



## Proceeding

### Final AI-CD Conference for Horn of Africa

**“Theme: Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance”**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**



**Compiled by  
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**Cover caption**

Screen shot of participants, invited guests and presenters during final AI-CD Conference for Horn of Africa.

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The staff of KEFRI, Forest Research Support Services (FRSS) are appreciated for their support in the planning and implementation of the Conference. KEFRI Corporate Services (Administration) and ICT Section are also acknowledged for their logistical support during the Conference.

## 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	Corona Virus 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 to facilitate technology transfer among African countries in order to collectively combat desertification.

### **1.2 Formation and Implementation 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 Kenya Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized 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. During the launch, a statement was signed by the (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource (MENR)-Government of Kenya, JICA, Government of Senegal and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to accelerate efforts to combat desertification and to strengthen nations and communities resilience to climate change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. AI-CD was therefore initiated in Sahel and Horn of Africa as a 6-year initiative to be implemented from 2016 to 2022.

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.

### **1.3 Objective and output 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 will be 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 Roles and Responsibilities of AI-CD Participating Countries and Secretariat**

Participating countries were expected to identify, collect, document and promote adoption of good practices that address challenges within the Horn of Africa region, improve networks as well as improve their capacity to access finance.

The secretariat coordinated overall activities of the African Initiative as well as provided any other support to promote the African Initiative

#### **1.5 Harmonization of AI-CD with Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management Activities**

Activities of AI-CD were implemented jointly with those of related Initiatives within participating countries. In Kenya, AI-CD activities were 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 was expected to contribute to; sustainable forest management, combating desertification as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The project was implemented through five components one of which was Regional Cooperation. The Regional Cooperation component technical activities were being spearheaded by KEFRI while the MoEF provides policy guidance. The Component aimed to enhance capacity for promoting knowledge sharing and transfer of technologies for strengthening resilience to climate change and drought within Sub-Saharan Africa.

To accelerate knowledge sharing, technology transfer and adoption of existing good practices, the CADEP-SFM Regional Cooperation component has a mandate to build capacity of partners and relevant stakeholders within AI-CD participating Horn of Africa countries. Capacity is built through various scheduled project regional events which include; forums, meetings, technical

training, workshops and conference. As the AI-CD comes to conclusion in 2022, KEFRI in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Kenya), JICA and AI-CD Secretariat are organizing a final project conference, to evaluate gains made within the project period as well chart a way forward for Horn of Africa towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## **1.6 AI-CD Regional fora held for Horn of Africa**

Since inception of AI-CD, Four (4) Regional fora have been held in Kenya, implemented by KEFRI in collaboration with JICA and MoEF. These fora are:

- i. 1<sup>st</sup> AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa held on 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Forum for Horn of Africa, which was a Ministerial Forum for Horn of Africa, held on 29<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa was held on 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 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
- iv. 4<sup>th</sup> AI-CD Regional Forum for Horn of Africa was held virtually on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm East Africa Time (EAT). 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.

Building on success and lessons of the previous fora, the final Conference for Horn of Africa was organized and implemented. However, due to COVID-19 containment measures the conference was held virtually.

## **2.0 Objective and Implementation of the Final AI-CD Conference for HoA**

### **2.1 Objective of the final AI-CD forum for HoA**

The main objective of the Conference was to share experiences of AI-CD on impact in combating desertification and making communities resilient to climate change in Horn of Africa. The objective was achieved through sharing progress and achievements made, challenges encountered and opportunities presented by AI-CD in HoA countries from 2016 to 2021. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) questionnaire was also administered to focal points to ensure that their opinion, identified gaps and recommendations were included for discussion during the conference.

### **2.2 Implementation of the final AI-CD forum for HoA**

The Conference was held virtually on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The mode of implementation was 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 carried out one week before the Conference.

During the Conference Focal Points from participating Horn of Africa countries presented updates on progress and achievements made, challenges encountered and opportunities presented by AI-CD in HoA countries from 2016 to 2021 under Networking, Knowledge Sharing, and Access to Finance.

An advantage of on-line conferencing was the removal of geographical barriers. Utilizing this advantage, it was proposed to invite participants such as International Technical & Financial Partners located out of Africa. 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), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and African Union (AU). Invited International Technical and Financial Partners (ITFP) shared opportunities to further strengthen the network among Focal Points, AI-CD and Development Partners as well as how to enhance synergies and collaboration among relevant initiatives/programmes for AI-CD countries to accelerate countries efforts for combating desertification by strengthening networks, sharing knowledge, and accessing to finance

About 60 participants (Annex 1) took part in the workshop with Focal Points from Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, as well as Senegal which represented the Sahel region presenting progress and achievement by respective countries and regions. Ethiopia was not able to participate due to unavoidable circumstances.

### **2.3 Information on Presentation by Focal Points for the final AI-CD Conference**

The AI-CD Conference being the final forum for Horn for Horn of Africa implemented during the project period 2016-2021, presentations during the Conference were expected to be the final status report from each participating country. Presentation content was therefore to include information on the three AI-CD outputs namely, Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance.

Theme of the Conference was “**Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**”. The report was proposed to include:

- A summary of activities undertaken
- Progress
- Achievements
- Challenges encountered
- Opportunities presented by AI-CD

- Lessons learnt and
- Recommendations.

### **Network building**

- Focal points are expected to give information on any networks built within the country among different departments, harmonization of AI-CD with other projects within the country, creation of common interest group, and process applied in building networks.

### **Knowledge sharing**

- What information has been shared?
- How was information shared and by how many people, communities and organizations.
- Any materials developed for dissemination within the country.
- Information acquired from AI-CD activities such as regional forums, accessed from web sites of participating partners, AI-CD, KEFRI (indicate site).
- Mention any other projects that you have implemented on combating desertification.

### **Access to finance**

- Status of Project Concept Note (PCN).
- Output of discussion with AI-CD SST on PCN.

### **Impact**

Provide overall impact made by the project and give an estimated percentage of the impact

### 3.0 Official Speeches

#### 3.1 Opening Speeches and Remarks

**3.1.1 Speech by Hon. Keriako Tobiko (MBS, SC), Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry during the Official Opening of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on: “Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance”, held Virtually on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.**

Your Excellency, Ambassador of Japan, Ambassador Horie Ryoichi,  
The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Chris Kiptoo,  
Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office, Mr. Hajime Iwama,  
Officers from JICA Headquarters, in Japan,  
The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,  
The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya Forest Service, Mr. Julius Kamau,  
Development Partners,  
AI-CD Focal Points from Horn of Africa,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I join you this morning at the opening ceremony of this Virtual Conference on "**African Initiative for Combating Desertification for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**". I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Kenya and my Ministry, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to welcome you all to this Conference. The Conference comes after a series of four (4) other fora, successfully held for Horn of Africa under the auspices of African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD), since Inception of the Initiative.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** as we can recall AI-CD was launched in 2016 at a high level Side Event during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi in 2016. During this launch, the Government of Kenya, Government of Senegal, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) committed to accelerate efforts to combat desertification to strengthen resilience to Climate change in Sahel and Horn of Africa. The AI-CD objectives were to be achieved through three pillars, namely; building networks, knowledge sharing and improving access to finance. Therefore, it is worth noting that this Conference is tailored to discuss the milestones and achievements realized under the three AI-CD pillars in combating desertification during the five year implementation period.

This Conference therefore, being the final forum before conclusion of the African Initiative, provides: a unique platform for the participating Horn of Africa countries, namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, as well as the Sahel region; appraise milestones, share experiences, lessons, challenges and opportunities presented by the African Initiative in combating desertification, and climate change mitigation and adaptation within the region. There is no doubt the Conference will offer our region the opportunity to consolidate lessons that are critical to meeting the objectives of AI-CD, as well as contribute to realization of global and regional environmental and land restoration agenda such as the: Bonn Challenge, African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union (AU) 2063, and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets. Lessons from AI-CD should also contribute to national goals strategies.

