CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN DRYLANDS

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR MAPPING, PROFILING & ANALYSING COMMUNITY AND POLICY LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

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The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in 1994 and ratified by 193 countries who recognise the grave threat that land degradation presents to dryland people in the form of food and livelihood insecurity and its global impact - due to dust storms, flooding, waterway siltation, migration, conflicts, and reduced biodiversity, carbon sequestration and food production. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are recognised to play an important role in mobilising and supporting communities to combat desertification and country parties to the UNCDD are committed to facilitating CSOs’ participation in UNCCD decision-making and implementation.

This indicative guide has been developed and tested by CSOs in the Drynet network and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. It is meant as a tool for building knowledge about CSOs’ efforts in combating desertification, strengthening their participation in furthering the dryland agenda through the UNCCD National Action Programmes and other relevant policy instruments, and mobilising resources. The guide is intended for use by CSOs and other actors interested in engaging with CSOs to promote sustainable land management practices in dry and degrading lands. It gives guidance to those interested in forming coalitions, partnerships and alliances for policy-making or programming in support of dryland communities working to conserve or restore their environment.

Written by Paule Herodote, Global Mechanism; Marie José van der Werff ten Bosch, Both Ends; and Patrice Burger, CARI.

With the support of the Drynet network: Both ENDS (Netherlands), CAREC (Kazakhstan/ Uzbekistan/ Kyrgyzstan/ Tajikistan/ Turkmenistan), CARI (France), CENESTA (Iran), EMG (South Africa), ENDA TM (Senegal/ Madagascar/ Morocco), Instituto Sertão (Brazil), LPP (Germany), LPPS (India), OLCA (Chile), PROBIOMA (Bolivia), TENMIYA (Mauritania), SCOPE (Pakistan), TEMA (Turkey)
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CONTEXT

Drylands cover 40% of the earth’s land area and are home to one third of the world’s population. A disproportionate number of the world’s poor live in drylands; they lag far behind the rest of the world on human well-being and development indicators. Dryland populations are highly dependent on natural resources for their survival and development and natural or man made degradation of the productive capacity of the land threatens their livelihoods and development.\(^1\) It is thus clear that any serious effort to eradicate poverty must take into account the specific needs and issues faced by dryland communities.

Due to their social and political marginalization, lack of resources, and remoteness from centres of decision-making, dryland populations are often unable to engage in political decision-making processes and receive little support from governments. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play an important role in providing support to dryland communities at local level. They can also work with decision-making processes and advocate for policies and programmes that help maintain the natural resource base in areas prone to degradation and that provide incentives for farmers, pastoralists, and private companies to invest in sustainable land management practices.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The UNCCD is a binding international instrument which aims to stop land degradation and desertification and ensure the long-term productivity of drylands. CSOs can use it to hold governments to account on their land management agendas and to coordinate action on the ground. At the national level, the Convention is implemented through National Action Programmes (NAPs) which provide strategic direction and priorities for planning and programming. CSOs can work together with government and development partners to build and implement cross-sectoral, integrated, coordinated activities to support ecosystem integrity and the well-being of communities.

Implementation of the Convention and the NAPs remains a challenge. Desertification all too often has a low profile on the political agenda, due to lack of awareness of the socio-economic impacts of desertification and the long time-frame for returns on investments in land management. Other factors include the complex, cross-sectoral nature of the problem, the medium to long term efforts necessary to combat desertification, and the limited potential for governing a largely private sector. As a result, public resources for implementing the Convention are often inadequate and many NAPs have little or no budget for their implementation.

As countries develop strategic national development frameworks to prioritise and guide resource allocation and official development assistance, development aid actors are increasingly aligning their programmes to these frameworks. It is essential that dryland and land management issues be addressed at this level to raise the political priority of drylands, whether through the NAP or other institutional frameworks. Efforts to achieve this can be called ‘mainstreaming,’ a process that involves dryland issues and needs becoming integrated within all development-related decision-making processes, policies and laws, institutions and planning frameworks.

