

## **PROTOCOL**

### **On the Results of the Workshop on the Proposed Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) Almaty, Kazakhstan 21-22 February 2004**

1. The Workshop on CACILM was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 21 and 22 February 2004 with participants representing all five Central Asian Countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—and drawn from government and civil society with the support from the donor assistance community. In total 70 participants from Central Asian countries took part in the meeting, with country delegations of five to nine individuals including representatives from finance, economy, environment, land management, agriculture, forestry, water resources, hydrometeorology, and other agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions. In the workshop, the international community was represented by the current members of the Strategic Partnership Agreement for Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in the Central Asian Countries (SPA) and also included representatives from the USA, the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), UNCCD Secretariat, Central Asian Regional Environmental Center (CAREC), ICBA and other international organizations.
2. The Global Mechanism spearheaded the formation of the SPA, constituted in 2001 to enhance collaborative action for UNCCD implementation in Central Asia and comprises of: the Global Mechanism (GM); the Asian Development Bank (ADB), through its Regional Technical Assistance on Combating Desertification in Asia; the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); the CCD Project of GTZ (Germany); the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA); and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
3. Initial activities of the SPA members led to the convening of the “Sub-regional Partnership Building Forum for Central Asia: Confronting Land Degradation and Poverty through Enhanced UNCCD Implementation” conducted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from June 30–July 4, 2003. The Tashkent Forum was jointly convened and co-financed by SPA members, and brought together a diverse group of country representatives, including representatives from both technical and non-technical Ministries and non-governmental organizations, as well as 24 donor agencies representing both bilateral and multilateral institutions.
4. The Almaty Workshop was held as a follow-up activity to the Tashkent Forum and was convened and co-sponsored by the GM and the ADB under the aegis of the SPA. The main workshop objective was to reach consensus on the best ways forward in structuring an Initiative to promote a more coordinated and programmatic approach to addressing the land degradation problems facing Central Asia.
5. The Almaty Workshop was preceded by an SPA-sponsored and ADB-led series of stakeholder consultations in each of the five participating countries to discuss the key elements of the proposed CACILM framework. The Focal Points of the GEF in each of the five countries and SPA members had requested ADB to lead this exercise in response to the Central Asian nations having qualified for consideration by GEF for inclusion in its newly created Country Pilot Partnership (CPP) framework under the GEF Operational Program (OP 15) for Sustainable Land Management. A representative of the GEF Secretariat explained to the workshop

participants that the CPP framework envisions the application of a long-term programmatic approach to addressing land degradation through establishment of enabling policy and institutional conditions to support high-priority on-the-ground investments.

6. The GM described the process leading up to the development of the CACILM concept and ADB presented the main elements of the proposed framework as consistent with the GEF CPP approach and described in a Draft CACILM Concept Note distributed among workshop participants. Presentations were made by each country delegation on important recent policy and institutional changes supporting efforts to enhance decision-making process for the land degradation problems. They also offered suggestions on how to improve the CACILM framework. In particular, it was noted that national multi-sectoral CCD Working Groups had been formed in all five Central Asian Countries as an important follow-up action to the recommendations of the Tashkent Forum. There was active discussion among the participants—in both plenary and small-group thematic settings—on a wide range of issues relating to the effective and collaborative promotion of sustainable land management in the Central Asian Countries and on CACILM's negative and positive moments, as proposed.

7. Strong support was offered by the participants for overall CACILM concept and the proposed mechanism for the Initiative implementation. The CACILM Concept Note as distributed in advance of the workshop was accepted as describing a useful new mechanism for promoting sustainable land management in each of the five Central Asian countries. Several important suggestions also were made for improving the CACILM approach to be included in the final version of the document.

8. The country delegation representatives expressed their strong desire to see the CACILM design process proceed under ADB's leadership on behalf of and in collaboration with the SPA donor group and GEF and endorsed the thrust of the Concept Note with the understanding that the suggestions made for its improvement will be incorporated into the final version submitted to ADB and GEF management for funding approval. With the purpose of simplifying the overview process and accelerating the development work on CACILM, workshop participants agreed to establish a Task Force that includes one representative from each country and each SPA member.

9. It is expected that the next phase of CACILM design will begin between July and September 2004 to be completed during a period of approximately six months, and the CCD Working Groups in each country will serve as the principal points of entry for this design process. All participants expressed a strong need to develop the Initiative for sustainable land management to move forward the implementation of the CCD and achieve success in addressing the land degradation problems facing the countries of Central Asia.

Signed (original in Russian) on 22 February 2004 by

UNCCD National Focal Points from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Подписано 22 февраля 2004 года:

 *Бекмурзов Б.К.*


Национальный координатор КБО ООН Республики Казахстан




Национальный координатор КБО ООН Кыргызской Республики



Национальный координатор КБО ООН Республики Таджикистан

 *М.К. Дуриков*

Национальный координатор КБО ООН Туркменистана

 *З.Н. Назиров*

Национальный координатор КБО ООН Республики Узбекистан