**Ladies and gentlemen,** we take cognizant that the Bonn Challenge is a global effort aimed at restoring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030. This global challenge, being implemented in Africa through African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), aims to restore 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land across Africa by 2030. Various governments in Africa have domesticated the regional agenda to own country situations. For instance, the Government of Kenya has committed to; restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded landscapes as a contribution to the AFR100, reduction of 50% of greenhouse gases from the forest sector by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change, and to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030 as a commitment to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). At the national level, a series of interventions towards achieving and maintaining 10% tree cover by 2022 have been adopted, which include; intensive tree planting campaigns, deployment of fast and effective seed sowing technologies, as well as rolling the Greening Kenya Initiative, which will engage schools and other institutions of learning in tree planting and practical environmental actions.

The rapid increase in human and animal population has led to expansion of agriculture to vulnerable lands, such as are arid, semi-arid areas causing further degradation and desertification. It is therefore, of paramount important to combat further land degradation and desertification in Africa if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a continent, we have a shared responsibility to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs especially those on; climate action by urgently taking action to combat climate change and its impacts, poverty eradication, food and nutritional security, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water, and halting biodiversity loss. In this case, we recognize that the main environmental agenda are transboundary and focusing on landscape restoration. Let us be part of the challenge.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** we are aware the world today is facing very challenging times due to the effects of COVID-19, a pandemic that has disrupted livelihoods, especially for vulnerable communities who mainly depend on natural resources. However, the pandemic has also reinforced

how much we need our forests, woodlands, wetlands, and other land ecosystems for our survival especially in provision of: food, animal feed, and economic recovery, particularly through the green economy. Given the interdependency between people and environment, there is therefore, a great urgency to promote practices that ensure natural resources are sustainably utilized and managed to continually offer livelihood options for communities in Africa.

**Distinguished delegates,** allow me to share with you some lessons from a Conference held recently under the theme "Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling: Catalysing Action for Landscape Restoration". The week-long Conference brought together stakeholders working across multiple sectors to discuss various objectives that included:

- Catalysing a national restoration movement towards the achievement of Kenya's restoration ambitions.
- Sharing different restoration practices suitable for different landscapes.
- Providing a platform for engaging with policy makers for necessary policy adjustments needed to support landscape restoration.

The Conference emphasized on need for concerted efforts to make meaningful gains in pursuit of landscape restoration. The lesson here is that we need to harmonize efforts, and employ coordinated mechanisms from grassroots level to policy makers, for us to address climate change, land degradation and desertification challenges within our region. To effectively promote land restoration, we need to consciously promote social stability through creating inclusive, sustainable livelihood opportunities that embrace the youth, women, as well as Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) in landscape management. Exclusion of such vulnerable groups brings about social inequalities, which have been singled out as a key factor that hinder the fight in combating desertification and achieving land restoration goals.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** The future of Africa lies with our youth, a resource that has enormous knowledge, skills, innovative ability and energy. Therefore, by creating employment for the youth we offer them meaningful alternatives to conflict, and risky immigration trends being witnessed in Africa. An aspiration also spelt out by AU 2063 agenda, which desires to have a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and addressing emerging threats to Africa's peace and security.

**Distinguished participants,** It is encouraging to note that during the 5-year period of AI-CD implementation, numerous milestones and achievements have been accomplished by the Initiative. Under the pillar of knowledge sharing, relevant publications that include; books, guidelines and other information dissemination materials on useful case studies have been developed printed or uploaded on website for wide scale sharing. The call today is to urge participating countries to actively promote practical technologies and innovations, which exist within our region. I encourage wide scale promotion and adoption of the documented practices through use of proven information dissemination pathways that are suited to our socio-cultural and economic

environment. On building networks, lasting linkages have been established within the Horn of Africa and between the Sahel region through which common interest groups will continue to share information on landscape restoration. However, though access to finance still remains a challenge, a pool of trained personnel has been built through the various regional fora. I believe, in future this pool of persons will successfully engage with development partners on fundable environmental related projects. Let us therefore, capture lessons from development partners here today, on funding strategies to attract finances in future.

Lastly, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me, to thank the Government of Japan through your Excellency, whose commitment to working closely with us and beyond on environmental actions is unwavering. Let me also appreciate the Technical and Financial support JICA has continued to offer to; the African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD), this Conference and also to my Ministry. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

To all the Partners, International Agencies, delegates and guests, I say thank you for your commitment in this collective endeavour of addressing climate change challenges and restoring our landscapes.

**Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is now my great pleasure to declare this Conference officially opened.

Thank you.

**3.1.2 Remarks by Mr. Kitagawa Yasuhisa, Deputy Chief of Mission Japan Embassy in Kenya during the Official Opening of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on: “Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance”, held Virtually on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.**

Honourable Mohamed Elmi, Chief administrative Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry,

Dr. Cheboiwo, Director KEFRI,

Participants from member countries; Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal and Kenya,

AI-CD partners, UNCCD, FAO, GEF, ICARDA and my colleagues of JICA,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from Nairobi



Thank you very much for inviting me to address this regional conference of the African Initiative for Combating desertification, AI-CD for the Horn of Africa. It is my honour to be here this morning to make the opening remarks about this very important collaboration among the various countries and stakeholders at a time when the entire globe is threatened by climate change.

In this context, I would like to applaud the great work done by the Kenya, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and KEFRI through strong leaderships. They have been in the fore front in facilitating this initiative and networking with all the key players within the Horn of Africa (HoA) region as well as relationship with the international organisations. To my Kenyan colleagues I say Asanteni Sana. Thank you Very Much.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, Japan special development assistance in the forestry sector in Kenya has a long and distinguished history. Our collaborative relationship started in 1986 and since then the embassy of Japan has enjoyed very cordial relations with MoEF, KEFRI and KFS through this longstanding corporation between JICA and Kenya. Over 35 years KEFRI has been accumulating knowledge as a centre of excellence in the HoA and disseminating such knowledge in the so called Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) as well as the AI-CD. We therefore expect participants in this virtual Conference to exchange ideas on their good practices, lessons and challenges, which will benefit communities in the HoA and the Sahel region and help them become more resilient in their response to the challenges of climate change.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, at this point in time, we are obliged to consider the prolonged drought situation in Northern Kenya as well as in Somalia following poor rainfall since October last year. This situation will escalate in upcoming months as it is predicted that the rains might fail in October, November and December. There will be a need for effective response to this challenge and such a response must combine both humanitarian dimension and long term plans for building resilience practiced under this AI-CD.

I would like to conclude my remarks by reminding you that AI-CD was launched here in Nairobi at the TICAD VI held in August 2016, in the next year 2022, the Conference is coming back to the African continent as TICAD 8 in Tunisia. I am very much hopeful that we will be able to report by then on the progress that has been made towards achieving noble goals which were set out when AI-CD was launched.

Thank you very much.

**3.1.3 Remarks by Dr. Chris Kiptoo (CBS) Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry during the Official Opening of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko,  
Your Excellency, Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Horie Ryoichi,  
Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office, Mr. Hajime Iwama,  
Officers from JICA Headquarters,  
The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,  
The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya Forest Service, Mr. Julius Kamau,  
Development Partners,  
Conference Participants,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

- My duty this morning is to welcome the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and H.E. the Ambassador of Japan in Kenya to officially open the Conference. However, before I do that, allow me to also welcome you all to this final **African Initiative for Combating Desertification** (AI-CD) Conference. I am happy to note that this Conference brings together participants from the Horn of Africa (HOA) and Sahel region, development partners and other AI-CD partners. This in deed is a show of commitment by all of us to collectively address environmental challenges.
- I recall last year in December we also held a successful Forum, which am informed was the first HoA forum to be held virtually. This mode of interaction has now become the new normal. Though we are occasionally faced with challenges of internet connectivity here in Africa, the advantage of virtual meetings is that we can overcome geographical barriers and financial constraints associated with travelling.
- In the last forum we had about 45 participants. I believe this being the Final AI-CD Conference for Horn of Africa we have many more participants to widely share experiences.
- I wish to encourage all participants to learn and eventually apply information and knowledge shared during this Conference to collectively and individually make an impact that will enable us to meaningfully contribute to national, regional and global environmental agenda.

