

# **CLEMDES Annual Report # 1**

EVK2-2002-80006

(01 November 2002– 31 October 2003)



Home Page: <http://www.clemdes.org>

*(1 December 2003)*

By: Guido Bonati & Iraj Namdarian (Project Coordinators)

INEA, Via Barberini, 36, 00187 Rome, Italy

The report consists of 4 Sections:

- **Management Report of first year**
- **Executive Summary**
- *list of publications*
- **Progress Reports of each Work Package**
- **Technical Implementation Plan**
- **Annex 1: Publication list**
- **Annex 2: Partner List (updated)**
- **Annex 3: Terms of the Reference for the CHM on desertification**
- **Annex 4: Brochure of CLEMDES (.PDF)**

## SECTION I. MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FIRST YEAR (GUIDO BONATI)

### 1. Objectives of the reporting period

The overall objectives of CLEMDES are to:

*1.1 Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, within and among the countries of Annex IV and other affected countries of the Mediterranean Region*

*1.2 Develop a mechanism for the participation of NGOs, local stakeholders and scientific community to the exchange and integration of information on desertification*

*1.3 Disseminate all research results available*

*1.4 Establish a central (portal) web site prototype of the Clearing House Mechanism on desertification for the Northern Mediterranean region.*

*1.5 Develop tool kit to assist in the establishment of national internet data-base*

*1.6 Development of synergies with other existing initiatives of the Climate Change and Biodiversity convention.*

During the reporting period (01 November – 31 October 2003), the main focus was on the following objectives:

- 1) definition of tasks by partners and coordinator;
- 2) establishment of the web site portal, localized in the languages of the partners;
- 3) involvement of stakeholders;
- 4) dissemination of the initial results of the project.

**2 SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL PROGRESS MADE IN DIFFERENT WORK PACKAGES ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED TIME SCHEDULE:**

*2.1. Scientific/Technical progress made*

All partners made progress according to plan. Below a more detailed version of the original Gantt chart is given, showing activities and milestones during the first 12 months.

Table 2.1 - Detailed Gantt chart for first 12 months

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Activity				Int'l workshop in Viterbo (Italy) from 29/01 – 02/02 2003					<a href="http://www.clemdes.org">www.clemdes.org</a> registered	-Site <a href="http://www.clemdes.org">http://www.clemdes.org</a> was opened  -The brochures were prepared, stamped and disseminated.	National meeting in Israel held on September 11 <sup>th</sup> 2003	National Meeting held on October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2003, in Greece
WP0 - Co-ordination and management of the activities												
WP1 - Initial international workshop	Organisation and actuation of the first international workshop; Preparation of the terms of reference Installation and utilisation of the data-depository CIRCA											
WP2 - National meetings						Organisation and actuation of the national meetings in Israel and Greece						
WP3 - Development of the Northern Mediterranean portal										Preparation, activation and improvement of the web based back office tool kit for the development of national CHM.		
WP4 - Inventory of national data-base											Greece, Israel and Italy start the national data base inventory	

*2.2. Comparison between planned and used manpower and financial resources*

Below two tables are included with a comparison between planned and used “manpower”, and financial resources by work package and partners.

**Table 2.2.1 - Comparison between planned and used manpower on CLEMDES project after 1<sup>st</sup> year**

WP/Role	Partner	Addit. Personnel (i.e. payed by EU)		<i>Permanent Personnel</i> ( <i>at own costs</i> )		TOTAL	
		Planned (hours)	Actually employed	<i>Planned</i> ( <i>hours</i> )	<i>Actually</i> <i>employed</i>	Planned hours	Actually on project hours (+ %)
WP 0.1 admin staff	INEA (01)	320	540			320	100 (%)
WP 1.1 Coordination	INEA (01)			32	32	32	100 (%)
WP 1.2 Researcher	INEA (01)			40	48	48	100 (%)
WP 1.3 Technical & admin staff	INEA (01)	80	120			80	100 (%)
WP 1.4 Consultant	INEA (01)						
WP 2.1 Coordination	INEA (01)			40	0	40	0 (%)
WP 2.2 Researcher	INEA (01)			40	48	40	100 (%)
WP 2.3 Researcher	GNCCD (04)	40	60			40	100 (%)
WP 2.4 Research Asst.	BIDR (06)	40	60			160	100 (%)
WP 3.1 Coordination	INEA (01)			40	80	40	100 (%)
WP 3.2 Researcher	INEA (01)			220	240	220	100 (%)
WP 3.3 Technical & admin staff	INEA (01)	300	800			300	100 (%)
WP4.1	GNCCD (04)	356	240			356	67 (%)
WP4.2	BIDR (06)	260	180			260	46 (%)
WP 4.3	APAT (07)	640	640			640	100 (%)
WP 4.4	GDRS (05)			640	740	640	100 (%)
WP 4.5	CSIC (02)			900	0	900	0 (%)
WP 4.6	DGF (03)	260	0			260	0 (%)

**Table 2.2.2 - Comparison between planned and used financial resources in 1<sup>st</sup> year**

Partner	a) Total planned budget 1 <sup>st</sup> year	b) Total EC Contribution	c) Actual Expenses (allowable) (1	% of allowable EC Claim
INEA-Coordination	7.760,00	7.760,00	7.760,00	100 %
INEA - Research (01)	143.355,00	63.349,00	46.465,00	73 %
CSIC (02)	5.994,00	4.842,00	0	0 %
DGF (03)	7.650,00	6.212,00	0	0 %
GNCCD (04)	7.782,00	6.272,00	5.126,83	66%
GDRS (05)	5.940,00	4.894,00	4.894,00	82%
BIDR (06)	7.650,00	6.212,00	3.485,00	45 %
APAT (07)	7.650,00	6.181,00	7.650,00	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193.781</b>	<b>105.722</b>	<b>75.380,83</b>	<b>71 %</b>

1) Is total amount mentioned in the Cost Statement forms of each partner.

### 3. Milestones and deliverables obtained

#### 3.1 Initial international workshop for definition of the priorities of the Northern Mediterranean CHM

The workshop was held at the Hotel Balletti Palace in Viterbo (Italy) from 29/01 – 02/02 2003. (The agenda is enclosed in Annex 3 and the list of participants in Annex 4).

During this first start-up CLEMDES meeting, the partners discussed and agreed on the specific goals to be achieved, the methods and techniques to be adopted, the activities to be carried out and the specific activities for the implementation of the CHM.

The meeting was finalised to reach an agreement among all partners in order to build a system of international / national CHM strictly interconnected, as defined in the project. INEA, as the coordinator, presented some relevant experiences (such as the EEA CHM on Biodiversity) in this field and in other areas of interest.

