



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification

**Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing
on inclusive and sustainable development
in drylands and other fragile ecosystems**

Annual Report 2015

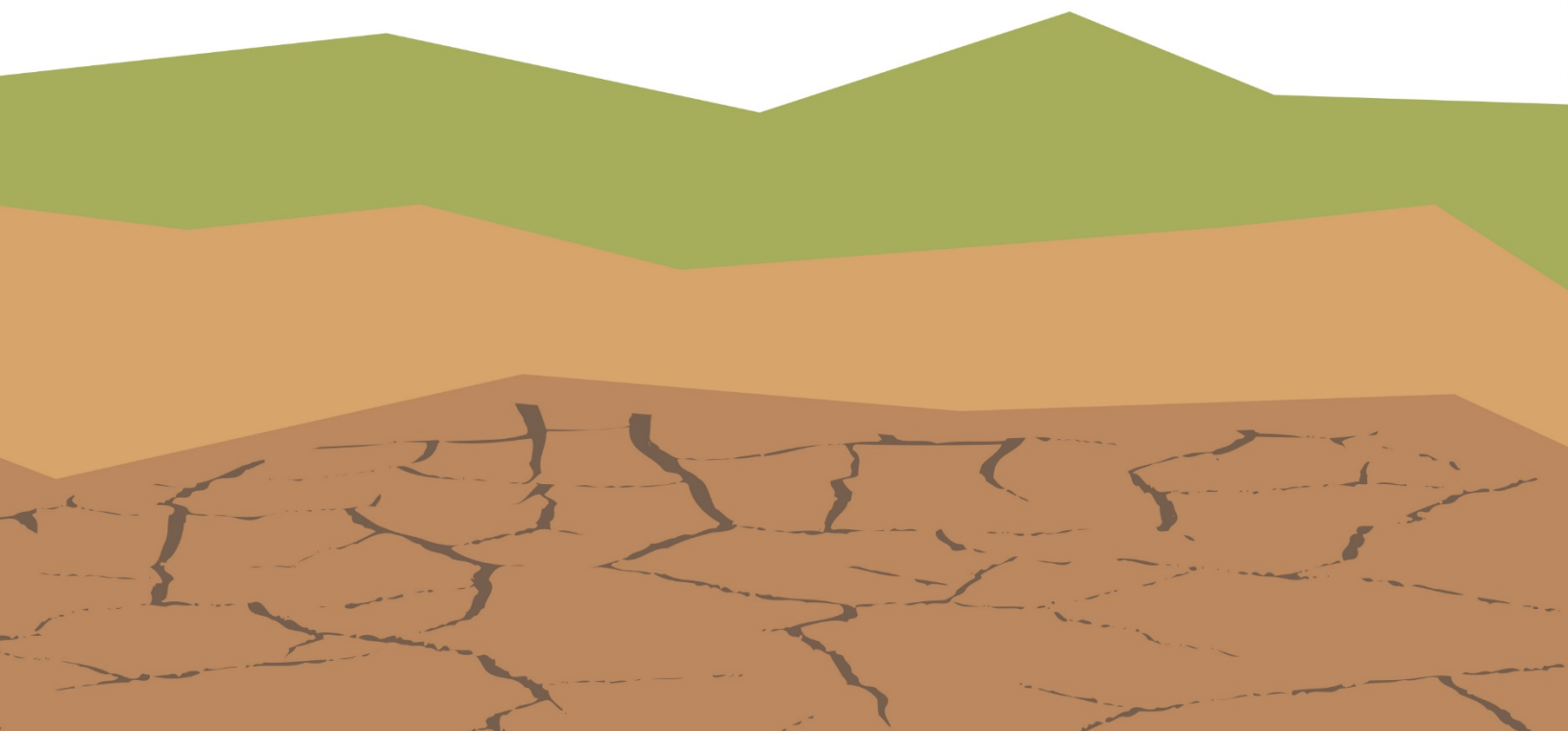


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Introduction

2015 was the first year of operation of the Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED) following its establishment in October 2014. Its expanded focus lies on enhancing the livelihoods of the poor in drylands and other fragile ecosystems while maintaining and enhancing the resilience of both the household/communities as well as the ecosystem.

A large part of 2015 was dedicated to the transition of the Centre from the former Drylands Development Centre (DDC) which included the development and formal approval of the related new programme document entitled *Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing on inclusive and sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems* in February 2015 as well as the establishment of the new GC-RED team. Between October 2014 and December 2015, the Centre facilitated the departure of 6 old and the arrival of 7 new colleagues which included the recruitment of 4 out of its 6 core funded posts. Annex 1 provides the latest GC-RED organogram.

Despite this substantial transition, the Centre was not only able to continue delivering on UNDP's Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP, scheduled to end in December 2016) without any major delays or interruptions, but also to duly take on new responsibilities namely:

- Carry out UNDP's co-management of the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), of which UNDP is the Managing Agent. The current phase of the PEI is scheduled to end in December 2017.
- Support the development of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Network (BES-Net), which is expected to become operational in 2016; and
- Contribute to UNDP's global policy research agenda.

The 2015 Annual Work Plan duly reflects the 3 areas of work of the Centre:

1. Undertake applied research and analysis, and provide evidence on policies and good practices in the sustainable management of natural capital that optimizes jobs and livelihoods (*2015 AWP Output 1*) and in fostering socio-ecological resilience in drylands and fragile ecosystems (*Output 2*);
2. Promote intellectual exchange among multiple stakeholders and across disciplinary fields, facilitate the global dissemination of optimal policies and good practices, and stimulate processes for their incorporation into national and regional policy processes (*Output 3*); and
3. Develop tools and methodologies for strengthening the implementation and monitoring of resilience building and the sustainable management of natural capital (*Output 4*).

