



# **Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Mitigation of the Effects of Drought**

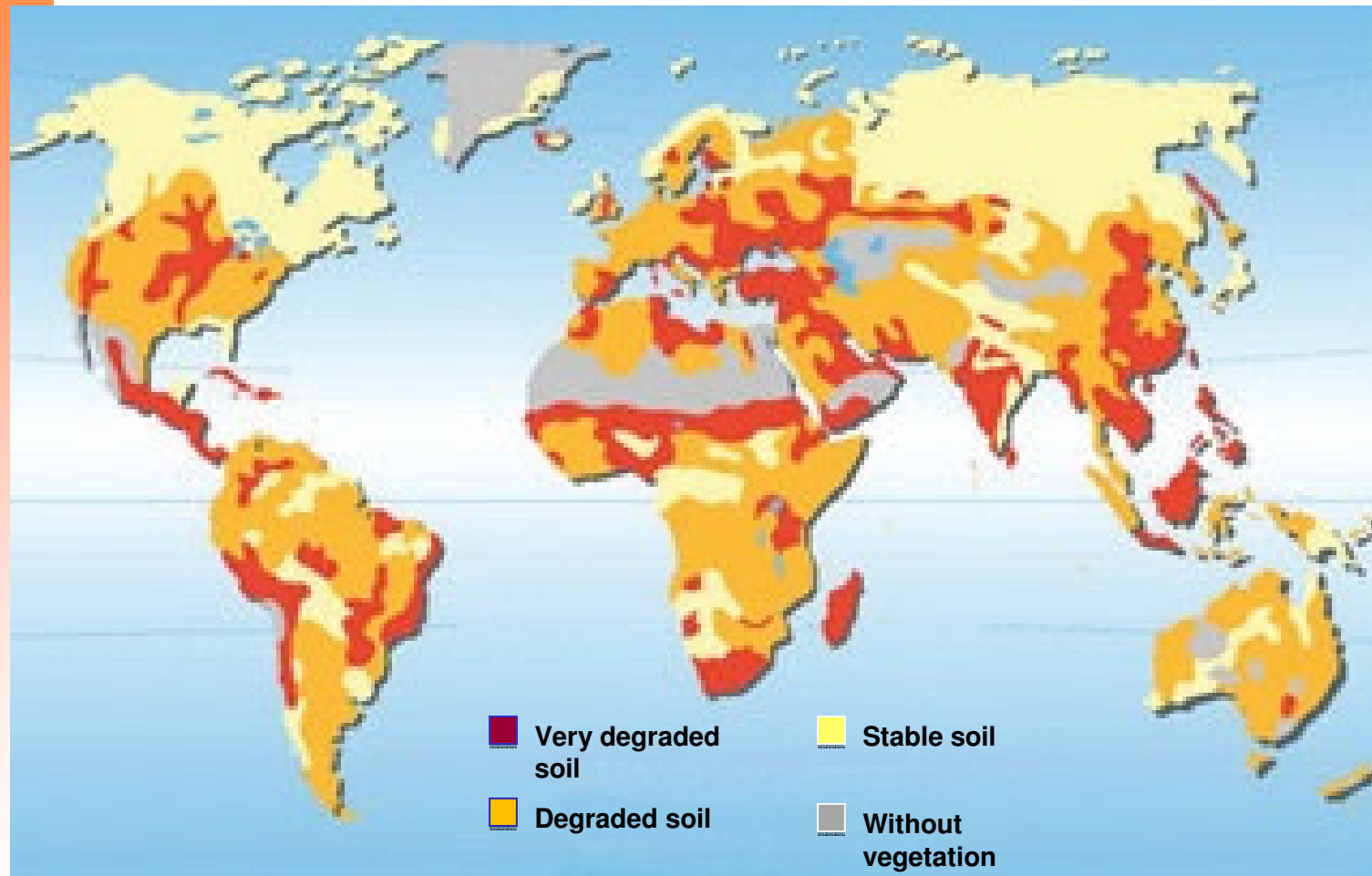
## **Role of UNCCD national and regional action programmes to combat desertification and drought and the new 10 year strategy**