The role of CSOs in the sustainable management of drylands

The largest investments in drylands still come from the land users themselves and dryland communities and their local organisations have always been developing solutions to land degradation and drought. Many are innovative and inspiring and deserve more attention. Communities draw up their own management and delivery systems with relatively low overhead costs, and contribute through labour, materials and skills. Local action is by definition limited in scale, but coupled with less context-specific and enabling government policies and management plans, it is a powerful and essential part of long-term natural resource management.

CSOs can provide a valuable link between local actions to prevent and stop land degradation, and public policies and institutions, including the UNCCD and the NAP that support these actions. Thus CSOs’ input into policy and planning processes is crucial. While CSOs raise a significant amount of financial resources, these are not the only resources needed to draw up and implement meaningful land management measures, and CSOs are well placed to mobilise knowledge and human resources.

The role of CSOs at the community and policy levels differs between different countries and is based on historical, political and social contexts. According to the UNCCD and the Conference of the Parties (COP), CSOs should participate in developing and implementing NAPs, and be involved in National Coordinating Bodies, and other policy processes related to desertification. The UNCCD 2008-2018 Strategic Plan and Framework calls for increased engagement of CSOs to address desertification and land degradation in advocacy, awareness-raising, and education initiatives and to mobilize resources to implement the Convention.

In order for CSOs to effectively engage in these processes, they need to communicate and coordinate between themselves and with other stakeholders. They need to share tools and information. Given the vast number of issues competing to be recognised as development priorities, groups speaking with a unified voice and working in the context of a joint strategy are more likely to be heard, recognised and have an impact on policies and programmes. Furthermore, collaboration and exchanges of experiences leads to improved capacities for action on the ground. It helps organisations to engage with appropriate partners in suitable ways. To achieve this level of cooperation and coordination, one first needs to understand who are the different stakeholders and actors.

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2 OECD-DAC estimates that Northern CSOs raised $20-25 billion of non-ODA funds in 2006, compared to $140 billion of ODA the same year. CSOs also act as channels to 10% of ODA.
INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended as a means of assessing the engagement of CSOs in the implementation of the UNCCD, through their involvement in NAPs, as well as other relevant development frameworks. It defines a number of actions for this, which also contribute towards identifying and developing strategic and coordinated actions among CSOs. Readers are invited to use this guide and apply the lessons within it according to their specific context, needs and experiences.

A four step approach...

The process outlined below proposes four actions that contribute towards establishing baseline knowledge about CSO participation in community level activities and policy dialogue and implementation and can be used to identify potential partners for undertaking joint work.

The first action involves researching the status of UNCCD implementation in the country and how the role of CSOs is recognised and put into practice. It is intended to frame the process and inform the actions that follow.

The second action involves identifying CSOs working on dryland issues at community and policy level. Those identified are invited to provide information about their operations and activities. This provides an overview of CSO efforts in a country, and of potential partners for furthering the dryland agenda.

The third action involves identifying potential public and private financing and development partners. Similarly to the CSO mapping and profiling action, it involves carrying out research and consultations to identify organisations and compile information on their strategies and programmes. It also provides an opportunity to build understanding and trust and to develop partnerships.

The fourth action involves writing an analytical document that reviews the information gathered in the previous actions and filling in any gaps with additional research. The document should be seen as a tool for communication and consensus building. It should bring together all the available knowledge on CSOs’ efforts to combat land degradation in drylands and their participation in furthering the dryland agenda in their country. The analysis should identify the decision-making processes that provide entry points for CSOs, and provide recommendations to CSOs as to how they can strengthen their engagement through joint efforts.

