



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

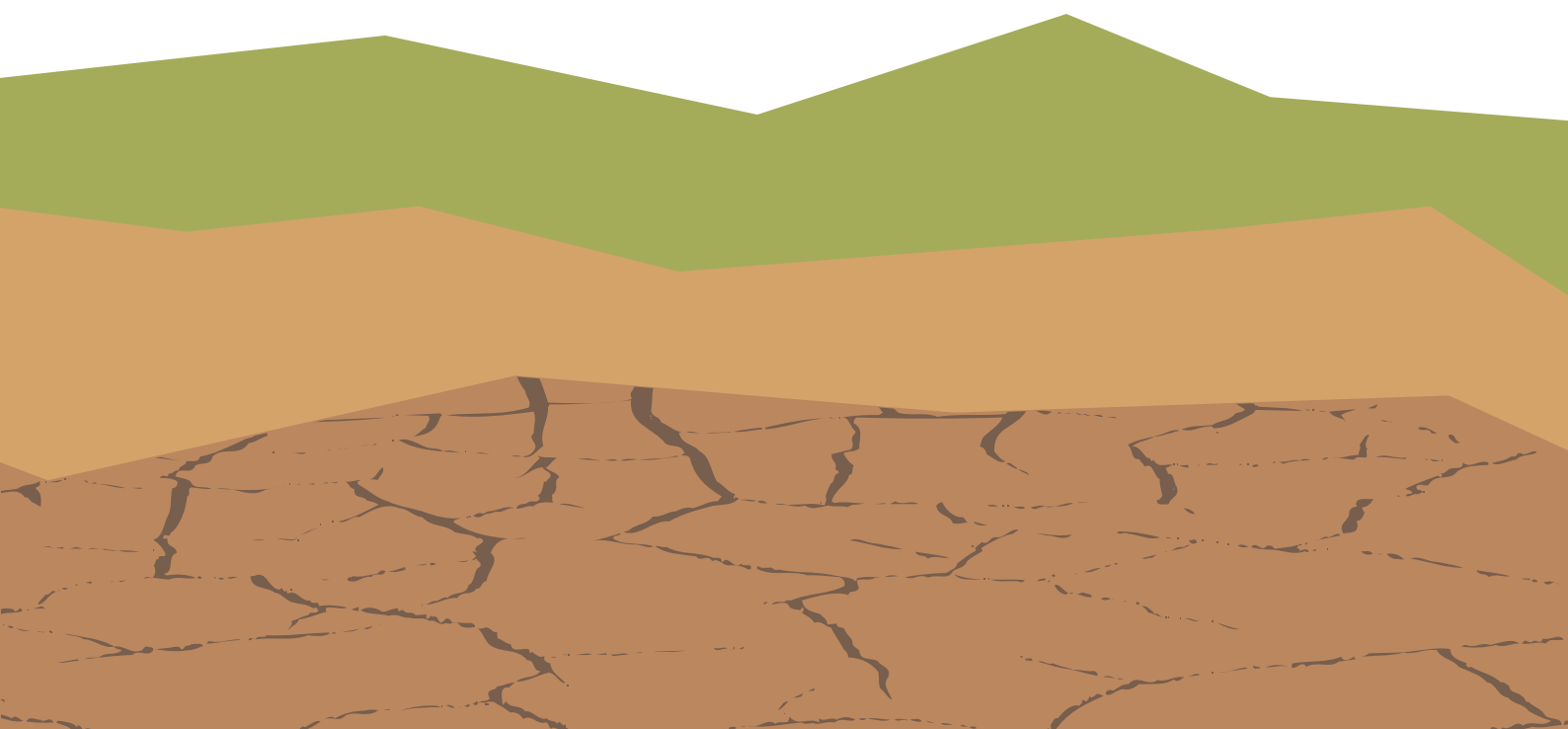
## Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification

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**Advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing  
on inclusive and sustainable development  
in drylands and other fragile ecosystems**