**By Melchiade Bukuru**

**New York 9 May 2008**



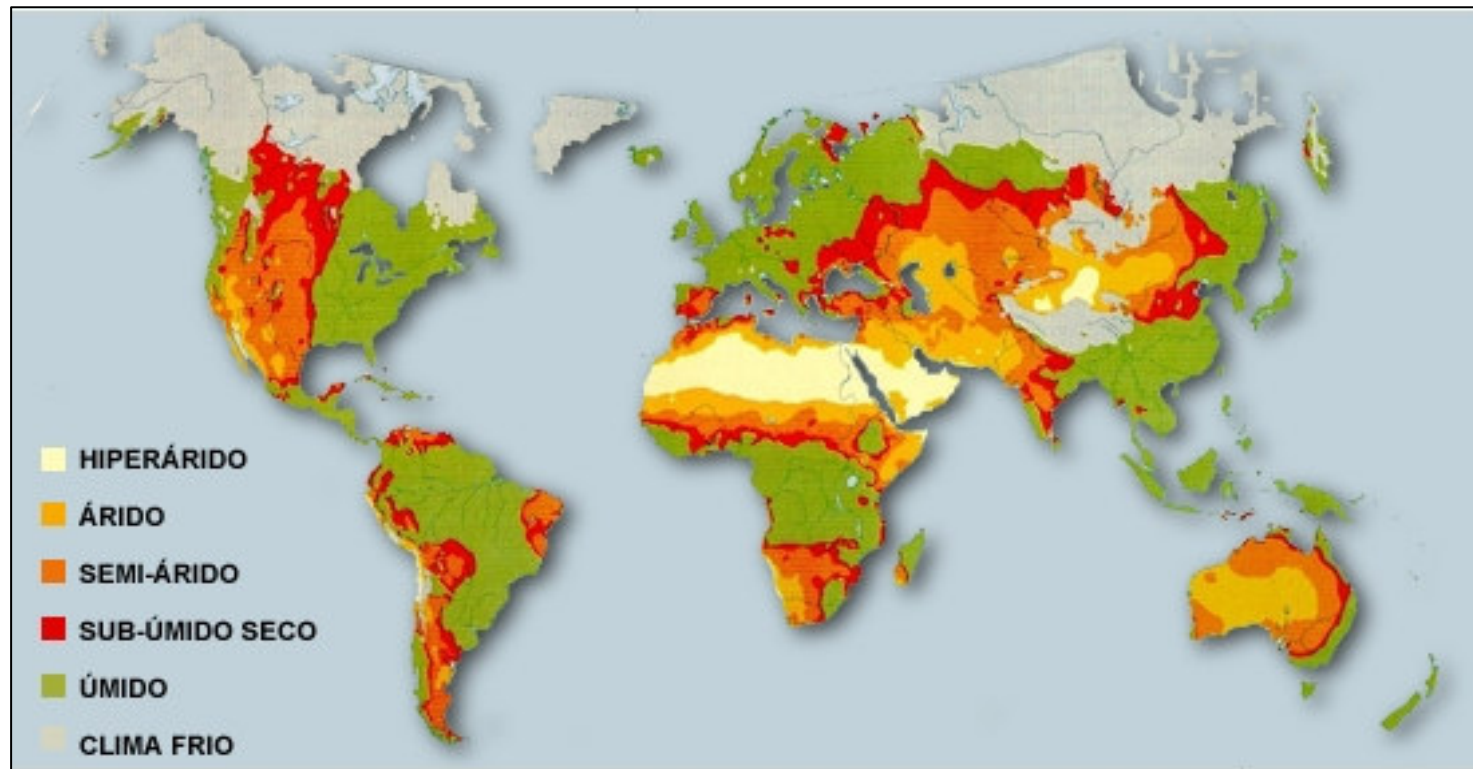
# Map of Global Soil Degradation



*From UNEP/GRID–Arendal Maps and Graphics Library  
([http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/global\\_soil\\_degradation](http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/global_soil_degradation)).*