As I conclude, allow me to propose that through this Conference, the participants form an integrated knowledge sharing platform by building lasting partnerships and networks for

continued sharing of information on good practices for combating desertification in the Horn of Africa, even after the conclusion of AI-CD in 2022.

With those remarks, it is now my humble duty and honor to welcome the Ambassador of Japan in Kenya H.E. Mr Horie Ryoichi to make the opening remarks.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honor to welcome the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Keriako Tobiko, to give his speech and officially open this Conference.

Thank you.

**3.1.4 Speech by Mr. Hajime Iwama, Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office during the Official Opening of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on: “Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance”, held Virtually on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from 9.00 am to 10.00 am.**

Hon. Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry of GoK, Keriako Tobiko

Principal Secretary

Your Excellency Deputy Chief of Mission (Name)

Director KEFRI

Representative of Horn of Africa and Sahel countries

Representative UN agencies and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies

All participants

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning Africa, Good afternoon Japan

First I would like to thank the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan and all dignitaries present for sparing your very precious time to attend this important and last regional conference for AI-CD. I also highly appreciate all participants from Horn of Africa countries and great efforts made by all those who were involved in organizing this conference. Despite the challenges brought about by covid -19 global pandemic, I am glad that their efforts have not gone to waste.

**Ladies and gentlemen**, since AI-CD was launched almost 5 years ago at TICAD VI, there are many ceremonies and numerous speeches delivered. Today, I will therefore try to avoid being repetitive and instead talk about my three interpretation of this occasion. My first thought is, this is the time to take pride in how much we have achieved so far under AI-CD and celebrate. AI-CD was an ambitious journey that began slowly on dry background without very clear direction. However, step by step, things started taking shape beginning with the incorporation of Horn of Africa part into the regional cooperation component of the CADEP-SFM project that had just started. This was strengthened by the establishment of the secretariat to support both the HOA and Sahel Region countries.

A lot of progress has been made since then starting with the CADEP-SFM formulation of AI-CD Terms of Reference for HOA and a tool for collecting good practices. Both of these were consequently disseminated to and adopted by the Sahel Region, thus giving AI-CD shape and home. This has resulted into accumulation of numerous good practices that have been shared among AI-CD participating countries in line with AI-CD knowledge sharing pillar. The networking pillar was also built and strengthened in the series of regional workshops and international events including UNCCD COP. Today is a day to take stock of what has been done and apply these achievements. Congratulations!!

**Ladies and gentlemen**, let us also take a moment to appreciate all those who have been instrumental in driving AI-CD agenda wholly. Progress and success cannot be achieved in the backyard. So many of you have dedicated your precious time and put in a lot of efforts towards the achievement of AI-CD objective despite the limitation and separation by physical distance, time differences and difficulties in communication.

This session became even more challenging following the onset of covid-19 but despite of that, implementation of AI-CD activities has resolvable continued. I truly wish if I could mention and commend each and every one who has contributed to the progress of AI-CD, but due to time limitation, kindly allow me to express my sincere and great appreciation to Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of Kenya, AI-CD and UNCCD focal points from the Horn of Africa, AI-CD representative for the Sahel region, CADEP-SFM component 5 team, AI-CD Secretariat, JICA Headquarters staff and JICA Kenya office staff for the strong dedication and the high degree collaboration in implementing AI-CD.

Finally, as you know, this is the last AI-CD event to be organized by CADEP-SFM project. It is now therefore time to reflect on what has been done so far and articulate the way forward towards coming TICAD 8 when AI-CD is scheduled to end and beyond. Let us remind ourselves the AI-CD to strengthen nations and communities resilience to climate change by promoting measures of combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. This was expected to be achieved through 3 pillars; that is; establishment of networks among the participating countries and

development partners, knowledge sharing and improvement of access to finance. I note and appreciate that quite good network has been established and strengthened through participation in several regional workshops and international fora, where much knowledge has been shared. The AI-CD Secretariat has also been supporting the participating countries with regards to access to finance.

However, it is important to keep in mind the concrete intentions behind these 3 pillars as follows; The key objective for establishing network was specifically to combat desertification by strengthening resilience to climate change and contributing to raising global awareness of desertification. The purpose of knowledge sharing was to enhance effectiveness of development effort in the region. The aim of improving access to international finance was to promote measures for combating desertification. The task at hand now is to deeply examine the extent to which these approaches aspirations have been achieved and articulate what needs to be done going forward in order to ensure sustainability.

As I conclude, I take this opportunity to once again sincerely commend CADEP-SFM component 5 team, comprising of KEFRI staff team and CADEP-SFM experts for taking the lead and closely collaborating with all stakeholders to set and sustain all AI-CD work on the right path. I also wish to reaffirm the JICA support for AI-CD and to trust that Horn of Africa countries now have a strong base on combating desertification towards strengthening resilience to climate change.

Thank you very much for listening.

## 3.2 Closing Speeches

### 3.2.1 Speech by Dr. Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry during the Official Closing of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance, held virtually on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Officials from JICA Headquarters,  
Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office,  
The Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,  
The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya Forest Service, Mr. Julius Kamau,  
Development Partners,  
Focal Points from Horn of Africa,  
Conference Participants,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

It is with much delight that I join you once again to officiate in this important forum that marks the conclusion of AI-CD Conference. This closing ceremony is indeed, an important occasion as symbolizes an end to a successful "**African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD) Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**". It is with much pleasure and commendation, that I therefore, take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for having effectively and fruitfully participated in this Conference, which enabled us to meet its objectives.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, this Conference was expected appraise the impact AI-CD in Horn of Africa from networking, knowledge sharing and improving access to finance as approaches for making communities resilient to climate change and combating desertification in Africa. I am happy to note that this objective has been fully met through: interactive presentations and in-depth discussions facilitated by a wide range of experts, as well as sharing experiences, progress and achievements, challenges and opportunities presented by the Initiative in the participating countries. The open discussions among stakeholders who participated, development partners, AI-CD implementers and partners as well as the respective Focal Points, greatly propelled the realization of the Conference objectives.

This Conference and other forums held during the Initiative's implementation period, provided a platform for exchange of information and technologies not only within Horn of Africa and Sahel

Regions but also to other Sub-Saharan Africa countries. The fora also provided the participating countries an opportunity to interact with development partners and deliberate on modalities for engagement towards fundable projects and proposals. However, it is still noted that one of challenges highlighted by Horn of Africa is that of inadequate finances to roll out proposed activities. However, we are positive that further engagement will doubt alleviate this challenge. We continue to appreciate the strong international community commitment to working with Africa towards a land degradation neutral world by 2030 and achieving the SDGs.

**Distinguished delegates**, as institutions and persons charged with the responsibility to sustainably manage and protect the environment, we need to reflect, aspire and join efforts as a team committed to common objectives of combating desertification. Given that climate change effects and challenges transcends geographical boundaries we need to work together to deliver for all. One approach to achieving this goal is to strengthen our social networks and platforms that will enable us to continuously share information, resources and technologies on combating desertification and building resilience to climate change as we look towards achieving the global and regional environmental agenda.