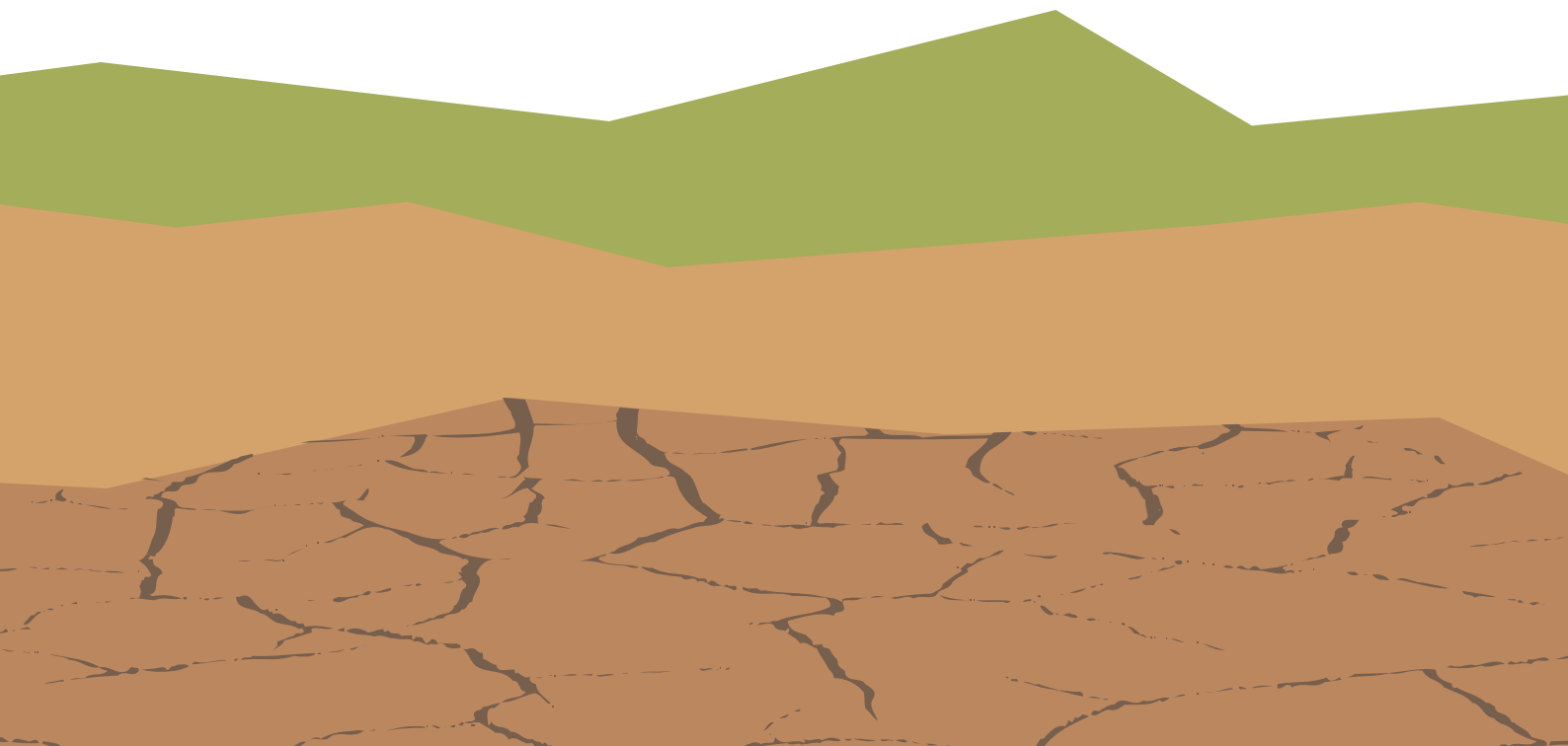
## Annual Report 2016



**Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification**

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 **Annual Report 2016**



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In 2016, the Centre has increased its engagement and resource mobilization in support of policy oriented programme implementation and provision of country support on specialized issues related to resilience building and SDG implementation. The Centre made significant progress in delivering results in its three areas of work (Figure1):

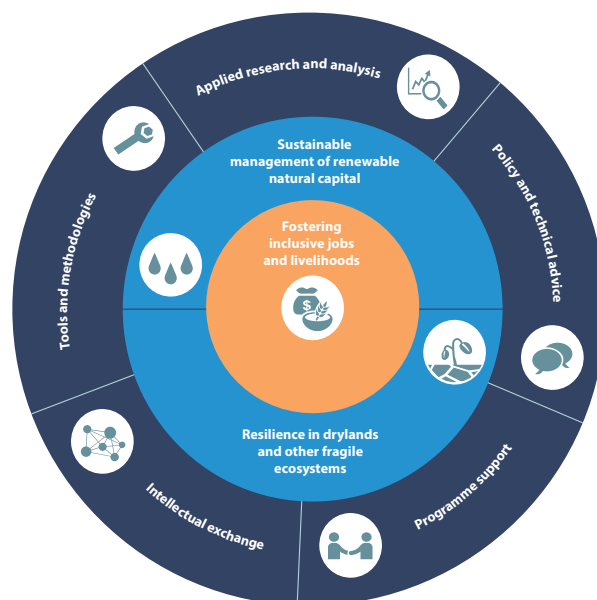
1. Undertake applied research and analysis, and provide evidence on policies and good practices in the sustainable management of natural capital that optimizes jobs and livelihoods (*2016 Annual Work Plan Output 1*) and in fostering socio-ecological resilience in drylands and fragile ecosystems (*Output 2*);
2. Promote intellectual exchange among multiple stakeholders and across disciplinary fields, facilitate the global dissemination of optimal policies and good practices, and stimulate processes for their incorporation into national and regional policy processes (*Output 3*); and
3. Develop tools and methodologies for strengthening the implementation and monitoring of resilience building and the sustainable management of natural capital (*Output 4*).

Following successful mobilization of German funding of nearly USD 5 million in support of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Network (BES-Net) in 2015, the Centre substantively revised its programme document in July 2016 to reflect BES-Net as a separate programme output.

Overall, the 2016 delivery of all initiatives under the Centre (including UNDP's Integrated Drylands Development Programme [IDDP], scheduled to end in June 2017 following a no-cost extension granted; and the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative [PEI], scheduled to be completed by December 2017) totaled nearly USD 8 million. Total non-core resources received in 2016 for the Centre's initiatives amounted to USD 13.2 million. This brings the amount available for the implementation of the Centre's initiatives as from 2017 to about USD 10.5 million.

Despite this success, resource mobilization for the work of the Centre remains a key task against the background of a continuously challenging international aid environment and reduced core funding to the Centre. New programmes as key resource mobilization vehicles for the Centre are being developed and include the new *Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming Programme 2018-2022* (building on PEI lessons learnt) and the *Building resilience capacities of communities in drylands and fragile ecosystems 2017-2020* (building on IDDP lessons learnt and latest resilience building support provided by the Centre to UNDP Country Offices [COs]). Mobilizing funds to cover staff costs will remain a particular priority in the years to come.