National activities on combating desertification were examined, in order to find all elements that CLEMDES CHM have to consider. Services to be implemented and activities to be carried out were discussed and agreed.

#### 3.2 National workshop to set up the national network necessary to operate the CHM:

It has been decided during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop to hold national meetings organised by each partner in Portugal, Israel, Spain, Greece, Turkey and Italy in order to:

- promote CLEMDES and its objectives;
- present and identify the national views and priorities on the information about desertification;
- establish contacts among national focal points of UNCCD and experts on information communication and other stakeholders;
- collect information on experts, projects and activities dealing with desertification at national level;
- prepare an inventory of existing activities, databases to be included in the meta data base of the CHM;
- involve the stakeholders (NGOs; Researchers; Governmental Institutions; Focal points and NCBs; Authorities (local and national level); Private sector (industry and others); International organisations; Media representatives; Farmers' organisations (owners and workers, etc.) and to collect their views and needs.

A schedule of the national meetings is as following:

GNCCD (EL)	20/10/2003
BIRD (IL)	11/09/2003
APAT (IT)	16/02/2004
DGF (P)	26/03/2004
CISC (ES)	ND

GDRS (TR)	ND

### 3.3. *Terms of reference to setup a CHM:*

One of the main topics of the first International workshop among the partners involved in CLEMDES project held in Vitrerbo (Italy) in 29/01 – 02/02 was the decision for the terms of the reference that guide the CHM on desertification. This ToR is added in annex 4.

### 3.4 *Development of the Northern Mediterranean portal and of a tool kit for the national CHM:*

To develop the portal the following actions have been undertaken:

- registration of the domains: clemdes.org and clemdes.info;
- preparation of the front office: <http://www.clemdes.org> on the Web server of INEA;
- preparation and activation of a password web based back office tool kit (<http://www.inea.it/clemdes1/backoffice>);
- application of Unicode UTF8 that manage the multilingual data entry and data query.

### 3.5. *Implementation and regular updating at national level of the CHM:*

Through the partners and by the tool kit, the international (English), Italian, Greek, Hebrew and Turkish sections of the web site have been implemented.

INEA, as the coordinator of the project, has prepared a leaflet with 4 sides: 3 sides, besides the logo of the CLEMDES, the main the project and its goals. One side is dedicated to the contacts for the coordinator and each partner.

## **4. Deviations from the work plan or /and time schedule and their impact to the project**

The deviation from the work plan and time schedule regarded:

- the organisation of the Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Turkish national meetings. Although these meetings have not been organised yet, CLEMDES has been presented in May in Portugal at a meeting of scientists on desertification issues, and in November in Italy at an international conference with the participation of experts, non governmental organisations, governmental and regional authorities and scientists;

- the utilisation of the tool kit from the Spanish and Portuguese partner to implement the local language section of the Clemdes web site.

## **5. Co-ordination of the information between partners and communication activities (e.g. organised meetings, conference attendance, co-operation with other projects/networks, ...)**

For the exchange of information with partners, a CIRCA web service (<http://servlin.inea.it:8980/inea>) has been established; all national partners are involved and are using this tool for the exchange of information and databases.

CLEMDDES has been presented at:

- the EFITA Conference, held in
- the COP 6 of the UNCCD, with the organisation of a side event (Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2003, Habana, Cuba)
- at a meeting of the Portuguese experts that prepared the national map of sensitivity to desertification (8<sup>th</sup> May 2003, Oeiras, Portugal);
- an international conference held in Rome on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2003 on “Desertification: actors, research, policies”.

The project has also been presented at UNCCD headquarters in Bonn, where synergies were identified, also by possibly involving new Annex IV countries.

## **6. Difficulties encountered at management and co-ordination level and proposed/applied solutions**

There are no major problems at the general management and coordination level to be reported. The main difficulties encountered concern:

- delays in starting national meetings, that have been postponed to the first months of 2004;
- some partners (Portugal, Spain and Israel) are not including enough information on the respective national database. This situation is changing since the end of 2003 and should be solved in the first months of 2004;
- as a result of this slow start-up, expenses in the first year were lower than expected (specifically for Spain and Portugal).

We however expect to fulfil the project planning before the second meeting, already planned for mid March.



**SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY, RELATED TO REPORTING PERIOD (1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR - 01 NOVEMBER 2002– 31 OCTOBER 2003)**

Contract n° EVK2-2002-80006      Reporting period: 01 November 2002– 31 October 2003

Title: Clearing House Mechanism on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region (CLEMDES)

**1. Objectives:**

- to agree with the partners on a minimum set of activities both at national and international level
- to setup the basic infrastructure of the portal;
- to facilitate the activities of the partners;
- to identify the synergies with other projects.

**2. Scientific achievements:**

The main achievement is the clearing-house, which is currently running as a web site and is being filled with information by national partners and by INEA for the international section.

The site is multilingual. Therefore it accepts inputs and presents results in all the languages of the partners (including Greek and Hebrew).

**3. Socio-economic relevance and policy implications:**

In order to act as a clearing-house, national meetings are being organised. In these occasions experts, scientists and policy makers are invited in a common event to present their common experiences in combating desertification.

In implementing CLEMDES a special focus has been given to the possibility of using the tools developed within the project in other areas affected by desertification. Therefore the web site has been implemented since the beginning in a multilingual way, allowing other potential partners to join the project and to start developing their national site with very limited effort. This could be particularly useful in the case of developing countries, that are now in the position of using CLEMDES tools for the implementation of their own clearing-house, at no cost.

#### **4. Conclusions:**

One year after the inception of the project, the main infrastructure of CLEMDES has been developed. During the second year it will be improved, with the implementation of new features and by including additional information in the national databases

#### **5. Keywords:**

clearing house, desertification, Northern Mediterranean basin

**SECTION 3: DETAILED REPORT ORGANIZED BY WORK PACKAGES INCLUDING DATA ON INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EACH PARTNER, RELATED TO THE REPORTING PERIOD (1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR - 01 NOVEMBER 2002– 31 OCTOBER 2003)**

**Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification - CLEMDES Mid term report**

*Nicholas Yassoglou; Stefanos Liveris*

*Athens, December 2003*

**Introduction**

The following report presents the activities, achievements and perspectives planned by the Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification, within the frame of the CLEMDES project. The reporting period spans from October 2002 to November 2003.

