisfaction I note that this Workshop is tailored to promote access to finance, a resource which in many instances has constrained successful implementation of sustainable nature resource management programmes and projects. My expectations in this workshop output is good fundable regional programmes and specified projects that will raise funds to supplement the regional governments as all of us are aware currently that many governments in Africa have currently shifted attention and priorities away from the environment and natural resources and directed resources to COVID-19 pandemic management.

Lastly, allow me, to appreciate the Government of Japan through JICA, whose commitment to working closely with us to achieve the objective of AI-CD is unwavering. Let me also appreciate the technical and financial support JICA has continued to offer for this Initiative and also to this Workshop.

To all the Partners and International Agencies, I say thank you for your commitment in this collective endeavour of combating desertification.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my great pleasure to declare this Workshop officially opened.

Thank you.

3.1.2 Speech By JICA’s Senior Representative Mr. Tomoyuki Yasuda on Behalf of the Chief Representative during the Opening Ceremony the 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, held Virtually on 9th December, 2020

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Chris Kiptoo,
Director, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,
Senior Deputy Director, Global Environment Department, JICA Headquarters, Ms. Mari Miura,
Representatives of Development Agencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

We are now in the thick of a global pandemic that has disrupted the familiar ways of human interactions including communication, and brought about the so called new norm. Let me therefore, take this opportunity to first commend the Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM) Regional Cooperation (Component 5) Team backed by the Secretariat Support Team (SST), for their great and relentless efforts to continue implementing activities, especially organizing this Forum under the prevailing difficult circumstances.

Before I proceed, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kenya’s Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry for accepting to sacrifice your valuable time to attend this Forum. I also highly appreciate AI-CD Focal Points from the Horn of Africa, Nigeria’s Focal Point representing the Sahel region, AI-CD partners present, and all other participants for your kind understanding and acceptance to participate in this Forum in spite of the challenges that accompany large and long virtual meetings such as this one.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While COVID-19 recently forced the global economy to its knees, eighteen years ago, the world’s attention was focused on a different matter. During the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, desertification was identified, and thrust into the limelight, as one of the greatest challenges to sustainable development. This elevated desertification a global issue and was the first step in a journey towards the future Sustainable Development Goal 15 that aims to “*protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*” by the year 2030.

It is estimated that almost half of the African continent is affected by desertification, and about a quarter of the affected countries are located in the vulnerable landscapes of the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions. As you very well know, desertification leads to loss of agricultural productivity, livelihoods and biodiversity and is aggravated by the adverse effects of climate change. It is with

this in mind that the African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa (AI-CD) was launched at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) by the Governments of Kenya and Senegal, UNCCD and JICA in 2016.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Having said that, let me revisit AI-CDs three pillars, that is, Building Networks, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance. These pillars are supposed to be AI-CDs foundations for combating desertification to strengthen resilience, and I trust that at least in the Horn of Africa, they have already been laid. However, we should always keep in mind that they are not ends in themselves but means to an end. My view is that the success of AI-CD now depends on not what we have achieved so far but how we build on it towards TICAD VII, and ultimately the SDG's target year 2030.

Kindly allow me to elaborate and highlight my views on each pillar.

Ladies and gentlemen,

First, a lot has been done with regards to building networks. However, while this pillar is now firmly grounded, moving forward, the focus should be on how to sustain and effectively utilize the networks.

So far, Horn of Africa AI-CD Focal Points and their compatriots have had adequate opportunities to interact at all levels and in a variety of fora. Several Technical Training Workshops and Regional Forums such as this one have been previously organized. A High Level Ministerial Conference was also held in Nairobi and there has even been participation in international events such as the UNCCD COP 13 in Ordos, China and COP 14 in New Delhi, India.

All these activities have been implemented with the support of JICA, specifically through CADEP-SFM, with assistance from the Secretariat Support Team and they have strongly facilitated the building of networks. However, CADEP-SFM is now in its final year of implementation and is scheduled to end next year. Time is therefore, running out so where the networks should be anchored to ensure continuity is a matter that should be urgently considered by all parties.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My second point is on knowledge sharing. My view is that strategic efforts should be made by

each country to only adopt or domesticate knowledge shared and institutionalize it in order to strengthen capacity to realize AI-CDs aspirations. Continuous sharing and utilization of information is therefore, key.

Fortunately, KEFRI has been maintaining an AI-CD good practices portal on their website, which has a wealth of resources including manuals, guidelines, tools, case studies and examples of good practices drawn from various AI-CD participating countries and even beyond. This is very commendable and my honest opinion is that knowledge sharing is one area that has produced highly visible and tangible results.

The portal is a great platform for not only Horn of Africa countries but also others affected by desertification to share their experience and derive good ideas. I therefore, urge you all to use it as much as possible and at the same time, identify as many good practices as you can from your countries and share them for the benefit of others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

My final point is about access to finance, which is the most unsteady pillar so far. While finance is crucial for major achievements of AI-CDs objectives, accessing it is a complex undertaking that has not resulted in concrete outcomes so far. In view of that, there is dire need to leverage on the other two pillars by strengthening networks and preparing bankable concepts based on the knowledge shared.

AI-CD was launched in the spirit that participating countries would eventually be able to forge relationships with Development Partners and other organizations and access finance for implementing activities. This has proved to be quite elusive since there are many factors that have to be taken into consideration

Countries have prepared Project Concept Notes (PCNs) in the past and shared them with potential development agencies but for one reason or another, the interests of both parties seem not to have quite converged. However, the Secretariat Support Team has lately been assisting countries to refine their proposals and align them to the priorities and schemes of potential organizations in order to strengthen the chances of adoption. It is my sincere hope that all these efforts will finally bear fruit before AI-CD comes to an end.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude, let me emphasize the need to look at the bigger picture, and harmonize and direct

all our efforts towards the overarching aim of AI-CD, which is to **contribute to making nations and communities resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. This is what will make the miles that we have covered thus far worthwhile.**

The Horn of Africa is famous for producing some of the best long-distance runners worldwide. From my observation, I have noticed that besides the stamina and endurance, what makes them winners is the final “kick” that separates them from the rest. My hope and expectation is therefore, that we will focus on AI-CDs final objective and successfully break away towards the finish line.

