



UNCCD

United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification

Pacific Regional Workshop: UNDP-GEF's Sustainable Land Management Portfolio Project UNCCD-Land Degradation NAPs

Subregional Action Programme to Implement UNCCD

Jointly organized by

UNDG/GEF GSU, SPREP and SPC
Oct. 1st-4th, 2007, Nadi, Fiji,

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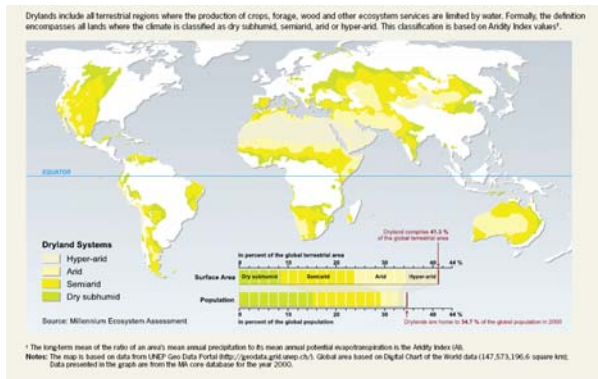
Key Points

- Desertification worldwide, Land Degradation in Asia and the Pacific (AP) and Causes of desertification
- UNCCD Article 11, and Annex II Article 5
- Initiatives on SRAPs in other Asian subregions
- Facts of the Pacific and Proposed Framework/Initiatives of the Pacific SRAP
- Possible Immediate Activities in the Pacific Small Island Developing States
- Suggested Points and Conclusion
- Lessons from Other Asian Subregions

Desertification worldwide, Land Degradation in Asia and the Pacific and Causes of desertification

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Global desertification at a glance



Desertification worldwide

- Desertification damages over 40% of total land area of the world
 1. Africa: Two thirds of the continent is drylands. 73 % of its drylands are moderately or severely affected
 2. Asia: The largest amount of land affected (most affected in terms of land area:) about 1.7 B hectares. One third of the entire area is drylands. 71% of its drylands are affected
 3. The Pacific: Whole (All) faces land degradation, deforestation, soil erosion, botany degradation, drought disaster and fresh water shortage
 4. North America has the highest proportion of dryland, 74%
 5. Five of European Union's countries also suffer
 6. More than 110 countries have drylands that are potentially at risk
- Desertification costs annually the world **US\$42 Billion**, according to UNEP
- Over **250 million** people are directly affected and **one billion** are at risk by desertification
 1. Significant population in dryland abandon their land as it turns to dust
 2. Urban slums swelling causing various social issues in city areas
 3. Desertification has played some part in sparking off political instabilities, armed conflicts in arid land

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Land Degradation and Desertification in Asia and the Pacific

- Land degradation and deforestation in Asia and the Pacific extend across the region:
 1. **Arid lands/drylands and deserts in China, Mongolia and Iran, sand dunes of Syria, steeply eroded mountain of Nepal, and deforested highlands of Myanmar;**
 2. **Deforested lands are prevailing in the Pacific States and landslides caused by soil erosion; unwise logging of natural trees causes soil loss; sea level raising threatens land surface and people; drought prevails and disasters frequently occur.**
- **The Pacific subregion is unique in its geography, ecosystems and natural resources endowment. Land is a scarce resource. The Pacific Island Countries suffer from drought effect, vegetation degradation, soil deterioration and soil erosion, and unproductive land. Vulnerability to natural disasters and economic shocks are the main issues in relation to sustainable development.**
- **In China alone, it is estimated that 27 % of the land mass is desertified, 400 million people live in desert areas and annual economic loss is at about US\$ 6.5 B**
- **In Mongolia, it is estimated that 41% of the land mass have been severely affected, and 90% subject to desertification/steppe degradation/over grazing.**

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Causes of Desertification

- **Climate change accelerates desertification**
Scarce rainfall and prolonged drought
- **Human inability to manage various natural resources**
With changing economic and political circumstances and population growth, land managers cannot respond to climate variations flexibly
- **The low priority given to environmental protection**
Unregulated access to land resources, extreme poverty
- **International economic forces encourage people to overexploit their land**
- **Ignorance, errors, and natural and man-made disasters also affect land degradation. Conflicts, drought, mis-management of water resources etc. are the human factors that cause the land degradation and desertification.**

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UNCCD Article 11, and Annex II Article 5

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UNCCD: Article 11

Subregional and Regional Action Programmes

Affected country Parties shall consult and cooperate to prepare, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant regional implementation annexes, subregional and/or regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes. The provisions of article 10 shall apply mutatis mutandis to subregional and regional programmes. Such cooperation may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation, and strengthening of relevant institutions.