# Arid Zones

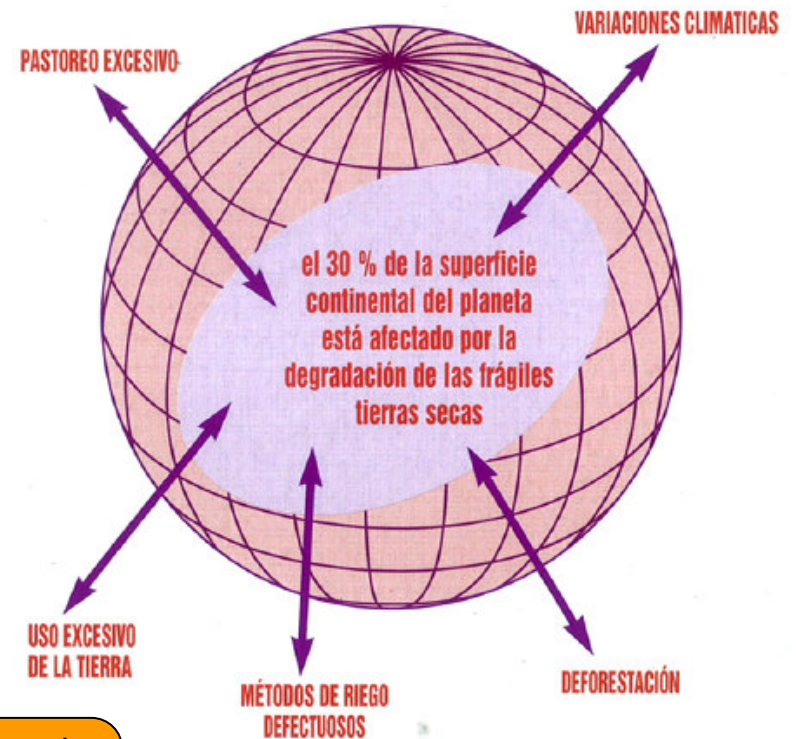


Relationship between annual precipitation and potential evapotranspiration: 0.05 & 0.65 (excluding polar and sub-polar regions)



# Desertification

- Extension
- Causes
- Effects
  - Human Cost
  - Environmental Cost
  - Economic Cost



Land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones, is the result of diverse factors, such as climatic variations and human activities

Rio Summit, 1992



- **Drought and desertification:**
  - cause degradation to ecosystems,
  - affect sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable populations, and tend to reduce their resilient capacities,
  - thus incurring in global economic, environmental and social costs. (Cf. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)
- **Impacts**
  - Hunger & famine
  - Forced migrations
  - Conflicts, etc.



## Main Causes of Desertification

- **Droughts and Climate Change**
- **Population Dynamics**
- **Poverty**
- **External constraints in a global economic environment**
- **Urbanization**

**Desertification is a dynamic process:  
*Non- degraded zones, can also be vulnerable*** <sub>6</sub>



## **Desertification affects over 40% of total land area of the world**

**Africa:** Two thirds drylands, 73 % is moderately or severely affected

**Asia:** One third is drylands, 71% affected, All Pacific islands states face some sort ofv land degradation

**North America** proportion of drylands is 74%

Five **European** Union countries are affected

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** one fourth drylands, 75% affected

**110 countries have drylands that are potentially at risk.**

**Over 250 million people are directly affected and**

**One billion under threats or at risk**

**Global desertification costs: US\$42 Billion;**



# **Desertification is predictable & reversible**

- **Drought & desertification are predictable**
- **Land degradation (including desertification) is reversible**
- **To a large extent, their severe impacts on affected populations livelihood are the expression of public and even global policy failure**
  1. **Failure to converge from the global to the local (through strategic partnership)**
  2. **Failure to mainstream at the national level**
  3. **Failure to diffuse the available informations & knowledge**
  4. **Failure to disseminate & upscale the good practices**
  5. **Failure to mobilize the required resources**