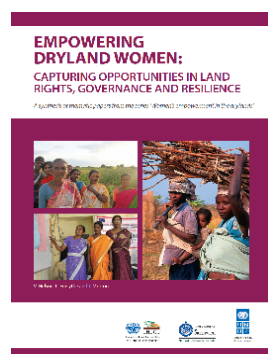
Main Results Achieved

This section highlights the major tangible results delivered by GC-RED throughout the year of 2015, particularly in the areas of: I) natural capital; II) ecosystems and livelihoods resilience building; and III) knowledge management and networking. Annex 1 provides more detailed information on the status and progress of the Centre's thematic works in the four respective work plan output areas.

I. Natural Capital

Prominent during this reporting period is the Centre's contribution to the proceedings of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD/COP12).

Applied policy research was conducted with the UNCCD on "Women's Empowerment in the Drylands", a priority area of action for the Convention as defined in the "Namib Declaration" (decision 36/COP11). The objective was to propose strategic actions in the policy, institutional and capacity spheres to reduce gender inequalities in the drylands with respect to land rights, governance and resilience.



Three thematic studies and one [synthesis report](#) were prepared. More specifically:

[Thematic study 1 - Strengthening dryland women's land rights: local contexts, global change](#) outlines various key opportunities existing for facilitating dryland women's empowerment with respect to land, in international research, policy, dialogue and practical action.

[Thematic study 2 - Gender and drylands governance: empowering women for change](#) focuses on the significant opportunities existing for facilitating dryland women's empowerment in governance, in the context of wider support for processes seeking greater democracy in dryland governance and values.

[Thematic study 3: Achieving dryland women's empowerment: environmental resilience and social transformation imperatives](#) highlights major opportunities to strengthen the resilience of dryland environments and for women to actively contribute to and benefit from sustainable drylands development.



These studies were formally launched on 16 October in Ankara, Turkey, during the [Gender Day](#) held at COP12 under the theme of "Women's Empowerment for a Land Degradation Neutral World". The event was broadly attended with strong ownership at the highest level as reflected by the

endorsement of this initiative by Ministers from Namibia and South Africa, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the former President of Finland. The outcomes were reflected in the *Ankara Ministerial Declaration* (decision 9/COP12) in which the ministers committed to "dedicate ourselves to promoting gender equality and the role of women as actors of change in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought." Furthermore, this work contributes to the global UNDP agenda on inequality and inclusive growth which identifies gender as a primary marker of socioeconomic stratification and exclusion.

The Centre led the preparation of UNDP's position paper on sustainable land management and rehabilitation titled [Delivering Results in Degraded Lands for People and Planet](#). The paper recognizes that land degradation is a barrier to sustainable development that destabilizes communities across the world. It calls for a concerted global effort to halt and reverse current trends and states that UNDP will step up its support to countries to adopt sustainable land management policies and practices in the context of SDG15 on Terrestrial Ecosystems, specifically Target 15.3 on *"combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world."* It defines UNDP's three-pronged approach to supporting countries on sustainable land management: through capacity development, advocacy and policy advice; support to the adoption and demonstration of locally-appropriate technologies and approaches; and support to access to environmental finance for sustainable management. It concludes that UNDP will be an important actor in the global partnership to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the UNCCD. The preparation of this position paper brought together the Centre, UNDP/GEF, the GEF Small Grants Programme and the Equator Initiative, reflecting UNDP's comprehensive policy and programme support in the area of sustainable land management.

The Centre became a key partner of the Global Land Outlook (GLO), an ambitious policy initiative led by the UNCCD Secretariat to determine the future course of land policies and land management across the globe. It will provide technical and financial assistance over the next two years for: 1) The preparation of a comprehensive report on the status and trends in the use and management of land resources, including the identification of key measures and policies to improve land management; 2) The compilation of "good practice" assessments in support of scaling-up efforts; and 3) The development of a global land index to rank countries in terms of their land management practices and outcomes.

The GLO chapter on "land and climate" was launched during UNFCCC/COP21 as a brochure titled ["Land Matters for Climate – Closing the Gap and Staying on Target"](#). It argues that more sustainable land management and rehabilitation, up till now largely untapped, would provide a rapid and low cost reduction of emissions that would help close the emissions gap while providing significant co-benefits to the rural poor.



Based on funding received from the Economics of Land Degradation Secretariat (ELD)/GIZ, the Centre undertook country level consultations in Somalia to emphasise the link between land degradation and potential violent conflict. The ELD consultations were held jointly with the consultative workshop for the National Action Programme (NAP) in support of the implementation of the UNCCD. In Hargeisa, Somaliland, 75 stakeholders were consulted on 5-6th May 2015. Due to security concerns in Puntland, Garowe consultations were conducted in the United Nations Common Compound, with 21 stakeholders from government agencies and NGOs. Federal level consultations in Mogadishu were envisaged to be conducted by the Ministry of Environment, with regional and sub-regional representatives for state and non-state actors but had to be postponed to early 2016. The purpose of the consultations was to develop a holistic view of the biophysical state of land as it relates to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) in Somalia, with emphasis on the socio-economic implications.