Thank you.

3.1.3 Speech by Director MEAs, Mr. Cyrus Mageria during the Official Opening of the 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, held Virtually on Wednesday, 9th December 2020

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry,
Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office,
National Focal Points,
Distinguished Participants,
All protocols observed.

Good morning.

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa. This forum has been planned on the premise of the fact that as a region, we have common challenges of land degradation that we need to collectively discuss. Kenya is working very closely with UNCCD, a convention that supports in addressing challenges of Desertification, Drought and Land Degradation (DDLD). Issues of DDLD are very pertinent to Kenya since over 80% of the country is classified Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL). I believe that the other Horn of Africa countries participating in this Forum also have large portions of their land being ASAL. Having such similar climatic conditions just serves to emphasize the fact we have a lot in common to discuss as we endeavour to help our people towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we are aware, AI-CD has been developed as a framework to help African countries fight desertification and strengthen our communities' resilience to climate change and more importantly address issues of drought, desertification and land degradation. This Initiative is being implemented in seven (7) Horn of Africa countries and in eight (8) of the Sahel region countries. The two regions have expansive arid and semi-arid lands and suffer from frequent droughts and floods. It is therefore, imperative that as a region, we need to come together to provide a platform through which we can share best practices in natural resource management, as we gear towards assisting our communities to build resilience to mitigate climate change.

In Kenya, land degradation manifests itself in many ways including: deforestation, loss of vegetation, loss of ecosystem goods and services and occurrence of invasive plant species. Desertification in Kenya mostly occurs in the arid and semi-arid areas, a region that forms over 80% of the country's land mass and is home to bulk of the livestock. Kenya has developed Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, a strategy that is seeking to champion and advocate for paradigm shift in land management and policies in order to seek a balanced approach to enhanced land productivity, and at the same time come up with recovery measures that address degraded areas.

This Initiative is therefore, a channel to help us; share knowledge as there is a lot to learn from the participating countries; develop networks which can be achieved through having a repository where we can upload experiences and best practices; and improve access to finance. Just to note, access to finance has been the biggest challenge given that all the participating countries are developing countries who have limited finance base. Therefore, improving access to finance is very critical as we endeavour to address desertification.

It is important that we have resolved and identified the need to come together to ensure sustainable quality of land and its resources, which currently is very essential in supporting our recover from challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. I note that the pandemic has negatively impacted on our natural resources especially land. However, I believe that experiences and best practices which will be shared during this Forum, will contribute greatly to addressing challenges associated with land degradation in Africa.

I also note that AI-CD came into operation in 2016. We therefore, have had 5 years of engagement and as we come to the tail-end of the Initiative, we need to develop conclusive and workable strategies which can help the participating countries to address environmental challenges being experienced. We also need to make the networks we have created live and active through feedback mechanism in order to have benefits expected.

As I conclude, allow me wish all the participants fruitful deliberations during this Forum.

Thank you.

3.2 Closing Speeches and Remarks

3.2.1 Closing Remarks by Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo, the Director KEFRI during Closing Session of 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, 9 December 2020

I wish to acknowledge the invitation to make the closing remarks of this Forum. We as KEFRI are delighted to have been one of the partners who hosted this Forum. We also acknowledge with gratitude the participation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, especially the Principal Secretary for gracing the opening ceremony, which is an indication of the high esteem the Government of Kenya places on AI-CD activities. Acknowledgement also goes to JICA Representative Kenya Office, Officers from JICA headquarters, the AI-CD Secretariat and Development Partners for their enriching participation. Development Partners shared with us their current strategies on financing in a post-Covid-19 era, an opportunity we should exploit to mobilize resources for small as well as large projects.

I note with appreciation that this meeting has met its three objectives on Networking, Knowledge Sharing and improving Access to Finance. On Knowledge Sharing, a number of platforms were shared with us by AI-CD on how we can also share information to reach a wider network. Let me appreciate AI-CD Secretariat for the organization and logistical support which enabled this particular meeting to take place effectively. I also take this opportunity to thank JICA for the support to the CADEP-SFM project and long term collaboration with KEFRI, a collaboration through which a number of research and development activities, knowledge sharing and capacity building in forestry and environment have been achieved.

Let me also take this opportunity to inform our colleagues from South Sudan and Nigeria, who have shown great interest on *Melia volkensii*, that KEFRI has undertaken a lot of research in development and breeding of *Melia volkensii* and we are willing to offer training and also provide germplasm for trials in these particular countries. However, it should be noted that the species is suited for growing in semi-arid areas and has its own range of conditions, information which can be availed by KEFRI. With those few remarks, I take this opportunity to thank all of us who have participated in this meeting and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year, hopeful that we shall once again meet in 2021 to engage in further discussion.

Thank you very much.

3.2.2 Remarks by Ms. Mari Miura, during Closing Session of 4th AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, 9 December 2020

On behalf JICA Headquarters, I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Kenya (GoK), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and KEFRI for hosting this great Regional Forum. Thank you, participants, from around the world for active participation and spending your precious time and sharing knowledge. Special thanks to the organizers of KEFRI, CADEP and AI-CD Secretariat Supporting Team for their tireless effort.

Today, we are very much delighted we have been able to meet, even though online due to COVID-19 pandemic challenges. I am personally surprised that the meeting went on very well. Thanks to all participants efforts and also technology. COVID-19 has affected the world and has affected more countries and people who suffer from desertification and climate change.

We sincerely wish that today's meeting will lead to ground transformation. We were very encouraged to see countries' initiatives and positive reactions from development partners. Thank you all for your great contributions.

We look forward to working with you more, taking today's outcomes.
We wish you all to stay safe and good health.

Thank you.

4.0 Summary of Papers Presented

4.1 Progress of AI-CD activities by member countries and AI-CD Secretariat

4.1.1 Eritrea: Status Report

By Mr. Heruy Asgedom, Focal point for AI-CD/UNCCD in Eritrea

Focal point for AI-CD/UNCCD

Director General, Agriculture Extension Department,

Ministry of Agriculture,

State of Eritrea

Building Networks

Eritrea has built networks with development partners such as African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who are supporting several on-going projects related to combating desertification.

Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge sharing in Eritrea is undertaken mainly through activities and programmes implemented in collaboration with development partners. These programmes include; National Greening Campaign, Nationwide Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) activities, AfDB Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme in the Horn of Africa Project II (DRSLP II), AfDB Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme DRLSP-IV, AfDB Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme DRLSP-V, Eritrea and IFAD National Agricultural Programme (NAP).

Access to Finance

Eritrea developed a project concept note on “Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target monitoring” whose objective is to highlight Eritrea’s efforts for LDN activities and how to address obstacles for LDN monitoring. The country has contacted UNCCD and AI-CD seeking funding and negotiations are in progress.

4.1.2 Kenya: Progress and Achievements

By Paul Tuwei, Josephine Wanjiku, Michael Mukolwe and Yuki Honjo

CADEP-SFM Team, KEFRI/JICA

Building Networks

Kenya has held Eight (8) events between 2017 and 2020. These are: three (3) Regional Forums for Horn of Africa; the current one makes them four (4), Two (2) Regional Technical Training Workshops for Horn of Africa, Three (3) National Technical Training Workshops, and One Technical Study Tour as Triangular Cooperation for South Sudan government.

Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge sharing in Kenya involves identification, collecting, documenting and sharing good practices. Sharing is done through Internet and Non-internet based methods.

(a) Internet based methods:

This method involves sharing knowledge on an online platform. Good practices from Kenya and other Horn of Africa countries are uploaded on the KEFRI/CADEP webpage, which is available on the KEFRI website, www.kefri.org.

(b) Non-internet methods

This method involves development of good practice knowledge materials, repackaging the materials into other formats such as brochures for further dissemination. Good practices have also been consolidated into publications (book and guideline), which contain information on policies and strategies, institutional building and implementation at local level. The Book and Guideline are respectively entitled:

- Measures for Combating Desertification: Case Studies from Horn of Africa, which is a compendium of policies, institutional building strategies and good practices at local level applied in Horn of Africa.
- Guideline on Effective Measures for Combating Desertification for Achieving Sustainable Development in Horn of Africa, which provides practical advice to policy makers, technical personnel and end-users of information on combating desertification.

Improving Access to Finance

KEFRI developed a Project Concept Note and shared it with AI-CD. The main objective of the project is to strengthen KEFRI's capacity on digitizing forestry research information and innovations for sustainable development and livelihood improvement in Kenya.

4.1.3 Somalia: Progress and Achievements in Combating Desertification in Somalia

By Kenadid Mumin Cali,

Focal point for AI-CD/UNCCD
Deputy Director General of Environment,
Office of the Prime Minister,
Federal Republic of Somalia

Introduction

Charcoal production is the leading cause of desertification in Somalia. If the country has to sustain land productivity and maintain a healthy population in the future, the impact of charcoal production on land degradation needs to be urgently addressed. One of the interventions by Somalia Government is formation of a joint Programme for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihood (PROSCAL); an inter-agency programme implemented by the Federal Republic of Somalia, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and FAO, and is funded by EU, Swedish and Italian governments.

Achievements and progress

- The Director of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) submitted a draft Concept Note on establishing a tree nursery. The nursery will contribute to afforestation and re-greening efforts in the country through production of desired tree species.
- Introduction of environmental policies, which will help the country to address environmental challenges and desertification.
- PROSCAL which is being implemented in each Federal State, is distributing LPG to low income families to reduce the use of charcoal. The programme is planning to provide more LPG in 2021 with the support of AU.
- Re-greening activities are on-going in Barwaaqo State, North and Central Somalia. Tree nurseries have been established in these regions and plans are underway to replicate such activities in other States.
- A number of workshops and training events were conducted in the States at the Federal level.

4.1.4 South Sudan: Progress Report

By George Tadu

Focal Point for AI-CD

Senior Research Scientist

Head of Root/Tuber and Horticultural Research Program

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Republic of South Sudan

and

Aquilino Wani

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,

Republic of South Sudan

Background information

Flooding and prolonged droughts coupled with high poverty and low income among the local communities, as well as increasing pressures on forest resources mainly for charcoal production, have accelerated the rate of desertification in South Sudan. To address these challenges, sustainable economic growth programme is essential in order to promote communities self-reliance. Such programmes include sustainable agriculture and tree production.

Networking

National Strategic Planning and Training of Trainers Workshop

- Consultative planning workshop was held in South Sudan in July 24-25, 2018. The planning workshop was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry with financial and technical support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The workshop was attended by 46 participants drawn from various States, line ministries, NGOs and private sector.
- The overall objectives of the workshop was to engage high level stakeholders and senior leadership of the line ministries, and development partnerships to systematically deliberate on issues of combating desertification.

Technical Study Tour on Peri-urban Farming

- A technical study tour on integrated peri-urban farming was organized for South Sudan's team of African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD) from 23rd to 29th February, 2019 at Kenya Forestry Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. The participants were drawn from key national and state partner institutions.
- The overall goal of the study tour was to build capacity of Project Implementing Unit (PIU) members, on vegetable-fruit/forestry trees integrated farming system, selection of improved crop varieties of superior genetic materials for introduction in South Sudan's peri-urban farming areas, and strengthen the regional networking and sharing knowledge.

Seeds and Seedlings inspection mission to Uganda

- Seed and seedling selection inspection mission was conducted in 2-3 March, 2020 by a team comprising staff of Kulana General Investment and MAFS to various government research institutions under Uganda National Research Organization (NARO). The main objectives of the mission were: 1) To select appropriate crop type suitable for introduction through vegetable-tree integrated farming system in the targeted localities of Juba and Wau peri-urban farming, 2) Identification and selection of crop varieties with superior genetic materials with known ability to tolerate drought and desertification as well as improving soil fertility, and 3) Selection of healthy and quality seedlings.
- The team visited five government institutions; Kawanda, Muzadi, National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFoRRI), Gulu University and Gulu Private Nursery. Recommendation was made of quality seedlings for purchase and supply to the project beneficiaries in South Sudan.