**Objectives**

The objectives set during this reporting period were:

1. The definition of basic issues concerning the creation and function of the CLEMDES site, in cooperation with the rest of the partners during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop (Viterbo, 2003). More specifically:
  - The definition of technical issues
  - The definition of services provided by the CLEMDES site
  - The definition of data availability at national level
  - Synergies with other initiatives at UNCD and EU level
  - Work plan of activities
2. Dissemination of information at national level for the project's nature, objectives and function
3. Adjustment of the CLEMDES site parameters according to the functional demands

**Methodology and scientific achievements**

The realization of the objective 1 was achieved through the CLEMDES 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop (Viterbo, Italy, February 2003). Two representatives of Greece participated and in cooperation with the rest of participants discussed the necessary actions related to these issues. The Greek delegation at the workshop was composed by the following scientific associates of the GNCCD:

Dr. Panos Giannouloupoulos, Hydro-geologist

Mr. Stefanos Liveris, Agronomist

Objective 2 was materialized through the October 20, 2003 national meeting in Athens for the presentation of the CLEMDES programme to stakeholders. The participants represented the country's various related to issues of desertification.

The National Meeting was organized by the Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification (GNCCD) in accordance to the requirements arising from its official participation as a partner of the project.

Dr. Iraj Namdarian also attended the meeting, representing the programme's coordination group, acting under the authority of Italy's *Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria (INEA)*.

The agencies represented in the National Meeting were the following:

- Ministry of Agriculture - General Directorate of Forests and Natural Environment
- Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works - General Directorate of Environment, Department of Natural Environment Management
- Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works – Directorate of Environmental Planning, Bureau of Environmental Planning, and European Organisation for the Environment
- Aristotelian University of Thessalonica, Department of Biology, Ecology sector
- Aristotelian University of Thessalonica, Department of Forestry
- Agricultural University of Athens, Department of Rural Economy and Development
- National Technical University, Department of Topography
- University of the Aegean, Department of Geography
- National Agricultural Research Foundation- Administration Agency
- National Agricultural Research Foundation- Athens Institute of Soil Science
- National Agricultural Research Foundation- Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems and Forest Products Technology.

The stakeholders were informed about the nature, objectives and function of the project. Following the presentation a discussion took place, which highlighted the targets of the project.

Finally objective 3 has been achieved through the work of the GNCCD personnel and its cooperation with the project's coordination group. Additionally the GNCCD has hired one person for concentrating scientific papers published by Greek authors and relevant to desertification issues. The papers are transformed in e-form and they are going to be uploaded on the site.

A data base including the various national and international issues of desertification was prepared. Certain contents of this base will be transferred to the CLEMDES site.

### **Socio-economic relevance and policy implication**

The CLEMDES site is a useful tool for the dissemination of information and the coordination of efforts towards the mitigation of desertification. However its benefits concerning the raise of people's interest, the coordination of administrative activities, the governmental decision making and the cooperation of the scientific community are not yet apparent due to the short period of its existence.

So far a keen interest in the project was shown by the participants of the meeting. It is expected that the agencies and authorities they represented will adjust their policies and activities to promote actions and policies for combating desertification.

## **Discussion and conclusion**

The up today experience of the project implementation has raised several issues for discussion in the following CLEMDES Workshop.

The discussion held during the Greek National Meeting reached out the following conclusions:

1. It has been recognised that the CHM developed by CLEMDES is a friendly and useful tool for combating desertification and in addressing other environmental problems.
2. The number of users should be enlarged.
3. The continuation of the CHM beyond CLEMDES should be secured.
4. Problems of data acquisition and dissemination should be solved.
5. The CHM should be accompanied with guidelines for possible uses of the information it provides.

## **Plan and objectives for the next period**

The main objectives for the period to follow are:

The enlargement of the users' number

The enrichment of data provided

The improvement of the site's function

The precise plan is an issue to be discussed and determined along with the rest of the partners within the frame of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop.

## **Israel Node of the Mediterranean Network CLEMDES**

*The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research*

*Sede Boqer Campus*

*Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

*Israel, 25 December 2003*

### **MID-TERM NATIONAL REPORT - 1 FEBRUARY 2003- 31 DECEMBER 2003**

*Prof. Uriel N. Safriel, Principal Investigator, The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research*

*(Current address – ESE Department, Safra Campus, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem 91904 Israel)*

#### **Table of Contents**

1. Objectives
2. Methodology and Scientific Achievements
3. Socio-economic relevance and policy implications
4. Discussion and conclusion
5. Plan and objectives for the next period

#### **1. Objectives**

This is a report of the first implementation term of the Israeli component of the CLEMDES project. The three objectives are:

(a) To promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation in combating desertification, among institutions, organizations and other stakeholders within the countries of Annex IV of the UNCCD. Thus, the first objective of the implementation phase was to collect information about various institutions in Israel, governmental and non-governmental, and individuals within those institutions whose field of action or research is related to combating desertification and who may contribute relevant information to the Israeli node of the network, and then to the whole Mediterranean network.

(b) To disseminate information about CLEMDES among as many relevant institutions as possible, and encourage them to join the network and contribute information on activities in which they are involved and are related to combating desertification.

(c) To collect updated data on desertification-related physical characteristics of Israel such as aridity index variables and land uses in areas prone to desertification, and to create maps for presentation on the CLEMDES website.

## **2. Methodology and Scientific Achievements**

In order to achieve the objectives described in section 1, a database was prepared to which information about a hundred potential institutions and organizations in Israel was fed. These stakeholders include governmental ministries, universities and research institutions, municipal and local authorities and non-governmental organizations. Later, the institutions identified as relevant, were all informed about the CLEMDES project via mail, and were invited to take part in a national meeting, in which further information would be given.

Representatives from various institutions throughout the country took part in this meeting, which was conducted in September 2003 in Jerusalem. During the meeting, the CLEMDES project was described as an accompanying implementation measure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, by the Northern Mediterranean country Parties. The concept of constructing a clearing house mechanism, in which a network of institutions from the various countries would participate, was introduced and the CLEMDES website was presented.

Each of the participating institutions was requested to appoint a contact person within that institution who would serve as a liaison for this project, and will be in charge of collecting relevant information about projects, activities or experts within his/her institution and feeding that information periodically to the clearing house mechanism.

The placement of the country information on the CLEMDES site required reevaluation of the extent of the different dryland categories in Israel and an updated categorization of dryland types was prepared using data based on long term precipitation and potential evapotranspiration data.

## **3. Socio-economic relevance and policy implications**

The socio-economic relevance of desertification relates to several communities in Israel who live in areas prone to desertification. The livelihoods of some of these communities are farming and/or pastoralism; hence these people are prone to

desertification risks, especially due to their low socio-economic status. Cooperation among governmental agencies and research institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in preventing desertification or restoring decertified areas are likely to be more effective than if dealt with in a non-coordinated manner. The CLEMDES network of information is expected to promote this required cooperation.

#### **4. Discussion and conclusion**

As a dryland country with a relatively large agricultural land use, Israel is prone to desertification. Therefore, many bodies and institutions in Israel deal with the various aspects of desertification and produce data and information which could be useful to other institutions in and outside of Israel. Yet, this information is not distributed effectively and there is no central body which collects and disseminates this information at the national level.

