

# GHANA NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

## DESERTIFICATION THEMATIC REPORT



**Zenabu Wasai**  
**Thematic consultant**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ghana is a party to the three Rio conventions, however due to the absence of a common strategy for the synergistic implementation of programmes for effective utilisation of scarce resources; the three Rio conventions are implemented in isolation at the national level. Consequently, with the positive response from the UN agencies on the need for developing countries to build their capacities, it applied to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for funding to prepare a National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) needs.

The main objective of the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) is to assess the country's national capacities to manage the global environment and enable it formulate a strategy and an action plan to strengthen its capacities as well as establish a close link between global environmental management for the achievement of sustainable development goals. The (NCSA) is aimed at the identification of the capacity needs and associated constraints within the three Rio conventions identified as the three thematic areas covered by the NCSA process.

This report identifies the capacity needs and associated constraints under the UNCCD. It analyses the complete capacity development needs (systemic, Institutional and human) for the effective and meaningful implementation of the desertification convention at the national level, taking into consideration various capacity building needs and decisions reached by the Conference of Parties under the UNCCD process.

The Desertification /land degradation thematic capacity needs assessment was carried out through a desktop information, analysing and a participatory process by the organisation of six zonal workshops.

Problems identified in the implementation of the convention and implementation of land degradations issues include the following:

- Inadequate coordination of programmes/projects at the sectoral level
- Projects are merely implemented on pilot basis and absence of adequate resources to replicate.

- Implementation of projects without considering the synergies among the three conventions to enhance maximization of resource use.
- Most projects implementations are departmentalised which make it difficult to collaborate.
- GPRS 1 did not consider the implications of government policies on the environment.
- Non- enforcement of be-laws and lack of incentives for people who manage and conserve natural resources.
- Duplication of efforts at the ministerial and Agency level.
- Inadequate public awareness
- Inadequate financial resources for implementers to effectively work.
- Long gap between phase out of projects

In analysing the constraint, key capacity needs identified in the process include the following;

It is a high priority to strengthen the capacities of the National desertification Committee, the Environmental Protection Agency and its collaborating institutions to enable their effective participation in the implementation of the Convention and thus the NAP activities. This will involve the following programme of activities:

- (a) Enhancing the functional and negotiation capacity of the UNCCD Focal institution (EPA) through allocation of materials and training in negotiation skills. This can be achieved through the development and conduct of the training at the national level or enabling the participation of Ghanaians in regional training activities.
- (b) Undertake vigorous resource mobilisation for enabling the full functioning of National Desertification Fund to ensure sustainable implementation of NAP activities. This enabling activity will take into consideration the outputs of this National Capacity Self-Assessment. The short-term and long-term issues include:
  - (i) development of education and training programmes for the informal sector
  - (ii) development and strengthening of scientific institutions (CSIR, the Universities, etc) with the necessary equipment and scientific information;
  - (iii) enhancement of public awareness at all levels; and
  - (iv) Re-orientation and development of appropriate policies and regulations leading to improved decision- and policy-making with opportunities to facilitate sustainable development and reduce pressure on resources.
  - (v) Harmonise legislations on natural resource management
  - (vi) Review and enact non existing bye laws at the local level
  - (vii) Mobilise resources for the effective implementation of the NAP.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Global Environment Facility.....	GEF
National Capacity Self –Assessment.....	NCSA
United Nations Convention to Combat desertification.....	UNCCD
Ghana Environmental Resource Management Project.....	GERMP
Northern Savannah Biodiversity Project.....	NSBCP
Savannah Resource Management Project.....	SRMP
Cooperative Integrated Ecosystems of Ghana.....	CIPSEG
National Action Programme.....	NAP
Conference of Parties .....	COP
National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.....	NPACD
Strategic Environmental Assessment.....	SEA
Environmental Protection Agency.....	EPA
Ministry of Environment and Science.....	MES
Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy.....	GPRS
Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines.....	MLF&M
Ministry of Food and Agriculture.....	MOFA
Inter State Committee for the Sahel.....	CILSS