Figure 1: CG-RED main areas of work



This section highlights the main results delivered in 2016 under the GC-RED project toward the advancement of global thinking and knowledge sharing on inclusive sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems. It outlines a range of progress made and achievements generated particularly in the areas of: I) natural capital; II) ecosystems and livelihoods resilience building; and III) knowledge management and networking.

## I. NATURAL CAPITAL



In 2016, GC-RED stepped-up its support to countries to adopt sustainable land management (SLM) policies and practices in the context of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 on “Life on Land.” This support was provided in partnership with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with contributions from a variety of partners including International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative.

### Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

Technical support was provided to countries’ preparedness to achieve SDG Target 15.3 on “combating desertification, restoring degraded land and achieving land degradation neutrality”. This support was channeled through the LDN Target Setting Programme managed by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. The objective is to ensure that a critical number of countries develop voluntary national LDN targets in time for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the UNCCD, planned in Ordos, China, in September 2017. GC-RED’s support included:



- Organization of regional capacity building workshops for Africa, Asia and Central and Eastern European (CEE) country parties (completed successfully in May-July 2017) to discuss the implications of achieving SDG Target 15.3, introduce the LDN conceptual framework, and train the participants on the use of the proposed target methodology;
- Piloting of SDG target setting in 5 countries in Africa and Asia (i.e. Kenya, Mauritius, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan and China; ongoing until September 2017). The outcomes and experience from this exercise will be shared with other countries at UNCCD COP13 in China.

### Up-close: Building Capacity for LDN (SDG Target 15.3)



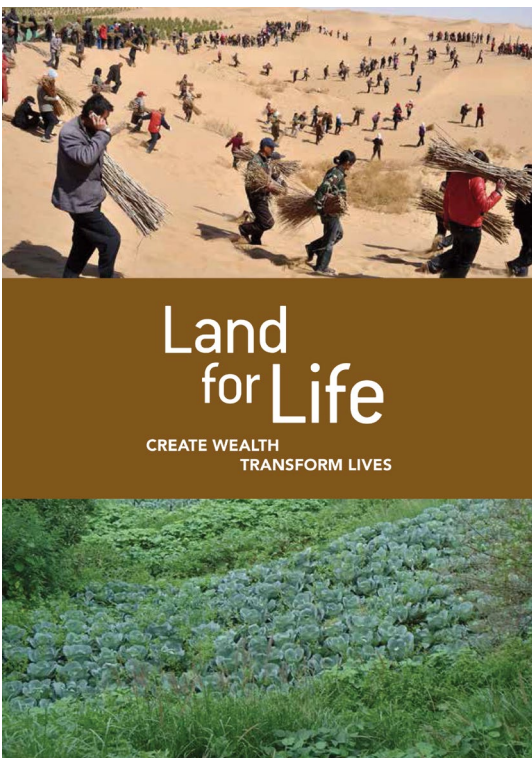
In partnership with the UNCCD, GC-RED supported the organization of three regional capacity building workshop to: 1) introduce the LDN conceptual framework; 2) launch the LDN target setting process in participating countries; and 3) facilitate the elaboration of draft country work plans to develop voluntary LDN targets for COP13. These workshops provided an excellent opportunity for presenting UNDP’s position on LDN/SLM: “Land degradation: A barrier for sustainable development”; “LDN: An SDG accelerator”; “Integration of LDN in the Least Developed Countries”; and “Commitment to support countries’ efforts towards LDN”. A total of 165 people participated in the workshops from 58 countries including: a) 88 people/33 countries for Africa regional workshop in May; b) 32 people/9 countries for Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia workshop in June; and c) 45 people/16 countries for Asia and the Pacific workshop in July.



## Global Land Outlook (GLO)

GC-RED pursued its engagement in the preparation of the first edition of the GLO which is expected to become the new flagship publication of the UNCCD, akin to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Biodiversity Outlook and United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Global Environment Outlook. GC-RED supported the development of 13 working papers, used for the elaboration of the report (e.g. scaling-up SLM good practices; spatial planning; value chains; land/water nexus; land restoration; etc.). Three papers have been completed to date, namely: "Modalities for Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management and Restoration of Degraded Land", "Land Matters for Climate", and "Towards Gender-Sensitive Land Degradation Neutrality".

The first draft of the GLO is expected in March 2017 and the official launch is scheduled on World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June 2017. This strategic publication will highlight the central importance of land quality to human well-being, assess current trends in land conversion, degradation and loss, identify the driving factors and analyze the impacts, provide scenarios for future challenges and opportunities, and present a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales. The conclusions and recommendations of the GLO will serve to facilitate the policy dialogue during the high level segment of UNCCD COP13 in China in September 2017.



Five successful examples of scaling-up sustainable land management were presented at the GLO writeshop held in April 2016 in Jordan by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ICARDA, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), GC-RED and C4S (private company) respectively. GC-RED's case study on "Programed Oasis Sud" in Morocco was very well received and included in the GLO working paper. It argues that the success of this programme resides in: 1) the effective integration of SLM priorities in national, regional and local development plans (total budget of USD 77 million); 2) the strong ownership reflected by significant funding (about 85%) from national budgets and participatory governance processes; and 3) the tangible results achieved on the ground in terms of improving livelihood and ecosystem conditions on a large scale. This case study, "Living Oasis – The Fight against Desertification in Morocco", was also published in the prestigious publication "[Land for Life – Create Wealth, Transform Lives](#)" (World Bank and UNCCD, 2016, pp. 68-82).