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UNCCD Annex II: Article 5

Subregional and Joint Action Programmes

1. Pursuant to Article 11 of the convention, affected country Parties in Asia may mutually agree to consult and cooperate with other Parties, as appropriate, to prepare and implement subregional or joint action programmes, as appropriate, in order to complement, and increase effectiveness in the implementation of, national action programmes. In either case, the relevant Parties may jointly agree to entrust subregional, including bilateral or national organizations, or specialized institutions, with responsibilities relating to the preparation, coordination and implementation of programmes. Such organizations or institutions may also act as focal points for the promotion and coordination of actions pursuant to article 16 to 18 of the Convention.

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2. In preparing and implementing subregional or joint action programmes, the affected country Parties of the region shall, *inter alia*, as appropriate:

- (a) identify, in cooperation with national institutions, priorities relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought which can better be met by such programmes, as well as relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them;
- (b) evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant regional, subregional and national institutions;
- (c) assess existing programme relating to desertification and drought among all or some parties of the region or subregion and their relationship with national action programmes; and
- (d) formulate in a spirit of partnership, where international cooperation, including financial and technical assistance, is involved, appropriate bilateral and/or multilateral arrangements supporting the programmes.

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3. Subregional or joint action programmes may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources relating to desertification, priorities for coordination and other activities in the fields of capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, particularly drought early warning systems and information sharing, and means of strengthening the relevant subregional and other organizations or institutions.

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Initiatives on SRAPs in other Asian subregions

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SRAP Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific



SRAPs related meetings

Date	Venue	Title of meeting	Documentation available
26 - 27 April, 2001	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Second Meeting of the Working Group of National Focal Points on Preparation of the Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in the Aral Sea basin (SRAP/CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions (english,pdf) Decisions (russian, pdf) List of Participants (english,pdf) List of Participants (russian, pdf)
17 - 20 July 2000	Bishkek and Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan	Meeting on the Preparation of a Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in the Aral Sea Basin in the Context of the UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision of the ministerial meeting (pdf, english) dto. (russian) Conclusion of the experts meeting (pdf, english) Conclusion of the experts meeting (pdf, russian)
29 Feb - 1 March 2000	Beirut, Lebanon	Western Asia Focal Point Meeting on CCD National Report Preparation for COP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report (pdf)
16 February 2000	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Meeting on the endorsement of the sub-regional action programme to combat desertification in West Asia (GM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final endorsed version of the SRAP West Asia (pdf) Summary of the Substantive Sessions (pdf) List of Participants (pdf) Presentation (pdf)

SRAPs related meetings (Conti.)

Date	Venue	Title of meeting	Documentation available
5 - 8 July 2004	Celomb. Sri Lanka	South Asia Sub-regional Workshop on the Development of the Sub-Regional Action Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision List of participants Information note (pdf) Work programme (pdf) Background Document (pdf) SACEP document (pdf) Registration form (rtf)
7 - 9 October 2003	Seoul, Republic of Korea	International Forum/Workshop on Combating Desertification and Controlling Dust and Sand Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman's Summary (pdf) Proceedings (pdf)
21 - 24 July 2003	Bali, Indonesia	South East Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on the Development of the SRAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework (pdf) Work Programme (pdf) Report (pdf)

Central Asia SRAP

- Members: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Development of SRAP
 - Ministerial meeting to initiate preparation of SRAP: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Jul. 2000
 - Launching meeting of SRAP: Cuba, Sept. 2003
- Composition of SRAP: 8 chapters and 4 appendix
- Objectives of subregional cooperation
 - Providing additional impetus and creating new mechanism for NAP implementation;
 - Coordination of subregional interests, solving problems related to the mutual use of cross-border resources, and prevention of possible conflicts;
 - Strengthening the subregional exchange of information and experience;
 - Promoting joint participation in events organized at the international level, in particular COP
 - Developing and implementing joint programmes; etc.
- Priority areas of subregional cooperation
 - Monitoring and evaluation of desertification process;
 - Improve of agricultural water use; combating erosion; salinization, and swamp formation;
 - Agroforestry and management of forest resources and watersheds;
 - Conservation of biodiversity/nature protection; development of eco-tourism
 - Economic capacity building of local communities