The Centre pursued its policy and technical advice on integrated drylands development in Morocco. This support – initiated in 2007 under DDC - is channelled through “Programme Oasis Sud”, a major initiative (\$75 million to date) to promote local development planning, value chain development, sustainable management of natural resources, and women empowerment. An independent evaluation of the program in 2014 highlighted its significant impact as a successful model for sustainable socio-economic development and sustainable management of natural

capital. Based on this positive assessment, the Centre supported the documentation of lessons learned and good practices to inform national policy and scaling-up efforts and share the Moroccan experience with other dryland countries. A publication titled “[Programme Oasis Sud – Une Expérience Marocaine de Développement Durable](#)” was prepared to inform a South-South Cooperation mission organized by the Centre in March 2015, in partnership with the Government of Morocco, the UNDP Country Office and Regional Bureau for Arab States. Forty participants from francophone countries in the Arab Region participated in the mission. It provided an excellent platform for experience exchange and networking among participants, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Arab countries.

Significant progress was made during this reporting period in the area of “Natural Capital”, with the agreed workplan targets achieved or exceeded. However, the objective to extend the Centre’s activities to Asia was not met due to limited human resources. Efforts will be made in 2016 to meet this objective.

II. Ecosystems and livelihoods resilience building

GC-RED’s engagements in building ecosystems and livelihoods resilience has been undertaken in close coordination with a wide range of internal/external partners at different levels. These include the internal partnership with other Clusters at HQ level, regional service centers and country offices and the external partnership with other UN agencies, NGOs and research institutes.

Partnership with HQ

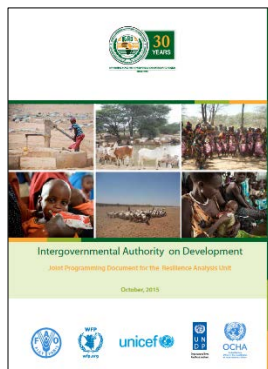
In coordination with the Strategic Policy and Global Positioning team in New York, the Centre has played a pivotal role in the ongoing exercise to develop UNDP’s corporate policy on resilience. *Inter alia*, the Centre led the resilience mapping exercises by developing the online survey and undertaking the first round of the analysis of over 140 survey responses across the organization including from Head Quarter, Regional Service Centers and Country Offices. Results of the survey analysis will serve as the basis of the UNDP resilience policy.

Further to the envisioned UNDP policy on resilience, GC-RED has also been working on the development of a corporate operational guide for assessing, monitoring and evaluating community based resilience, together with the Strategic Policy and Global Positioning team. Implementation of the concept note on this guide, which was developed in the third quarter of 2015, is expected to commence upon the finalization of the corporate policy in early 2016.

The Centre proactively participated in and provided technical inputs and support towards UNDP’s Global Biodiversity Team Initiative on the Development of Indicators and Measurement Tools on Social-

Ecological Resilience and the multi-actor resilience dialogue that form a critical element for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Partnership with the Regional Service Centre (Africa)



The Centre has extensive knowledge and profound expertise on resilience, through the designing of the resilience measurement and analysis methodology, called Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA), and pilot implementation of the methodology in the Horn of Africa region in the past few years. Building on these experiences, the Centre provided the Regional Service Centre for Africa with close technical support in the process of formalizing and operationalizing the Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU), particularly the UNDP's *Strengthening Resilience Capacity in IGAD Region project* team, which serves as the UNDP focal point to RAU.

RAU is the three-year regional joint programme among 5 UN agencies, namely UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, UNOCHA and WFP, with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The programme, successfully signed in October 2015, aims to strengthen the capacity of IGAD, its Member States and other relevant stakeholders to undertake robust resilience analysis at the household, community and national levels for evidence-based programme and policy design, implementation and impact assessment in different Horn of Africa contexts. The Centre's CoBRA is recognized as one of the RAU's core methodological framework and was integrated into the unit's various resilience measurement and analysis activities at regional, national and sub-national levels. The Centre has been providing the frontline support to the Unit's activities throughout the year and contributed to the production of the series of joint knowledge products.

The Centre also provided a wide range of support to the *UNDP's Strengthening Resilience Capacity in IGAD Region project* team in 2015. This includes: 1) the technical support to develop a research paper on drought resilience indicator for the *International Conference on Resilience, Research, and Innovation*; and 2) the technical/financial support to organize the *Regional Consultative Meeting of the IGAD Member States on the Impending El Niño Impacts and Preparation for Early Actions*.

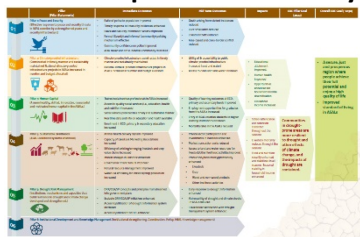
Partnership with Rio Convention Stakeholders (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - IPBES)

Significant progress has been achieved in the setting up of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) as the capacity building component of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in operationalizing the science-policy-practice interface. The land degradation and restoration module for the BES-Net web portal has been developed and is currently undergoing testing. The official launch of BES-Net has been earmarked for the first quarter of 2016.

The BES-Net face-to-face capacity building activities and the policy brief on land degradation have been deferred to 2016, this is in line with the completion and launch of the BES-Net web portal to be launched in February 2016.

As part of its advisory and technical role, the Centre participated in BES-Net's Advisory Committee meeting that provided direction for the implementation of BES-Net activities for 2016.

Partnership with the Country Office 1: Kenya (Non-crisis country)



The Ending Drought Emergencies in Kenya (EDE) is a 10-year multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to enhance resilience to drought in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) within the framework and timeline of Kenya Vision 2030. In response to the request from UNDP Kenya, the Centre supported the EDE Secretariat in creating a programme-wide monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, coordinating 6 pillars which encompass over 10 sectoral ministries/agencies and some hundred stakeholder agencies.

The Centre moderated a series of training events and assisted the EDE stakeholders in translating the concepts and principles socio-economic, ecological and climatic resilience into practical M&E formats, utilizing various different tools and approaches such as results-based management approach and theory of change tool. The final results-based M&E framework was presented and adopted at the EDE Steering Committee in November 2015.