### Up-close: Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management and Restoration



In partnership with the UNCCD and ICARDA, GC-RED co-organized a writeshop to prepare the GLO working paper on "Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management Practices" (Amman, Jordan, on 11-13 April 2016). The purpose of the writeshop was to bring working authors together to share knowledge and lessons learned on successful examples of sustainable land management practices and common challenges and success factors that determine their scalability, to include in the GLO working paper. This paper, entitled "Modalities for Scaling up Sustainable Land Management and Restoration of Degraded Land", was completed in December 2016 and its content integrated in the GLO report.

## Economics of Land Degradation (ELD)

The [ELD Initiative](#) is a global assessment on the economic benefits and costs of land and land-based ecosystems. The Initiative highlights the value of sustainable land management and provides a global approach for analyzing the economics of land degradation. It aims to make the economics of land degradation an integral part of policy strategies and decision-making by increasing the political and public awareness of the costs and benefits of land and land-based ecosystems.

Since 2014, GC-RED (and previously the Drylands Development Centre [DDC]), has been a partner of the ELD Initiative to help engage stakeholders at country level in close collaboration with the UNDP COs to contribute to ensuring the policy relevance of ELD Initiative outputs. GC-RED facilitated consultations with a broad array of relevant stakeholders in four selected countries in Africa (i.e. Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania) introducing the ELD Initiative and generating concrete feedback and guidance on the possible application of the ELD Initiative approach on the ground.

In 2016, the Centre has been engaged in discussions with GIZ and ELD colleagues regarding a possible new phase of collaboration to support countries achieve the SDGs, especially regarding SDG 15.3 and envisaged voluntary national LDN targets. It is expected that the collaboration will be concretized in 2017.

Additional details regarding the above-mentioned initiatives are available on GC-RED's webpage on [Sustainable Land Management and Restoration](#), developed during this reporting period.

## II. ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE



In 2016, GC-RED continued to work closely with its internal and external partners in order to drive forward UNDP's resilience agenda. The Centre provided technical support at global, regional, national and sub-national levels to help integrate the concept and principles of social and ecological resilience building into policy and programming process.

### ENHANCING RESILIENCE THINKING AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Threats of natural and man-made crises have been increasing throughout the year in terms of frequency, severity and duration. Against this backdrop, thinking on resilient livelihoods building in the affected communities has been featured prominently in development discourse and practice across different sectors, at different scales and within different contexts during the course of 2016.



At global level, GC-RED contributed to the development of the UNDP Policy on Resilient Recovery by participating in several rounds of draft policy peer reviews. It also provided technical inputs to various strategic documents and products such as the publication entitled *UNDP's Resilience to El Niño and La Niña and Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Early Action to El Niño and La Niña*.

Furthermore, in 2016 the Centre continually represented the UNDP in the Management/Advisory Committee member for the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a multi-agency global initiative led by the World Meteorological Organizations and the Global Water Partnership. The Centre's practice-based inputs concerning drought resilience measurement and analysis were incorporated into the IDMP's milestone publications, *Handbook for Drought Indicators and Indices* (2016) and the *Working Paper on Benefits of Action and Costs of Inaction for Drought Preparedness* (forthcoming).

At regional level, GC-RED provided the Regional Service Centre (RSC) teams with technical backstopping support to ensure that the UNDP's views and recommendations are adequately incorporated into regional/sub-regional resilience policymaking, programming and research processes. The Centre, for example, engaged in the UNDP Community of Practice on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Resilience Building and Recovery in Africa and assisted the RSC for Africa in the strengthening of regional DRR and climate resilience building network.

### Up-close: Crisis Modifier for Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund



The **Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF)** is a multi-donor fund created to contribute to resilience building in Zimbabwe. The overall objective of the fund is to contribute to increased capacities of communities to protect development gains and achieve improved well-being outcomes in the face of shocks and stresses. In response to the request of the UNDP Zimbabwe, GC-RED supported the CO in designing the Crisis Modifier mechanism, a form of contingency planning and funding tool, which, as one of the key pillars of the ZRBF, provides targeted and timely assistance at local level in response to certain early warning 'trigger' indicator(s).

Based on the thorough review of relevant literature, extensive consultations with a range of government, UN, donor and NGO partners and intensive field observation and analysis, the joint mission team of the GC-RED and the United Kingdom Department for International Development developed a conceptual framework for the ZRBF Crisis Modifier. The Centre also supported the formulation of the standard operating procedures for the Crisis Modifier mechanism.



In the Horn of Africa region, the Centre participated proactively in the resilience context analysis exercises for Kenya and Ethiopia which were facilitated by the Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU), a partnership between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and five UN agencies. In West and Central Africa, GC-RED contributed to the United Nations Development Group discussion on establishing a common methodological approach for Resilience programming in Sahel countries based on the years of experiences from the [Community Based Resilience Analysis \(CoBRA\)](#).

## SUPPORTING NATIONAL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AND RESTORE RESILIENCE

At national level, demand-based technical advisory and applied analytical support was provided to selected COs in the course of the year, particularly the countries classified as the Least Developed Countries, with high fragility, and/or affected by recurrent disasters and protracted crisis. These include, among others:

- Development of a crisis modifier mechanism within the UNDP Zimbabwe-managed Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF);
- Intensive training of 25 UNDP Malawi project staff and counterparts (i.e., District Councils members from Maginga and Mangochi Districts) as well as subsequent field support to undertake CoBRA and identify priority climate resilience building actions in the target districts; and
- Operationalization of the results-based monitoring and evaluation frameworks for multi-sectoral and multi-partner drought resilience building programme at national level and in two pilot counties in Kenya.