Knowledge Sharing

- To mitigate floods in South Sudan a good practice entitled; Construction of Dykes for building Resilience of Agro-Pastoralist Communities in Flood Plains of South Sudan was shared. The objective of the good practice was to build resilience of the agro-pastoralist communities including, those inhabiting flood prone areas of South Sudan. Adoption of the practice would in turn avoid; loss of livestock, destruction of crops and homesteads as well loss of life.
- In November 2018, South Sudan attended a two-week training workshop at JICA Tsukuba International Training Centre organized by JICA. The overall objective of the workshop was to understand the international discussions of desertification and measures for combating desertification and develop action plans to improve the policies and plans to address related issues in the participating countries. The training helped South Sudan's participant to develop and present a project proposal entitled: "Peri-urban focus community farming to build resilience to climate change in post-conflict, South Sudan". A proposal, which was funded by JICA.

Access to Finance

With assistance of AI-CD and UNCCD, South Sudan developed two project proposals, namely:

- Peri-urban focus community farming to build resilience to climate change in post-conflict South Sudan. JICA South Sudan secured funding for this project.
- Integrated farming for peri-urban areas to combat desertification in peri-urban areas of South Sudan. This proposal is under review by to AI-CD Secretariat, who will also help to seek funding from other development partners. The overall objective of this proposed project is to build the resilience of smallholder farmers in peri-urban areas to cope with effects of droughts and desertification.

4.1.5 Sudan: Progress Report on Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance

By Mona Dawelbait

Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources

Republic of Sudan

Networking

National Networking

A decree was issued by Secretary General of Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resource (HCENR) to re-configure the National Committee to Combat Desertification to include other important stakeholders and research institutions. Consequently, HCENR assumes all responsibilities related to managing challenges of desertification.

State Networking

A proposed State networking is going on.

Knowledge Sharing

- Sudan has a periodic publication “Altasahur Magazine” The third issue is ready for publication.
- Use of the Regional Website designed by AI-CD Secretariat, however, Sudan has not yet benefited from the platform due to delay of networking between the various sectors.
- Sudan is seeking for support to enable the country be able to use Regional Website in order to systematically share knowledge as well as benefit from knowledge from other countries.

Access to Finance

Sudan has proposed a Project entitled; Building Community Resilience to Degraded Land in Alatmoor Area - Sudan. The project proposal is under review with support of AI-CD Secretariat.

The overall project objective is to halt land degradation and desert encroachment in the fertile farming regions.

The project has 4 components, namely;

- Component 1: Conservation of water from seasonal resources in the targeted areas.
- Component 2: Conservation of fertile soil from water and wind erosion.
- Component 3: Regeneration of grazing and pasture areas.
- Component 4: Provision of protection means to fertile lands and human settlements.

4.1.6. Nigeria: Status Report

By Ms. Mabel Emmanuel

Focal Point for AI-CD

Director, Desertification Land Degradation and Drought Management

Directorate of Research and Training

Ministry of Environment

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Networking

The country conducted an In-country workshop that provided a platform for deliberations between local, national and international participants, who shared ideas on challenges and way forward to combat desertification and climate change.

Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge sharing in Nigeria has been done through interactions and exhibitions during regional forums and in-country workshops. During the 3rd AI-CD Regional Forum for Sahel, Nigeria acquired knowledge on:

- ***Melia volkensii***: a deciduous, fast growing tree that is drought tolerant, being used to combat desertification in Kenya. Nigeria has commenced action on introduction of Melia, however introduction of the species can only be achieved after fulfilling all the plant material import requirements and regulations.
- **Porous alpha**: a product of glass that has high surface area and has a high water retention and aeration capacity.
- **Biodegradable tube**: a biodegradable fiber which useful in controlling sand dune.

Access to Finance

Nigeria has developed a project concept note on “Assisted Farmers Managed Natural Regenerations of Degraded Lands in Amba, Nasarawa State”. The objectives of the project are to: improve land productivity, restore land resources, improve climate resilience and secure biodiversity and maintain the critical ecosystem in the site. Presently, no donors have been contacted.

4.1.7 Senegal: Remarks from Sahel Region

By Baba Ba

Focal Point for AI-CD

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Senegal being the Sahel Regional Hub is pleased to be part of the 4th Regional Forum for Horn of Africa. The country appreciates JICA for the continuous support.

Regarding implementation of AI-CD activities, the Sahel region is lagging behind compared to the Horn of Africa. Given that AI-CD is nearing conclusion, and there is not much progress by the region, is a matter of great concern. The proposed resolution is therefore, to have a review mission, who working with Sahel region, will identify the challenges and develop a way forward on how to collectively accelerate implementation of A-CD activities within the Sahel region.

4.1.8 AI-CD Progress and Way Forward

By Yasuo Izumi and Takuya Shiraishi
AI-CD Secretariat Support Team

Introduction

In 2020, AI-CD Secretariat provided online-based assistance, enabling more direct and frequent communications with AI-CD member countries as well as with International Technical and Financial Partners.

Networking

Since inception of the Initiative, AI-CD Secretariat participated and facilitated the following events and fora:

High-Level Side Events

- UNCCD-COP13 Side Event (Ordos-China) Sep. 2017
- TICAD 7 Side Event (Yokohama) Aug. 2019
- UNCCD-COP14 Side Event (New Delhi, India) Sep. 2019

Regional Forum

- 1st HoA Regional Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya) Sep. 2017
- 3rd HoA Regional Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya) May 2019

National Workshop in HoA

- South Sudan Jul. 2018

National/Country Workshops Assistance Programme aims to:

- Promote in-country discussion and consultation about AI-CD among specific country stakeholders.
- Accelerate in-country AI-CD activities of Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance.

AI-CD announced “Call for Proposal” on December 8, 2020 for the Country Workshops Assistance. Through this programme three (3) countries from HoA countries were eligible for assistance of a maximum USD 9,000 per country.

Knowledge Sharing

AI-CD Knowledge Sharing Platform includes:

Tools such as;

Tool 1: AI-CD Website; Tool 2: Facebook; Tool 3: Twitter; Tool 4: YouTube; and Tool 5: Mailing List

Voice from the field

This is an informal knowledge sharing from community, an approach which aims to; solicit local people's voices from the ground, i.e. local undertaking on combating desertification, and provide communities on the ground an opportunity to present their activities:

Collaboration with UNCCD

Link to the AI-CD website to Capacity Building platform "UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace" done.