The AU Agenda 2063 envision forests in Africa, through the Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa 2020-2030 (SFMF). The principles and priorities for Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (SFMF) includes but are not limited to:

- Developing capacity and knowledge management for SFM.
- Developing supportive policies and institutional frameworks for SFM.
- Restoring degraded forests and landscapes for building resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
- Building partnerships and mobilizing resources for achieving SFM.

These principles align well with the output of AI-CD of networking, knowledge sharing and improving access to finance.

**Distinguished participants**, allow me to share with you a step taken by my country recently. Kenya officially joined the Adaptation Action Coalition; which was formed in January 2021 with an aim to accelerate global action on adaptation to climate change to achieve a climate resilient world by 2030. The Coalition will drive efforts across Adaptation Action Agenda 2030 through targeted sectoral work streams and events. The lesson here is that we need to be more aggressive in addressing climate issues, given that, land degradation, desertification and climate change continue to be a great challenge for us in Africa. Let us challenge ourselves to identify and harness opportunities from strategic partnerships and collaborations for funding and knowledge sharing as we endeavour in building resilience to climate change.

**Distinguished delegates**, though AI-CD is coming to an end soon, let us take pride in what has been achieved and purpose to commit to applying lessons from the Initiative. Let us continue the dialogues as we brainstorm and examine how the knowledge and skills acquired can best be put use to empower communities in our respective countries. Let us all make a positive change however small it may seem.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, I believe that we have all noted the increasing demand and positive impacts of knowledge sharing, building networks and improving access to finance to build resilience to climate change in the region. We take cognizant that access to finance is the key factor in addressing evolving requirements for climate change issues and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Land Degradation Neutrality Targets (LDN), among other environmental agenda, yet it still remains a challenge. It is on this note that my Ministry would like to make an appeal to JICA to consider extension of AI-CD activities to further enhance application and scaling up of good practices and innovations shared.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to thank the Government of Japan through JICA, whose commitment to working with us is resolute. Let me also appreciate the Technical and Financial support JICA has continued to offer to; AI-CD, this Conference and also to my Ministry. We are truly proud of the long standing partnership through which much capacity has been developed within our region. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

To all the Partners, International Agencies, participants from the Horn of Africa, Delegates and Guests, I say thank you for your commitment in this collective endeavour of addressing climate change challenges and desertification. Certainly, this is a show of your commitment to tackle common environmental challenges facing us in Africa today.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my duty to declare "**African Initiative for Combating Desertification (AI-CD) Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**" officially closed

Thank you.

**3.2.2 Speech by Deputy Director General, Global Development JICA Headquarters by Mr Takahiro on behalf of Mrs Izumra during the official closing of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**

Director KEFRI, Dr. Joshua Cheboiwo,  
All the Partners from Ministry of Environment and Forestry,



Representatives from of the HoA and the Sahel Countries,  
AI-CD and Development Partners,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening. First of all I would like to express my appreciation to ministry of Environment and forestry of Kenya and KEFRI our long lasting partners for their strong leadership and commitment in AI-CD and our thanks also goes to all the AI-CD Focal points for their long term dedication and engagement. Further I also have to appreciate AI-CD and development partners for their continuous contribution and support regarding implementation of all activities related to AI-CD and not forget the major support offered by CADEP team, AI-CD secretariat and also JICA staff.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks for the cooperation with AI-CD and with that contribution from stakeholders we could not have achieved this much output in AI-CD which we shared today.

I am very much encouraged to see remarkable progress we have made and achievement delivered by HoA countries. From the conference I am happy to see much output achieved in 5years especially in terms of human resource development and knowledge sharing and networking and also effort made towards improvement of access to finance will lead to tangible results in the near future.

As you know, AI-CD was launched at TICAD 6, when it was launched, it seemed to be rather very ambitious initiative, and however after 5 years we are here with very robust achievements as we shared today, so as we know, we have little time to termination of AI-CD and am sure with continuous efforts and support from all the parties, we can have greater results during this and will be held next year in Tunisia. We believe that this will give great impact to the international society for promoting activities of combating desertification.

As we are aware, access to finance has been our biggest challenge over the years, so we use this opportunity to ask all of you to further accelerate efforts, commitments and support for the realization of the project proposal for the finance made by the member countries. Of course JICA, we are ready to extend our support as much as possible.

To conclude my remarks, thank you again for the stakeholders and AI-CD who have dedicated this great effort for us.

Thank you very much

### **3.2.3 Closing remarks by Focal Point South Sudan by Edward Ugo on behalf of Dr George Tadu, during the official closing of the African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa on Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance**

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to make these remarks on behalf of Dr. George Tadu. We have indeed learnt a lot from this conference, we have learnt from the different countries progress and the achievements presentations including case studies. We have also learnt from the regional experiences and the wonderful presentations we have received.

We have also learned from our development partners with all the presentations that have been given to us from the various development partners including the resources available for all the countries in the HoA and Sahel region to help our government complement the various efforts in terms of implementing our various plans and programmes in our countries.

It is then our hope that especially the Focal persons we will be able to utilize this opportunity to mobilize these resources to be able to complement our efforts to adapt and combat desertification including creating opportunities for our women and especially youth and improve livelihood.

We are then very proud of all these achievements and much thanks to the Kenya hub and to JICA and all our development partners.

Thank you so much

## **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: Progress and achievements**

By Mr. Heruy Ashgedom

Focal Point for AI-CD/UNCCD

Director General, Agriculture Extension Department

Ministry of Agriculture

State of Eritrea

#### **Building Network**

In Eritrea, networks have been built and strengthened within different Ministries including; MLWE, MEM, MOE, MOI, MLG, and FWA. AI-CD was also harmonized with other projects such as AfDB and IFAD funded projects aiming in combating land degradation and desertification. A common interest group, which is “National Greening Committee”, was strengthened with establishment of committee at Ministerial, Steering and Technical committee level.

#### **Knowledge sharing**

Good practices implemented in combating land degradation and desertification was shared by individuals, communities and institutions. Information was shared through national media, including TV every two weeks, Radio and Newspaper weekly. The dissemination materials within the country included:

- Documentary video clips of exemplary farmers, communities and institutions.
- Training reports; from AI-CD supported training by staff from KEFRI on Concepts of “Good Practice”
- The AI-CD guideline on effective measures for combating desertification for achieving sustainable development in the Horn of Africa and the book on measures for combating desertification: Case study from Horn of Africa.
- The national greening campaigning (by the entire community)
- Summer student companying

#### **Access to finance**

Among the three AI-CD pillars, access to finance has been the most challenging to achieve. A project proposal was developed to conduct Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target monitoring. But due to lack of access to finance it has not yet been accomplished. However, there was AfDB and IFAD funded projects on drought, land degradation and desertification being implemented in the country.

#### **4.1.2 Djibouti Status Report: Progress and achievements**

By Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Ismail

Focal Point Djibouti

Since 2018 a lot of activities have been done in terms of tree planting in efforts of combating desertification. Around 1 million trees were planted in the whole Republic of Djibouti in 5 districts. Seven (7) varieties of trees including *Acacia senegal*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia multenia* and *Acacia abyssinica* were planted. About 10,000 Neem trees have also been planted. Date palm tree planting programme has been going on since 2006 and 20,000 vitro-plants have been planted.

#### **4.1.3 Kenya Status report: Progress and achievements**

By: Josephine Wanjiku, Michael Mukolwe and Yuki Honjo

##### **Building Network for Horn of Africa**

Kenya has held Ten (10) events between 2017 and 2020. These are: four (4) Regional Forums for Horn of Africa; the current one makes them five (5), 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.

The country also held a Technical Study Tour for South Sudan government in 2019. The study tour was organized as triangular cooperation in the Horn of Africa under AI-CD to build and strengthen the regional network and share knowledge.