The Centre pursued its technical support for the implementation of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) in countries affected by the Syria crisis. The 3RP is a consolidated regional framework aimed at addressing refugee protection needs, the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, and the longer term socio-economic impacts of the Syria crisis on neighboring countries. More specifically and in response to demand from UNDP COs, the Centre supported the implementation of the National Response Plan in Lebanon and UNDP's response plan in Syria.

In Lebanon, technical assistance was provided within the framework of the Lebanon Host Communities Support Programme to strengthen the resilience of host communities by building the production and marketing capacities of women agro-food cooperatives. A total of 33 cooperatives were supported in the Bekaa Valley and South Lebanon; about 350 families or 2,000 people directly benefited from this support.

### Up-close: CoBRA Assessment in Malawi



The GC-RED team facilitated a series of practical desk-/field-based Training of Trainers sessions on CoBRA, a participatory resilience assessment methodology, for the UNDP Malawi and its government counterparts. Trained District Council members implemented the CoBRA methodology effectively in Machinga and Mangochi districts.

The key local views, perspectives and recommendations on community/household resilience to climate disasters derived from the exercise were incorporated into the work plan of the GEF-funded [Climate Proofing Local Development Gains in Rural and Urban Areas of Machinga and Mangochi Districts Project](#). The CoBRA results were also presented at the subsequent national multi-stakeholder workshop and fruitful discussion was held on how to incorporate the key findings from CoBRA into future resilience policy, planning and programming processes at different levels including the National Resilience Plan. Based on this successful pilot exercise, a new round of CoBRA assessment is planned in other districts in 2017.

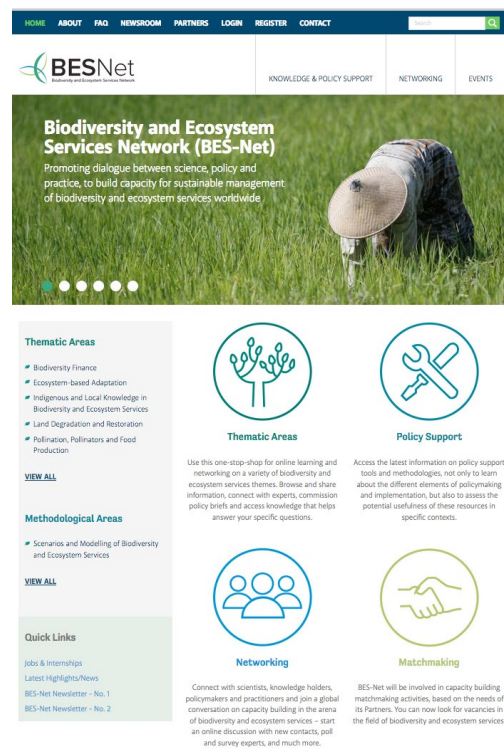


In Syria, the Centre provided technical advice under the programme “Assistance for the Restoration and Stabilization of the Livelihoods of People Affected by the Crisis”, namely for the design and implementation of interventions aiming at restoring agricultural productivity and enhancing food security of vulnerable groups with special attention to women headed household.

## FACILITATING DIALOGUE AND NETWORKING ON SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

In 2016, GC-RED further pursued the operationalization of a dialogue platform for multiple stakeholders on the conceptualization and implementation of sustainable management and resilience building practices through the **BES-Net**. In particular, through its **Land Degradation and Restoration Module**, BES-Net was able to connect experts on the issues of LDN as a contribution to individual and institutional capacity building on socio-ecological resilience. Further details on the progress and achievements of the BES-Net project are provided in the subsequent section.

As part of the Centre’s support to BES-Net, GC-RED brought on board and hosted two interns throughout 2016. Their support contributed particularly to BES-Net’s communication efforts and the project planning of the platform. In addition, they were granted an insight in the day-to-day working environment of the United Nations in Africa.



### Up-close: Enhancing Food Security of People Affected by the Crisis in Syria



The Centre pursued its support to UNDP-Syria in implementing interventions in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, focusing on the agricultural sector as the main driver of the governorate’s economy. The Centre’s technical assistance aimed at restoring livelihoods, enhancing food security and creating job opportunities for men and women. The intervention logic is that by supporting communities affected by the crisis in effectively using their land and water resources, and enhancing their livelihoods opportunities, the interventions will help strengthen the absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacity of these communities. Two interventions were supported in 2016, namely:

- “*Badira Initiative for the Empowerment of Small Farmers*” which made available fresh vegetables on the local market at reasonable prices; supported 700 small farmers, covered an area of 2,240 ha and helped secure 4,000 seasonal work days mostly for women.
- “*Dar Al-Salam Food Processing Initiative*” which helped establish a dairy farm, created employment for 155 persons (direct beneficiaries 775); indirect beneficiaries, about 500 families or 2,500 persons through increased availability of dairy products at reasonable prices.



### III. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING



Over the past year, continuous dedicated efforts have been made to improve the visibility of GC-RED and enhance the awareness of the Centre's mandates and activities. Various communication tools and knowledge materials were developed and updated in both print ready and digital formats. These resources were circulated at different fora and through different channels as the means to effectively and efficiently reach out to key internal and external audiences.

Some of these works include, among others:

- Regular review and renewal of the Centre's publicity materials, such as brief, thematic factsheets, etc.;
- Periodic posting of articles concerning the Centre's milestone activities on the UNDP's web blog page and its partner sites;
- Monthly dissemination of climatic/drought resilience related news to some 2,000 interested partners through the [Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\) newsletters](#) (As of January 2017, AADP newsletter is rated as 4.5/5.0 star within the UNDP publication site); and
- Timely dissemination of the Centre works and achievements through the [GC-RED webpages](#) and the social network (As of January 2017, [GC-RED twitter account](#) receives more than 1,000 followers).