The CLEMDES project provides a platform on which information can be shared, not only among the many various bodies in Israel who deal with aspects of desertification, but also, this information can be shared with interested parties in other countries. Bringing those institutions to take part in a joint meeting and later on in sharing information through the clearing house mechanism network helps in introducing the extent of the problem to a wide range of institutions in Israel from different perspectives, and could promote in the future cooperation between those different stakeholders.

So far, there have been responses from a number of bodies in Israel that are willing to join the network and contribute information. These bodies represent both governmental and non-governmental institutions that encapsulate various fields of activity and research, relating to desertification and its effects in Israel. It is hoped that relevant information from these bodies will be fed to the network on a regular basis so that the objectives stated could be fully achieved.

#### **5. Plan and objectives for the next period**

The main objective for the next term of the CLEMDES project is to create a routine by which contact persons in each of the institutions taking part in the network, will provide relevant information about projects, activities or experts from within his institution. That information will be fed to the clearing house mechanism periodically by each contact person, using the web mechanism created by the project coordinators.

A second national meeting is planned to be held towards the end of the year 2003 or early in 2004. This meeting will be carried out in the form of an electronic conference, in which contact persons appointed by each institution would take part and present the relevant information their institution can provide, that would be compatible with the CLEMDES definitions. These presentations will be discussed over cyberspace by all participants of this conference. A summary of this e-conference will be provided too.



## **MID-TERM NATIONAL REPORT**

**(1<sup>st</sup> February 2003 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003)**

*Prof. Juan Sánchez Díaz*

*Dr. Luis Recatalá Boix*

CIDE-Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación (CSIC, Universitat de València, Generalitat Valenciana)

C/ Camí de la Marjal, S/N

46470-Albal (Valencia)

Spain

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Objectives
2. Methodology and scientific achievements
3. Socio-economic relevance and policy implication
4. Discussion and conclusion
5. Plan and objectives for the next period

### **1. OBJECTIVES**

According to the Work Plan agreed in the first CLEMDES Meeting held in Viterbo (Italy) the last February, the objectives for the Spanish partner during the reported period were:

- (a) to identify the main public and private Institutions and stakeholders dealing with Desertification in Spain who could contribute to the goals of the CLEMDES Network.
- (b) To promote the participation of Institutions and stakeholders in the exchange and integration of information on desertification.
- (c) To plan a National Meeting to present the CLEMDES project and to encourage cooperation between the scientific community, Institutions, ONGs and local stakeholders.

- (d) To collect basic data about physical and socio-economic aspects influencing Desertification in Spain to give a general overview of the present situation at national level through the CLEMDES Portal.

## **2. METHODOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

In order to achieve the first objective described above, several sources of information were exploited in order to identify the Institutions, Administrations, Organizations, etc. dealing with Desertification in Spain. Among others, the data bases belonging to the Ministry of Environment and the Web were explored. Data including the name of each Institution identified as well as the key person for contacts have been organised in a data base. More than a hundred and fifty Institutions have been identified, including Departments of Spanish Universities, Scientifics groups belonging to Research Centres of the National Research Council (CSIC), Private Enterprises and Corporations, NGOs, Civic Associations, etc. Afterwards, a letter was prepared to be sent to the key persons of such institutions.

The letter presents them the CLEMDES project and its main objectives, and invite them to participate to a National Meeting and to provide us relevant information about projects, researches, studies and actions focussed on the desertification issue. In relation to the second objective, and as has been agreed with our National Focal Point, the National Meeting has been planned to be held in Madrid during two days of the third or four week of the next February. It is expected that the key persons of the most relevant Institutions dealing with desertification will attend the Meeting. A National Brochure of CLEMDES is being reproduced to be distributed to the participants to the Meeting.

On the other hand, relevant information concerning general physical and socio-economic aspects have been collected to give an overview of the issue of Desertification in Spain. This information includes figures on population, land uses as well as several maps, for instance aridity map. All this information will be sonly placed into the CLEMDES portal to be accessible to the partners and to the general public.

## **3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RELEVANCE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

From the search carried out for identifying Institutions involved in the issue of Desertification, it seems clear that there are many stakeholders and with different perspectives in Spain. This is a good indicator of the socio-economic relevance of desertification in our country. The challenge is, therefore, to develop synergies and cooperation between them. For such a purpose, the CLEMDES project gives the appropriate framework. The National Meeting to be held in Madrid the next February will give us the opportunity of testing the willingness of the different stakeholders to undertake common initiatives. This could have had a better basis if the National Action Plan for Combating Desertification would have been already approved by the National Government. Without the NAP approved, it could be difficult to predict the policy implications of such initiatives. However, to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation between the different stakeholders is crucial for achieving better results and mutual benefits in the fight against desertification.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The CLEMDES project provides the appropriate mechanism to initiate cooperation not only between different stakeholders at national level if not also between different countries. A first step in developing national and regional initiatives implies to share scientific and technical knowledge between groups. Through the implementation of an Internet based tool called “Clearing House Mechanism” this can be facilitated. Furthermore, a broad social participation is essential to fight against Desertification. Both are the aims of the CLEMDES project.

#### **5. PLAN AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD**

The main objective for the next period is to have the First National Meeting. As already told, it has been planned to be held in Madrid the next February. After the Meeting, we will select a key group for permanent interaction with the aim of initiating a National Network. A second National Meeting will be probably organised before the end of the project in order to consolidate a National Network that interact with other Networks of the countries of the Annex IV.

On the other hand, we have proposed the Coordinator of the CLEMDES project to organise at CIDE in Valencia the MID-TERM Meeting of the project. If so, the Meeting will be planned to be held in Valencia just after the first National Meeting.

Other activities for the next period will include to create and feed a database containing information about research projects, publications and initiatives developed in Spain on Desertification. Also to place into the CLEMDES portal the basic information collected about the physical and socio-economic aspects influencing the Desertification risk in Spain. To collaborate in carrying out these activities it has been thought to have a fellowship funded by the CLEMDES project from the next January.

# **CLEMDES - Clearing House Mechanism on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region**

*General Directorate of Rural Services*

*Eskisehir Yolu 10.km*

*Ankara, Turkey*

*23 December 2003*

*MID-TERM NATIONAL REPORT - 01 NOVEMBER 2002- 31 OCTOBER 2003*

*By*

*Assoc.Prof. D.Murat Ozden*

*Principal Contractor*

*General Directorate of Rural Services*

[dmozden@khgm.gov.tr](mailto:dmozden@khgm.gov.tr)

## **Current address:**

Koy Hizmetleri Genel Mudurlugu

Etut ve Proje Dairesi Baskanligi

Eskisehir Yolu 10.km

Ankara, Turkey

## **Table of Contents**

- 1.Objectives
- 2.Methodology and Scientific Achievements
- 3.Socio-economic relevance and policy implications
- 4.Discussion and conclusion
- 5.Plan and objectives for the next period

## **1. Objectives**

This report has been prepared for the the first year of the Turkish component of the CLEMDES project.

