United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System

4th Reporting and Review Cycle - 2010

Report for Fundación del Sur
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General Information Section

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Are you submitting a report on Best Practices that was prepared in collaboration with different accredited organizations?

Yes

Specify the name of the organization(s)

If yes, please provide the full names and acronym of the organizations on whose behalf the present report is submitted. Kindly ensure that any duplication will be avoided: only one organization should submit a collaborative report on behalf of all the other organizations.

   Grupo Ambiental para el Desarrollo (GADE)
   Fundación del Sur (FdS)
C. Best practices

According to decision 13/COP. 9, Annex V, UNCCD best practices shall be collected according to seven themes: 1. Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation; 2. Capacity building and awareness raising; 3. Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and SLM monitoring and assessment/research; 4. Knowledge management and decision support; 5. Policy, legislative, institutional framework; 6. Funding/resource mobilization; 7. Participation, collaboration and networking.

While themes 2 to 7 represent different elements of the enabling environment needed for the implementation and dissemination/up-scaling of sustainable land management (SLM) technologies (indirect impact), theme 1 comprises all actions on the ground that have a direct impact on desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation.

In particular, as specified in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5, paragraph 12, theme 1 ‘SLM technologies, including adaptation’ refers to SLM technologies that directly contribute to the prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of desertification and land degradation on cropland, grazing land and woodland, with the aim of improving the livelihoods of affected populations and conserving ecosystem services. Successful implementation of SLM technologies is the base for achieving strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Theme 1 also integrates five of the strategic areas defined by decision 8/COP.4, namely: (a) sustainable land use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas; (b) sustainable use and management of rangelands; (c) development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems; (d) development of new and renewable energy sources; and (e) launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes/ intensification of soil conservation programmes.

ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5 provides definitions for ‘practice’, ‘good practice’ and ‘best practice’. These definitions are included in the common glossary that shall be referred to by Parties and other reporting entities while reporting to UNCCD, according to decision 13/COP.9, paragraph 8.

The template for reporting is based on the general structure for the documentation of best practices contained in ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5, paragraphs 40 to 43; it is tailored to the documentation of best practices related to theme 1 ‘SLM technologies, including adaptation’.

Best Practice #1

Property rights
Clarify if the technology described in the template, or a part of it, is covered by property rights:

No

If yes, please provide relevant information on the holder of the rights.
(max 100 words)

No answer provided

Section 1. Context of the best practice: frame conditions (natural and human environment)

Title of the best practice

“Reforestation for the purpose of combating desertification, mitigating climate change and protecting biodiversity in Santiago del Estero, Argentina - Youth Environmental Groups”

Location (if available, also include a map)

Argentine Republic
Provincia de Santiago del Estero
Department of Robles
Colonia El Simbolar

Attachments:
none
If the location has well defined boundaries, specify its extension in hectares
Hectares (ha)
2000

Estimated population living in the location
Number of people
40000

Prevailing land use within the specified location
- Other

Other (specify) (max 30 words)
Agricultural use in degraded and degrading lands, subject to abandonment process.

Brief description of the natural environment within the specified location
Climate: (max 50 words)
Climate in Santiago del Estero is hot and equivalent to that in subtropical regions. The annual average temperature is 21.5 °C, with an absolute maximum summer temperature of up to 47° C, and an absolute minimum winter temperature of -5 °C. Two seasons can be distinguished: the rainy season, from October to March, and the dry season, from April to September. During the year, precipitation range from 750 mm to 600 mm, with an annual average of 695 mm.

Soil: (max 50 words)
The soil of the Province of Santiago del Estero is undergoing a calcification process, evidenced by the formation of calcium carbonate on the soil profile. This feature determines the formation of a barren plain or desert vegetation, under semiarid climate conditions. Within Salado and Dulce rivers fluvial systems a variety of soils can be observed, ranging from mineral soils to hydro morphine soils, with a high salt and alkali ratio.

Topography: (max 50 words)
The Province of Santiago del Estero looks like an expanded saltpetrous plain, only interrupted by rivers flowing diagonally from Northwest to Southeast (Salí-Dulce river and Salado river, different both in their flow and in their use possibilities) and by elevations located on the South, West and Northwest margins.

 Prevailing socio-economic conditions of those living in the location and/or nearby
Income level: (max 50 words)
High level of poverty rate.

Main income sources: (max 50 words)
Agricultural activities.

Land tenure and land use rights: (max 50 words)
The local farmers involved in project activity (inside and outside Colonia El Simbolar) are the owners of the land.