These outlined actions are indicative, will overlap, and to some extent, may be conducted in parallel. The following principles should be applied:

• Engaging a range of stakeholders
• Broadening the UNCCD constituency
• Adopting a process-oriented approach that builds understanding and trust
• Building on existing knowledge and avoiding duplication
The actions are intended to initiate and facilitate a dialogue between stakeholders as to how CSO coordination and participation can be strengthened and enhanced through information-sharing, networking and joint advocacy efforts. They will lead to the following outputs:

- An inventory or database of CSOs working on sustainable management of drylands including key information about their activities;
- An overview of financial and development partners and their strategies and programmes for engaging with and financing CSOs; and
- An analysis of the policy context, CSOs’ involvement at the community and policy level, and recommendations as to how CSOs can engage with implementing the NAP and help mainstream drylands in development frameworks.

**Why focus on the country level?**

Countries are the basic unit in international governance. In order to benefit from the institutional legitimacy of global governance systems and influence decision-makers, CSOs must be rooted in the national context. Countries have distinct policies, programmes, stakeholders, ways of working, institutional structures, cultures, and budget allocation processes. Greater impact can be achieved through strategies that are adapted to these specificities.

Development aid programmes tend to be negotiated bilaterally with national governments. Policies are often dictated by historical relationships and strategic interests that are country specific.

Development aid agencies are increasingly aligning their programmes with national strategic development frameworks (PRSPs, etc.) and harmonising their programming between agencies at country level (through sector-wide approaches, etc.)

UNCCD National Focal Points are responsible for facilitating civil society participation in their countries; mutual benefits can be gained by working with a coordinated group of CSOs to develop and implement policies and programmes.

CSOs working on dryland issues in a country are talking to the same institutions, and are compete for the same budget lines. It is to their benefit and to that of their constituencies that they communicate with one another and coordinate their activities for greater impact.
ACTION 1 - BASIC SURVEY

Aim: To understand government frameworks and instruments for combating desertification and the role of CSOs within these.

The basic survey should provide an understanding of the institutional and legislative framework of the UNCCD in a given country, its status and effectiveness, its place among other relevant policy frameworks and the role of CSOs in the process. This will involve a review of documents and consultations with key stakeholders which should provide an understanding of the political and governance context in which CSOs operate. This information will also be very helpful in developing the analysis of CSO participation in these processes and the potential for making it more effective (described as Action 4). This activity may also help with the preparation of an introductory note describing the national context that can be used to brief counterparts.

The following steps are suggested:

- Review the UNCCD, the relevant Regional Annex of the UNCCD and the Strategic Plan and Framework (2008-2018)\(^3\) in order to understand governmental commitments (from both affected developing countries and developed countries).

- If completed, review the National Action Programme (NAP) adopted by your government.\(^4\) NAPs vary; they may take the form of a strategic framework or a list of projects and programmes. The NAP should provide information regarding the state of desertification in the country, the approach to address the problem and information on the roles of stakeholders, including CSOs. If your country has not completed the NAP, inquire as to the current status and any timeframe for its elaboration.

- Review the national report on UNCCD implementation submitted by your government to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) every 2-3 years.\(^5\) Take special note of information related to the participation of civil society and CSOs, the work of CSOs with communities and their engagement in government policy processes including NAP elaboration and implementation, and participation in National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) if they have been formed and are active. NCBs are responsible for overseeing UNCCD implementation and should be made up of officials from diverse sectors, as well as CSOs and academics. Inquire about its existence, membership, and functions.

- Identify the UNCCD National Focal Point (NFP), its place in the government structure, how it is organized, and how it is linked with other institutions. Find out its views about NAP elaboration and implementation processes, the organisations involved and specifically the role of civil society and CSOs and their participation and engagement at community and policy levels. Discuss the integration of NAPs in any strategic development frameworks and the allocated budget (“mainstreaming”), and the existence, membership, and functions of the National Coordinating Body (if established and functional).