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Central Asia SRAP (contd)

- Instruments for solving subregional problems
 - Pilot national and subregional projects: experiences in implementing national projects will be duplicated in other countries
 - Training courses: based on institutional capacity, various training be developed
 - Scientific cooperation: research activities encouraged and shared among parties and open to users
 - Development of information sharing system: publication of scientific journals, development of internet based web sites and a thematic information server, production of a series of popular video films on desertification
- Role of NGOs and public organization, as well as local societies in implementation NAP, SRAP and RAP
- Monitoring and evaluation of SRAP implementation
 - At the national level, the focal agency monitor and coordinate the implementation, ensure integration of SRAP projects in the national strategies on SD
 - At the international level, Conference of the Ministers and Meeting of NFPs to the UNCCD will be held every 3 year, every year, respectively to monitor and coordinate the implementation
- Mobilization of financial resources: various sources, both national and international: GM, ADB, GTZ, SADC, ICARDA, domestic donors.

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South Asia SRAP Framework

- **Members:** Sri Lanka (coordinator), Afghan., Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan
- **Development of SRAP:** Adoption meeting: Sri Lanka, July, 2004
- **Overall objectives**
 1. To promote sustainable land and ecosystem mgt. including effective development and implementation of early warning systems for land degradation and drought
 2. To replicate successful practices and techniques in a participatory manner
- **Programme areas (PAs)**
 1. PA 1: Early warning systems for land degradation and drought
 2. PA 2: Integrated ecosystem mgt. with emphasis on sustainable pastoral silvo-agriculture
 3. PA 3: Cross-cutting programmes: 1. information network, 2. capacity building, 3. resource mobilization and partnership building
- **Institutional arrangement and operations**
 1. SRAP Steering Committee composed of national UNCCD focal points
 2. SACEP and IUCN in South Asia invited as major partners in formulating and implementing SRAP

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South East Asia SRAP

- **Members:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste AND Viet Nam,
- **Development of SRAP**
 1. Signing agreement and submitted to UNCCD: Rome, Nov. 2002;
 2. Formulation of SRAP: May 2003;
 3. Framework launching meeting: Viet Nam, Dec. 2005;
 4. Formulation meeting: Thailand, Dec. 2006.
- **Programme goals**
 1. To establish ASEAN Country Party Network for knowledge-based geo-information and data base and best integrated watershed management practices
 2. To mainstream policy formulation and mitigation measures established by Countries
- **Programme areas (PAs)**
 - PA 1: Geo-informatics development for land degradation control and drought mitigation
 - PA 2: Sustainable land and integrated ecosystem management, particularly in drought prone, seasonally arid and food insecure areas
 - PA 3: Cross-cutting programmes: 1. information network development, 2. exchange and transfer of science, technology and traditional knowledge, 3. capacity building and community empowerment, 4. resource mobilization and partnership

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Possible elements of NEA SRAP

- **Transboundary effects**
 1. DSS from Gobi desert moves to neighbouring states in W/Spring seasons;
 2. Dust and Sand Storm degrade both natural and living environment;
 3. Direct or indirect affects from original sand source area.
- **Synergy of cooperation**
 1. Through significant breakouts of the cases, each country has learned lessons and developed measures to tackle desertification and DSS
 2. The lessons and experiences need to be shared each other
 3. Enthusiastic efforts of one party may not guarantee tangible results without the equivalent ones from neighbors
- **Facilitation of international cooperation**
 1. Cooperation in exchange of policy information, technologies and researches relevant to combating desertification encouraged
 2. External attention from international organizations leading to increased contribution of financial or technical resources
 3. UNCCD Secretariat stands with members in facilitating SRAP

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NEA SRAP and NEAFN

- **North East Asia Forest Network as a political setting**
 1. Members express commitment and contribution in enhancing cooperation in combating desertification and DSS in the region
 2. Periodical meetings (high-level or working-level) put political commitment into decisions on practical cooperation programmes
 3. Final decision-making body to consider and adopt programmes of mutual interests and monitor their implementation
- **NEA SRAP as a technical setting for supporting the NEAFN**
 1. Long-term and mid-term strategies for realizing regional cooperation
 2. Detailed projects of common interests developed with internal or external contributions presented to NEAFN consideration
- **NEA SRAP is a platform which NEAFN will look after all its mandate and be suggested to station in Seoul**
 1. NEAFN is suggested to work as the acting body of the NEA SRAP which will be chaired by each country for one year since its establishment and necessary costs will be born by the host country during its duty year.