##### **Knowledge Sharing for Horn of Africa**

Kenya produced and circulated AI-CD Guideline and Book on combating desertification in Horn of Africa. All seven Horn of Africa countries contributed information regarding the three pillars, towards development of the guideline and book. The publications were launched during UNCCD COP 14; AI-CD Side event in New Delhi, India September 2019.

Three major pillars in the publications are:

- Policy
- Institutional Building
- Implementation at local level

There is a designed and developed CADEP-SFM web page on KEFRI website for accumulating collected information on Good practices and Case Studies: <https://www.kefri.org/cadep>. In use of non-internet methods, 8 good practice brochures were developed for disseminating techniques to end users.

## **Opportunities, Challenges, Lessons Learnt and Recommendations**

### **Opportunities**

- Created Networks and Knowledge platform
- Trained personnel for HoA
- Leveraged on prospect created by development partners

### **Challenges**

- Communication systems inclusive of ICT infrastructure.
- How to promote adoption of good practices.
- Access to finance to promote activities.

### **Lessons Learnt**

- Need to have a common understanding for ownership (e.g. ToR)
- Involvement of policy makers to mainstream the Initiative.
- Be innovative due to emerging challenges e.g. COVID-19.

### **Recommendations**

- To sustain and continue working together within and among HoA.
- Promote knowledge and practices at ground/community levels.

#### **4.1.4 Somalia Status report: Progress and achievements**

By Kenadid Mumin Cali

Focal Point for AI-CD/UNCCD

Deputy Director General of Environment

Office of the Prime Minister

Federal Republic of Somalia

Some of the progress and achievements of Somalia in environmental matters are:

- In 2007, The Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) appointed the Ministry of Environment and Disaster Management.
- In 2014, the FGS established the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
- In 2015, FGS appointed State Minister for Environmental Affairs.
- FGS established a Directorate of Environment under the Office the Prime Minister in 2016.
- Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, H.E. Mahdi M. Guled strategically leads the core mandates of the Directorate and as well acts as a Focal person to a number of Environmental conventions which Somalia has ratified.
- Introduction of environmental policies, which helped the country to address environmental challenges and desertification then followed.

**Priorities of sustainable land management include the following interventions:**

- Inventories of land resources.
- Strengthening the capacity of institutional, technical, and financial institutions in the country to monitor and report on the status of the Somali soil resources.
- Diversifying sources of energy and the adoption of renewable energy.
- Instituting a land degradation monitoring system.
- Preparation of databases on the abiotic natural resources.
- Creating an agricultural/soil research institution.

#### **4.1.5 South Sudan Status report: Progress and achievements**

By Edward Ugo Renzi for Dr. 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

#### **Building Network and Knowledge Sharing**

- In November 2018, an officer from South Sudan attended a two-week training workshop in Japan. The theme of the workshop was to Combat Desertification and Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa. During the workshop a plan of action entitled “*Peri-urban focus community farming to build resilience to climate change in post-conflict, South Sudan*” was developed. The plan was further developed and presented to JICA as a pilot proposal for implementation in the Republic of South Sudan through AI-CD and UNCCD.
- Through the project, two awareness creation workshops for farmers, mainly targeting women and youth were conducted in the country.
- A Technical Study Tour to KEFRI to build capacity of AI-CD South Sudan project implementation team members was conducted.
- Construction of tree nursery shade houses at Juba to raise improved seedlings for distribution to the beneficiaries and to ensure sustainably seedlings production for the planting by target farmers.
- Seeds/seedlings inspection mission was undertaken in Uganda. The trip involved identification and selection of crop varieties with superior genetic materials with known ability to tolerate drought as well as improving soil fertility.
- Mother plant garden to serve as an educational and research facility operated and managed by the Department of Horticulture, Directorate of Research MAFS.

#### **Access to finance**

In January 2019, a pilot project attracted a grant (JPY 6,698,000) an equivalent of (USD 62,092) through JICA South Sudan office for implementation in Juba and Wau towns. In August 2019, MAFS, MEF and JICA signed MoU which officially kick started the project implementation.

### **Challenges**

- Late kick-start of the project implementation in August 2019 instead resulted into incompleteness of the project activities on time.
- Dependence on free relief and humanitarian assistance which has created dependence syndrome among communities.
- The economic crisis and serious devaluation of the South Sudanese pound against dollar therefore it has low capacity to withstand the market load hence difficulties in finding commitments from staffs.
- Lack of clear land ownerships.
- Limited budget with no overhead costs.

### **Way forward**

- Close collaboration and partnership with private sector, DPs, NGOs, FOs, KEFRI and other stakeholders to ensure promotion of integrated farming systems and practices so as sustain soil fertility, improved farm land productivity and reduce desertification.
- Mobilize funding for promotion and up scaling of the integrated community farming system.
- Design appropriate market system for the peri-urban vegetable and fruit/tree producers.
- Adaptation and promotion of indigenous vegetables with high nutritious value and adaptation and tolerance to the local conditions.
- Continues awareness on impacts of climate change on agricultural production and productivity.

#### **4.1.6 Sudan Status report: Progress and achievements**

By Mona Dawelbait

Deputy Secretary General

Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources

Republic of Sudan

### **Introduction**

The Higher Council of Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), established by the Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 2001 (Amended in 2020) is under the chairmanship of the prime minister. It is a Sudan Government Federal agency responsible for protection and sustainable management of the countries natural environment and ecosystems.

### **Programme types in updated SNAP**

- Programmes and activities related to institutional building for coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
- Programmes and activities related to capacity building and human resources department.
- Programmes and activities related to priority programme areas at state level (25 Hotspots)
- Other priorities related to the implementation of the UNCCD pilot projects
- Unifying environmental policies involving civil societies at the state level through the provision of integrated holistic environment information systems.
- Promoting environmental public awareness using popular and state of the art communication channels
- Enhancing scientific research in the field of environment at federal and state levels
- Introducing environmental education programmes in curricula courses at various levels, including research outputs
- Extending and promoting the utilization of environmental and intermediate technologies in rural areas
- Promoting and developing alternative renewable energy sources, (bio-energy, solar energy, wind energy etc.)

#### **Establishment of national observatory**

- Activation of the units of combatting desertification in all sectors states.
- Assessment of state of desertification (Trend and drivers) periodically.
- Capacity building and Human resource development unifying the environmental policies involving civil society at state level through provision integrated/holistic environment information systems.

#### **National Networking**

A decree was issued by Secretary General of HCENR in 2021 to establish 2 committees within the National Committee to Combat Desertification (NCCD). One for developing Project Concept Note and another for fundraising for knowledge sharing and networking with the research institutes under development.

#### **Knowledge sharing**

- There is a periodic “Altasahur Magazine” now the third issue ready for publication
- Geoportal of Sudan National Combating Desertification Database
- National Workshop of Knowledge Sharing for Combating Desertification supported by AI-CD.
- Participation of awareness sessions for media specialists and universities students and staff.

#### **4.1.7 Update on progress and achievements from the Sahel region**

By Colonel Baba Ba



Focal Point Senegal

### **Activities within the AI-CD framework**

- Participation in regional meetings
- Sharing good practices
- Identification and collection of good practices to strengthen resilience to climate change and drought
- Establishment of a database and its dissemination
- Technology transfer to other countries

### **Knowledge Sharing**

The Sahel held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sahel Regional Forum from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The forum focused on: development of activities at member countries and partners level, sharing of good practices, AI-CD framework and access to finance. Each country updated its progress on the 3 pillars of AI-CD. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali also organized their National workshops for the AI-CD to strengthen the knowledge sharing pillar. The Sahel Hub has also been participating in COPs: COP 12, COP 13, COP 14 and COP 22.

