

Objective: To combat desertification and m

Summary of provisions: The Convention sets out principles to guide the Parties in implementing the Convention, such as inter alia ensuring participation of the public in relevant decision-making process, improving international cooperation and coordination and developing co-operation among various levels of actors in a country for sustainable use of land and water resources (art.3). Parties undertake to integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and strengthen sub-regional, regional and international cooperation as well as cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organisations. They agree to promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilise and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties (art.4.2). The Convention contains specific obligations for affected country Parties and developed country Parties (arts. 5-6). Priority is to be given to affected African country Parties (art.7). Affected country Parties undertake to prepare, make public, implement and update national action programmes, with the purpose of identifying the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought (arts. 9.1 and 10.1). Further these Parties are to consult and cooperate to prepare sub-regional and/or regional action programmes to harmonise, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes (art. 11). Parties agree to integrate and co-ordinate the collection, analysis and exchange of relevant data and information (art. 16), and to promote technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought (art. 17). They are to promote, finance, and/or facilitate the finance of the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought (art. 18(1)). Furthermore, they undertake to protect, promote and use relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices (art. 18(2)) and capacity building (art. 19). mitigate the effects of drought in the countries affected.

Institutional mechanisms: The Convention contains provisions concerning financial resources and the establishment of a Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, to affected developing country Parties (arts. 20-21). It establishes a Conference of the Parties as the supreme body of the Convention as well as a Permanent Secretariat and a Committee on Science and Technology (arts. 22, 23 and 24). Parties are to communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the (Convention (art. 26.1). Finally, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention are to be considered and adopted by the Conference of the Parties (art.27).

(Source: IUCN ELC, 08.2005, based on UNEP Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment, 1996)

\* Art. 36 (2): For each State ratifying, accepting, \* approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit \* of the fiftieth instrument of ratification etc., the \* Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day \* after the date of deposit by such State