As part of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, GC-RED team also worked successfully to represent UNDP at a number of strategic events all over the world. Some of these events encompass:



- The [fourth session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES-4\)](#) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22-28 February 2016;
- The [eighth UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Donor Steering Group Meeting](#) in Vientiane, Laos, on 28 April 2016;
- The [second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA-2\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23-27 May 2016;
- [LDN Target Setting](#) Regional Inception Workshops for Africa in Konya, Turkey, on 28-30 May, for Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in Batumi, Georgia, on 6-7 June, and for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12-13 July.
- [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) in Hawaii, the USA, on 1-10 September 2016;
- The Second IPBES Capacity Building Forum in New York, the USA, on 23 September 2016;
- The [fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(CRIC 15\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18-20 October 2016.
- The [thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP13\)](#) to the CBD in Cancun, Mexico, on 2-17 December 2016.

These events served as great opportunities to move the corporate agenda forward and establish/strengthen partnerships with various organizations.



GC-RED also worked closely with internal and external partners to co-organize several conferences and meetings whose themes are closely linked to the Centre's domain of work. They include:

- 2016 Human Development Report (HDR) Stakeholder consultation meeting facilitated on 16 June, and a series of public lectures organized on 'Human Development: The Way Ahead for People and Planet' for UN and academic partners on 17 June together with the UNDP HDR Office in Nairobi; and
- [2016 Regional ShareFair on Gender and Resilience](#) together with UN WOMEN, IGAD and other partners on 9-10 November 2016.

This section presents the key progress and achievements made during 2016 under the BES-Net project aimed toward the output of developing capacities to address science-policy issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services management and utilization.

2016 marked the beginning of the operational phase of BES-Net, with the full development and launch of the [BES-Net web-portal](#), the development of a draft methodology for the BES-Net “Dialogues” (the BES-Net face-to-face capacity building activities), which are set to start in 2017.

## BES-NET PARTNERS

As of December 2016, BES-Net teams up with 85 international partners, who play key roles in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development. The BES-Net partners fall under the following categories:

1. *Implementing Partners* who provide funding for and implement BES-Net;
2. *Advisory Partners* who are represented on the Advisory Committee, and provide strategic advice to the overall work of BES-Net; and/or
3. *Network Partners* who share information on BES-Net amongst their networks and invite them to join the BES-Net online community of individual scientists, knowledge holders policymakers and practitioners.

At the strategic level, the BES-Net team obtained clarification from [IPBES](#), a key Advisory Partner, regarding the new scope of collaboration with the platform. Accordingly, BES-Net re-conceptualized its capacity building support to IPBES so as to continually respond to the evolving needs of the platform.

Furthermore, additional BES-Net funding was secured from SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Covering the period of 2016-2018, and building on previous support provided in 2012-2015, this additional funding is dedicated to the enhancement of the BES-Net web-portal (i.e., French version and increased access in low band width areas), knowledge management and engagement of representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities in the BES-Net Dialogues. It also contributed to the development of a gender strategy for BES-Net in 2016. An evaluation of the SwedBio support to BES-Net during the period 2012-2015 was also carried out, and its recommendations informed the 2017 work plan.

BES-Net also strengthened its partnership with the [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans \(NBSAP\) Forum and the Equator Initiative](#) and identified areas of active synergies and cooperation among the networks. The wider BES-Net team, with close support from the UNDP Global Biodiversity Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) teams, as well as UNDP RSCs, attended numerous events in 2016 at both strategic and implementation levels including international events organized by the CBD, UNCCD and IUCN, and participated in the IPBES process and refined synergies with partners.

## BES-NET TRIALOGUES AND OTHER FACE TO FACE CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

In 2016, a range of preparatory work was undertaken for the first BES-Net Dialogue, which is to be held in 2017 in Eastern Europe with special focus on the thematic area of pollinators, pollination and food production, following the release of the corresponding IPBES thematic assessment report in November 2016. Hosting arrangements are currently under finalization, including logistical arrangements and policy background research for all target countries.

The inception phase for the implementation of the capacity building support for national ecosystem services in four countries, funded through the German International Climate Initiative (IKI), in addition to the four regional BES-Net Dialogues, which are implemented in partnership with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC), has started. Full implementation is planned for 2017.

## BES-NET WEB PORTAL AND OTHER ONLINE COMMUNICATION WORKS

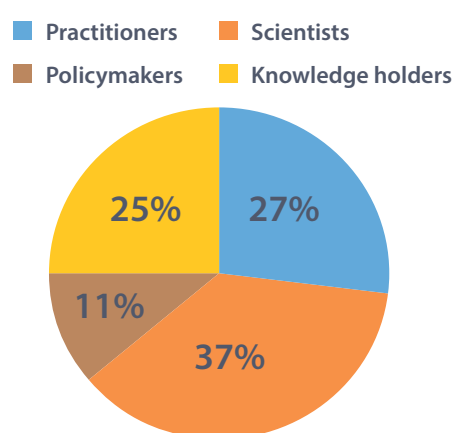
The BES-Net web portal provides a “one-stop shop” for policy relevant information and learning material, guiding users through the existing sources of thematic information and methodological tools and providing access to learning material and policy briefs. It promotes dialogue around the same thematic areas in which IPBES assessments are being conducted as well as in key areas of UNDP’s work on biodiversity and ecosystems management for development, and provides interactive features for network members to interact and collaborate on specific policy questions. It was launched on 9 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico, during the CBD COP 13. The [launch event](#) received significant interests from stakeholders, with more than 10,000 views of the [video coverage](#) taken by the International Institute for Sustainable Development’s (IISD) Reporting Services.