### **AI-CD Framework**

#### **Networking**

Presentation of the AI-CD organisation chart for the Sahel was made, Senegal being the regional Hub. MEDD Senegal and JICA Senegal team works closely with JICA Tokyo for adequate coordination of activities, promoting good momentum and supporting all other member countries for development.

#### **Promotion of knowledge sharing**

In this context, CILSS proposal has capitalized on more than 350 good practices that should be summarized according to the needs expressed by the member countries of the AI-CD in the Sahel. The team responsible for coordinating activities (Sahel Hub: MEDD and JICA-Senegal) examined the CILSS proposal and its reaction was submitted to the above institution. Participants reviewed and commented on the concept note.

#### **Access to finance**

- Each country to presented its Project Concept Note during the Forum and comments made by other participants and donors;
- All countries were to discuss with financial partners in order to refine their project concept note and increase their chances of funding.

### **Opportunities**

The Sahel Hub through AI-CD is exploring opportunities for networking and sharing of good practices through:

- Planning a virtual training course on good practices with CILSS.
- Involvement of entities responsible for the supervision of local authorities (Example: Regional development agencies / ARD of Senegal).
- Collaboration with producer organizations (Example: Rural consultation and coordination framework / Senegal CNCR).

### **Challenges**

- Access to finance is still the weakest link in the Initiative.
- The failure of collaboration mechanisms with CILSS greatly delayed sharing of good practices.

### **4.1.8 Case Study: Enhancing Community Resilience against Drought in Kenya (ECoRAD)**

By Dr. Monicah Kinuthia

Ministry of Devolution and ASALs

#### **a) Sustainable Prosopis Control through Charcoal Production**

Prosopis is an invasive species that can be controlled by cutting it down for charcoal production. Sustainable cash income with Prosopis is parallel with its control. Cutting Prosopis by Power saw was observed to be 12 times more efficient than using the manual hand axe and has good economic returns. For example; from records in the Project at 3 communities, a power saw was hired 360 times where 5,472 trees of Prosopis of average diameter of 14 cm were removed. From this harvest it was estimated that 12.1 acres of Prosopis forest were cleared. The benefit has been calculated to be USD 47 per hire.

#### **b) Continuous Data Updating System (CoDUSYS) in Turkana GIS Water Database**

The data updating of water database in Turkana is done in 3 stages:

##### **Stage 1: In-office updating**

This involves accumulation of individual information at respective offices. Water officers could provide information (functionality, water quality, etc.) of 73% of boreholes located in the county.

##### **Stage 2: Field Verification/updating**

Since 73% of data was collected, it is considered that only 27% is remaining. Using the database available in smartphones, collect supplemental data as much as possible at sites. The most important point is to update the database within your capacity every year. Data input is made using the smartphone too.

##### **Stage 3: GIS Mapping**

This involves updating the real geographical location of the boreholes with the correct data acquired from field verification.

### **Advantages of CoDUSYS**

- Low Cost
- Quick
- Multi-purpose
- User-friendly

### **Disadvantages of CoDUSYS**

- Data accuracy not very high if not updated regularly.

### **Comments**

- An observation was made from the studies done by KEFRI that when a Prosopis tree is felled, there should be a contingency of killing the stump, if its left then it will have a very profuse coppicing which will be more difficult to control. Burning and putting cow dung on it are ways of killing the stumps to reduce the population of Prosopis.
- KFS noted that there is a Bonn Challenge commitment to restore deforested and degraded landscapes and in the region we have AFR100 to restore 100 million Ha by 2030, there is need to build synergies as we develop the land restoration Action plan which is a 5year ambitious plan to accelerate landscape restoration. The feedback and lessons learnt through the presentations should be incorporated in the plan to be finalized in October 2021.

### **4.1.9 AI-CD Progress and Way Forward**

By Yasuo Izumi and Takuya Shiraishi

AI-CD Secretariat Support Team

### **Objectives**

To contribute to:

- 1 Making nations and communities resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification
- 2 Raising awareness of the international community to desertification

### **Networking: Progress**

#### **High-Level Side Event**

- 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**

- 1<sup>st</sup> HoA Regional Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya) Sep. 2017
- 3<sup>rd</sup> HoA Regional Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya) May 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> HoA Regional Meeting (Online) Dec. 2020
- Sahel 2<sup>nd</sup> Sahel Regional Meeting (Dakar, Senegal) Aug. 2018
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sahel Regional Meeting (Dakar, Senegal) Jul. 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sahel Regional Meeting (Online) Jan. 2021

## **Country Workshop (National Workshop)**

- South Sudan Jul. 2018
- Nigeria Apr. 2019
- Burkina Faso Jul. 2019
- Senegal Jan. 2020
- South Sudan Jun. 2021
- Sudan Jun. 2021
- Mali Jun. 2021
- Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Eritrea (Planning to hold)

## **AI-CD Knowledge Sharing Platform**

Tool 1: AI-CD Website <http://aicd-africa.org>

Page examples

- Japan's Cooperation
- Knowledge Shared from CGIAR
- Voice from the Field
- Technical Materials
- Event

Tool 2: Facebook

Tool 3: Twitter

Tool 4: YouTube

The platforms have about 7,501 followers, mostly from the HoA and Sahel regions.

## **Knowledge-Sharing: Progress**

Voice from the Field

- Grass-root knowledge sharing from community level using SNS tools
- Short film making aims to share efforts made by each country and attract attention from stakeholders
- A capacity building workshop was organized for shooting a video with smartphone
- Nigeria already made a draft short film.

## **AI-CD Knowledge Hub - Collaboration with ICARDA**

Direct link to AI-CD website

### **Collaboration with UNCCD**

Link to the AI-CD website set in a world-famous Capacity Building platform “UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace

### **Access to Finance**

#### **AI-CD Access to Finance: Objectives & Goals**

##### **Objectives**

- To increase capacity of Focal Points of member countries and stakeholders on key issues of “Combating Desertification”.
- To assist Focal Points in developing Specific Project Concept and in refining it to the level to be applied for funding; Project Applications to International Technical and Financial Partners (“ITFPs”) will be made and accepted.

##### **Remarks**

- AI-CD Secretariat playing “Go-Between” functions of Focal Points (or Applicants) and ITFPs to promote and facilitate project development and application.
- AI-CD Secretariat has been assuming “Supporting”, “Guiding” or “Facilitating” roles
- Japan has contributed to solving global environmental issues including its financial contributions to the GCF and GEF. Under AI-CD, JICA plays a role to facilitate access to finance through capacity building, not a direct funding agency to proposed projects.

### **Access to finance Guidebook**

The guidebook is to assist FPs in acquiring basic information on funding opportunities introducing relevant financial schemes ranging from the financial mechanisms for environmental conventions (e.g. GEF, GCF), the Multilateral Development Banks (e.g. WB, AfDB), and others. It will be shared with FPs.

### **Refining PCNs with Focal Points (2020)**

Refining of Project Concept Notes (PCNs) was undertaken to ensure they contain essential information for presenting to ITFPs. Hub countries have contributed to this process by attending the series of online meetings.

### **Preparatory Meetings with ITFPs (2020-2021)**

AI-CD coordinated and conducted meetings with International Technical and Financial Partners (ITFPs) to seek possible collaboration based on PCNs. They discussed ITFPs strategies and programs on Desertification and Climate Change.

### **Matching Meetings between FPs and ITFPs (2020 – to date)**

The initiative facilitated matching meetings between FPs and ITFPs to discuss PCNs. Arranged discussion for ITFPs to incorporate FPs PCNs and Climate Change issues into ITFP's Strategies and Programs.

#### **Assisting FPs Project Application to ITFP's Program (2021-2022)**

This involves facilitating formal applications/ integration of PCNs into ITFPs existing project/program by 2022. FPs self-capacity for project development with a wide variety of ITFPs will have been achieved. Further development of PCNs and Climate Change Project will be done.

