



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND EROSION



# DLDD AFRICA



*Forest and Water are Life.*



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# Introduction



The continent of Africa is home to 54 countries where around 1/7 of Earth population lives. However, due to its geographical location and climate, meeting the basic needs of its population in a sustainable manner presents a weakness for Africa.

Shortened in usage to Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention, which today has 195 member countries, was in fact signed as “the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa” in 1994. The purpose of the Convention is to combat desertification and to alleviate the impacts of drought in countries subject to severe drought and desertification, particularly in Africa.

Turkey’s African initiative, launched in 1998, was complemented with the Africa Strategy adopted in 2010 (2010/7), the two “Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit”s held in Istanbul and Malabo/Equatorial Guinea in 2008 and 2014 respectively, as well as the Malabo Declaration and the Joint Implementation Plan of Africa -Turkey Partnership (2015-2019) both signed during the latter Summit, and the relations gradually strengthened and varied in all fronts.

The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (ÇEM) has carried out numerous activities in Africa since its foundation in 2011, and is still maintaining its efforts.

This booklet was prepared to contain all the activities of our General Directorate in Africa. Said activities are presented under the Ankara Initiative, Regional Co-operations, Bilateral Co-operations, Trainings, Workshops, Symposiums and Planned Efforts titles.

# Ankara Initiative

Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification



The 12th Conference of Parties (COP12) to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification was hosted from 12-23 October 2015 in Ankara by Turkey, who took over the presidential term for 2 years. Turkey's been providing project support to many countries, particularly in Africa, and the 2-year presidential term of COP12 is considered to be an opportunity to its determination in maintaining this support. With this goal in mind, Turkey launched the Ankara Initiative named after the host city of COP12 as a means of supporting the implementation of COP decisions.

## Purpose

Ankara Initiative was launched in order to facilitate attaining the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target.

## Components

Ankara Initiative comprises of three main goals in socio-economic, institutional and political domains.

These are:

- Enabling individuals, with regards to socio-economic factors, to take key roles in the decision making process,
- Increasing the efficiency of institutional organisations,
- Strengthening a policy making process that supports integrated land use planning.



Ankara Initiative is based on three principles.

- It will prioritise enhanced human prosperity with a human-based approach to the combat against desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), strengthened land user rights, and active involvement of all stakeholders to the process.
- It will ensure inter-sectorial, inter-process, inter-disciplinary and cross-border co-operation and improve early warning systems in order to attain LDN targets and to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.
- It will support efforts related to land use planning.

## Duration

Ankara Initiative is planned for a four-year-period to cover the years between 2016 and 2019.

## Budget

Turkey will contribute 5 million dollars to the Secretariat over a four year period from 2016 – 2019 within the scope of Ankara Initiative.

## Implementation

Turkey will designate two officials to be appointed in Secretariat (UNCCD) and Global Mechanism (GM) each respectively in order to take effective part in the implementation of Ankara Initiative.



# Ankara Initiative Decision in COP12

Ankara Initiative, well-received by all Parties, was presented by Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu (Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs), President of COP12, during the opening speeches of COP12.

The opening speech stated as below;

*“We, as Turkey, are willing to maintain our support to the combat against desertification, land degradation and drought in the future as it was in the past. With this in mind, we will launch a joint initiative with the UNCCD titled Ankara Initiative during COP12. Turkey will thus provide political, financial and technical support to the implementation of the COP12 decisions. Furthermore, this initiative will provide for Turkey to share its vast experiences, information and approach in combating desertification and land degradation in dry lands with other countries. Indeed, Turkey presently offers assistance to numerous countries within the scope of its bilateral and multilateral agreements. Through Ankara Initiative, Turkish government aims to enhance these efforts to a more efficient, sustainable and participative scale as well as advancing the progress towards Land Degradation Neutrality by incorporating the experiences of other countries as well.”*



The Initiative was launched in compliance with the COP12/29 decision. The cooperative works of our General Directorate with the African countries will from now on be implemented within the scope of annual work plans and activities in conformity with the goals and principles set out in the Ankara Initiative.