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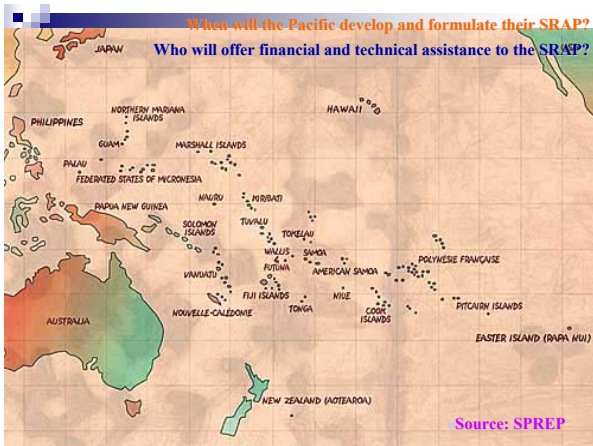
Proposal to formulate NEA SRAP

- **A proposal of NEA SRAP will be drafted this year**
 1. NEAFF in Seoul pledged its contribution in drafting the proposal;
 2. In Sept./07, international consultant will be invited to draft the proposal;
 3. In Nov. 2007, the formulation of draft proposal will be finalized;
 4. ARCU of UNCCD to serve as a facilitator during drafting process;
- **Regional Meetings will be held to formulate the draft proposal**
 1. Preparation Meeting : October, venue to be decided;
 2. Formulation Meeting : December, Seoul (to be decided);
 3. ARCU will coordinate initiatives and activities among member countries;
 4. Inputs and comments in formulating the proposal will be contributed in advance communication at NFP level;
 5. With the outcomes of meetings, the draft will be formulated and adopted;
- **Member countries kindly requested to actively participate into the process**
 1. Nominate delegates, contact persons, establish communication;
 2. Offer inputs, basic info, feasible measures and cooperation ideas, etc
- **Final NEA SRAP proposal be submitted to the next NEAFN Meeting**
 1. Member countries of NEAFN will deliberate and endorse the Proposal;
 2. Submission to respective governments for admin and financial approval.

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Facts of the Pacific and Proposed framework/initiatives of the Pacific SRAP

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UNCCD's Initiatives in the Pacific Sub-regional Level

Support to promoting sub-regional collaboration in tackling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought among the South Pacific Island countries in 2002 (ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.2 page 9).

Preparedness of drought and mitigation of its effect is the priority area of this sub-regional project. As one of major natural disasters, drought brings about impact to local communities in SP sub-region. How and what way the international organizations and UN agencies can do, particularly on the prediction and forecast of the disaster? Synergy between global environmental conventions, like UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD is focus interest to be considered and discussed further.

The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Many of the islands are of inundation, loss of fresh water or devastation due to more violent weather. Even in the high islands, the climate change brings about disastrous hazards to local environment and people's existence.

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1. By analyzing:
 - a) national reports of concerned Pacific countries;
 - b) draft and formulated NAPs to implement the UNCCD;
 - c) national environment protection and sustainable development strategy;
 - d) national policies for targeting UN MDGs.

A series of sub-regional priority areas/proposed initiatives in the Pacific are briefly outlined as following for your reference:

- a) Climate change and mitigation of drought impacts;
- b) Natural and environmental disasters;
- c) Coastal & marine resources;
- d) Freshwater resources;
- e) Energy resources;
- f) Soil erosion control;
- g) Biodiversity resources;
- h) Administrative capacity;
- i) Regional cooperation;
- j) Human resource development;
- k) Implementation monitoring and review.

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Possible Immediate Activities in the Pacific Small Islands States

Possible Immediate Activities the Pacific Small Islands States need:

1. **Public Awareness Raising & Community Participation;**
2. **Development of NAP to rehabilitate land degradation;**
3. **Mobilization of Fin. Resources & Focus on Long-term Plan;**
4. **Scientific and Technological Inputs (Subregional, Regional international academies and institutions);**
5. **Policy Development and Legal Instrument;**
6. **Scholar Exchange and Information-sharing system;**
7. **Establishment of demonstration sites and pilot projects;**
8. **Encourage of voluntary contribution, including active involvement of international, domestic NGOs, CBOs, and private sectors.**

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Suggested Points and Conclusion

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Suggested Points to be considered