As of the end of December 2016, the BES-Net web portal had 270 individuals registered users from all three target communities of policymakers, scientists/ knowledge holders and practitioners (Figure 2). Among them, 91 experts have agreed to answer questions, respond to polls, and engage in conversation with other BES-Net users in their area of expertise. The web-portal has received close to 20,000 page views since its active promotion in September 2016, with a surge of visits and registrations following its official launch.

Along with the web portal, BES-Net promoted its social media activities in 2016. [BES-Net’s Facebook page](#) is followed by over 4,400 people, and its [twitter account](#), [LinkedIn account](#) and [YouTube Channel](#) are also active.

Two newsletters were distributed in 2016 to keep the partners and other interested stakeholders informed of the BES-Net and other relevant activities. Various other communication and publicity materials, e.g., leaflets, posters, banners, etc., were produced to support the overall BES-Net awareness raising efforts. The BES-Net communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, which was newly developed in 2016, will serve as a protocol and quality assurance mechanism based on which to effectively manage and guide the BES-Net Partners and contact databases, as well as the BES-Net web-portal and the BES-Net social media channels.

Figure 2: Categories of BES-Net Users



### Up-close: Co-Hosting of the IPBES Capacity-building Forum



UNDP, as an agency supporting the IPBES’s capacity building work, co-hosted the second meeting of the IPBES Capacity-building Forum together with UNEP and the IPBES. The meeting was held in New York on 23 September 2016 in New York, in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

Building on the first meeting held in October 2015, the second meeting attracted higher level participation and more organizations with an interest in funding and supporting capacity building. The main output of the meeting is the re-conceptualization of the capacity building work of the Platform in the form of a draft Capacity Building Rolling Plan, to be approved by the IPBES-5 Plenary meeting in 2017.

# UNDP CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI)

Since October 2014, GC-RED has led the UNDP Managing Agent functions for PEI. PEI is a joint UNDP-UNEP programme that supports country-led efforts to integrate poverty-environment (P-E) linkages into national and subnational development policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks. The global programme is implemented through joint UNDP-UNEP teams covering four regions, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS), and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), working in close collaboration with UNDP Regional Hubs in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Istanbul and Panama City. The current phase is scheduled to end 31 December 2017.

In 2016 the Centre's Director and Centre staff continued to provide the Poverty Environment Facility (PEF) and PEI with strategic management, project management and operational support. The Centre also increasingly supported PEI in strengthening delivery on the poverty-environment nexus through the four regional teams, facilitated learning across regions – reflected through South-South exchanges and participation in the 2016 South-South Expo, and the application of tools for mainstreaming P-E issues in development policies, planning, budgeting and monitoring frameworks. This also include intensive efforts for management of on-going PEI cash flow issues including mitigation, preparation, approval, implementation and monitoring of 2016 work plans and budgets, as well as ensuring proper administration of mobilized European Union Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement (PAGoDA I) funds.

The Centre provided substantive inputs to the following PEI meetings:

- PEF Retreat 13-14 January 2016
- PEI Donor Steering Group Meeting April 2016 (Lao PDR)
- Asia – Pacific Regional Workshop 1-3 June 2016 (Bangladesh)
- LAC Regional Steering Committee Meeting and PEI Management Mission 19-20 September 2016 (Panama)
- Representation at the ECIS SDG 2-4 November 2016 (Kazakhstan)
- Africa Regional Meetings: 7-10 June and 21-25 November 2016 (Kenya)

As part of administering UNDP's Managing Agent functions, the Centre:

- Managed all direct cost sharing agreement (CSA) funding and facilitated the pooling of PEI resources under the global PEI ATLAS Project/Award for a total of more than USD 6.05 million in 2016, in close collaboration with HQ.
- Delivered financial reporting for donor specific requested, UNEP requirements and overall Global Programme Annual Reporting.
- Recruited various consultancies for PEI substantive activities in 2016 and with the departure of PEI's programme associate provided additional operational support.
- Contributed to the 2015 PEI Annual Report.

In 2016, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of close to USD 8 million implemented under three separate project documents and related ATLAS Awards (i.e. the Centre; the PEI and the IDDP).

The largest individual project portfolio continued to be the PEI with nearly USD 6 million, followed by the Centre and the IDDP.

The majority of funds implemented were non-core donor resources in support of particular projects; with the Centre's operations supported through UNDP core funds and staff.

In 2016, more than USD 13 million in non-core resources was received in support of the various initiatives implemented under the purview of the Centre. With the expected completion of two of its global initiatives in 2017 (the PEI and IDDP), the Centre expects to have a portfolio of about USD 5.5 million for the implementation of its other initiatives (the Centre and BES-Net) over the next 4 years. This amount is expected to increase with efforts under way in developing successor programmes to the current IDDP and PEI projects.

More details are provided in Tables 1-3 below.

