



**GREEK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION**

**THIRD NATIONAL REPORT OF GREECE ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION  
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

**Athens September 2004**



**UNCCD**

## **1. SUMMARY**

During this reporting period, Greece continued implementing the UNCCD both domestically and internationally. On the international level and specifically referring to the region of Africa, Greece has contributed diplomatically and economically. Greece's efforts have enhanced the development of a supportive European diplomacy towards the environmental protection and sustainable development in developing countries including the African states. In parallel, the Greek State contributed financially toward supporting the UNCCD and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in their tasks. A number of projects related to the mitigation of desertification have been realised through bilateral cooperation with various African states.

## **2. Consultative process and partnership agreements in which Greece is involved**

### **2.1. Multilateral Relations**

Greece as EU member state follows the common foreign policy formulated by the European Council. Development cooperation between Europe and Africa has been manifested in several economic agreements as well as in an ongoing high level political dialogue. The Africa - Europe Summit, the first of which was held in Cairo on 3-4 April 2000, embodied the shared desire for strengthening the relationship. The Summit built on earlier initiatives and sought to expand such economic agreements as the Lome Conventions, the recent Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the 78 ACP Countries, the Trade and Co-operation Agreement with South Africa and the Mediterranean Accords between the EU and the Mediterranean Countries of Africa.

The Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation initiative provides the options of technical assistance and economic support for northern African states. A number of conferences between EU and Mediterranean states are formulating the frame of cooperation in various sectors. Greece, as a Mediterranean country with a particular interest in the development of the EU Mediterranean policy, has made efforts during its Presidency to upgrade the Barcelona process and to implement the Valencia Action Plan commitments. The Greek side considers that this Action Plan offers the appropriate framework to achieve the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration, allowing the Mediterranean partners to participate actively in the Process. A significant part of these efforts is the Mid-term Euro-Mediterranean Conference, which was held in Crete on 26-27 May 2003. During this session a number of priorities were set, including the strengthening of infrastructures and the environmental protection policy.

During the Greek Presidency of the EU (January 2003- June 2003), Greece has promoted the idea of a supportive European diplomacy towards the environmental protection and sustainable development of developing countries including African states.

Furthermore, Greece has participated in many important international sessions related directly or indirectly with desertification such as the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 6),

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> CRIC, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 11) e.t.c.

## 2.2. Bilateral relations

Greece maintains markedly friendly relations with all forty-eight sub-Saharan countries, and has signed several Agreements in the fields of Economic and Technical Cooperation, Tourism, Agricultural Cooperation, etc. By power of these Agreements, many African students are attending courses in Greek Universities, Colleges and Technical Institutes as holders of scholarships offered by the Greek Government.

There are eight Greek Embassies in the sub-Saharan area, namely in Addis Ababa, Harare, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Lagos, Nairobi, Pretoria and Yaounde. These Embassies have parallel jurisdiction to neighbouring countries and thus Greece is represented in all African sub-Saharan states. Furthermore, Honorary Consulates have been established in almost all of the remaining countries.

The A9 Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has participated actively in the elaboration of the common foreign and security policy of the European Union regarding developments in the 48 countries of the Sub-Saharan part of the African continent.

Governmental agencies and NGOs have lead projects related to the mitigation of desertification in various African states. Detailed data are presented in paragraph 4.

### **3. Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial resources provided, or are being provided, both bilaterally and multilaterally**

Greece as member of the UNCCD provides the Secretariat with the required annual contribution. The amounts allocated for this purposed are specified according to the decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP). Detailed information of the contributions is given in the following table:

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount (in USD)</b>
1.	1999	34,600
2.	2000	31,240
3.	2001	43,380
4.	2002	34,300.30
5.	2003	39,240
6.	2004	32,079.40
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>214,839.7</b>

In addition, Greece has contributed to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) the amount of **10.5 millions of USD** for GEF-1 and GEF-2. Part of this amount is used for the implementation of environmental projects in African countries, since GEF supports the NEPAD's environmental action plan (New Partnership for African Development).

On scientific level, Greece is cooperating with northern African states through the DISMED project which aims to the dissemination of information on desertification for the Mediterranean region.