\(^3\) See www.unccd.int/convention/menu.php and www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop8/pdf/16add1eng.pdf#page=8

\(^4\) See www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/menu.php

\(^5\) See www.unccd.int/cop/reports/menu.php

\(^6\) See www.unccd.int/focalpoints/focalpoints.php
• Do an initial general search on other relevant institutions and policy processes (in-depth studies follow in Action 4). These might include National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the 2010 Biodiversity Targets of the CBD, and the National Action Programmes for Adaptation (NAPAs) of the UNFCCC, which often have synergies with NAPs. Other frameworks may include those related to water, forestry, agriculture, pastoralism, environment, land tenure and access, mining.
ACTION 2 – MAPPING AND PROFILING CSOs

Aim: Assess the scope of CSO activity and expertise in raising awareness, promoting understanding and identifying potential partners for promoting the drylands agenda

Desk research and interviews should be undertaken to identify CSOs and networks in your country involved in promoting sustainable land management for dry and degrading lands. Subsequent and more in-depth reviews will be necessary to develop profiles of the CSOS that provide details of their specific operations, capacities and perspectives.

Because of the dynamic and diverse nature of CSOs and their sheer number, it will be impossible to undertake a comprehensive assessment. The idea is to identify the organisations with relevant experience and capacity, who are most likely to have an interest and the skills to engage more effectively in promoting the drylands agenda.

A classification of CSOs may be made as follows:

- National NGO
- International NGO (with operations in multiple countries)
- Community based organisation (CBO)
- Farmers or other membership-based professional organisation, including unions
- Network (formal) or social movement (informal)
- Advocacy/policy/interest organisation
- Scientific research institution

As a general guideline, the mapping should include active CSOs that can answer “yes” to the following question (drawing from the objective of the UNCCD [Art. 2]):

Do the activities of your organisation at the community and/or policy level aim to improve the productivity of land, and restore, conserve, and sustainably manage land and water resources in arid, semi-arid, sub-humid, and degraded areas, with the aim of improving living conditions for local populations?

Suggestions for identifying CSOs are given in the box below and an indicative template for profiling the CSOs and their operations is attached as Annex 1. The most basic information will be easily accessible; other data will not be so easily available. Although information strengthens legitimacy and facilitates communication and the development of partnerships, some CSOs may not be comfortable releasing certain information.

A questionnaire may be used in order to gather more detailed information on CSOs and their operations; they can be sent out by post, via e-mail, or used in individual interviews carried out with some key CSOs, over the telephone or in person. An indicative questionnaire is provided in Annex 2. Interviews are resource intensive, but are the best approach for gathering information, building understanding and trust and they also provide an opportunity to raise awareness. Another way to gather information and perspectives could be to organise a meeting. This exercised also provides an opportunity to gather information on CSO’s perspectives to inform the analysis described as Action 4.
Suggestions for identifying CSOs:

- Identify UNCCD-accredited organisations on the UNCCD website (www.unccd.int/ngo/menu.php).
- Review NAPs and reports to CRIC for references to specific CSOs.
- Add your own partners and contacts; ask identified organisations for their partners and contacts.
- Consult with the UNCCD national focal point.
- Consult with the focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) if these Conventions are ratified.
- Review GEF project documents related to the focal areas of land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity for references to CSOs affiliated with the projects (www.gefweb.org - to search, click Projects, then Project Database).
- Consult with the government institution that coordinates and manages NGO relations, if there is one.
- Consult with the UNDP country office and/or other UN agencies for information on CSOs and relevant programmes.
- Consult with embassies and development aid agency country offices about the CSOs they work with.
- Consult with academics and scientists linked to national or international projects on desertification and related issues.
- Search the Internet for networks, databases and inventories of CSOs working in relevant fields including environment, agriculture, water, climate change, etc.
ACTION 3 – PROFILING POTENTIAL FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Aim: To develop relationships with the public and private development community and identify opportunities for participating in their programme development and for mobilising financial support

The development of national ‘donor maps’, can be a useful way to identify potential partners and financing opportunities. National and international foundations support civil society activities through their programmes. And while official development aid agencies channel a significant part of civil society funding to international CSOs at headquarter level, they often also fund local CSO activities through country offices and embassies, sometimes in collaboration with other development partners. Donor maps can also serve to identify entry points for CSO participation in developing official aid programmes.