Partnership with the Country Office 2: Syria (Crisis country)



The Centre provided technical advice for the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in countries affected by the Syria crisis. The 3RP is a consolidated regional framework aimed at addressing refugee protection needs, the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, and the longer term socio-economic impacts of the Syria crisis on neighboring countries. More specifically and in response to demand from UNDP country offices, the Centre supported the elaboration and implementation of the National Response Plans in Lebanon and Jordan as well as the UNDP response plan in Syria. In Lebanon, technical assistance was provided within the

framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme to build the capacity of women agro-food cooperatives in communities hosting Syrian refugees. In Jordan, it is supporting the design of a major programme to mitigate the impacts of Syrian refugees on ecosystem services and land degradation. In Syria, it is providing technical advice under the programme “Assistance for the Restoration and Stabilization of the Livelihoods of People Affected by the Crisis”, namely for the design and implementation of interventions aiming at restoring agricultural productivity and enhancing food security of vulnerable groups with special attention to women headed household. The Centre will pursue its support to the implementation of the 3RP in 2016.

Partnership with other UN Agencies

In 2015, the Centre continually worked closely with the WMO and Global Water Partnership to support the implementation of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) as UNDP’s representative to the programme’s Management/Advisory Committee. It contributed to the production of the IDMP key publications such as the IDMP Handbook on Drought Indices and Integrated Drought Management Framework Document by providing practical and evidence-based inputs.

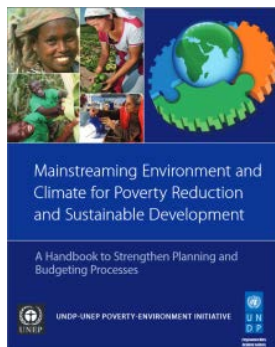
III. Knowledge management and networking

Following the formal signing of the Centre’s project document, GC-RED undertook a series of strategic knowledge management and outreach activities to enhance the internal and external visibility and publicity of the Centre and strengthen the practical networks around the themes of livelihoods and ecosystem resilience. Despite the absence of its Knowledge Management Specialist, the Centre was able to realize a number of achievements including:

- Facilitation of review and updating of UNDP Position Paper on Sustainable Land Management, entitled “[Delivering Results in Degraded Lands for People and Planet](#)”;
- Production of knowledge management resources in both hard format (e.g. GC-RED logo, brief, posters, etc.) and soft formats (e.g., revamping of the Centre’s website, creation of twitter account with about 200 followers in 3 months of operation); and
- Management of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network (AADP) with regular issuance of monthly AADP newsletters and steady increase of the network subscribers.

In addition, the Centre contributed to the peer-review and the distribution/dissemination of a number of knowledge products generated in the context of the PEI to support the integration of Poverty-Environment (P-E) mainstreaming knowledge within UNDP and other partners. Particular knowledge products finalized in 2015 include:

“[Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development: A Handbook for Strengthening Planning and Budgeting Processes.](#)”



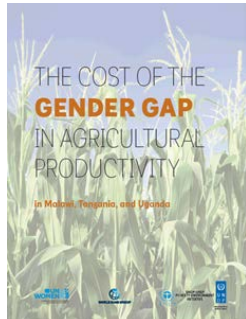
The Handbook provides guidance and tools for policymakers and practitioners to integrate pro-poor environment and natural resource and climate objectives into development policies, plans, budgets and implementation programmes at the national, subnational and sectoral levels. While the Handbook is largely based on PEI experience in successfully supporting governments in over 25 countries, it also features experiences from other initiatives to bring readers the best of current practices and information.

Topics covered include the political economy of mainstreaming, mainstreaming into national, sub-national, and sectoral planning, budgeting and monitoring processes, and managing private investment in natural resources. The Handbook also features lessons learned from the PEI experience as well as a series of annexes that delve deeper into the topics discussed. These include Institutional and Context Analysis; Integrating Environment-linked Poverty Concerns into Planning, Budgeting, and Monitoring Processes; Integrating Natural Wealth into GDP; Promoting Gender Equality and a Human Rights based Approach in Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming; and Advocacy and Strategic Communications.

The Handbook was launched at the Poverty Environment Partnership meeting held in May in Edinburgh, UK. It was also presented at a joint dedicated learning event at UNDP HQ in September in New York. The Centre dedicated funding to the translation of the Handbook from English into Arabic (the only region not covered by the PEI programme but with active IDDP interventions) and is set to support the development of an inter-active web-based version of the handbook together with an on-line learning course in 2016.

The Centre also supported a 1-day-training on the PE Handbook conducted by PEI Africa for country level counterparts (a similar training in the Asia/Pacific region is envisaged to be carried out in early 2016).

[“The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity”](#)



This report is a Working Paper on empowering women to promote a clean energy path for sustainable development. Recognizing the need for more specific evidence of the links between women’s empowerment, sustainable agricultural production and economic growth in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (UNDP-UNEP PEI), UN Women, and the World Bank Group (WB), engaged in a joint study which costs the gender gap in agricultural productivity in three African countries (Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda).

The study report was launched at a side-event at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) timely held on the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October, in Rome. The report provides a unique quantification of the costs in terms of lost growth opportunities and an estimate of what societies, economies and communities would gain were the gender gaps in agriculture to be addressed. The gender gap costs Malawi USD 100 million, Tanzania USD 105 million and Uganda USD 67 million every year. Closing the gender gap could lift as many as 238,000 people out of poverty in Malawi, 119,000 people in Uganda, and approximately 80,000 people in Tanzania every year.

