



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*

# Italian Cooperation and Sustainable Development

Case-studies 2000-2002

▶ WORLD SUMMIT  
ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

▶ JOHANNESBURG 2002

26 AUGUST > 4 SEPTEMBER



**T**he promotion of Sustainable Development has always been a priority for Italy, which pursues the implementation of Agenda 21 on its own territory and in its policies and relations with Partner Countries. Indeed, the Italian legislative follow-up to the conventions and agreements that have stemmed from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 has been consistent with this commitment. In 1996, the "Environment" stood as a priority of the semester of Italian EU Presidency. During that period, among other results, a Council Resolution on Environmental Assessment in Development Cooperation was elaborated and approved and a panel of experts on biological diversity was created. In 2000, Italy has again stressed its commitment to the attainment of the Millennium Goals, in particular Human Development and Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration. The Italian Development Cooperation includes the "sustainable use and management of natural resources and environmental conservation" and "poverty alleviation" among its objectives. Efforts have been devoted to mainstream environmental sustainability at all levels of intervention and to propose innovative and wide-reaching approaches to partners. Noteworthy is for example the participation to the DAC/OECD Party on Development Assistance and Environment and to the G8 Group on Forests. The case studies presented here are just one set of examples out of all initiatives carried out during the period 2000-2002, in the framework of the Environment and Development binomial. More than ninety-five relevant projects and programmes have been in fact in operation during this time-span, for a total financial value of more than 566 million . Main distinctive features are as follows.

- Many initiatives establish Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and tailor-made Decision Support Systems (DSS). These applications are planning/management tools, which provide decision-makers with an exhaustive and objective picture of both the context wherein

planning/management actions have to fit, and the impact those actions are likely to have. DSS users can thus better understand the actual consequences of planning and management actions they want to undertake. This tool has proved particularly useful in the framework of institutional capacity-building initiatives, which entail the planning and management of sustainable development in complex systems.

- Several initiatives in the field of sustainable ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation are trans-national and/or regional in scope and action. In response to the WSSD appeal, Italy is building upon them to develop a number of Type-2 partnerships.
- Many initiatives integrate ecosystem rehabilitation and the improvement of health conditions of local populations with the development of income-generating activities, both directly, through more sustainable productions in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and indirectly through eco-tourism development, sustainable management of wild life and wild flora, etc.
- Building upon the experience gained shepherding the Waste Management Sector in the Multilateral Group on Environment in the framework of the Middle-East Peace Process, many interventions aim at systemic waste management, by focusing on the latter's implications on poverty alleviation, health issues and natural resources.

It is also worth mentioning the Italian technical and financial support to UN agencies and bodies responsible for research, policy-making and action in the follow-up to Rio, among which FAO, GEF, IUCN and UNEP emerge. Italy has also been particularly pro-active in the support and implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, through projects and programmes at national and regional levels, including the formulation and implementation of National Action Programmes, and through support to the Secretariat of the Convention itself and the Global Mechanism.

## Table of contents

Community Conservation Development of Lake Turkana area, Kenya	
Community Development and Environmental Conservation in SADC-Regional Project for the Conservation of Rhinos	
Desertification Information System in the Mediterranean Basin (DISMED)	
Early Warning and Agricultural Forecast Project (AP3A), Sahel Region	
Environment, Natural Resources and Poverty Eradication for the Population of Socotra Island, Yemen	
Establishment of a plant resources regional network in the SADC region. A service for environmental conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development (SECOSUD)	
Fire control project in the Amazon (Fogo Emergência Crônica), Brazil	
Forestry Project, Albania	
Integrated Management of Tambopata-Inambari Catchment Basin, Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development in Selva Alta and in the Southern Zone of Tambopata-Candamo Protected Area, Peru	
Integrated Rural Development Programme in the Ader Doutchi Maggia, (Projet Keita, PIK), Niger	
Inter-regional Project for Participatory Upland Conservation and Development, Africa, Asia and Latin America	
Land Cover Mapping of East Africa based on Satellite Remote Sensing (AFRICOVER), East Africa	
Legal and institutional consolidation of the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs	
Programme for the Conservation of Water and Soil in the Kairouan, Siliana and Zaghouan Governorates, Tunisia	
Range-land Rehabilitation and Establishment of a Wildlife Reserve in the Syrian Steppe	
Regional Integrated Information System, II° phase, East Africa	
Regional Programme to Combat Desertification in West/Central Asia and North Africa	
Strengthening of Institutional Capacity and Set-up of a Process for the Environmental Rehabilitation and Social and Economic Development of Guanabara Bay, (TAGUBAR) Brazil	
Support Programme to the Egypt Environmental Affairs Agency/Technical Cooperation Office, for the implementation of a multi-disciplinary plan in the frame of the National Environmental Action Plan, EIECP - Decision Support System for Water Resources	
EIECP Gabal Elba Protected Area	
EIECP Siwa Oasis Protected Area	
EIECP Wadi El Rayan Protected Area	
Support to Training and Assistance in the Field of Environmental Management (PAFAGE), Niger	
Sustainable Development and Natural Resources in Southern Zimbabwe	
Systemic Integration of Networks for Sustainable Freshwater Management in West/Central Asia and North Africa	

- This report has been published on the occasion of the **World Summit on Sustainable Development** ( Johannesburg, 26 August - 4 September 2002 ) by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **Editor**  
Antonio Verde

- **Editorial Group**  
Tullia Aiazzi, Joe Coppola,  
Alfredo Guillet, Sebastian Winkler

- **Graphic Design**  
Pietro Bartoleschi

- **Photographs**  
courtesy of  
M. Marzot, G. Perin, F. Perlotto, G. Serra, M. Tagliaferri  
CeSIA, CESVI, FAO, IUCN, UNCCD, UNDP

- **Coordination**  
Giorgio Trabattoni,  
Head of the Environment Coordination Desk,  
Directorate General for Development Cooperation

- This publication was also realized thanks to contributions by:  
Luciana Ambrosiano, Giovanna Barile, Caterina Batello,  
Guido Benevento, Massimo Candelori, Paolo Caroli,  
Pietro Chiappini Carpena, Emanuele Cuccillato, Giuseppe Da Conto,  
Luigi De Chiara, Massimo Dragan, Marco Falcetta, Enrico Feoli,  
Elena Ferretti, Lorenzo Genesisio, Felix Longobardi, Pamela Murano,  
Laura Rosa, Michela Tagliaferri, Patrizio Vignaroli,  
Diane Young, Edoardo Zandri

All rights reserved.

No part of this text can be reproduced without citing the original source.

No photographs can be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the photographer.