**Table 1: 2016 Delivery (as of January 2017)**

Project Name	ATLAS Project/ Output No	2016 Budget in USD	2016 Expenditure in USD	Source of funds
PEI	00075132	7,641,058	5,796,908	Non-core
IDDP	00060784	300,711	183,516	Non-core
Centre	00087434	232,812	200,049	UNDP
	funded under the IDDP	695,787	610,539	Non-core
	00087434	99,028	96,754	UNDP core allocation
	00094130	714,862	714,862	UNDP core allocation for Centre staff costs
	00097675 (Bes-Net)	108,025	272,170	Non-core
	Sub-Total	1,850,514	1,894,374	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,792,283</b>	<b>7,874,798</b>	



Table 2: Non-core resources received in 2016 (as of January 2017)

Project Name	Amount in USD	Donor
PEI	3,253,706	EU
	2,000,000	Norway
	591,693	Sweden
	109,649	Spain
	1,262,626	DFID
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>7,217,674</b>	
IDDP	920,040	Finland
	77,097	ECHO
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>997,137</b>	
BES-Net	4,945,054	Germany
	66,985	Swedbio
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>5,012,040</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,226,850</b>	

Table 3: Non-core resources mobilized for utilization in 2017 (as of Feb 2017)

Project Name	Amount in USD	Donor
PEI	4,055,496	EU
	64,848	Sweden (UNEP Contribution)
	3,200,000	Norway (UNEP Contribution)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>7,320,344</b>	
BES-Net	99,606	SwedBio Agreement (2016-2018)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>99,606</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,419,950</b>	

# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GLOBAL INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE CENTRE

## I. UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)

2016 for PEI served as a midpoint in the current global programme. In April 2016 PEI held a very successful Donor’s Steering Group (DSG) meeting in Lao PDR, where UNDP, UNEP and donors continued their support for the work on taking forwards implementation of PEI’s current global programme and gave a green light for development of a post-2017 concept note for a joint global programme building on PEI experience for P-E mainstreaming. Efforts on the concept note were taken forward in the second half of 2016 and PEI looks forward to finalizing the concept note into a project document in the first half of 2017. In June 2016 PEI completed the final evaluation of the PEI Scale Up Phase Global Programme (2008-2013). Substantively, innovative work in partnership with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative funded by Centre and PEI Global Project resources looked at adapting the multi-dimensional poverty measurement methodology to apply a wider application as an environmental-natural resource multi-dimensional poverty index to better inform policymaking.

Collaboration on PEI work was showcased in the following fora:

- UNEP Integrated Approaches Workshop where government panelists from PEI country projects shared experience from piloting and/or use of an integrated approach in implementing PEI project objectives (Nairobi, February 2016).
- Presentation of PEI approaches and experience at UNEA II side events: High level Dialogue on Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development; Examining the human rights, development and environment nexus through health and climate change and Forum on Partnerships for Inclusive Green Economy – Joining up for delivery on the 2030 Agenda (Nairobi, May 2016).
- Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) – Following the 21st PEP meeting held in May 2016 (Bangladesh), the **Joint Management Board member**, Nik Sekhran, participated in a panel for the collaborative PEP paper “Getting to Zero” at an IIED/PEP UN General Assembly ECOSOC High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development Side Event (July 2016, NYC).
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Academy (October 2016, Turin) PEI representation served as resource staff for P-E mainstreaming, gender-mainstreaming and social inclusion.



## II. Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP)

In November 2016, the Government of Finland (the donor) and GC-RED commissioned the final evaluation of the IDDP Arab States Programme: 1) to assess performance, especially in relation to sustainability of Programme achievements; and 2) to finalize the Exit Strategy of the Programme (January-June 2017). The evaluation was conducted by an independent consultant with the participation of Programme partners.

The evaluation reaffirmed the strong performance of the Programme. It concluded that “the catalytic approach of the Programme was efficient and effective in promoting resilient drylands development and presents a good model for replication by similar development programmes. The amount of financial resources mobilized has been remarkable (USD 17.8 million, including contributions from Finland and other donors) and the feedback on the Programme’s efforts to build local capacities has been positive. There is clear evidence that the national level work will continue following the closure of the Programme.”

Furthermore, the mission recommended to explore possibilities for future cooperation between UNDP and Finland given that “the long-standing cooperation in the context of the Programme has been a success – one possible way forward could be cooperation based on the concept note ‘Resilience-based Response to the Syria Crisis’ submitted by the Programme to the Government of Finland.”

The evaluation proposed an Exit Strategy for the Programme to be implemented in January-June 2017. During this period, the Programme will finalize pending activities, transfer knowledge products to its national partners and institutional home in Nairobi, and explore a possible way forward for its partnership with Finland based on the concept note “Resilience-based Response to the Syria Crisis” (submitted by the Programme to the Government of Finland in the fourth quarter of 2016).

With the closure of the Arab States Programme, the IDDP will come to an end in June 2017.

### Sustainability of the IDDP Arab States Programme

The IDDP Arab States Programme invested considerable efforts to ensure the sustainability of its achievements through:

1. securing strong national ownership of its interventions;
2. mobilizing significant funding from national resources;
3. strengthening capacity of national partners in project design and implementation;
4. scaling-up and replicating good practices;
5. institutionalizing results and impacts; and
6. documenting good practices and lessons learned. Sustainability was further enhanced by the multi-level approach adopted by the Programme, working at the policy and practice levels as well as on the national, regional and local levels (Final Evaluation Report, December 2016).





**we focus on**

poverty eradication and environmental sustainability in fragile ecosystems.



**we support**

sustainable and resilient development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems, aiming to reduce vulnerability and ensure better living standards.



**we contribute to**

the implementation of the SDGs, which will result in improved livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing, and ultimately lead to pro poor growth.



**we mainstream**

poverty-environment objectives into national/local development and budgetary frameworks to promote poverty eradication, while advancing sustainable management of natural capital.



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