The objectives of the project are to:

- promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation within and among Annex IV and other affected countries

- develop mechanisms for the participation of scientific community, stakeholders and NGOs in the exchange and integration of information on desertification
- disseminate available research results
- establish a relevant central (portal) website
- develop a tool kit to assist national internet data bases
- develop synergies with other related initiatives.

The objectives will be reached through; (a) promoting and facilitating scientific and technical cooperation in combating desertification, among institutions, organizations and other stakeholders within the countries of Annex IV of the UNCCD. Thus, the first objective of the implementation phase was to collect information about various institutions in Turkey, governmental and non-governmental, and individuals within those institutions whose field of action or research is related to combating desertification and who may contribute relevant information to the Turkish node of the network, and then to the whole Mediterranean network. (b) disseminating information about CLEMDES among as many relevant institutions as possible, and encourage them to join the network and contribute information on activities in which they are involved and are related to combating desertification. (c) collecting updated data on desertification-related physical characteristics of Turkey such as aridity index variables and land uses in areas prone to desertification, and to create thematic maps for presentation on the CLEMDES website.

## **2. Methodology and Scientific Achievements**

In order to achieve the objectives described above, a database was prepared to which information about potential institutions and organizations in Turkey will be fed. This database includes governmental ministries, universities and research institutions, municipal and local authorities and non-governmental organizations. The institutions identified as relevant, will be informed about the CLEMDES project via e-mail after the completion of the web site.

Each of the participating institutions will be requested to collect relevant information about projects, activities or experts within institution and feeding that information periodically to the Clearing House Mechanism. This activities will be checked regularly by the principal contractor.

## **3. Socio-economic relevance and policy implications**

It is always mentioned that policy and measure implementation is a difficult task. It requires the cooperation of many actors including NGOs. Specific measures and strategies should be designed and applied by local agencies and stakeholders. Multifunctional approaches should be applied. Policy makers and legislators must be persuaded for the necessity of sustainable management of soil and water resources. Local populations in desertification sensitive areas should be given, in pursuing their

livelihood and income, alternative choices beyond the exploitation of the soil and water resources.

The socio-economic relevance of desertification relates to several communities in Turkey who live in areas prone to desertification. The livelihoods of some of these communities are farming, hence these people are prone to desertification risks, especially due to their unstable socio-economic status.

Desertification, being related to important concepts like land, water, climate, forestry, agriculture, migration, education, poverty, health and natural stability, requires an interdisciplinary approach. As desertification lies under the authoritative power of several institutions, problems arise in coordination and harmonization.

#### **4. Discussion and conclusion**

As an semi-arid country with a relatively large agricultural land use, Turkey is prone to desertification. Therefore, many bodies and institutions in Turkey deal with the various aspects of desertification and produce data and information which could be useful to other institutions in and outside of Turkey.

The CLEMDES project will provide a platform on which information can be shared, not only among the many various bodies in Turkey who deal with aspects of desertification, but also, this information can be shared with interested parties in other countries. Bringing those institutions to take part in a joint meeting and later on in sharing information through the Clearing House Mechanism network helps in introducing the extent of the problem to a wide range of institutions in Turkey from different perspectives, and could promote in the future cooperation between those different stakeholders.

#### **5. Plan and objectives for the next period**

The main objective for the next period of the CLEMDES project is to accomplish National Meeting and to create a mechanism by which each of the institutions taking part in the network, will provide relevant information about projects, activities or experts from within his institution. This information will be fed to the Clearing House Mechanism periodically by each institution, using the web mechanism created by the project coordinators.

An electronic communications among the relevant institutions is planned to be ready in 2004.

## **CLEMDES Mid term national report**

### **Partner n. 7: APAT (Italy)**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

For the first year, the objectives has been:

1. Settlement of contents and services of the portal. Design of the web site and choice of related software.
2. Implementation of the national site. Collection, screening and uploading of data. Test of technical issues working with the coordinator partner.
3. Dissemination of information about the project and involvement of stakeholders.

#### **3.2 Methodology and scientific achievements**

APAT participated at First CLEMDES Workshop held in Viterbo (29/1 – 2/2 2003). During this meeting, all partners agreed the basic set of contents for the national and international sites.

Partners choose the kind of site to build up, relating to contents and accessibility from users, and categories of information to upload.

During the meeting was also specified the work plan of activities for the first part of the project.

The Italian team activities should be resumed as follows:

- Data have been collected from main institutional and scientific subjects operating at national level to combat desertification (National Committee to Combat Desertification and Drought, Ministry for the Environment and Territory, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ENEA, APAT, universities and other research institutions, territorial authorities, etc.).

Sections actually full implemented are those related to:

- official and scientific documentation
- links to other sites, news and events.

Databases on projects and experts are ready to be uploaded on national site.

Other data, aimed to draw the national background (climate, aridity, water supply, land use, social and economic data, etc), are going to be completed, along with basic cartography (aridity index map, land cover map, watersheds map).

This activity has been a test for technical issues, regarding the uploading and management of data and documents by national partners and the accessibility to information for users.

- The project has been presented in the occasion of an international meeting on desertification organized by National Committee to Combat Desertification and Drought (November 2003).

The meeting was aimed to outline ongoing activities to prevent and combat desertification at national and international level, with the participation of public institutions, research institutes and universities involved in the implementation of UNCCD. CLEMDES was discussed and presented through an interactive demonstration of the web site. The emerging survey of Italian projects to combat desertification are going to be made available on the site.

- The preparation of the national meeting is going on. It has been planned for February 2004. The list of participants has been redacted with special attention to assure the participation of representatives from affected areas.

### **3.3 Socio-economic relevance and policy implication**

Desertification has a remarkable socio-economic relevance in many Italian regions, in particular in Southern part of Italy. The phenomenon is largely studied both at national and local level and there are many projects aiming to implement of UNCCD, with pilot actions taking place in prone to desertification and affected areas.



The outline of a basic framework of actors, competences and actions is a premise for a better land governance. A wider knowledge of ongoing projects and results achieved is useful to improve the efficacy and synergy of initiatives.

### **3.4 Discussion and conclusion**

Although a important balance of the work is going to take place during the national meeting, some conclusions can be taken in advance.