UNDP Co-management of the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)

In 2015, the Centre carried out the UNDP co-management of the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) as assigned in October 2014. PEI is a joint UNDP/UNEP programme that supports country-led efforts to integrate poverty-environment (P-E) linkages into national and subnational development policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks. The global programme is implemented through joint UNDP-UNEP teams covering four regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, ECIS and LAC) working in close collaboration with UNDP Regional Hubs in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Istanbul and Panama City. The current phase is scheduled to end in December 2017 and during this phase, PEI's programmatic activities are increasingly being integrated into the work of other UNDP's newly configured units based on UNDP's Structural Review.

The Centre's Director assumed the UNDP Co-Director role for PEI, and the Centre including its core staff provide PEI with significant support, including on strategic direction the integration of P-E mainstreaming knowledge within UNDP and other partners; ATLAS management; as well as quality assurance and donor reporting. The Centre also increasingly supports PEI in strengthening delivery on the poverty-environment nexus through the four regional teams, facilitating learning across regions – including South-South exchanges, packaging and disseminating its accumulated knowledge (see Section III. Knowledge management and networking), and the application of tools for mainstreaming P-E issues in development policies, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks.

Particular highlights include:

- Preparation, approval and implementation of 2015 work plans and budgets: discussions with PEI Regional Teams were held throughout 2015, chaired by the PEI Co-Directors to guide PEI and PEF work plans, delivery and results.
- PEI is governed by the strategic direction from the Joint Management Board (JMB). Two Joint Management Board meetings were held in 2015 (23 February and 15 December) to address particular issues raised by PEI Co-Directors including guidance on the implementation of the Final Evaluation of the PEI Scale Up Phase and the development of a Sustainability Strategy focusing on PE interventions post-2017 (end of current programme phase).
- Inputs provided into the following PEI meetings:
 - ✓ PEF Retreat, 24 February, Nairobi, Kenya:
 - ✓ Global Retreat, 30 March – 1 April, Nairobi, Kenya: PEI held a global retreat in Nairobi, marking its 10 years of official work on the ground. The meeting brought together 40 members of the PEI team and provided the opportunity to meet and share valuable experiences from each region. Main issues discussed during the retreat was to make PEI 'fit for purpose' to address countries' needs for the 2030 Agenda and the sustainability of the programme's results and impacts in PEI's participating countries and the UN-system, once core funding will cease. Moreover, the dimension of sustaining this unique platform of programmatic and technical collaboration between UNEP and UNDP, which has been operational for the last 10 years was also considered one of the key challenges for both organizations, in the context of delivering as one.
- PEI work was showcased in the following fora:
 - ✓ *The 20th Poverty Environment Partnership Meeting, 26-29 May, Edinburgh, UK*: where PEI launched its revised handbook, *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*

- ✓ *SDG Side events, 26-29 September, New York*: During the first day of the UN Sustainable Development Summit (2015) UNDP, UNEP, the Government of Germany and with the support of the PEI and PAGE Secretariat held a side event titled: “Powered by Inclusive Sustainable Growth: Why and How We Decided to Alter Course.” The panel analysed key policies and investment decisions needed for countries to move towards a more sustainable economic growth that respects planetary boundaries and ensures equitable outcomes. It identified how to strengthen bilateral and multilateral advisory mechanisms, networks and partnerships to support such transitions.
- ✓ In partnership with UNDP Extractive Industries Development Solutions Team, the PEI - Asia Pacific Regional Team jointly hosted a *South-South Exchange and Training Workshop on Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development* in Bangkok (October 2015) to examine environmental and social impacts, management of revenues, creation of jobs and livelihoods, and governance of extractive industries.
- ✓ In Central Asia, together with UNWomen and the American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Tajikistan) PEI contributed to the *regional conference on “Gender equality and sustainable development for transformative change”* addressing women’s limited access to decision-making processes, natural and economic resources, information and modern technologies; in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ✓ In Colombia, PEI participated in an *academy on green economy* organized by the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE). This Forum provided an opportunity to launch the Spanish version of the PEI Handbook and discuss in detail most of the PEI regional activities in LAC.

As part of carrying out UNDP’s Managing Agent function, the Centre:

- In close collaboration with HQ, facilitated the pooling of PEI resources under the global PEI ATLAS Project/Award for a total of more than 4 million USD in 2015.
- Facilitated the successful negotiation with the European Union for an 8 million EURO grant in support of PEI interventions in 2015-2017.
- Successfully recruited 2 key posts for the PEF (Programme Management Specialist, P4) and PEI Africa (Regional Programme Specialist, P3) teams respectively.
- Contributed to the 2014 PEI Annual Report.
- To strengthen UNDP’s Managing Agent function of the PEI, the Centre at the request of BPPS Senior Management facilitated a visit from the NY BPPS Operations Team to Nairobi in October 2015. During this visit, key operational issues were discussed with the PEF team as well as UNEP’s Finance Unit to enhance PEI operations and strengthen the overall UNDP-UNEP partnership. Follow up on the agreed action points remains on going.

Overall, the delegation of the PEI co-management from UNDP HQ to the Centre has enhanced the UNDP-UNEP working relationship by a) reducing the time difference between NY and Nairobi for important management decisions as well as b) increasing the interactive participation in the substantive direction of the PEI. However, stronger engagement and contribution of policy and programming advisory services on poverty analytics etc. is envisaged through engagement with the RSC Addis and HQ in the near future.

Financial Report

In 2015, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of close to 7.5 million USD implemented under three separate project documents and related ATLAS Awards (i.e. the Centre; the PEI and the IDDP).

The largest individual project portfolio was the PEI with nearly 6 million USD, followed by the Centre and the IDDP.