Short description of the best practice
max 250 words
“Reforestation for the purpose of combating desertification, mitigating climate change and protecting biodiversity in Santiago del Estero, Argentina - Youth Environmental Groups” is a proposed A/R CDM project activity which, through an integrated approach to manage land, water and forest resources will prevent desertification, improve the supply, management, sustainability, and environmental conditions of the forest resources in Santiago del Estero, conserve its biodiversity and mitigate climate change.
The overall objective is to explore and demonstrate the technical and methodological approaches related to credible carbon sequestration and pilot the viability of enhancing the livelihoods of people and native biodiversity by facilitating reforestation activities in the Rio Dulce Basin, particularly in the Colonia El Simbolar and the Departamento Robles.

The specific objectives include:
- To sequester CO2 through forest restoration and pilot how reforestation activities generate high-quality emission reductions in greenhouse gases that can be measured, monitored and certified.
- To prevent land degradation and salinization.
- To create conditions to recover and protect local biodiversity,
- To create job opportunities and improve socio-economic conditions within the area of influence of the project, and
- To increase environmental awareness, particularly among the youth.

To achieve these objectives, the following A/R CDM project activities are proposed:
- Reforestation of 2,000 hectares with native species (algarrobo blanco or Prosopis alba) in the Colonia El Simbolar and the Departamento Robles, Province of Santiago del Estero.
- Establishment of a tree nursery in the Colonia El Simbolar to provide seedlings for the project plantation and for the local market.
- Monitoring and assessment of environmental and social-economic impacts generated by the project.
- Developing, testing and disseminating the best practice in land and forest sustainable management.
- Strengthening of the small and medium farmers associations.
- Establishment of Youth Environmental Groups.
- Development of local resources through capacity building activities and awareness raising campaigns.

The capacity building activities will be focused on the farmers associations and Youth Environmental Groups.

On the basis of which criteria and/or indicator(s) (not related to The Strategy) the proposed practice and corresponding technology has been considered as 'best'? max 100 words

The project is considered a "best practice" as it resulted in positive impacts in terms of social and environmental criteria.
- Social indicators: income, labour opportunities, capacity building, networking.
- Environmental indicator: planted area, carbon sequestered.

Section 2. Problems addressed (direct and indirect causes) and objectives of the best practice

With respect to DLDD, the best practice directly contributes to:
- Mitigation
- Rehabilitation

Main problems addressed by the best practice
(max 50 words)
- Land degradation.
- Poverty.

Outline specific land degradation problems addressed by the best practice
(max 100 words)
- Abandonment of lands.
- Salinization.
Specify the objectives of the best practice
(max 50 words)
- The specific objectives include:
  - To sequester CO2 through forest restoration and pilot how reforestation activities generate high-quality emission reductions in greenhouse gases that can be measured, monitored and certified.
  - To prevent land degradation and salinization.
  - To create conditions to recover and protect local biodiversity.
  - To create job opportunities and improve socio-economic conditions within the area of influence of the project, and
  - To increase environmental awareness,

Section 3. Activities

Brief description of main activities, by objective

Objective 1
(max 50 words)
- Objective 1: Reforestation of 2,000 hectares with native species (prosopis alba).
  a) Establishment of a nursery for the provision of seedlings.
  b) Selection of the plots
  c) Site preparation and marking
  d) Plantation
  e) Maintenance of the forestation (weeding and pruning)
  f) Monitoring

Objective 2
(max 50 words)
- Objective 2: Preparation of CDM documentation.
  a) Definition of baseline scenarios, including carbon calculations.
  b) Design of a new baseline and monitoring methodology
  c) Preparation of the PDD
  d) Submission of the CDM documentation to the CDM Executive Board.

Objective 3
(max 50 words)
- Objective 3: Awareness raising and capacity building.

Objective 4
(max 50 words)
No answer provided

Short description of the technology
max 250 words
The main technology employed under this project is reforestation through direct planting with environmental-friendly techniques on degraded lands. Good practice techniques and successful regional, national and international technologies and experiences achieved in past years in forest restoration management were adopted.

However, it is important to highlight that the Project prepared a new methodology to measure carbon sequestration.
Technical specifications of the technology – if any
max 250 words
For tree planting activities, traditional techniques were used. However, it is important to highlight that the scale of the Project was rather unusual. For example, in all the Province of Santiago del Estero the number of hectares forested per year is rather low (around 400 ha). And the Project by itself forested 2,000 hectares in four years.