Japan's Cooperation- More than 20 projects are posted on:

<http://aicd-africa.org/archives/category/japanscooperations>. Articles on Japan-financed projects in both English and French as well as technical manuals are availed on this website.

Promotion of sustainable utilization of AI-CD knowledge

AI-CD Secretariat has commenced discussions with ICARDA on how AI-CD knowledge sharing contents can be used sustainably after AI-CD comes to a conclusion in 2022. One possibility is to integrate AI-CD knowledge sharing contents in well-functioning database such as WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies).

Contribution of Japan's Technology and Experience

A series 2-week training course in Japan entitled: Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa has been held. The objectives of this training are:

- To enhance participants' capacity for formulating and implementing policy to combat desertification.
- To facilitate participants to share their knowledge and experiences with others.

Access to Finance

Country Concept Notes

Focal Points have developed Concept Notes. Though JICA is not a direct funding agency to proposed projects under AI-CD, AI-CD Secretariat Support Team ("SST") is assuming "Supporting", "Guiding" or "Facilitating" roles while JICA plays "Go-Between" function of Focal Points (or Applicants) and ITFPs to promote and facilitate project development and application.

Access to Finance at AI-CD Regional Meetings

- Since 2017 when the first Forum was held for HoA, Access to Finance presentations have been made by SST.
- Project Concept Note (PCN) format discussions have continued between SST and HoA countries.
- PCNs were also discussed during in-country Workshops.

Access to Finance Way Forward

AI-CD Phase 2 (2020-2022)

- AI-CD hopes to give assistance for project application as follows:

- Strategic Assistance to Short-Term Approach Funding Sources e.g. GEF-SGP / Japan Grass Root Assistance.
- Short-Term Approach in close coordination with JICA Overseas Office Staff.

Access to Finance discussions between individual Focal Points (FP) and AI-CD Secretariat to continue ultimate aim of linking the FP with International Technical and Financial Partners.

Country Workshops planned between January and June 2021. During these workshops the FP and in-country stakeholders are expected to collectively develop and refine PCNs

Some Ongoing Progress of FP PCNs

Japan Grass-root Grant Programme:

- South Sudan – “Supporting the resettlement and re-integration of the Returnees and IDPs through agricultural production”.
- Sudan – a new Combat Desertification project to be discussed.

4.2 Strategy of International Technical and Financial Partners (ITFPs) relevant to AI-CD agenda and progress by AI-CD Partners

4.2.1. World Bank Group: Combating Drought and Desertification to Enhance Resilience in the Horn of Africa

By Enos E. Esikuri
Senior Environmental Specialist
World Bank (U.S.A.)

Combating Drought and Desertification to Enhance Resilience in the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa (HoA) is one of the world's most challenging regions in terms of security and development. Poverty is pervasive and gendered. The HoA countries rank very low in Human Development Index (HDI) meaning that adaptive capacities are inadequate. Food insecurity and conflict are key drivers of displacement and they are interrelated. Food insecurity therefore, makes it difficult for the countries to be resilient to drought and desertification.

The World Bank Group has a large portfolio working with countries in the HoA and Sahel to help build resilience via investing in measures for combating land degradation, drought and desertification. Elements of Good Practice in the portfolio include: Institutional Capacity, Analytics, Policies and Markets, Agricultural/livestock Production, Long-term sustained engagement and emergency recovery. The Bank has supported 122 projects over 30 years of collaboration with ministries and research organizations.

The Bank has supported a number of projects in Kenya and Ethiopia, which are taken as case studies. In Kenya, 3 projects have been supported since 1993-2003, focusing on developing key elements of good practice: institutional development, participatory management, environmental policies, drought monitoring, social services and improved water supply. In Ethiopia, 5 projects have been supported since 1974-2003. The first 2 projects focused on emergency recovery while the 3 successive projects focused on mitigation. Currently, areas for investment action include: Knowledge and capacity; technology especially improved farming systems; infrastructure e.g. rainwater harvesting, policies such as incentives for markets, and institutions which include strengthening key institutions.

4.2.2. International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA): Databases and Knowledge Sharing

By Victoria Clarke

Knowledge Management Research Fellow

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Team

ICARDA

Partnerships for knowledge sharing to enhance development effectiveness

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) focus is knowledge shared in partnership with AI-CD, which is indicative of the aim to enhance development effectiveness to: improve livelihoods and ecosystems services, enhance local capacities, support gender equality and endorse the role of youth in transforming African countries. ICARDA has a purpose to increase data available on innovations and the chances of broader dissemination. The major platforms involved in innovation and database process are Rural Solutions Portal and World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT).

4.2.3 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): FAO's contribution to expanding Africa's Great Green Wall

By Dr. Moctar Sacande – Project Coordinator

International Project Coordinator

Action against Desertification

Focal point for Africa's Great Green Wall

Forestry Division

FAO (Italy)

Biophysical Data Collection and Management

FAO is working on surveying the whole continent by using Collect Earth and a Sample-based Approach with more than 300,000 plots. African Union (AU) is capturing all Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALS) in Africa. Biophysical assessment and Collect Earth is used to collect data within a plot and analyses it, especially around the Great Green Wall (GGW) areas.

Biophysical Assessment Using Collect Earth Technology

Biophysical data were collected using Collect Earth, a tool developed by FAO. The organization has been training people on the tool, which is composed of high-resolution images to assess the plots, land cover elements, land-use, land-use changes and land disturbance. Collect Earth is a free, open-source application that allows local experts to interpret high resolution satellite imagery.

Data analysis is done on above-ground and below-ground biomass to monitor biomass evolution that comes through every hectare and land-use change. FAO has been conducting restoration

potential analysis on country by country and case by case basis and publishing literature on the same. Literature has been extended to country level, continental level and three sets of biophysical data are available.