Documents collected and uploaded so far concern mainly the national level, it is necessary to expand the databases involving other institutions, also operating at local level. This object can be reached through the national meeting.

This event could be also an opportunity to involve non governmental organization in the debate on desertification.

It is important to ensure the continuity of the “clearing house” function. This was already made by CLEMDES, following the experience of the previous Italian CHM (Desertification.it).

### **3.5 Plan and objectives for the next period**

The objects for the next period can be resumed as:

- organization and realization of the national meeting
- adjustment of site contents according to stakeholders’ needs, increase of data and services provided
- diffusion of the availability of CLEMDES Italian and International sites, in order to support their utilization by all social, political and technical actors dealing with desertification problems.

## SECTION IV. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### Overview of the project

EC program: EESD  
Title of project: Clearing House Mechanism on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region  
Acronym: CLEMDES  
Programme type: 5th FWP (Fifth Framework Programme)  
Contract Number: EVK2-CT-2002-80006  
Website: <http://www.clemdes.org>  
Start date: 01 Nov 2002  
End date: 31 Oct 2004

### Coordinator Details

Name: Guido Bonati  
Organisation: INEA  
Address: via Barberini 36  
Roma  
00187  
Italy  
Telephone: ++390647856520  
E-mail: [bonati@inea.it](mailto:bonati@inea.it)

### Partners Name

**BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV**, SAFRIEL Uriel (Professor)  
**DIRECCAO-GERAL DAS FLORESTAS**, LOURO Victor (Engineer)  
**GREEK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION**, YASSOGLOU Nicholas (Professor)  
**CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS**, SANCHEZ-DIAZ Juan (Professor)  
**GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF RURAL SERVICES**, OZDEN D. Murat (Professor)  
**AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LA PROTEZIONE DELL'AMBIENTE**, LUISE Anna (Dr)

**Commission Officer Name:** Denis Peter

### Original research objectives

CLEMDES (Clearing House Mechanism on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region) is an accompanying measures project (EVK2-CT-2002-80006) financed by the European Commission. It is aimed at promoting the development of a network with a broad social participation through the implementation of an Internet based tool called "Clearing House Mechanism" (CHM). Objectives: - Promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, within and among the countries of Annex IV and other affected countries of the Mediterranean Region; - Develop a mechanism for the participation of NGOs, local stakeholders and scientific community to the exchange and integration of information on desertification; - Disseminate all research results available; - Establish a central (portal) Web site prototype of the Clearing House Mechanism on desertification for the Northern Mediterranean region; - Develop a tool kit to assist in the establishment of national Internet data-base; - Develop synergies with other existing initiatives of the Climate Change and Biodiversity convention.

### Expected Deliverables

-Terms of reference for the CHM; -Leaflet; -An interactive internet interface-based CHM on desertification (<http://www.clemdes.org>)

### Project's actual outcome

Since the project just finished the 1st of a total of 2 years, it is not possible to give an overview of the “actual outcome” yet, other than the progress made thus far: According to the objectives, the following Deliverables and Milestones have been produced: -Initial international workshop for definition of the priorities of the Northern Mediterranean CHM; -National meetings to set up the national network necessary to operate the CHM; -Terms of reference to setup a CHM; -Development of the Northern Mediterranean portal and of a tool kit for the national CHM.

### **Broad dissemination and use intentions for the expected outputs**

Broadly there will be three different dissemination strategies: -Information aimed directly at the end users - The Internet portal is the main tool for the dissemination of information on desertification and include scientific/technical documents, details on projects and experts, events, newsletters, links, maps, and decision support systems; -Contributions at the European level to Community (and national) policies - The target readership and receptors of the CH and the multilingual toolkit will be: (a) officials of the European Union; in particular DG-XI (Environment), DG-VI (Agriculture) and DG XVI (Regional Planning), (b) government officials of the competent agencies of the Annex IV member states of the EU (Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece) and (c) other countries which should act in cooperation to combat desertification); -Contributions to the scientific community - because of the multilingual portal and the toolkit the CHM is spreadable in a wider scientific community.

### **Quantified Data on the dissemination and use of the project results**

*(This sections will be filled in in next version of TIP)*

### **Comment on European Interest**

*European dimension of the problem (The extent to which the project has contributed to solve problems at European level)*

The diffusion of knowledge, an easy access to information about the land degradation, desertification and drought issues are top priorities in combating desertification. These issues have been jointly identified by countries of Annex IV of United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy and Turkey) in the document “Terms of Reference for a regional action programme to combat desertification in the Northern Mediterranean region”, and approved by the Ministries representing the countries within the UNCCD. The desertification affects European Mediterranean countries, as many research project testimony, but the level of awareness of this problem is still very low among the general public and regional and local decision makers.

*Contribution to developing S&T co-operation at international level. European added value (Development of critical mass in human and financial terms; combination of complementary expertise and resources available Europe-wide)*

The CHM gives a valuable support to the implementation of the sixth environment action programme of the European Community in relation of the issue of the “Protection of the Soil” in the Mediterranean region. Soil protection is a central topic of combating desertification and the development of a Northern Mediterranean CHM could contribute

to the development of the European thematic strategy on soils. The set up of the Northern Mediterranean CHM will be an opportunity for the scientific community, NGOs, producer association and decision makers of the participant countries to improve their links and contacts to start new initiatives to combat desertification. effort.

*Contribution to policy design or implementation (Contribution to one or more EU policies; RTD connected with standardisation and regulation at Community and/or national levels)*

-Diffusion of relevant results obtained by scientific project at European and national level among the stakeholders. -Sixth environment action programme of the EC in relation of the issue of the “Protection of the Soil” in the Mediterranean region. -Short & Medium Term Action Programme (SMAP) of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership programme addresses the issue combating desertification and the CHM could inform and involve Northern African Countries in the realisation of a joint initiative at Mediterranean level about the better use of existing information for the implementation of the UNCCD. -European CAP: Reg. 2078/92 that encourages farmers to undertake methods compatible with the protection and maintenance of the environment and Reg. 2080/92 that encourage alternative uses of agricultural lands and the development of forestry activities. -INTERREG IIIB programme that includes a measure on combating drought and desertification can have important synergies with the CHM initiative.

*Improving the quality of life in the Community*

In the Northern Mediterranean Member States of the European Union dryland degradation has become a major problem. Two-thirds of Spain, Algarve and Alentejo in Portugal, southern Italy, most of mainland Greece are affected by desertification. Four EC Member States (Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece) are members of the Annex IV of the Convention. A successful strategy of combating desertification is strongly connected with the perception that the people have of this problem. People’s awareness of causes of degradation and of productive alternatives may bring to a better management of natural resources. This project is conceived to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge, both horizontally, reinforcing the existing co-operation among member states, and vertically, promoting communication between researchers and stakeholders. The dissemination of the results of the research on desertification can stimulate the social participation, fully according with the principles of CCD.