Suggestions for identifying private and public financing and development partners are provided in the box below and a template to guide the gathering of information about financing and development partners is provided in Annex 3. The information can be collected through desk research and consultations. The latter are particularly useful as they provide an opportunity to access up to date information, to raise awareness, build trust and share information about CSO activities.

Embassies are a good source of information on bilateral and multilateral development aid partners. They often have civil society focal points which act as an interface between CSOs and their development aid programmes. Information can also be obtained from World Bank offices or EU delegations in the countries. The World Bank issues Country Assistance Strategies which should give information on aid priorities and partners. The EU issues Country Strategy Papers, with a similar objective. The EU delegation should have also more information on bilateral EU donors and their programmes.

The drive for governments to develop national development and poverty reduction strategies has provided entry points for CSOs engagement in development planning. Since the commitments made at the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, most official development aid agencies try to align their support with national development strategies and to harmonise their programmes with other partners. They are also increasingly channelling funds directly to government budgets, known as “direct budget support”, and using sector-wide approaches. UN agencies are also harmonising their efforts with the “Delivering as One” directive through the establishment of Country Teams led by UN Resident Coordinators who are usually housed in the UNDP country offices. International NGOs are also recognising the need to better coordinate their activities.

7 Countries reaffirmed and strengthened their commitments at the Accra High Level Forum in September 2008, and stated their commitment to working with CSOs. See www.accrahlf.net. For the CSO perspective on the process, check www.realityofaid.org
8 For detailed information, see “Sector-wide approaches Implications for sustainable land management and UNCCD financing arrangements” www.global-mechanism.org/dynamic/documents/document_file/swap_paper.pdf
9 For more information, see www.undg.org
10 A group of CSOs has recently formed the Open Forum for Development Effectiveness to discuss the issue. See www.cso-effectiveness.org
Overall coordination groups of official development aid agencies can exist at the national level, as well as in thematic areas of relevance for drylands. These working groups are usually led by an agency rotating as chair or ‘chef de file’ and some have technical committees that address specific issues. Up-to-date information on these groups can usually be obtained from the UN Resident Coordinators. Depending on the country, CSOs may participate in these working groups. Participation requires a certain level of capacity, expertise, commitment and coordination among CSOs. CSOs working in health and education have achieved impressive results in some countries and it may be interesting to learn lessons from them.

Suggestions for identifying potential financial and development partners:

- Contact public and private financing and development partners identified by the CSOs in the previous action.
- Consult with embassies and official development aid agency country offices (via their CSO focal point, if there is one) about their programmes and mechanisms for supporting sustainable dryland development and related work with CSOs.
- Consult with UN agencies, particularly the UNDP which has a mandate to strengthen civil society and often houses UN Resident Coordinators; who serve as focal points for harmonisation the efforts of UN development partners and can be a very good source of information about coordination groups working on specific issues and the head, or chef de file for each group.
- The UNCCD National Focal Point may also provide insights into bilateral and multilateral development aid policies and programmes related to desertification and drylands.
- Contact the EU delegation office, if there is one, or search their website on bilateral aid programmes of European donor countries and the EU Country Strategy Paper of your country (http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/delegations/intro/web.htm)
- Search the internet for the World Bank Country Assistance Strategy, and/or contact a World Bank office in your country if there is one.
- Contact Drynet (through www.dry-net.org) and request an extract of the Drynet database on donors financing local action in drylands.
- Search the FIELD database: www.gmfield.info
- Country specific information on alignment and harmonisation efforts may be found on the following website: www.aidharmonization.org
ACTION 4 - ANALYSIS OF CSO PARTICIPATION

Aim: To assess the participation of CSOs and provide conclusions and recommendations for strengthening their participation in implementing the UNCCD and mainstreaming dryland issues in development frameworks.

After gathering all the information in the previous steps, it may be useful to present it in a concise report by synthesising the information and filling any gaps. Such a report can form the basis for promoting contact, awareness and discussions among different actors and encourage organisations and their potential partners to discuss ways in which they can usefully work together to move towards shared objectives.