# Regional Co-operations

Turkey's relations with African countries intensified following COP12 thanks to both the Ankara Initiative and the COP12 term presidency of Turkey. Our Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall on combat against desertification on 30.05.2016, in Konya/Turkey.

The Agreement sets forth that all information, experience and technology on preservation of natural resources, combating desertification and drought, erosion control, and preservation and rehabilitation of forests shall be shared.

The cooperation will consist of below components:

- Developing and implementing joint projects
- Formulating an action plan
- Joint workshops, meetings, seminars, training programmes and study trips
- Shared scientific and technical information and documents in regard to research and development activities
- Expert, researcher, consultant and personnel exchange

## Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall

The Great Green Wall initiative aims to grow a great green wall in Africa on a strip stretching from Djibouti on the eastern end, and Senegal on the west in order to tackle desertification and land degradation in the region.

One of the leading powers of the initiative is the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall. The Agency, founded in 2007, currently has 11 African country members: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan.

The first of our regional co-operative actions in Africa as ÇEM was conducted with the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall.





# Bilateral Co-operations

ÇEM initiated its co-operative actions with the African countries first with Niger, then expanded its scope through Djibouti, Mauritania and Senegal.



## Niger

Foundation works for the “Turkey-Niger Friendship Forest” in Niamey, the capital of Niger, were initiated on 13 July 2012. While 2 hectares of the two-part project was designed as the “Turkish – Niger Friendship Forest” urban forest, 8 hectares was arranged as a plantation field.





## Djibouti

A representative committee from our Ministry executed a technical visit to Djibouti from 02 - 08 June 2013. The possible co-operation topics with Djibouti within the extent of ÇEM's experiences were discussed in depth during this visit.

A co-operation agreement on forestry issues was signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti on 13 May 2014 in Ankara/Turkey.

The Agreement sets forth that all information, experience and technology on preservation of natural resources, combating desertification and drought, erosion control, and preservation and rehabilitation of forests shall be shared.

The cooperation will consist of below components:

- Shared scientific and technical information and documents in regard to research and development activities in forestry
- Expert, researcher, consultant and personnel exchange
- Joint workshops, meetings, seminars, training programmes and study trips
- Developing and implementing joint projects

## Mauritania

A co-operation agreement on forestry issues was signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 6 April 2016 in Nouakchott/Mauritania.

The Agreement sets forth that all information, experience and technology on preservation of natural resources, combating desertification and drought, erosion control, and preservation and rehabilitation of forests shall be shared.





The cooperation will consist of below components

- Shared scientific and technical information and documents in regard to research and development activities in forestry
- Expert, researcher, consultant and personnel exchange
- Joint workshops, meetings, seminars, training programmes and study trips
- Developing and implementing joint projects

## Senegal

A co-operation agreement on forestry issues was signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Senegal on 8 April 2016 in Dakar/Senegal.

The Agreement sets forth that all information, experience and technology on preservation of natural resources, combating desertification and drought, erosion control, and preservation and rehabilitation of forests shall be shared.

The cooperation will consist of below components:

- Shared scientific and technical information and documents in regard to research and development activities in forestry
- Expert, researcher, consultant and personnel exchange
- Joint workshops, meetings, seminars, training programmes and study trips
- Developing and implementing joint projects





# Trainings

ÇEM has been organising annual international training programmes on combating desertification since the year of its foundation. Organisation plans and contents of programmes are developed with the co-operation of ÇEM, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) and the General Directorate of Forestry (OGM).

Through these trainings, Turkey's experience in the subject matter is shared with other countries, and over the course new co-operation opportunities arise.

Experts from various countries in Africa visit Turkey to participate in the trainings and they discover new technologies while receiving training on forestry techniques and combating desertification.

## **Seed and Sapling Production Methods Improvement Training (2011) Eskişehir-Manisa/Turkey**

The training programme held in Eskişehir and Manisa provinces from 31 October – 4 November 2011 received 26 participants from 14 countries in Central Asia, Balkans, and Africa.

The programme welcomed participants from Ethiopia, Senegal and Sudan from Africa, and the concept included theoretical information deliveries, technical visits, and the sharing of experiences of participant countries.