4.2.4 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): Knowledge and experience related desertification, climate change and land degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa

By Mr. Boubacar Cisse

Coordinator, UNCCD Regional Liaison Office for Africa External Relations

Policy and Advocacy Unit

UNCCD (Morocco)

Occurrence and impact of DLDD in Africa

Agriculture is the basis of most African economies, accounting on average for more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of GDP. Over the past two centuries, soil organic carbon loss is estimated at 8% globally from land conversion and unsustainable land management practices. Over a billion hectares are affected by desertification in the continent.

Combating DLDD in Africa

Implementation of DLDD started after adoption of the UNCCD with the process of drafting National Action Programmes (NAPs) in 1994. Participation, bottom-up approach, and consultation/involvement of partners and actors have been key and concrete in the process. The main claim from Africa was enough financial and technological resources for implementation. However, the continent did not succeed in resource mobilization. Through the 10-year strategy from 2008 to 2013 African, as provided by COP 8 decision, engaged in the alignment of their NAP with 10-year Strategic Plan and mainstreaming it in its national and sectoral strategies. Between 2014 and 2020 the African countries started LDN implementation process and many countries set their LDN targets aiming at reaching land degradation neutrality by 2030.

The current UNCCD policy areas are Avoid, Reduce and Reverse land degradation. Flagship programmes initiated by the Convention support countries and regions to:

- Develop projects and programmes to achieve voluntary LDN targets and ensure gender equality.
- Set voluntary LDN targets.
- Address underlying causes of instability linked to land degradation.
- Design national drought plans and sub-regional drought strategies.
- Strengthen strategic partnership and communication for GGW countries restoring degraded landscape.
- Address challenges related to sands and dust storms.

4.2.5 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Eli Kodsi

Technical Advisor on sustainable land management and UNCCD implementation
UNDP

UNDP launched an initiative in Nairobi during the 3rd Regional Forum for HoA in collaboration with AI-CD, European Commission (EC) and Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. This Initiative is a study on scenario analysis to inform policy regarding future changes in land use and land conditions in Eastern Africa up to 2050 and assess its implications for agriculture and food security. A pilot phase has been launched in Kenya and Ethiopia, with KEFRI playing a leading role in Kenya.

The programme is completing policy study and targeting to release the results early 2021. Based on the results, UNDP with its partners of EC and government of Netherlands intends to implement a larger scale capacity building project on the use of scenario analysis to inform policy, and extend the activities in Kenya and Ethiopia working with national data and institutions and later on extend the activities to other AI-CD countries in Eastern Africa depending on the availability of funding.

Securing finance from development partners has been a challenge. There has been limited progress in terms of mobilizing finances to scale up activities and implement priority activities. The approach taken in finance mobilization needs adjustment. Most initiatives are relatively small in size, and AI-CD can facilitate integration into larger initiatives and programmes.

UNDP is the implementing agency for Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the two funds large-scale projects and programmes. A typical project UNDP would have in a country should not be less than USD 12 million. AI-CD therefore, should focus on facilitating networking discussion of its development partners, UNCCD Focal Points in the countries to integrate priority initiatives into larger projects, which would attract funding. Though securing funding may not be easy, countries can find a funding window like the GEF small grant programme to present money to smaller initiatives.

4.2.6 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Adamou Bouhari

Task Manager

Biodiversity/Land Degradation

GEF/BD-LD

UNEP (Cote d'Ivoire)

UNEP is working closely with GEF to support UNCCD activities implementation on the ground with implementing agency and enabling activities like reporting, providing indicators, supporting LDN redeployment in the country, and putting in-country framework for the follow-up of

indicators. It is also a platform in the countries to ensure that stakeholders at the national level can consult and monitor reports to reduce struggle while collecting information.

On resource mobilization, UNEP will have a global support programme that will support capacity building in countries for the next reporting cycle in 2022. Capacity building will be aiming at training the Focal Point at regional level but also identifying key regional consultants that will support the implementation of activities on the ground. There will be activities related to development and monitoring of gender and drought indicators, which will be conducted in collaboration with initiatives already submitted and approved by FAO.

The GGW has recently won a new medium size project of USD 2 million and will help UNEP support the assessment of GGW, and key good. Based on the assessment, cataloging will be done by experts on where to focus in future in terms of institutional capacity for implementation of GGW both within the Eastern Africa and Sahel regions.

IGAD countries are also working towards the GGW initiative. This process will involve the IGAD Secretariat or at least key countries that are already engaged in GGW in collaboration with AU who will guide on information gaps that needs to be collected.

UNEP is planning to package a portfolio of projects that stakeholders or donors from both multilateral and bilateral can use to support the implementation of UNCCD convention in the Sahel and GGW countries. The process will begin in January 2021 and will be done at two levels:

- i. At the technical or expert level, to identify who will present the assessment for validation.
- ii. At higher level of the ministerial framework of GGW and AU to identify who are the custodian of the Pan-African Agency of the GGW initiative.

There is engagement from UN, particularly from Deputy Secretary General; Amina Mohammed, who is committed to support GGW and backing her, is the UNEP Executive Director, UN Agencies who are working together in a harmonized manner to support the implementation of GGW and link it with UN Decade on Restoration. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has a platform, which is managed by UNEP and FAO and is putting in place a Multi-Donor Trust Fund that will leverage resources for implementation of restoration activities in the Sahel.

The UN Decade Secretariat and UNEP Coordinator of GGW initiative will be reaching out in line with UNCCD enabling activity to all members to ensure restoration is done in a harmonized manner. UNCCD Executive Secretariat will guide to put all these in a framework of supporting implementation of the convention.

Discussions are underway with GCF to form an umbrella project within the Sahel to support GGW initiative. UNEP will collaborate to ensure complementarity to ensure all the issues related to

climate change resilience and adaptation related to land restoration is covered by GCF and other activities related to restoration is covered by GEF.

5.0 Way Forward Summary

Networking

KEFRI and AI-CD Cross-regional Secretariat share the participants list among participants to maintain the network.