The report should streamline the information gathered and present the findings in a reader-friendly and accessible format. Its content will depend on the results of the research and the issues identified and the audience for which it is written. One potential audience could be policy makers whom you want to encourage to take CSO participation more seriously. Another audience could be CSOs seeking to improve coordination and thereby improve the effectiveness of activities designed benefit dryland inhabitants. Potential financing and technical partners may be another target.

The assessment may include a review of processes, a situational analysis of UNCCD institutions and other relevant policy processes, indications of public resource allocation, a review of CSO activities that support drylands (at community and policy level), current networking and coalition building efforts. It should also include conclusions and recommendations for further action based on the opportunities identified.

An indicative table of contents is provided in Annex 4. The information used in the report will be drawn from the other actions, particularly the information provided by CSOs through the mapping and profiling action.

The situational analysis provides a framework for identifying the entry points and the formal and informal mechanisms for engaging in policy processes and advocating for more resources for drylands. This includes the UNCCD processes and other related international instruments, identified in Action 1. A general understanding of public resources allocated to sustainable land management is also useful for comparisons across sectors.

The analysis of CSO participation should include community level activities as well as policy level activities - at national and sub-national level, particularly in the context of increasing decentralisation. It may be worthwhile to review how CSOs participate in the institutional processes of government and its partners and what points in the policy cycle are the most strategic. Generally, the policy cycle includes i) agenda-setting, ii) policy formulation, iii) decision making, iv) policy implementation and, v) monitoring and evaluation.

It is also useful to describe past and current efforts of CSOs to network and build coalitions around development related issues in drylands, such as RIOD networks. There is a range of CSO groups that mobilise around the issues of water, food security, climate change; they can provide lessons and inspiration, as well a base of potential future partners.

The analysis should include conclusions and recommendations about how to improve CSO collaboration with relevant stakeholders and increase their participation in policy making and planning processes related to sustainable dryland development, through strategic and coordinated action.
ANNEX 1

CSO PROFILE TEMPLATE

(Recommended to be converted to an Excel spreadsheet or similar)

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<th>Guidance notes</th>
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<td>• National NGO</td>
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<td>• International NGO (with operations in multiple countries)</td>
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<td>• Community-based organisation (CBO)</td>
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<td>• Scientific research institution</td>
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<td>Purpose/mission/mandate</td>
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<td>Registered with government? Yes/No. If yes, what type or where?</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Accredited to UNCCD? Yes (Year)/No</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Governance</td>
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<td>Decision-making/management structure. For example, Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Members</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Number of part/full time staff and/or volunteers</td>
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<td>Also indicate, if possible, number of men and women</td>
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<td>Membership organisation Yes/No. If yes, number of members</td>
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<td>Indicate year (current or previous) and specify in US$ and national currency. Choose one (figures are in US$ - it may be useful to review categories according to national currency):</td>
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<td>Source(s) of funding/financing partners</td>
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<td>If possible, indicate source and/or type, i.e. governmental, international development, private</td>
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| 17 | Fields of activity* | Choose from the following (can be multiple):  
- Representation (aggregate voices)  
- Advocacy (influence decision-makers)  
- Technical inputs (provide information and advice)  
- Capacity building (provide support and training)  
- Service delivery (provide services)  
- Social functions (foster collective activities)  
- Public awareness raising (communication)  |
| 18 | Function(s) (or expertise) | Area of operations in past and current work (Regions, districts, towns, villages, etc. It may be necessary to include longitude/latitude). Also indicate climatic classification, i.e. arid, semi-arid, sub-humid, etc. |
| 19 | Geographic/regional focus(es) | List in priority order (for example, women, youth, farmers, tribal communities, pastoralists, politicians, general public, producers, etc.) |
| 20 | Target group(s) | Those related to promoting sustainable management of land and water resources in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas. Provide name, date, location, etc. |
| 21 | Completed or ongoing projects and programmes | Yes/No. If yes, name(s) of network(s) or coalition(s), their purpose, and whether they are international or national |
| 22 | Member of network(s) or coalition(s)? | Any additional information |
| 23 | Working language | |
| 24 | Notes | |
| 25 | Date of last update | |