The examination of seed conservation in cold air storage units in Eskişehir and Manisa plantations as well as trips to greenhouses to examine the saplings based on their species were also included in the training programme.





## Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in Combat against Desertification (2012)

### Ankara-Konya/Turkey

The training programme held in Ankara and Konya provinces from 13 -18 June 2012 received 17 participant countries from Central Asia, Balkans, and Africa as well as 37 NGO's, of which 26 were from outside of Turkey.

The programme welcomed participants from Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo from Africa, and the concept included theoretical information deliveries, technical visits, the sharing of experiences of participant countries and the celebrations for the 17th of June.

Participants signed a declaration on the "Role of NGO's in Combat against Desertification" following the training programme. The declaration was presented by Rose AtengMbah from Cameroon and Prof. Dr. Ayten Namlı Karaca from Turkey.

Moreover, briefings were provided on the role of NGO's in combating desertification, conducted projects and gathered experiences, trainings and awareness raising activities, policy making, science, technology, and capacity building.

In addition, a two-day field trip to Konya was organised and the 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification was celebrated with various activities. The trip to Konya included briefings on our activities in combat against desertification and land degradation.





## **International Combating Against Desertification Training (2013)**

### **Mersin-Konya/Turkey**

The training programme held in Alata Horticultural Research Institute in Mersin/Erdemli from 11-17 June 2013 received 44 participants from 24 countries in Middle East and Africa.

The programme welcomed participants from Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Egypt, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia and Togo from Africa, and the concept included theoretical information deliveries, technical visits, the sharing of experiences of participant countries and the celebrations for the 17th of June.

Mersin/Erdemli, Kocahasanlı and Üçtepe villages were visited as examples to the “Modern Irrigation Techniques and Greenhousing” subject.





Field applications of high plateau greening systems were performed and participants were briefed on modern greening and irrigation systems in private sector as well as being provided detailed information on works carried out in cedar plantation field.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Field Days in Bahri Dağdaş International Agricultural Research Institute in Konya to examine and inquire about the tools, staff, and equipment used in agriculture as well as seed and fertiliser types.

The programme then included inspecting the actions taken against wind erosion on site in Wind Erosion Prevention Project Site in Karapınar Ereğli Basin. Participants were provided with briefing and inspection on plantation sites established by Konya Şeker.

The final day of training consisted of 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification celebrations in Konya Mevlana Cultural Centre.





## **International Combating Against Desertification Training (2016)** **Konya-Mersin-Adana/Turkey**

The training was held in Konya-Mersin-Adana provinces from 30 May – 05 June 2016 within the scope of Ankara Initiative with the co-operation of ÇEM and TİKA.

While the main goal of the training was to increase capacity in African countries, the programme received 68 participants from 30 countries that are namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Algeria, Djibouti, Chad, Ethiopia, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Madagascar, Mali, Egypt, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.





# Workshops and Symposiums

ÇEM closely follows the global agenda on combat against desertification so as to create common platforms where experts on the subject gather to share experiences. It has organised workshops and symposiums within Turkey as well as abroad since it was founded in 2011.

## **Meteorology, Sand and Dust Storm, and Combating Desertification and Erosion Workshop (2012)** Ankara-Konya/Turkey

Participants of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in the Area of Environment and Meteorology held in Tehran from 26-29 September 2010 signed during the conference the Action Plan on Cooperation in the Area of Environment and Meteorology. The Action Plan comprised four subjects:

- Environment,
- Air quality management,
- Meteorology,
- Combating Desertification, Forestry, Soil Reclamation and Soil Erosion Control, and Decreasing Dust and Haze Storms





Thus, a “Meteorology, Sand and Dust Storm, and Combating Desertification and Erosion” workshop was organised from 26-28 November 2012 in Ankara within the scope of the Action Plan on Cooperation in the Area of Environment and Meteorology.

28 participants from 17 countries in Middle East, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa joined the workshop.

The workshop welcomed participants from Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia from Africa, and offered theoretical information deliveries, the sharing of experiences of participant countries and technical visits.