The majority of funds implemented were non-core donor resources in support of particular projects; while the Centre's operations were supported by UNDP core funds and staff.

In 2015, the Centre facilitated signature of two major donor agreements: EURO 8 million with the European Union in support of the PEI for 2015-2017, and EURO 4.5 million with the Government of Germany (under the International Climate Initiative) in support of BES-Net for 2016-2020.

In 2015, a total of about 5 million USD in non-core resources was received in support of the various initiatives implemented under the purview of the Centre. Based on solid resource mobilization efforts over the past year(s), the Centre can draw on a portfolio of about 22 million USD for the implementation of its initiatives over the next 5 years. This amount is expected to increase further with efforts under way in developing successor programmes to the current IDDP and PEI projects.

More details are provided in the tables below.

Table 1: 2015 Delivery (as of January 2016)

Project Name	ATLAS Award No	2015 Budget in USD	2015 Expenditure in USD	Source of funds
PEI	00075132	6,648,173	5,699,902	Non-core
IDDP	00060784	848,949	848,949	Non-core
Centre	00087434	72,494	63,185	UNDP
	funded under the IDDP	255,622	255,622	Non-core
	00093768	98,365	87,667	UNDP core allocation
		477,847	477,847	UNDP core allocation for Centre staff costs (estimates)
	Sub-Total	904,328	884,321	
Total		8,401,450	7,433,172	

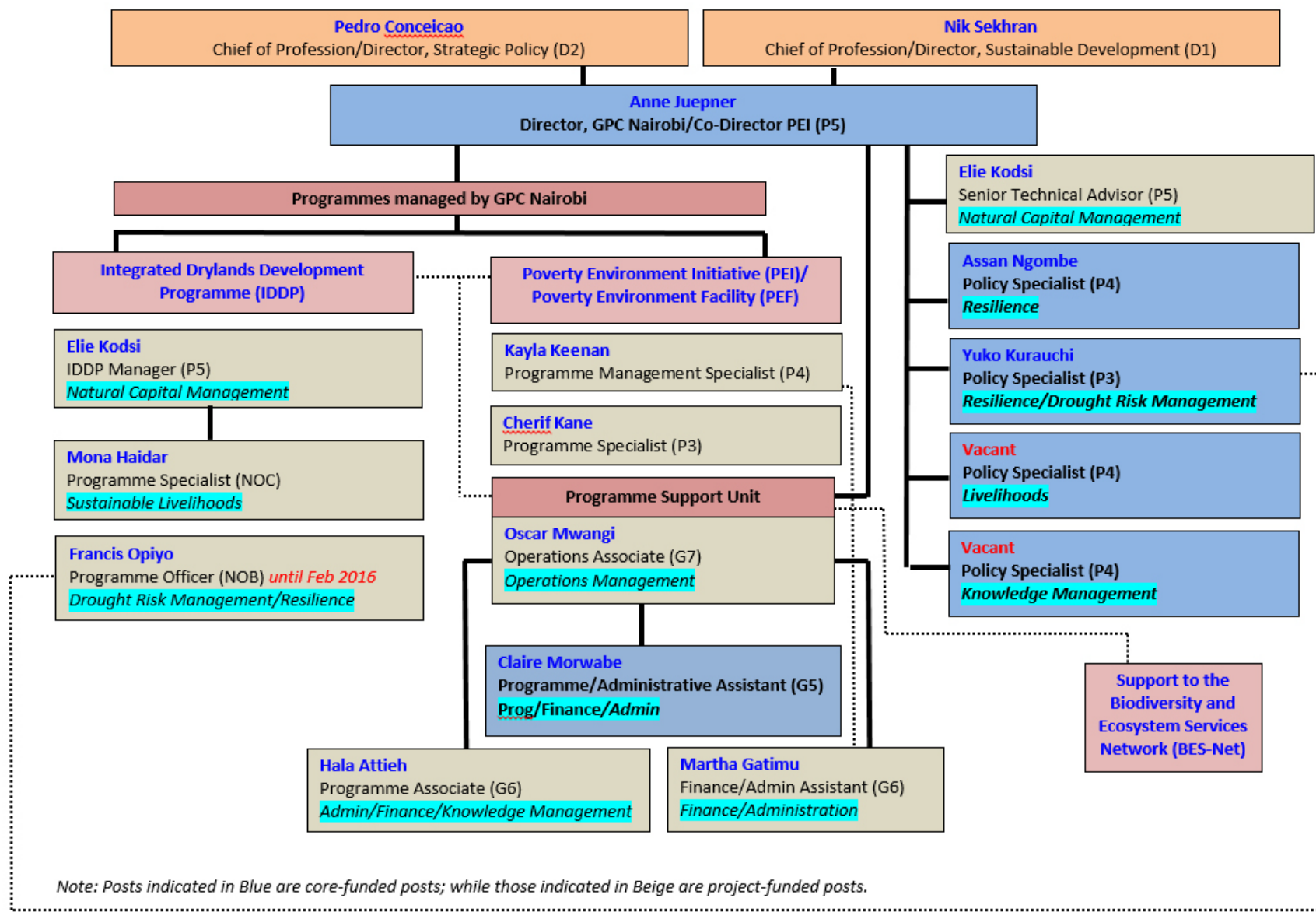
Table 2: Non-core resources received in 2015 (as of January 2016)

Project Name	Amount	Donor
PEI	EUR 1,000,000	EU
	USD 2,000,000	Norway
	USD 674,218	Sweden
	USD 280,583	Spain
Sub-Total	USD 4,051,292	
IDDP	USD 819,489	Finland
	EUR 60,000	ECHO
Sub-Total	USD 885,278	
Centre	USD 30,812	GIZ
Sub-Total	USD 30,812	
Total	USD 4,967,383	