*Provision of appropriate incentives for monitoring and creating jobs in the Community (including use and development of skills)*

CLEMDES will contribute to improving the employment prospects by protecting jobs through the more efficient and cost-effective use of natural resources in an environment which is recognized as undergoing severe land- and environmental degradation. It will contribute to the development and propagation of methods for transferring new techniques to local stakeholders that provides important information to training local land users.

*Supporting sustainable development, preserving and/or enhancing the environment (including use/conservation of resources)*

CLEMDES will contribute knowledge and models to assist in the assessment of the risk of desertification and how to reduce that risk (through appropriate policy instruments and coordination). It will develop management and policy support tools that can be used by the Member States affected by desertification, and can contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. CLEMDES will provide local users

with knowledge on the factors that cause the risk and drive the desertification process, and on methods and policies for mitigating against land degradation.

## Annex 1: Publication list

### Peer reviewed

None

### Non-refereed

<b>Authors / Editors</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Type</b>
Iraj Namdarian, Jacopo Barone, Guido Bonati	2003. July 5-9	Clearing House Mechanism on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region	EFITA2003 4 <sup>th</sup> Conference for the European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, Food and Environment- Debrecen - Budapest, Hungary, 5-9 July 2003		Poster

## Annex 2: Participants information:

N°	Institution/Organisation	Street name and number	Post Code	Town/City	Country Code	Title	Family Name	First Name	Telephone N°	Fax N°	E-Mail
1	<b>INEA</b> - Italian National Institute of Agricultural Economics	Via Barberini, 36	00187	Rome	IT	Dr	Bonati	Guido	+390647856520	+39064741984	bonati@inea.it
2	<b>CSIC</b> - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones	Cami de la Marjal s/n	46470	Alabal/Valencia	ES	Prof	Snchez Diaz	Juan	+34.91.585.49.84	+34.91.411.30.77	Juan.Sanchez@uv.es
3	<b>DGF</b> - Direcção-Geral das Florestas. Gabinete de Desertificação - DISMED	Av. João Crisóstomo 26 - 28	1069-040	Lisboa	P	Prof	Louro	Victor	+351.21.312.49.58	+351.21.312.49.89	victor.louro@dgf.min-agricultura.pt
4	<b>GNCCD</b> - Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification	Kifisias Ave.,184	151 24	Marousi (Athens)	EL	Prof	Yassoglou	Nicholas	+30.10.808.22.09	+30.10.808.22.08	grk-ncc@otenet.gr
5	<b>GDRS</b> - General Directorate of Rural Services Koy Hizmetleri Genel Mudurlugu	APK Dairesi Baskanligi Eskisehir Yolu 10. Km	06530	Ankara	Tr	Dr	Ozden	Dursun Murat			dmozden@khgm.gov.tr
6	<b>BIDR</b> - Blaustein Institute for Desert Research	Hebrew University of Jerusalem -Givat Ram	91904	Jerusalem	IL	Prof	Safriel	Uriel	+972.8.659.67.00	+972.8.659.67.03	urielsf@bgumail.bgu.ac.il
7	<b>APAT*</b> - Agenzia per la Protezione dell'Ambiente e per i servizi Tecnici	Via Vitaliano Brancati, 48	0144	Rome	IT	Dr	Luise	Anna	+39.06.50072911	+39.06.50072048	luise@apat.it

\* During this report period ANPA changed the name in APAT.

## **Annex 3 Terms of the Reference for the CHM on desertification**

### **CLEMDES**

#### **Terms of reference for the implementation of the web site**

##### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The main activity of CLEMDES consists of the implementation of an Internet based network devoted to the improvement of the diffusion of information. The establishment of an Internet based tool will decentralise existing information using the national language. The efforts aim to identify a common format for the setup of a Mediterranean portal and of national Internet based information facilities.

After the first international workshop held in Viterbo, meetings, at national level, will be organised to involve the various stake holders and collect information and data to be diffused through Internet. The follow up of the activity will be to develop a tool kit for the development of national CHM, implement a Mediterranean Portal linked with the CHM in each country, collect the information and adjourn regularly the CHM in the national languages. The final international workshop will present and discussed the experience of the CHM with other Mediterranean and Northern African country parties of the UNCCD.

This document describes the technical features of the site and contains proposal on the implementation.

##### **2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The site will have one international section (<http://www.clemdes.org>) and several national sections, identified by the ISO code of each country (i.e. <http://www.clemdes.org/it>).

Users will access a front-end service; containing dynamic pages that will be generated on the fly by accessing a database. The access to the site will be anonymous.

Partners will input data for each site using a web-based back-office feature, that will allow the update of the database. Partners will decide whether they want the information



they are including in the database to be displayed only in the national section, only in the international section or in both.

### **3. TECHNICAL FEATURES**

The site will be hosted using the technical facilities provided by INEA. It will be a dynamic site, which means that web pages will be generated automatically by accessing a database. The operating system and the software for the management of the web site will be chosen by INEA, in accordance with the existing infrastructure and the possibility of transferring the database and the management of the web site to the partners.

Partner will be able to update their content via an Internet connection and will have access via FTP to the directories of the web site relevant for the national parts of CLEMDES.

The database will be developed in Microsoft Access and will be transferred to the partners whenever requested.

### **4. Services**

In accordance with the results of the first CLEMDES workshop, the following services will be implemented:

- Newsletter
- Links to other related sites
- Expert and Institutions (including NGOs)
- Events
- National background information
- Funding opportunities
- Mailing lists
- Official / Scientific documents
- News
- Map servers
- Metadatabases
- Projects (both scientific and implementation projects)

The next paragraphs contain a description of each service.

#### **4.1. Newsletter**

The newsletter will be published and distributed by the co-ordinator once a month. It will contain information relevant for desertification in general, with specifications on the Northern Mediterranean Basin.

The site will contain a page allowing subscription by users. Subscription will have to be confirmed using an opt-in feature.

The newsletter will contain short (5-10 lines) highlights, possibly with links to sites containing the relevant information.

Three working days before the distribution, the newsletter will be sent to partners for review.

#### 4.2. Links to other related sites

In this section of the Clearing-House links to websites and web resources that are relevant to implementation of the desertification are provided.

The potential sources of information available through Internet websites and mailing lists could be categorised as follows:

1. Intergovernmental Organisations – organisations that include governments in their membership;
2. Government – any official government website;
3. Non-Governmental Organisations – Relevant non-profit organisations representing civil society and not governments;
4. Industry and Private Sector – this group includes individual companies as well as organisations representing industry;
5. Research Institutions – relevant research centres;
6. Databases, Libraries and Search Engines – any specific library or search engine that is relevant to desertification and its implementation, regardless of its sponsorship or affiliation;
7. Journals – any specific journal or publication that is directly relevant to desertification and its implementation, regardless of its sponsorship or affiliation.