Knowledge Sharing

Knowledge Sharing - AI-CD Guideline/Book and Good Practices/Case Studies

- KEFRI and Secretariat will ensure the AI-CD Book/Guideline and Good Practices/Case studies available on KEFRI and AI-CD websites.
- Member countries will disseminate AI-CD Book/Guideline and Good Practice/Case Studies to the relevant stakeholder and promote its usage.
- Member countries will share their practices after the dissemination of AI-CD Book/Guideline and Good Practices/Case Studies on its usage at the next/final AI-CD Forum.
- Member countries to share more good practices / case studies with KEFRI for uploading on the website.
- AI-CD Secretariat to share updated information more widely through AI-CD SNS (Face Book and Twitter).
- KEFRI and AI-CD Secretariat will prepare the report for Forum, and share with the participants and other relevant stakeholder.
- AI-CD Secretariat will upload the Forum summary on AI-CD website and SNS (FB and Twitter)
- Senegal (the Sahel Hub) will share the Forum results widely with the Sahel countries.

Access to Finance

- Member countries continue their initiatives to realize their project ideas with support from the hub country and Secretariat, and share its progress at the next/final forum.
- Secretariat produces and shares an “Access to Finance Guidebook” with member countries.
- Participating AI-CD / Development partners share the forum results with their colleagues in HQs/regional offices/country offices for strengthening harmonization and partnerships with AI-CD.

Preparation for the final Regional Forum for HoA (Nairobi, May (TBC), 2021)

- KEFRI starts preparation of the final forum/Conference proposed to be held in May 2021.
- Member countries and partners will cooperate for it.

Preparation for UNCCD COP15 (late 2021) / Final AI-CD Wrap-up 1

- Kenya and Senegal in collaboration with Secretariat to consider holding an AI-CD meeting (final cross-regional meeting).
- Kenya and Senegal in collaboration with Secretariat take lead to prepare opportunities to share the achievement of AI-CD with wider stakeholders (high-level meeting, side event etc.).

Preparation for TICAD 8 (Tunisia, 2022)/ Final AI-CD Wrap-up 2

- JICA/AI-CD Secretariat with Kenya and Senegal will take lead to share the achievement of AI-CD and conclude AI-CD (high-level meeting, side event, etc)
- Member countries and the AI-CD partners will cooperate for the preparation

Country Workshops Assistant Programme – AI-CD

- The programme aims at
 - (1) Promoting in-country discussion or consultation about AI-CD among their domestic stakeholders
 - (2) Accelerate in-country AI-CD activities such as Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance
- **Call for the Proposal announced on 9th December, 2020**
 - (1) Maximum USD 9,000 for each country
 - (2) Six (6) countries will be selected from both Sahel and HoA
 - (3) The way to hold the workshop will be Online or Hybrid (combination of online and physical)
 - (4) Deadline submission will be 31st December, 2020

JICA Training Course in Japan: Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Objectives:**
 - (1) To enhance participants' capacity for formulating and Implementing policy to combat desertification
 - (2) To facilitate participants to share their knowledge and experiences with others (2 weeks (Oct. – Nov.) at JICA Tsukuba International Center
- **Progress**
 - (1) Year 2017: Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, & Senegal (8 persons)
 - (2) Year 2018 : Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan & Sudan (9 persons)
 - (3) Year 2019 : Eritrea, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Somalia and Sudan

(9 persons)
(4) Year 2020-2021: Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea
Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Mauritania,
Cameroon, Senegal (14 person TBD)

* The Year 2020 and 2021 would be planned jointly **in November 2021** due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Annex I: List of participants to 4th AI-CD 4th Regional Forum for HoA

No.	Name	Designation	Country	Organization	Email Address
1.	Dr. Chris Kiptoo	Principal Secretary	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	psofficeenviron@gmail.com
2.	Mr. Cyrus Mageria	Director Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	cyrus.mageria@gmail.com
3.	Dr. Lucy Ng'ang'a	Deputy Director Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	lucynganga09@gmail.com
4.	Mr. Tomoyuki Yasuda	Senior Representative	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	Yasuda.Tomoyuki@jica.go.jp
5.	Mr. Tadashi Shimizu	Project formulation Advisor (Climate Change)	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	Shimizu.Tadashi@jica.go.jp
6.	Mr. John Ngugi	Chief Programme Officer	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	JohnNgugi.KY@jica.go.jp
7.	Mr. Mouktar Mohamold Waberi	Focal Point / Director of Agriculture and Forestry	Djibouti	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	mouktar.m.w@hotmail.fr
8.	Mr. Heruy Asghedom	Focal Point /Director General, Agriculture Extension Department	Eritrea	Ministry of Agriculture	asgedomheruy@gmail.com
9.	Dr. Kenadid Mumin Cali	Focal Point/ Deputy Director General of Environment	Federal Republic Somalia	Office of the Prime Minister	kenadid.env.opm@gmail.com

10.	Dr. George Louise T. Tadu	Focal Point/ Senior Research Scientist, Head of Root/Tuber and Horticultural Research Program	South Sudan	Directorate of Research and Training Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	georgetadu57@gmail.com
11.	Dr. Mona Abdelhafeez Ahmed Dawelbait	Deputy of Secretary General	Sudan	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources	munabdelhafeez@hotmail.com
12.	Inas Ramli	-	Sudan	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources	inasramram@gmail.com
13.	Ms. Mabel O. Emmanuel	Focal Point/ Director, Desertification Land Degradation and Drought Management Directorate of Research and Training	Nigeria	Ministry of Environment	mabelemmanuel@yahoo.com
14.	Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo	Director, KEFRI	Kenya	KEFRI	director@kefri.org
15.	Dr. Michael Mukolwe	Chief Research Scientist	Kenya	KEFRI	mmukolwe@kefri.org
16.	Mr. Paul Tuwei	Principal Research Scientist	Kenya	KEFRI	ptuwei@kefri.org
17.	Ms. Josephine Wanjiku	Senior Research Scientist	Kenya	KEFRI	jwanjiku@kefri.org
18.	Ms. Rebeccah Nenkai	Assistant Research Scientist	Kenya	KEFRI	-rnenkai@kefri.org
19.	Mr. Victor Kamau	Knowledge Management Officer	Kenya	KEFRI	-vkamau@kefri.org