Table 3: Non-core resources mobilized for utilization as from 2016 (as of January 2016)

Project Name	Amount	Donor
PEI	EUR 7,000,000	EU agreement signed in support of PEI (2015-2017)
	SEK 600,000	Swedish contribution
	EUR 250,000	Spanish contribution
	USD 2,000,000	Norwegian contribution for 2015
	GBP 1,000,000	UK/DFID, final contribution under current agreement
Sub-Total	USD 16,613,413	
IDDP	USD 400,000	Finish contribution
Sub-Total	USD 400,000	
BES-Net	EUR 4,500,000	Agreement concluded with Germany (2016 – 2020)
Sub-Total	USD 4,934,210	
Total	USD 21,947,624	

Annex 1: UNDP GC-RED Organigram (December 2015)



Annex 2: 2015 Highlights from the global initiatives implemented under the purview of the Centre

I. UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI): 2015 Highlights

Overall, the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) continued to contribute substantially to the use of integrated approaches at the country level as well as partnerships to integrate different mainstreaming approaches (environment, gender and human rights) in line with government led, evidence based and results focused multi-sectoral approaches. As 2015 closed PEI joins the global community in embracing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York (September 2015).

In April, PEI held a Global Retreat, focused on progress under the current programme as the “midpoint” approaches and ensuring sustainability of poverty-environment mainstreaming results beyond 2017, when the current programming phase concludes. Key discussions focused on the transition from PEI and pilots towards functioning as a service delivery mechanism for SDG implementation and addressing countries’ needs in context of the 2030 Agenda.

Celebrating the 10th year of cooperation between UNDP and UNEP, PEI launched its revised handbook – “Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development” at the 20th meeting of the Poverty Environment Partnership. Capturing 10 years of experience, the handbook shares best practices on how to work across institutions and sectors to build an inclusive and responsive economy that serves the needs of the poor and the environment.

Building on positive engagement in 2014, collaboration with partners was strengthened during 2015. Including intensified partnership between UNCDF LoCAL and PEI Africa to explore opportunities for collaboration at regional and country level. Additionally together with UN Women and the CGIAR Consortium PEI Africa participated in the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) hosted a Gender Pavilion at the Global Landscape Forum in preparations for the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris.

In October, PEI Africa, UN Women and the World Bank jointly published *The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda*, a report demonstrating how collaborative research into gender economics can identify ways countries can simultaneously promote inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and gender equality.

Also in October, the UNDP Extractive Industries Development Solutions Team and PEI Asia Pacific jointly hosted a South-South Exchange and Training Workshop on Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development in Bangkok. In Central Asia, the conference Gender equality and sustainable development for transformative change was held at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek in November to address women’s limited access to decision-making processes, natural and economic resources, information and modern technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Colombia, PEI participated in the Regional Green Economy Forum for Latin America hosted by the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in November. This Forum provided an opportunity to

share lessons on PEI's integrated approach as a building block to an inclusive green economy and launch of the Spanish version of the PEI Handbook.

During the UN Summit in New York PEI was cited as a core model for implementing the new global development agenda. Going forwards towards 2016 we believe PEI is more relevant than ever before to our countries' efforts to meeting the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For further and country level progress and results please click here (newsletter link embedded).

II. Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP): 2015 Highlights

The Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP) is a global UNDP initiative designed to advance sustainable and resilient development in the drylands. It provides policy/technical support, capacity building, knowledge management and catalytic funding for the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in partner countries. It is currently operational in the Arab States and the Horn of Africa, with an expected end-date of 31 December 2016. The highlights of the main achievements in 2015 are presented below.

1. Response to the Syria crisis

Prominent in 2015 is the **support provided for the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in countries affected by the Syria crisis**. The 3RP is a consolidated regional framework aimed at addressing refugee protection needs, the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, and the longer term socio-economic impacts of the Syria crisis on neighboring countries. More specifically and in response to demand from UNDP country offices, the IDDP supported the elaboration and implementation of the National Response Plans in Lebanon and Jordan as well as the UNDP response plan in Syria.



In **Lebanon**, technical assistance was provided within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme to build the capacity of women agro-food cooperatives in communities hosting Syrian refugees. Agreements were signed with the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Zahle (Bekaa) and Saida (South) respectively to strengthen the production and marketing capacity of 12 women agro-food cooperatives. Selection criteria included considerations for livelihood enhancement, potential for growth, promotion of new agricultural crops and product diversification, innovative marketing and sustainable land and water management. Support was also provided for the design of vocational training programs for women and youth in 8 Social Development Centers (SDCs) of the Ministry of Social Affairs to enhance their employability and hence their livelihood options in the context of the increasing pressure from the refugee crisis.



In **Jordan**, within the framework of the Jordan response plan, the IDDP provided support for the design of a joint UNDP/UNEP project to mitigate the impacts of Syrian refugees on ecosystem services and land degradation and build the resilience of affected communities. The project is a component of broader efforts to minimize the negative impacts on hosting communities; contribute to local development and support resilience-oriented interventions. It promotes community-based ecosystem management of land resources to alleviate pressures

generated by the refugees and mitigate the impacts of JRP interventions.