Participants performed land inspection in Konya on the final day of workshop, and the workshop final declaration was then prepared.

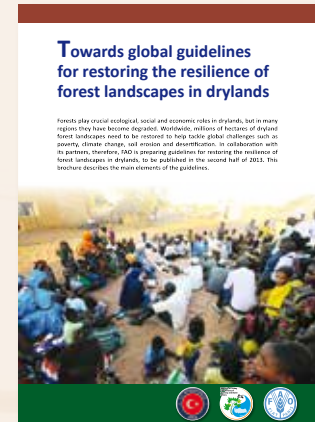


## Formation of Landscapes (Forest Ecosystems) Resistant to Global Changes Guidance Workshop I (2012)

Konya/Turkey

In order to support the restoration works in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, ÇEM offered its contribution to the guideline preparation stage of the FAO project “Guideline Preparation and Implementation of Building Forest Landscapes Resilient to Global Changes in Dry Lands”.

To this end, a workshop was organised from 28-31 May 2012 in Konya by the co-operation of ÇEM, TİKA, FAO and GIZ with the participations of more than 100 experts from research institutes, non-governmental organisations, national development agencies and private sector in Africa, Central Asia, and Near Eastern countries.



## Formation of Landscapes (Forest Ecosystems) Resistant to Global Changes Guidance Workshop II (2013)

Dakar/Senegal

Following the first workshop on guideline preparation in Konya, a second workshop to finalise the guideline was organised co-operatively by ÇEM and TİKA in Dakar/Senegal from 24-28 February 2013.

The workshop drew approximately 200 experts, and Senegal’s Directorate of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Soil Conservation and the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion signed a Joint Declaration during the workshop.

The handbook “Guidelines for Building Landscapes Resilient to Global Changes”, compiled following the first workshop our Ministry organised in Africa, was published as a joint publication of FAO, TİKA, and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and was distributed during COP12.





## **Meteorology, Sand and Dust Storm, Combating Desertification and Erosion Workshop (2013)** İstanbul/Turkey

A “Meteorology, Sand and Dust Storm, and Combating Desertification and Erosion” workshop was organised from 28-31 October 2013 in İstanbul within the scope of the Action Plan on Cooperation in the Area of Environment and Meteorology.

32 participants from 15 countries in Middle East, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa joined the workshop.

The workshop welcomed participants from Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Sudan and Tunisia from Africa, and offered theoretical information deliveries, the sharing of experiences of participant countries and technical visits.

Participants conducted a technical visit to Terkos Lake-Durusu region on the final day of workshop in order to inspect dune afforestation works on site.



## **International Drought and Desertification Symposium (2014)** Konya/Turkey

Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, and Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock co-operatively organised the Symposium in Konya from 16-18 September 2014.

17 countries participated in the Symposium from Africa, and a total of 163 declarations on subjects of drought, desertification, erosion, climate change, land management, pasture management, soil tillage methods, irrigation systems and water use efficiency, and the socio-economic effects of drought and desertification were presented.





## Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Workshop (2016) Konya/Turkey

The “Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Workshop” facilitated by Secretariat of UNCCD, Global Mechanism and ÇEM was hosted by Turkey from 28-30 May 2016 in Konya. The workshop was promoted within the scope of Ankara Initiative.

The workshop launched the LDN target setting process in African countries with the participations of representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, South Africa, South Sudan, Cameroon, Kenya, Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Egypt, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Cape Verde and Zimbabwe.

In addition to 39 experts from 31 African countries, the workshop drew approximately 70 participants including UNCCD national focus points, national and regional consultants, and representatives from Secretariat/Global Mechanism.

The workshop programme included office work on 28-29 May and technical field trip on 30 May.





# Planned Works

ÇEM will maintain its co-operations in Africa at the same scale within the scope of Ankara Initiative. Below are the planned works for August and September 2016.

Activity	Date	Location
African Drought Conference	15-19 August 2016	Windhoek / Namibia
Meteorology, Dust and Sand Storms, International Combating Desertification and Erosion Workshop	04-07 October 2016	İstanbul / Turkey





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