20.	Mr. Keiichi Takahata	Chief Advisor, CADEP-SFM	Kenya	CADEP-SFM	-jojosecarlos@hotmail.com
21.	Mr. Katsuro Saito	Deputy Chief Advisor, CADEP-SFM	Kenya	CADEP-SFM	-saito.katsuro.1958@gmail.com
22.	Ms. Yuki Honjo	CADEP-SFM Coordinator	Kenya	CADEP-SFM	honjoyuki21@gmail.com
23.	Luigi Luminari	Coordinator, Agriculture and Rural Development,	Kenya	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation	-luigi.luminari@aics.gov.it
24.	Mr. Elie Kodsi	Regional Manager	-	UNDP	elie.kodsi@undp.org
25.	Mr. Adamou Bouhari	Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation GEF/BD-LD Division of Ecosystems	Cote d'Ivoire	UNEP	adamou.bouhari@un.org
26.	Ms. Nora Berrahmouni	Senior Forestry Officer FAO Regional Office for Africa	Ghana	FAO	Nora.Berrahmouni@fao.org
27.	Mr. Kazuyuki Fujiwara	FAO Regional Office for Africa	Ghana	FAO	Kazuyuki.Fujiwara@fao.org
28.	Mr. Moctar Sacande	International Project Coordinator, Action Against Desertification, Focal point for Africa's Great Green Wall, Forestry Division	Italy	FAO	Moctar.Sacande@fao.org
29.	Mr. MarcAndre	-	-	FAO	Marc.Parfondry@fao.org
30.	Ms. Victoria Clarke	Knowledge Management Research Fellow	France	ICARDA	victoria.clarke@cgmel.org

31.	Mr. Boubacar Cisse	Coordinator, UNCCD Regional Liaison Office for Africa, External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit	Morocco	UNCCD	bcisse@unccd.int
32.	Mr. Enos Esikuri	Senior Environmental Specialist	U.S.A	World Bank	eesikuri@worldbank.org
33.	Mr. Ba Baba	Focal Point / Sahel Hub Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Senegal	AI-CD Sahel Hub	babasba64@gmail.com
34.	Ms. Fatou Gaye	National Staff	Senegal	(JICA Senegal Office	fatougaye93@gmail.com/GAYE-Fatou@jica.go.jp
35.	Ms. Yayoi Takita	Project formulation adviser	Senegal	JICA Senegal Office	Takita.Yayoi@jica.go.jp
36.	Ms. Tamiko Hirata	Project Formulation Adviser (Agriculture/ Gender	South Sudan	JICA South Sudan	Hirata.Tamiko@jica.go.jp
37.	Mr. Takahiro Ikenoue	Director, Natural Environment Team 2 Forestry and Nature Conservation Group Global Environment Department	Japan	JICA HQ	Ikenoue.Takahiro@jica.go.jp
38.	Ms. Mari Miura	Senior Deputy Director, Natural Environment Team 2 Forestry and Nature Conservation Group Global Environment Department/ AI-CD Secretariat	Japan	JICA HQ	Miura.Mari@jica.go.jp

39.	Ms. Mimi Murase	Associate Expert, Natural Environment Team 2 Forestry and Nature Conservation Group Global Environment Department/ AI-CD Secretariat	Japan	JICA HQ	Murase.Mimi@jica.go.jp
40.	Mr. Yasuo Izumi	Team Leader / Donor Coordination / Resource Mobilization	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	izumi-y@ocglobal.jp
41.	Mr. Yusuke Goto	Countermeasures against Desertification / Project Formulation	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	goto.yusuke@ehcjp.com
42.	Mr. Takuya Shiraishi	Deputy Team Leader Countermeasures against Desertification / Project Formulation	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	shiraishi-tk@ocglobal.jp
43.	Ms. Fumio Sugawara	Public Relations / Regional Cooperation	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	tsukamoto@ocglobal.jp
44.	Ms. Sarah Eid	Research on Financing Modalities	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	sara@ocglobal.jp
45.	Mr. Reo Watanabe	Public Relations / Regional Cooperation	Japan	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	watanabe-ro@ocglobal.jp
46.	Mr. Babacar Dia	Consultant	Senegal	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team	diababacar@hotmail.com

Annex II: Forum Programme



Programme

4th AI-CD Regional Forum for HoA
Wednesday, 9th December 2020

Time (EAT)	Activities/Facilitator
Session I: Opening <i>[Chair: (KEFRI- Dr. M. Mukolwe)]</i>	
9.00-9.20	- Introduction of participants - Forum objectives and programme overview (KEFRI-Mr. P. Tuwei)
9.20-9.30	- Welcome remarks by Kenya Focal Point, Director MEAs
9.30-9.40	- Address by Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office
9.40-9.55	- Opening Speech by Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya
9.55-10.00	- Group photo (screen shot)
Session II: Progress of AI-CD activities by member countries and AI-CD Secretariat <i>[Chair: Kenya Focal Point; Rapporteurs: Ms. J. Wanjiku & Ms. R. Nenkai]</i>	
10.00-10.55	(10 min per presentation) ✓ AI-CD Secretariat ✓ Member countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia Q&A (15 minutes)
10.55-12.00	✓ Member countries: Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Nigeria, Q&A (15 minutes)
12.00-13.00	Lunch Break
Session III: Strategy of International Technical & Financial Partners (ITFPs) relevant to AI-CD agenda and progress by AI-CD Partners <i>[Chair: Director KEFRI; Rapporteurs: Ms. J. Wanjiku & Ms. R. Nenkai]</i>	
13.00-13:30	- Presentation from ITFPs (e.g. AfDB,-GEF, WB, etc.)
13.30-14.00	- Presentation from AI-CD Partners (e.g. FAO, UNCCD, ICARDA, etc)
14.00-14.30	- Contributions from other development partners, (UNDP, UNEP, NEPAD) - Q&A
Session IV: Closing <i>[Chair: AI-CD; Rapporteurs: Ms. J. Wanjiku & Ms. R. Nenkai]</i>	
14.30-14.40	- Synthesis and way forward (AI-CD Secretariat/KEFRI- Mr. P. Tuwei)
14.40-14.50	- Closing remarks (JICA Headquarters)
14.50-15.00	- Closing remarks (Director KEFRI)