In **Syria**, IDDP provided technical and financial support to the programme “Assistance for the Restoration and Stabilization of the Livelihoods of People Affected by the Crisis”. This support targeted the design and implementation of interventions to restore agricultural productivity and enhance food security of vulnerable groups with special attention to women headed household. The implementation of the “Dar Al-Salam Food Processing Initiative” in Al-Hassakeh, in partnership with the Armenian Catholic Church, was completed. About 600 families benefited directly and indirectly from this intervention

through employment, income and food from their work on the farm, and increased availability of dairy products on the local market at reasonable prices. Furthermore and in response to a request for additional assistance from the country office, IDDP provided support to “Small horticultural farmers in Al-Hassakeh” to make available fresh vegetables on the local market at reasonable prices; enhance the production efforts of 200 producers (covering 300 ha); keep the farmers in business; and secure about 2,000 seasonal job opportunities mostly for women.

2. Building resilient livelihoods and ecosystems in the Maghreb

IDDP provided technical and financial assistance to build resilient livelihoods and ecosystems in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.



IDDP pursued its policy and technical advice on integrated drylands development in **Morocco**. This support – initiated in 2007 under DDC - is channelled through “Programme Oasis Sud”, a major initiative (\$75 million to date) to promote local development planning, value chain development, sustainable management of natural resources, and women empowerment. An independent evaluation of the program in 2014 highlighted its significant impact as a successful model for sustainable socio-economic development and sustainable management of natural

capital. Based on this positive assessment, the Centre supported the documentation of lessons learned and good practices to inform national policy and scaling-up efforts and share the Moroccan experience with other dryland countries. A publication titled [‘Programme Oasis Sud – Une Expérience Marocaine de Développement Durable’](#) was prepared to inform a South-South Cooperation mission organized by the

Centre in March 2015, in partnership with the Government of Morocco, the UNDP Country Office and Regional Bureau for Arab States. Forty representatives from the Arab Region participated in the mission. It provided an excellent platform for experience exchange and networking among participants, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Arab countries.



In **Tunisia** IDDP provided technical support for the development of a GEF multi-focal area project (focusing on land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation). The proposal submitted by UNDP was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to receive \$6.54 million from the GEF6/Star allocation for Tunisia (5.04 million from land degradation focal area and 1.5 from Biodiversity). The Programme is currently supporting the preparation of the PIF to be submitted to the GEF. The good practice publication prepared for the “Kasserine” project was completed. Moreover, the IDDP pursued its support to the project “Governance of Drinking Water in Rural Areas” (following its major role in the design and mobilization of partners and resources for this project). The IDDP is currently providing expertise for the

integration of gender equity and women empowerment considerations in project implementation, including a more active role for women in water users associations.



In **Algeria**, IDDP pursued its support to enhance the organizational and institutional processes for the implementation of the Rural Renewal Program (RRP), the main national initiative to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation in rural areas. IDDP support focuses on enhancing monitoring and evaluation of RRP implementation. Activities included the implementation of a training/action program to enhance the capacity of government staff and facilitate the set-up of a monitoring

and evaluation structure within the Ministry of Agriculture. A technical assessment was carried-out to guide the implementation of a local development project in Magroune (Wilaya of Naama), which will serve as a pilot to test the monitoring and evaluation system put in place. IDDP support will end in June 2016. It allowed the consolidation and establishment of processes and techniques for the monitoring and evaluation of the RRP within the Ministry at central and local levels. These will be institutionalized and used for the implementation of the next 5-year Development Plan (2015-2019) for the agricultural sector.

3. Building resilience to drought in the Horn of Africa



IDDP worked closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), its member states and other partners working in the Horn of Africa region to establish an interactive online mapping platform on “who is doing what and where” - known as 3W Map. Linked directly to the IGAD’s 15-year programme, i.e., Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative, the 3W Map gives decision makers and concerned managers an easy platform for resilience monitoring and planning. *Inter alia*, the Programme supported in the development of the comprehensive 3W MAP operation manual in order to enhance visibility and utilization of the

platform. The manual provides the IGAD member states governments and their partners with clear and detailed instructions on how to submit and extract regional drought disaster resilience investment information and data to/from the map.



In **Kenya**, IDDP provided training for 100 government personnel at national and county levels on results-based management of multi-sectoral drought/disaster resilience building programmes. Utilizing various tools and techniques such as theory of change approach, the IDDP supported the government in establishing a comprehensive multi-sectoral M&E frameworks at national level and for two pilot counties, through which to track the status and

progress of 5-year national/county strategic plans. These framework documents incorporated the complex and inter-linked issues of dryland degradation, climate change and disaster risks effectively, and serve as the key instrument to undertake the mid-term reviews of Vision 2030 Second Medium Term Plan 2013-2017 at national level and County Integrated Development Plans in the coming year.

III. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net): 2015 Highlights

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) is a capacity building “network of networks” that promotes dialogue among science, policy and practice for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. BES-Net is UNDP’s capacity building contribution work to the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

In 2015, the Centre contributed to the setting up and operationalization of BES-Net which included the design of the BES-Net web portal architecture. The Centre was responsible for designing and populating the content of the Land Degradation and Restoration module of BES-Net. The module was successfully developed and will be among those that will be show-cased during the launch of BES-Net in February 2016.

In collaboration with the UNDP Global Biodiversity Programme team, the Centre supported the mobilization of EUR 4,500,000 from the German Government for the full operationalization of the face-to-face capacity building activities, and national and regional biodiversity and ecosystems assessments using global IPBES methodologies. The project will run from January 2016 – December 2020.



we focus on

poverty eradication and environmental sustainability in fragile ecosystems.



we support

sustainable and resilient development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems, aiming to reduce vulnerability and ensure better living standards.



we contribute to

the implementation of the SDGs, which will result in improved livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing, and ultimately lead to pro poor growth.



we mainstream

poverty-environment objectives into national/local development and budgetary frameworks to promote poverty eradication, while advancing sustainable management of natural capital.



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