Section 4. Institutions/actors involved (collaboration, participation, role of stakeholders)

Name and address of the institution developing the technology

Name
Grupo Ambiental para el Desarrollo (GADE)
Address
Unzaga Sur 21
Santiago del Estero
Argentina

Name
Fundación del Sur
Address
Cochabamba 449
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Was the technology developed in partnership?
Yes
If yes, list the partners:
• Grupo Ambiental para el Desarrollo (GADE)
  Fundación del Sur
  Ministry of Environment of Italy
  University of La Tuscia

Specify the framework within which the technology was promoted
• National initiative – non-government-led
• International initiative

Other (specify) (max 30 words)
No answer provided

Was the participation of local stakeholders, including CSOs, fostered in the development of the technology
Yes
If yes, list local stakeholders involved:
• Government of Santiago del Estero

Question marked as 'No answer'.

For the stakeholders listed above, specify their role in the design, introduction, use and maintenance of the technology, if any.
max 250 words
Was the population living in the location and/or nearby involved in the development of the technology?
Yes
If yes, by means of what?
- Consultation
- Participatory approaches
Other (specify) (max 30 words)
No answer provided

Section 5. Contribution to impact

Specify to which strategic objectives of The Strategy the technology contributes
(more than one box can be ticked)
- 1. To improve the living conditions of affected population
- 2. To improve the conditions of affected ecosystems
- 3. To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

Describe on-site impacts (the major two impacts by category)
Production or productivity:
1. (max 50 words)
   Environmental improvements
2. (max 50 words)
   Socio economic improvements

Socio-economic level (including cultural level):
1. (max 50 words)
   Generation of labour opportunities
2. (max 50 words)
   Capitalization of farmers

Environmental level:
1. (max 50 words)
   Land degradation prevention and land restoration
2. (max 50 words)
   Biodiversity promotion

Other (specify):
1. (max 50 words)
   No answer provided
2. (max 50 words)
   No answer provided

Describe the major two off-site (i.e. not occurring in the location but in the surrounding areas) impacts
1. (max 50 words)
   At provintial level: the Project demonstrated that it is possible to implement a forestation initiative at large scale.
2. (max 50 words)
   At golbal level: carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change
Impact on biodiversity and climate change
In your opinion does the best practice/technology you have proposed positively impact on biodiversity conservation? 
Yes

Explain the reasons:
max 250 words
2,000 ha were reforested with native species.

In your opinion does the best practice/technology you have proposed positively impact on climate change mitigation? 
Yes

Explain the reasons:
max 250 words
The project will remove carbon from the atmosphere.

In your opinion does the best practice/technology you have proposed positively impact on climate change adaptation? 
No

Explain the reasons:
max 250 words
No answer provided

Has a cost-benefit analysis been carried out? 
Yes

If yes, summarize its main conclusions:
max 250 words
The result of the Project is very much positive in terms of capitalization of the farmers as, in the long term (20/30 years), they will own a relevant stock of woody and non-woody forestal resources.

Section 6. Connection to other UNCCD themes

Specify if the technology relates to one or more of the other UNCCD themes
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising
- DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research
- Knowledge management and decision support
- Policy; legislative; institutional framework
- Funding/resource mobilization
- Participation, collaboration and networking

Section 7. Adoption and replicability

Was the technology disseminated/introduced to other locations? 
No

If yes, where? (add as many rows as necessary)
Location:
No answer provided

Were incentives to facilitate the take up of the technology provided?
No

If yes, specify which type of incentives

No answer provided

Can you identify the three main conditions that led to the success of the presented best practice/technology?
Examples of conditions leading to success may include: highly motivated local governments, farmers organized into well structured cooperatives, extremely favorable weather conditions, etc. For each 'condition of success' you are able to identify, specify whether in your opinion such condition is: (a) linked to the local context and thus cannot be replicated elsewhere; (b) replicable elsewhere with some level of adaptation; (c) replicable elsewhere with major adaptation.

1. (max 50 words)
   Political commitment at local, provincial, national and international level.

2. (max 50 words)
   Involvement of the community.

3. (max 50 words)
   Skilful and committed staff.

In your opinion, the best practice/technology you have proposed can be replicated, although with some level of adaptation, elsewhere?

Yes

If yes, at which level?

- Local
- National
- Regional
- International

Section 8. Lessons learned

Related to human resources
(max 50 words)
- It is essential to clearly explain the expected impacts of the Project to the farmers and community

Related to financial aspects
(max 50 words)
- It is essential to have enough funding to guarantee the implementation of the complete Project circle.

Related to technical aspects
(max 50 words)
- It is essential to use (or adapt) traditional existing technologies.
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