* Fields of activity can be described broadly or more specifically. Here is a list of specific categories:
- Rural development
- Natural resource management
- Food security and agriculture/crop production (including conservation-based farming, organic farming, fertilising, irrigation)
- Livestock production and rangeland management (including area closure, bush thinning, pastoral livelihoods)
- Soil and water conservation (including cistern installation, pond construction, water harvesting, wells, anti-erosion, terracing, check-dams, gully management)
- Watershed management
- Forestry (including afforestation, tree management) and agro-forestry
- Pro-poor trade and trade in natural products
- Climate change: adaptation/mitigation
- Biodiversity conservation
- Bio-energy conservation and production
- Alternative income generation (e.g. eco-tourism)
- Compensation and payment for ecosystem services
- Land tenure and access
- Gender and land management
- Others (please specify)
ANNEX 2

CSO QUESTIONNAIRE
(Sample Questions)

The questions listed below are intended to complement the CSO profiling template (Annex 1) and draw out relevant information on CSO community and policy level activities and interests. These questions are meant to give guidance and inspiration; questions can be selected from this questionnaire according to needs.

A, GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Are land degradation and desertification\(^{11}\) an issue in your country?
2. Are land degradation and desertification linked to poverty in your country?
3. Are land degradation and desertification recognised as a political priority in your country?
4. Can you list your national government’s policies and agreements that address land degradation and desertification issues and support sustainable land management in dryland areas in your country? Are they effective? Would you like to see changes? (For example, international agreements such as UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC and policies related to water, land, agriculture, environment)
5. Do the policies and agendas of development partners in your country address desertification issues and support sustainable land management? Would you like to see changes?

B. UNCCD and the NAP PROCESS

6. Are you aware of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to which your country is a signatory? (If the answer is no, skip to the next section)
7. Are you aware of the National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat Desertification? Have you been involved in its elaboration or implementation?
8. Have you participated in UNCCD meetings, communicated with the National Focal Point or participated in the National Coordinating Body? What was your experience?
9. What do you consider the value of the UNCCD and the NAP in your country for preventing and reversing land degradation?
10. What are the barriers to its implementation?
11. What are the incentives for you to participate in the UNCCD and NAP processes? What are the barriers?

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\(^{11}\) Defined by the UNCCD as degradation in the productive capacity of land resources in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas.
B. DESERTIFICATION RELATED ACTIVITIES

Defined as projects/programmes which aim to improve the productivity of land, to restore, conserve, and sustainably manage land and water resources in arid, semi-arid, sub-humid areas, leading to improved living conditions for local populations.

12. Can you list some of the past and current activities of your organisation that you consider are related to UNCCD (see definition above)? Are they mostly advocacy, field-level technical, capacity development or awareness raising activities?

13. Could any of these activities constitute “best practices” for combating land degradation and desertification?

14. Do you link your activities related to UNCCD with other policy processes? Do you see any advantage in doing so?

C. POLICY ENGAGEMENT

15. Does your organisation seek to influence national policy and programming? If yes, which processes? (For example, PRSP, Sector-Wide Working Groups) If not, why not?

16. Do you engage in policy processes associated with multilateral environmental agreements (UNCCD, biodiversity, climate change, Ramsar, etc)?

17. Do you cooperate with other organisations on policy activities?

18. Which stage(s) of the policy process do you engage with? (e.g. agenda-setting, policy formulation, decision-making, policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation)

E. NETWORKING/COMMUNICATION

19. Is there a network of CSOs working on sustainable dryland development in your country?

20. Do you know of other networks working on issues related to sustainable land management?

21. Would you like to learn more about global efforts to tackle desertification and manage drylands and receive information about the UNCCD and your countries’ UNCCD National Action Plan?