#### **Matching Meetings between FPs and ITFPs (2020 – to date)**

- Facilitated Matching Meetings between FPs and ITFPs to discuss PCNs.
- Developed discussion for ITFPs to incorporate FP's PCNs and Climate Change issues into ITFP's Strategies and Programs.
- Assisting FP's Project Application to ITFP's Program (2021-2022).
- AI-CD secretariat circulated information of the opportunity and supported NGOs to refine their application based on FP's requests. Four (4) NGOs have applied.

#### **Achievements up to August 2021**

- Promoted AI-CD through ownership of member countries under strong leadership of regional hub countries.
- Strengthened networks within the region and between international partners both at the political and working levels.
- Enhanced the engagement of domestic cross sectoral stakeholders and contributed to open dialogues to seek further collaboration.

All member countries having prepared Project Concept Notes, concrete discussions and consultations for project formulation based on the needs of each country have started with international organizations and progress has been made toward access to finance for FPs (i.e. identifying potential partners, discussion on integration of project concept,).

#### **Key Findings and Recommendations for FP**

- PCNs are useful tool to seek funding opportunities, contents of each PCN such as target areas, implementation structure or timeline needs to be modified in accordance with matching discussions.
- Contacts can be best initiated with when ITFPs develop Country and Sector Strategies before Developing New Projects, FPs to anticipate Country and Sector Strategy timing of ITFPs.
- Inter-Ministerial Coordination indispensable to join ITFP-Government CP dialog
- Seek possibilities for PCNs to be incorporated into ITFP's strategy and project formulation.
- When developing dialog with ITFPs, refining PCNs is better done not only by FPs but supporting groups and stakeholders.

- Access to finance target funding agencies needs to be selected in accordance with the size.
- Integration and scaling-up of projects are necessary due to the administrative costs of international organizations.
- Knowledge sharing can be promoted more effectively by combining Word/Letter and other tools, e.g. Visual information such as Short Films and SNS tools like Facebook and Twitter.
- Network can cross national border and share good ideas and implementation in regional level.
- On-line tools may be more effective in terms of time and cost.
- Coordination with institutions serving as the contact points for environmental and climate funds in each country.
- FP and Supporting group needs to have good coordination to share information.
- FPs needs more coordination with a good variety of stakeholders to promote project formulation.
- FPs on-site mission and Country Workshop are useful tools to promote initiatives.
- As FPs do not have sufficient capacity and budget for funding availability and drafting proposals. Capacity building efforts and assistance need to be further developed.

### **Japan contribution**

Training Course in Japan on; Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (AI-CD associated program)

JICA Follow-up program for trained participants: Support participating countries that applicable for this scheme to follow up their Action Plans developed during the course.

## **4.2 Opportunities for AI-CD countries to accelerate efforts for combating desertification to strengthen resilience to climate change**

### **4.2.1 GEF presentation summary**

By Ibrahima SOW,  
GEF Regional Coordinator for Africa

#### **GEF7 and LDCF programming in the Horn of Africa and the next Work Program**

African countries in general and the Horn of Africa in particular have reached a good rate of GEF7 resource engagement with #90% of resources programmed. Some countries are close to 100% of GEF7 STAR engagement namely: Sudan, Kenya, Eritrea, and Somalia. Opportunities for other countries to access additional funding include Djibouti (3.7 million), South Sudan (4 million), and Ethiopia (\$2 million).

#### **Status of the GEF-8 replenishment**

The GEF was established 30 years ago to serve major international agreements for the environment. It is the largest multilateral trust fund to serve developing countries and countries in transition to invest in nature and support their policies and actions related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals. The GEF is a partnership of 184 countries in addition to civil society, international organizations, and various partners.

#### **Highlighting major GEF initiatives related to AI-CD**

##### **Harnessing the Great Green Wall Initiative for a Sustainable and Resilient Sahel” – GEF funding: \$ 2 million**

- Implemented by UNEP, this project is an opportunity to engage with all GGWI stakeholders to foster meaningful dialogue with countries, flesh out a longer-term vision and serve as the vehicle to design a program with potential to mobilize larger investments. The grant will support delivery of these priorities through three main components: Strengthening the institutional framework for GGWI, coordination and partnership.
- The GEF already approved a Global Support Program of \$2 million (GEFID 10806) to enable UNCCD and the Global Mechanism to strengthen capacities of country parties for UNCCD monitoring and reporting.
- UNEP is developing the “Umbrella Projects” to allow countries to access LD set aside resources for reporting and capacity building. Each country will have access up to \$100,000 (in comparison with \$70,000 in GEF6). Up to date, 62 countries in the world have sent letters of endorsement. Need to invite the UNCCD focal points for each country to discuss with the GEF OFP and ensure that a letter of endorsement is sent to UNEP.
- The point is to have a maximum of countries covered by an umbrella project by the end of the year. It will allow each country to work along 2022 to prepare the next report in view of the 2023 UNCCD COP.



## **4.2.2 Food and Agricultural Organisation presentation summary**

By Martin Ager

FAO Land and Water Officer for Eastern Africa

### **Definition of Desertification**

Agenda 21, of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, defines desertification as; Land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from factors, including; climatic variations and human activities.

### **IPCC Predictions for Africa**

- Africa is very vulnerable to climate change.
- Farmers adapted to climate variability, but this may not be enough.
- Agricultural production and food security is likely to be affected.
- Increased water stress in some countries.
- Changes in ecosystems already detected.
- Low-lying lands could be inundated.
- Human health could be impacted.

### **Main Causes – Human Activities**

- Increased pressure on land from increased population.
- Overgrazing.
- Desertification may start at water points.
- Felling of trees for fuel.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Un-vegetated land prone to rapid runoff of intense rain and soil erosion

### **Remedial Measures Soil and Water Conservation**

- Contour ploughing, contour ridges (soil/ stone/vegetation), terraces.
- Zai, half-moon planting basins, tied ridges.
- Gully reclamation.
- Some techniques very labour intensive.

### **Remedial Measures Vegetation**

- Tree planting and agroforestry.
- Reduce deforestation.
- Fuel efficient stoves.
- Drought resistant seeds.
- Permaculture, conservation agriculture, climate smart agriculture, agro-ecology.
- Mulching.

- Irrigation.

### **Great Green Wall**

- Launched in 2007 by the African Union.
- Many partners involved.
- Aims to restore Africa's degraded landscapes across Sahel.
- Stretches 8,000 km in over 11 countries.
- Variety of techniques for land restoration.

### **World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)**

- UNCCD recommended database on Sustainable Land Management techniques.
- Search by country or type of technology.
- Can upload more technologies.

<https://www.wocat.net/en>

### **4.2.3 World Bank remarks**

By Hisham Osman

Climate related knowledge points to the need for a mechanism that brings together three key Actors i.e. Project developers, project financiers and climate science communities in a structured way. Additionally, the integration of climate investments requires a change in the mind set form behaviours and practices to an integrated framework approach, climate impact assessment and infrastructure investment. Such a shift in mind set requires credible information with appropriate modelling tools supported by dedicated institutions to better inform policy and development planning to cater for the 3 key main actors.

Earlier this year World Bank announced that they would invest over 5 billion over the next 5 years to help restore degraded land and improve agriculture productivity and promote livelihoods in 11 African countries as they recover from COVID 19 pandemic. The funds would benefit countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad, and the HoA, countries include Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

The World Bank global fund dedicated to countries efforts to address landscape degradation with at around 14.4 million for small projects in countries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Somali, Mauritania and Niger.