To be selected for inclusion in the CHM website, links must meet preferably one or more of the following additional criteria:

- **Relevance:** Only information of direct relevance to desertification will be considered for inclusion;
- **Neutrality:** All sites will be given equal consideration for inclusion in the CHM;
- **Multidisciplinary:** Efforts will be made to ensure that the selection of sites available through the CHM will address all fields relevant to implementation of the desertification;
- **Quality:** Quality of information will be considered in terms of the following factors:
  - *Credibility.* The person or organisation maintaining a site should be readily identifiable and contactable for users seeking additional information or wishing to provide feedback.
  - *Accuracy.* The data that underlie the conclusions presented should be clearly identified, and scientific evidence that supports a position should be clearly stated. If possible, sources of the information should also be disclosed.
  - *Timeliness.* The date of the original document on which the information is based and the date of posting on the Web should be provided, to enable the user to judge the currency of the information.

Where possible, the following typologies of links will not be included:

- Individual personal websites;
- Sites that contain offensive, inflammatory or illegal material

- Temporary sites such as those advertising products, courses and conferences (some of these can be included in the capacity-building opportunities database);
  - Sites that require service/user charges;
  - Sites which discourage implementation of the provisions of the protocol.
- A site may be removed if it no longer meets the criteria outlined in this policy document<sup>1</sup>.

### **4.3 Expert and Institutions (including NGOs)**

Two services will be implemented in order to develop a list of experts in desertification:

- a database on experts;
- a database on institutions.

The two databases will be fully searchable (by country, by name, by area of interest etc.). Data will be input by partners and by the co-ordinator. Users will be allowed to add data that will have to be validated by the partners and/or by the coordinator.

### **4.4 Events**

This section will contain links to events on desertification, with specific reference to the Northern Mediterranean basin.

Events may be:

- meetings at the national level;
- workshops;
- scientific congresses;
- events organised by the UNCCD or by the European Union;
- other relevant events.

Users will be able to browse existing events and to propose new events to be included.

Partners will be allowed to include events for the national section, the international section or both.

### **4.5 National background information**

Each national CHM will contain a document on desertification, with information on the relevance of the phenomenon for each country. The national review will contain the following elements:

- latitude and longitude
- size of the country
- climate categories
- dryland categories and their spatial extent
- land use/cover categories, their spatial extent (where and how much land)
- population size, current and dynamics (as of 50 years ago and trends)
- socio-economic sectors (e.g. urban/rural, land tenure etc.)
- institutional framework

### **4.6 Funding opportunities**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) - Related links policy (<http://bch.biodiv.org/doc/RelatedLinksPolicy.doc>).

#### **4.7 Mailing lists**

A listserver will be created, to allow distribution of information and discussion on issues relevant to desertification. The list will not be moderated (unless it is used by spammers: in this case it will be moderated by the co-ordinator).

Users will be able to subscribe or unsubscribe, using an opt-in feature.

#### **4.8 Official, Scientific/Technical documents**

This service will be implemented in order to develop a list (database) of legal, scientific and technical documents and publications concerning desertification and the related topics:

The database will be fully searchable (by author, by title, by keywords, by category, etc.). Data will be input by partners and by the co-ordinator. Users will be allowed to add data that will have to be validated by the partners and/or by the coordinator.

#### **4.9 News**

This service will contain quick news on desertification (i.e. articles, events, publications). The main page will contain the titles of the last news included in the database and a link to read a page containing the full text. News (titles and text) will be fully searchable, by using an internal search engine.

Partner will be able to insert news in their national language, in English for the international version, or both.

#### **4.10 Map servers**

This service will contain links to existing mapservers relevant for desertification.

#### **4.11 Metadatabases**

A metadatabase containing a database for storing metadata (data that describes data) in the desertification field will be implemented. As the main purpose, this metabase contains, not only structured data about resources (digital/not digital) that can be used to help support a wide range of operations in the desertification sector, but also describes the content, quality, condition and other characteristics of data regarding the desertification and related topics.

#### **4.12 Projects**

This section includes information on various ongoing desertification capacity building projects (both scientific and implementation projects) and other relevant initiatives. Each record contains basic information about each project/initiative, including: its status and location, the lead organisation(s) and contacts, funding details, objectives and activities, main outcomes, lessons learned and a brief description. Detailed information should be requested directly from the respective contact persons.

## **5. Schedule**

The site will have to be developed in three months after the signature of the contract with the software house.




## **6. Technologies**

The following technical features need to be considered:

- Windows NT/2000 platform;
- CFM or PHP or JSP or ASP

Source code will be fully available to INEA and other partners of the project.

## Annex 4: Brochure of CLEMEDES (Clemdes\_brochure.pdf)

	
	<p><b>CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM ON DESERTIFICATION FOR THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION</b></p> <p>Desertification affects European Mediterranean countries but the level of awareness of this problem is still very low among the public, and regional and local decision makers. The aim of CLEMEDES is to promote the development of a network with a broad social participation through the implementation of an Internet based tool called "Clearing House Mechanism" (CHM).</p> <p><b>The general objectives of the CHM are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and facilitate technical and scientific co-operation, within and among the countries of Annex IV and other affected countries of the Mediterranean Region</li> <li>• Develop a mechanism for the participation of NGOs, local stakeholders and scientific community to the exchange and integration of information on desertification</li> <li>• Disseminate all research results available</li> <li>• Establish a central (portal) web site prototype of the Clearing House Mechanism on desertification for the Northern Mediterranean region.</li> <li>• Develop a tool kit to assist in the establishment of national internet data-base</li> <li>• Develop synergies with other existing initiatives of the Climate Change and Biodiversity convention.</li> </ul> <p>These objectives are achieved by promoting the creation of a network among National Focal Points of the UNCCD, experts on information, NGOs, decision makers and members of the scientific community .</p> <p>These objectives are in accordance with the philosophy and objectives of both the V Framework Programme, RTD priority 2.3.3 "Fighting land degradation and desertification" and the dispositions of the Convention, which emphasises in its article 16 the role of information to integrate and co-ordinate the collection, analysis and exchange of data to implement the principles of the Convention itself.</p> <p>The CHM provides a valuable support to the implementation of the sixth environment action programme of the European Community in relation of the issue of the "Protection of the Soil" in the Mediterranean region. Soil protection is a central topic of combating desertification and the development of a Northern Mediterranean CHM contributes to the development of the European thematic strategy on soils.</p>