22. Would you be able/willing to share your experiences and success stories in sustainable dryland management and efforts to combat desertification in your country and internationally?
# ANNEX 3

## FINANCING AND TECHNICAL PARTNER PROFILING TEMPLATE

(Recommended to be converted to an Excel spreadsheet or similar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fields</th>
<th>Guidance notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of agency or organisation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td><em>e.g.</em> bilateral, multilateral, private, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact information</td>
<td><em>Name, e-mail, telephone, fax, address</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation’s country policy and/or programme</td>
<td><em>e.g. Strategy paper</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of grant(s)/loan(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery mechanism</td>
<td><em>e.g. bilateral programmes, direct budget support, basket funding, sector-wide approaches, etc</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of coordination group</td>
<td><em>e.g. sector wide working groups, technical committee, etc. Indicate if they are the main co-ordinator (Chair or Chef-de-file)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic/regional focus(es)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Themes/intervention area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCCD/dryland relevant projects/support</td>
<td><em>Past, ongoing and future Coordinator or co-funder?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme or window for CSO financing</td>
<td><em>At country level in particular</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure for providing funding to CSOs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of last update</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 4

INDICATIVE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Analysis of CSO participation in UNCCD implementation and mainstreaming of dryland issues in development frameworks

Executive Summary
1. Background
2. Methodology
3. Situational analysis
   3.1. The UNCCD in country X
       • The NAP and its implementation status
       • National Focal Point (location, responsibilities)
       • National Coordination Body (NCB)
       • Sub-regional and regional processes (Sub-regional Action Programme-SRAP, Regional Action Programme-RAP)
       • International processes ( Participation in COP, CRIC etc.)
   3.2. Additional policy processes relevant for sustainable dryland management
       • Description of the national development frameworks and instruments
       • Relevant strategies and policies (e.g. biodiversity - NBSTA, climate change - NAPA, water, forestry, agriculture, pastoralism, environment, land tenure and access, mining)
   3.3. Main stakeholder groups at national level working for drylands
       • Civil society groups and their networks
       • CSO activities at community level (technical inputs, capacity development, service delivery, etc.)
       • Financing partners (bilateral and multilateral, private, etc)
       • Other relevant stakeholders
   3.4. Domestic and external resource flows for UNCCD, NAP and sustainable land management
       • External financing for NAP and sustainable land management (official development aid, coordination mechanisms)
       • Resource mobilization through mainstreaming UNCCD issues and NAP within national development frameworks (financing through medium term expenditure frameworks)
       • Innovative financing instruments, mechanisms and sources of finance (private including foundations, CSOs, business and market-based, etc)
4. Analysis of participation
   4.1. Current status of CSO participation and activities in national and sub-national policy processes
       • Participation in institutional frameworks (NAP, NCB, other relevant policy processes)
       • Participation in government planning
       • Participation in national development aid coordination mechanisms
   4.2. CSO networking and coalition building
5. Conclusions and recommendations for improving CSO engagement
A global initiative, giving future to drylands

Drynet is a 3-year networking and capacity building initiative involving 14 NGOs working in 17 countries on issues related to drylands, land degradation and CSO participation in policy development. It aims to strengthen the voices of local dryland communities through their organisations. By involving civil society groups in local and national development and planning processes Drynet is building a foundation for civil society to engage more effectively with dryland degradation and poverty issues.

Drynet’s objectives are as follows.

• Strengthen national CSO networks and identify partners and platforms that they can cooperate and work with.
• Link the dryland issues to cooperation frameworks and national development priorities.
• Provide civil society input into planning and policy processes and enhance their participation in these.
• Improve the quality and feasibility of project designed by CSOs
• Provide a structure for an exchange of inspiring initiatives and participatory methodologies.

Visit www.dry-net.org for more information.

The GM is an organ of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, mandated to engage with government, private, and public organizations to mobilise resources for implementation of the Convention.

The Civil Society Programme of the GM works with governments and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to leverage resources for the sustainable management of dry and degrading lands.

GM provides capacity development support for CSOs and develops tools to facilitate their effective participation in policy processes and engagement in integrated investment framework development.

Visit www.global-mechanism.org for more information.