#### 4. Other activities related to combating desertification

A number of projects have been realized within the frame of bilateral agreements with African countries. Although these projects are not part of a specific plan for the implementation of the UNCCD, their topics are directly or indirectly related to the mitigation of desertification. Specific data on these cases for the reporting period (2001-2002) are provided by the following tables (Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs):

**Table 2: Projects implemented in African states during 2001**

	<b>Country of implementation</b>	<b>Project topic</b>	<b>Amount in Euros (€)</b>	<b>Responsible Organization / Agency</b>
1.	Mauritius	Agricultural education	30,000.00	Ministry of Agriculture
2.	Mauritius	Agricultural education	30,000.00	Ministry of Agriculture
3.	Ethiopia	Water & Sanitation	25,000.00	Engineers Without Borders-Greece <sup>1</sup>
4.	Kenya	Agricultural education	4,500.00	Ministry of Agriculture
5.	Benin	Agricultural education	24,640.00	Greek Action for Africa <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>114,140.00</b>	

**Table 3: Projects implemented in African states during 2002**

	<b>Country of implementation</b>	<b>Project topic</b>	<b>Amount in Euros (€)</b>	<b>Responsible Organization / Agency</b>
1.	Ethiopia	Water & Sanitation	127.500,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2.	Ivory Coast	Women in Development	30.000,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3.	Equatorial Guinea	multisectorial education	9.200,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4.	Cameroon	multisectorial education	45.997,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5.	Cameroon	Social/welfare education	2.600,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
6.	Kenya	Social/welfare education	140.784,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
7.	Kenya	Agricultural Education	7.593,33	Ministry of Agriculture
8.	Kenya	multisectorial education	11.500,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9.	Democratic Republic of Congo	Social/welfare education	83.236,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
10.	Democratic Republic of Congo	multisectorial education	69.806,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11.	People's Republic of Congo	Social/welfare education	9.620,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
12.	Madagascar	Social/welfare education	19.680,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
13.	Libya	multisectorial education	17.250,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14.	Morocco	Environmental Policy	69.259,00	Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
15.	Benin	Social/welfare education	11.416,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
16.	Benin	Agricultural water resources	17.500,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17.	Burundi	multisectorial education	4.600,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
18.	Nigeria	Social/welfare education	60.872,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
19.	Uganda	Social/welfare education	29.460,00	The Church of Greece <sup>3</sup>
20.	Uganda	multisectorial education	6.900,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
21.	Sudan	multisectorial education	40.249,00	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
22.	Tunisia	Forestry education training	29.301,53	Ministry of Agriculture
23.	Tunisia	Environmental Policy	69.259,00	Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
24.	Tunisia	multisectorial education	20.604,75	Ministry of Finance
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>934,187.61</b>	

<sup>1</sup> **Engineers Without Borders-Greece** is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation which aims at providing technical assistance in developing regions and regions struck by extensive

natural and man-made disasters. It undertakes actions to protect humankind and nature in regions hit by earthquakes, floods, fires, environmental disasters, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, technological accidents, armed conflicts; in societies where the administration is unable to construct the necessary infrastructure projects and utility networks (water supply, sewerage, irrigation, dams, roads); on an international scale, in regions where humankind threatens its own existence and survival on the planet with the pollution it causes (acid rain, ozone-layer depletion, the greenhouse effect, the El Nino phenomenon). [ewb@ewb.gr](mailto:ewb@ewb.gr)

<sup>2</sup> **The Greek Action for Africa** is a foundation providing help to the people of the African Continent. Starting in 1980, it continues to offer medical supplies and money, and aims to provide the people in Africa with the means to live self-independent. It provides medical supplies, hospital and school equipment, and with well-developed programs, it helps to communicate the knowledge and skills that the people of Africa lack. With the agricultural program, women peasants can be trained in Greece or in Africa so that they can then transfer their knowledge, founding agricultural co-operatives that will provide them with a substantial income. Greek action for Africa sets up fish farms, to help fight men's unemployment. In cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Agriculture, we have organised missions targeting at the training and systematic organization of the farmers. [c-ivoire@hol.gr](mailto:c-ivoire@hol.gr)

<sup>3</sup> **The Church of Greece** supports all the previously mentioned projects through its **Apostolic Diakonia Organisation**. [ierapostoli@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:ierapostoli@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)

Greece has the adequate scientific and technical infrastructure for assisting the efforts of developing countries and contributes significantly in relative scientific sessions. Many scientific papers of Greek scientists are published in English contributing in this way to the dissemination of information.

## References

Engineers without Borders, [www.ewb.gr](http://www.ewb.gr)

GEF Annual Report 2002, “*A Year of Renewed Commitment to Sustaining the Earth*”

Greek Ministry of Foreign affairs, [www.mfa.gr](http://www.mfa.gr)

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