**SUMMARY –SLM MID TERR EVALUATION**

This was a mid term evaluation of the Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management activities in the Six Cattle Corridor Districts of Nakaseke, Lyantonde, Nakasongola, Kamuli, Sembabule, and Kaliro in Uganda. Financial support is given by the Royal Norwegian Government through the UNDP Dry lands Development Centre. The three-year project started in 2009, but was actually implemented from 2010 onward. It is executed by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and implemented by the Ministry Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). Key implementing partners include National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Department of Meteorology, Ministry of Water and Environment and District Local Governments of the six host districts. The project targets 3 outputs:

• Priority SLM interventions integrated in the DDPs and budgets of 6 districts

• Priority SLM interventions implemented by rural communities in the 6 target districts

• Capacity of the UNCCD/NAP focal point strengthened to support SLM country program

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The project objectives are: (i) to support mainstreaming of SLM issues into District Development Plans (DDPs) and budgets, (ii) to support adoption of sustainable livelihood and land management practices by local communities in the cattle corridor districts, and (iii) to strengthen the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and National Action Plan (NAP) Focal Point Office in MAAIF in implementation of the National SLM Investment Framework.

Objectives of the evaluation

 1) to identify unforeseen project design problems;

 2) assess progress towards the achievement of objectives;

3) identify the changes caused by the project to sustainable livelihoods

4) make recommendations regarding what ought to be done during the rest of the project life; and 5) analyze the project performance up to now in the context of the institutional framework and events in Uganda and make recommendations for improvement.

**Project Results**

Outputs of the project have contributed to about 60 – 70% of the expected Outcomes according to estimations of the consultancy team. The **effectiveness** of the project is therefore ranging from satisfactory to moderately satisfactory. Due to the shortcomings in project implementation, the **efficiency** of the project is moderately satisfactory. Highest efficiency was found in Output 2 for the introduction of grant schemes, which, however, highlights simultaneously the redundancy of the long planning process within Output 1. The **feasibility** of project interventions is very mixed. Though highly committed to full participation of all communities, **feasibility and efficiency** of the planning procedures is doubted by the evaluation team, and it is urgently suggested to continue with different planning methodologies in future, where the ratio between efforts and added value is higher. The feasibility of Output 2 is high for most interventions, however, the introduction of agro-chemicals and hybrid seeds for conservation agriculture should be better monitored and analyzed. Moreover, accompanying measures to maintain and strengthen communities’ sovereignty as well as conservation should be undertaken, where traditional knowledge and technologies or even genetic

11

varieties are replaced or natural systems are altered, which is also true for weather forecasting etc.. For Output 3 it is doubtful, if the design is feasible to strengthen the NFP of the UNCCD, because none of the suggested activities enhanced the mandate of the NFP in a way that is needed to fulfill the requirements of this position. On the other hand, the design supports the sustainability of the project, also the relevance of the project for the implementation of the UNCCD, UNDAF , TERRAFRICA and GEF is very high as well as the impacts, the project can potentially make.

**Recommendations** are mainly given in respect to the finalization and potential up-scaling in a latter phase of the project. They mainly refer to more efficient planning in future, improved reporting, monitoring and evaluation. For future implementation and up-scaling it is recommended, to apply the ecosystem approach, as recommended for the UNCCD, meaning, conducting all interventions with respect to the ecosystem levels they are based in. CSIF itself should be taken as a guideline both for the interventions to be conducted as well as for the definition of financial frames of the interventions. Additionally, the generation of ecosystem services and payments for ecosystem services should be further expanded into the concept of improved land productivity by the project. The mandates of PM and PC should be enhanced and UNDP and MAAIF should show greater solidarity in pursuing the success of the project. SLM in future should also take an ecosystem approach, including land policy and governance, institutional capacities of stakeholders, etc. Finally a no-cost extension of the project is recommended, also the continuation of the project in further phases.

**Lessons Learnt:** Conservation agriculture can improve production with or without fertilisers or herbicides, provided basins and mulching are used. Thus the basin technology will remain.

**Recommendations:**

65

 Publicise the achievements of Conservation Agriculture through farmers exhibitions

 Expand SLM achievements especially the basin technology

 The activities that were implemented in Kaliro under SLM cover just a few of the major issues e.g. water and soil management and water resource management were not well addressed.

 Promote