- 1) Seriously consider the effective ways to cooperate with Agencies and recall them to join our efforts and initiatives in dealing with land degradation issues;
- 2) Active involvement of the Pacific in TPNS' activities, particularly in the preparedness of drought, soil erosion, botany degradation, fresh water management, local area development, early warning of disaster, extension service at grass root level and skill training for farmers;
- 3) Synergy between CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD for soliciting GEF funds to implement NAPs (Kiribati, Niue and Tuvalu only) and the development and implementation of the Pacific SRAP;
- 4) Partnership Building, Institutional Capacity Building, Human Resource Development, policy development and legal instrument on prevention and rehabilitation of land degradation in the Pacific;
- 5) Information-sharing and Data exchange among concerned institutions and governmental agencies of the Pacific;
- 6) Establishment of cooperative mechanism between the Pacific Small Islands States and the developed country parties;
- 7) Inviting International financing institutions, including GEF and GM, to support national focal point agencies of the Pacific to operate their NAPs, strategic plans and local projects relating to prevention and rehabilitation of land degradation, drought mitigation, poverty alleviation and disaster reduction.

Conclusion

Share common interests in rehabilitating land degradation, mitigating drought effects, reducing poverty and combating desertification among the Pacific subregional countries, through:

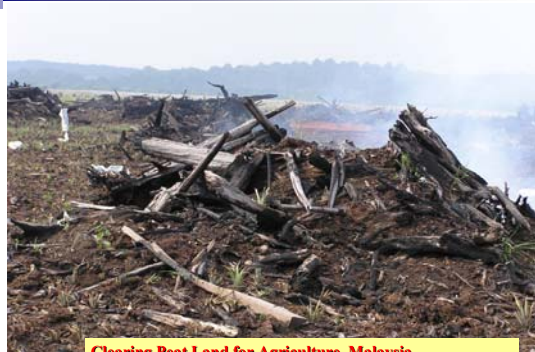
- The Pacific SRAP is the essential and it will offer effective operational mechanism for countries to deal with the above said issues;
- UNDP/GSU has been effectively working through its Portfolio and other projects in the Pacific and UNCCD wishes to have close cooperation with UNDP/GSU by providing technical assistance and consultancy service;
- With hard work and effective cooperation between agencies and affected countries, the Pacific SRAP is expected to be developed and formulated with supports of UNDP in a visible period of time;
- It is kindly suggested that GM of UNCCD should be invited to offer financial assistance in formulating and operating the Pacific SRAP; UNESCAP is recommended to contribute their advisory service and UNCCD/Asia RCU is ready to offer technical assistance and communication service to the member countries

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Some lessons can be learned from other subregions:

**South Asia,
Southeast Asia,
Northeast Asia, and
West Asia**

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Clearing Peat Land for Agriculture, Malaysia

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DROUGHT in Philippines

1. A recurring event in the climatic system defined as the lack of sufficient water supply to meet requirements
2. Causal Factor: Seasonal Aridity exacerbated by increasing incidence of El Niño
3. Impacts on: agriculture and fisheries sector, environment and natural resources; and socio-economic conditions



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Deforestation of hilly areas in Northern Thailand, which easily caused landslide and soil erosion in rainy season



Deforestation and Reafforestation, Myanmar



***Acacia torulosa* and *Acacia difficilis* planted on white sand**



Poverty causes unwise collection of fuel wood and surface, as consequence, as exposed to erosion, Mongolia



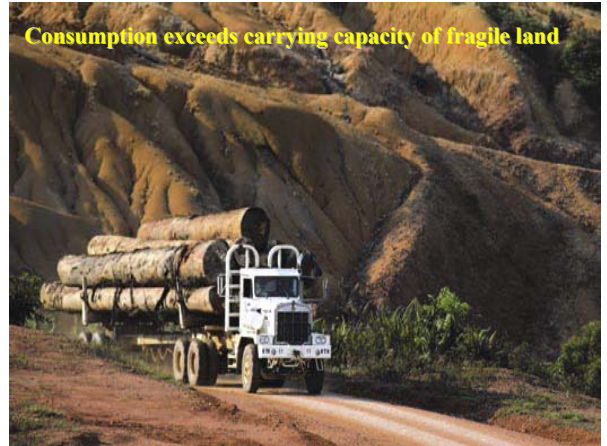
Dry steppe is over-grazed in Mongolia



Dust and Sandstorm in Iraq



Migration from desert to urban, Iran



Consumption exceeds carrying capacity of fragile land



Thanks for your attention!

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