### **Comments**

- AI-CD secretariat sought clarification on when the GEF 8 preparation meeting will be taking place in Eastern part of Africa, in response GEF indicated that the meetings will be held towards the end of September 2021 and the information will be put on the GEF website.
- KFS noted that through the support of FAO and also KEFRI as a lead agency are implementing GEF 6 on the restoration of Arid and semi-arid lands through bio enterprise development and other incentive project which is also under the restoration initiative, however they can get involved in GEF 8 to implement the commitment to reach their target of 1 million ha BONN challenge Africa and to mobilize resources for land restoration.

In response GEF noted that the programming direction gives information on types, magnitude of projects to be supported over the cycle i.e. National projects, regional projects and global projects, non-grant instrument can involve private sectors.

## **5.0 Way Forward**

### **Prepare and share Conference reports with stakeholders**

- KEFRI to prepare Conference summary and proceedings and share with the meeting participants and other relevant stakeholders.
- Focal Points to share Conference summary and proceedings with relevant stakeholders at policy and technical levels in their respective countries.
- Senegal Focal Point to share Conference reports with the Sahel countries.
- KEFRI to share Conference materials from link below:  
KEFRI/CADEP-SFM Homepage:  
<https://www.kefri.org/cadep/components/conference/conference.html>

### **Networking**

KEFRI to share the delegates list with the participants in order to maintain the networks created.

### **Knowledge Sharing - AI-CD Guideline and Good Practices**

- Member countries disseminate the two information materials with relevant stakeholders.
- Member countries promote the use of good practices within their countries.
- Download from AI-CD Homepage: (Link) Guideline Case Study  
KEFRI/CADEP-SFM  
Homepage <https://www.kefri.org/cadep/components/resources/resources.html>

### **Knowledge Sharing - Good Practices / Case Studies on KEFRI/CADEP Web Portal**

- Member countries to share good practices / case studies with KEFRI for uploading on the web portal.
- AI-CD Secretariat to share updated information widely through AI-CD Social Networking Service (SNS) (Facebook and Twitter).

AI-CD: <http://aicd-africa.org/KEFRI/CADEP-SFM>

Homepage: <https://www.kefri.org/cadep/components/practises/practises.html>

### **Improving access to finance**

Member countries continue their initiatives to realize their project ideas.

### **Needs assessment on demand-driven training**

KEFRI to undertake needs assessment using questionnaires to be administered within the Horn of Africa and beyond. The questionnaire will help identify training gaps for future training.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

### List of participants to AI-CD conference

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1.	Mr Alfred Gichu	Head: Directorate of Forest Conservation	Kenya	MoEF	<a href="mailto:alfredgichu@yahoo.com">alfredgichu@yahoo.com</a>
2.	Dr. Lucy Ng'ang'a	Deputy Director Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	Kenya	MoEF	<a href="mailto:lucynganga09@gmail.com">lucynganga09@gmail.com</a>
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4.	Ms. Beatrice Atemo	Focal Point Component 1 (Policy Support)	Kenya	MoEF	<a href="mailto:atemo2006@yahoo.com">atemo2006@yahoo.com</a>
5.	Mr. Kitagawa Yasuhisa	Deputy Chief of Mission	Kenya	Embassy of Japan in Kenya	
6.	Mr. Yuji Shigefuji	First Secretary	Kenya	Embassy of Japan in Kenya	<a href="mailto:yuji.shigefuji@mofa.go.jp">yuji.shigefuji@mofa.go.jp</a>
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8.	Mr. Kenji Hayashi	Senior Representative	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	Hayashi.Kenji@jica.go.jp
9.	Mr. Tadashi Shimizu	Project formulation Advisor (Climate Change)	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	Shimizu.Tadashi@jica.go.jp
10.	Mr. John Ngugi	Chief Programme Officer, JICA	Kenya	JICA Kenya Office	JohnNgugi.KY@jica.go.jp
11.	Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Ismail	AI-CD Focal Point	Djibouti		tabachan600@hotmail.com

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15.	Mayele Mayindo Joseph		South Sudan		
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45.	Dr. Elvis Paul N. TaNgem	Coordinator Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative, African Union Commission		AU	<a href="mailto:Elvispault@africa-union.org">Elvispault@africa-union.org</a>
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## Annex 2: Conference Programme



### Programme

## African Initiative for Combating Desertification Conference for Horn of Africa

Theme: Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access

to Finance

Date: Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Virtual Conference

Time (EAT)	Activities	Facilitator
<b>Session I: Opening Ceremony</b>		
<b>[Chair: (MoEF Conservation Secretary - Mr Alfred Gichu)]</b>		
09.00-09.15	• Conference objectives and programme overview	Director KEFRI
09.15-09.25	• Remarks by Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office	JICA
09.25-09.35	• Remarks by Principal Secretary	MoEF
09.35-09.50	• Speech by Ambassador, Embassy of Japan (Kenya)	EoJ
09.50-10.05	• Opening Speech by Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya	MoEF
10.05-10.10	• Group photo (screen shot)	AI-CD Secretariat
10.10-10.20	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>Session II: Progress and Achievement of AI-CD in Horn of Africa and Sahel Region</b>		
<b>[Chair: KEFRI; Rapporteurs - KEFRI]</b>		
10.20 -10.30	Progress and achievements of AI-CD in HoA from 2016-2021	CADEP-SFM/Kenya AI-CD Focal Point
10.30-10.40	Progress and achievements of AI-CD in Sahel Region from 2016-2021	Senegal AI-CD Focal Point
10.40-10.50	Progress and achievements of AI-CD cross regional activities	AI-CD Secretariat
10.50-11.00	Q&A	
<b>Session III: Progress and achievements of AI-CD by member countries</b>		
<b>[Chair : Kenya Focal Point ; Rapporteurs - KEFRI]</b>		
	(10 min per presentation)	Focal Points
11.00-11.30	• Member countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia	
11.30-11.40	• Kenya (case study)	ECoRAD

<b>Time (EAT)</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
11.40-11.50	• Q&A (10 minutes)	
11.50-12.20 12.20-12.30	• Member countries: Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, • Q&A (10 minutes)	Focal Points
<b>12.30-13.30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>Session IV: Opportunities for AI-CD countries to accelerate efforts to enhance resilience to climate change.</b>		
<b>[Chair: AI-CD; Rapporteurs: KEFRI]</b>		
13.30-13.50	(5 min per presentation) Presentation from AI-CD partners (e.g. UNCCD, FAO, GEF, ICARDA)	AI-CD Partners
13.50-14.05	(2 min per representatives) Brief comment on the key question by AI-CD Partners, Development Partners (e.g. CILSS, UNDP, UNEP, AU, AfDB, WB, IFAD, Wetland International) *Key question: “What opportunities can AI-CD countries have to continue their efforts in building networks, knowledge sharing and access to finance?”	AI-CD Partners Development Partners
14.05-14.30	Open discussion among FPs, AI-CD Partners, Development Partners, and other participants Q&A (5 min per presentation)	AI-CD Partners, Development Partners, FPs, and other participants
<b>Session V: Closing</b>		
<b>[Chair : Director KEFRI ; Rapporteurs : KEFRI]</b>		
14.30-14.40	• Synthesis and way forward	Kenya Hub/ JICA / AI-CD Secretariat
14.40-14.50	• Remarks from HoA (South Sudan, Focal Point)	South Sudan FP
14.50-15.00	• Closing remarks (JICA Headquarters)	JICA Hqs
15.00-15.10	• Closing remarks (Principal Secretary MoEF, Kenya)	MoEF

#### ----- Abbreviations

AI-CD	African Initiative for Combating Desertification
CADEP-SFM	Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management
EAT	East African Time
ECoRAD	Project for Enhancing Community Resilience against Drought in Northern Kenya
EoJ	Embassy of Japan
FP	Focal Point
Hqs	Headquarters
HoA	Horn of Africa

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Kenya)
Q&A	Question and Answer