# UNCCD Convention

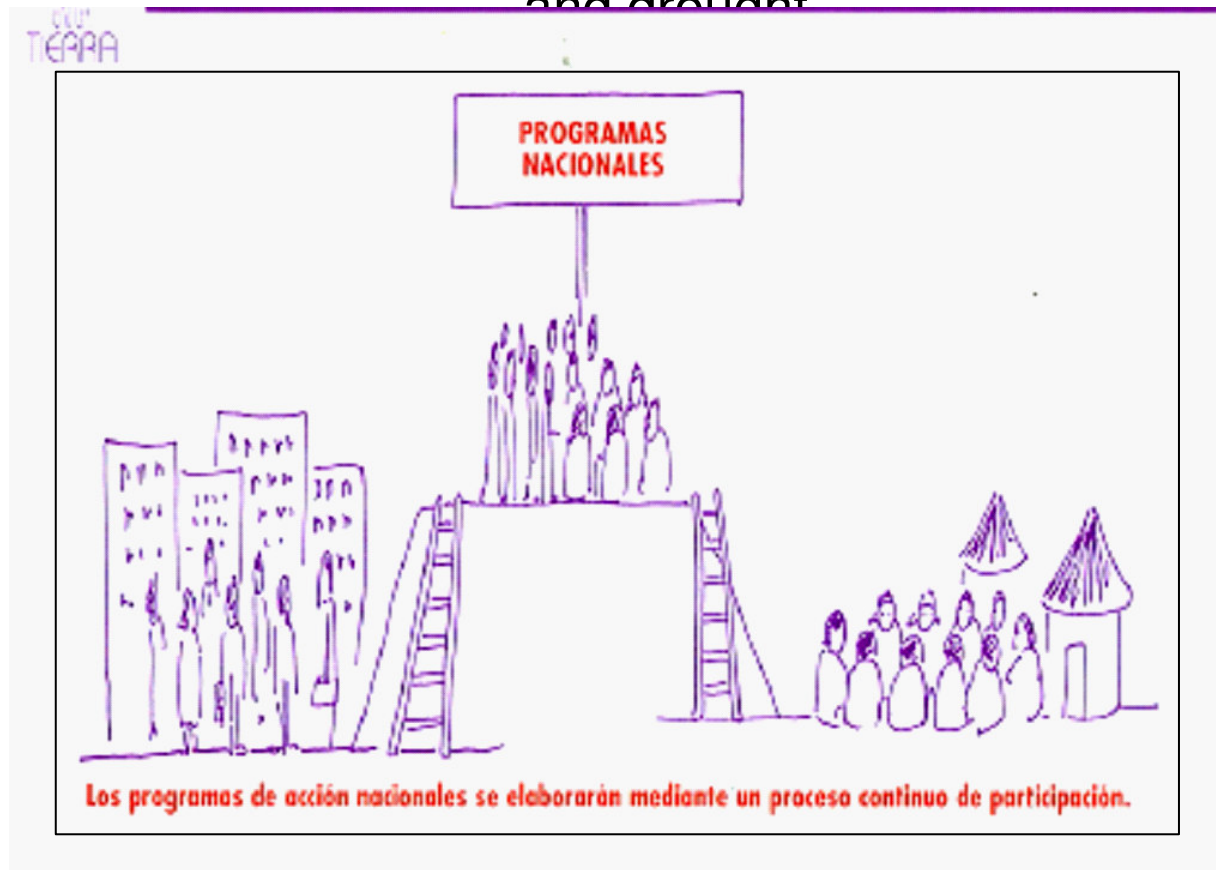
- Approved: 17 June 1994
- Effective since: 26 December 1996
- 2008: 193 Countries are parties
- V annexes: Africa, Asia, LAC, Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe





# National Action Programmes (NAPs)

The framework for national policies to combat desertification  
and drought





# Regional Action Programmes

- Concerted action and joint measures capitalizing on south-south and other cooperation
- ⇒ Regional Action Programme (RAP): At the level of regional annexes
  - ⇒ Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs): Priorities for combating desertification and drought: Water, forestry, energy, sustainable agriculture, scientific issues, information mechanisms, etc.
  - ⇒ Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAP): At the level of shared ecosystems: Caribbean, Sub-Saharan, Mediterranean, etc.



## Interregional Cooperation: a south-south approach

⇒ Africa-Asia, Africa-LAC, others

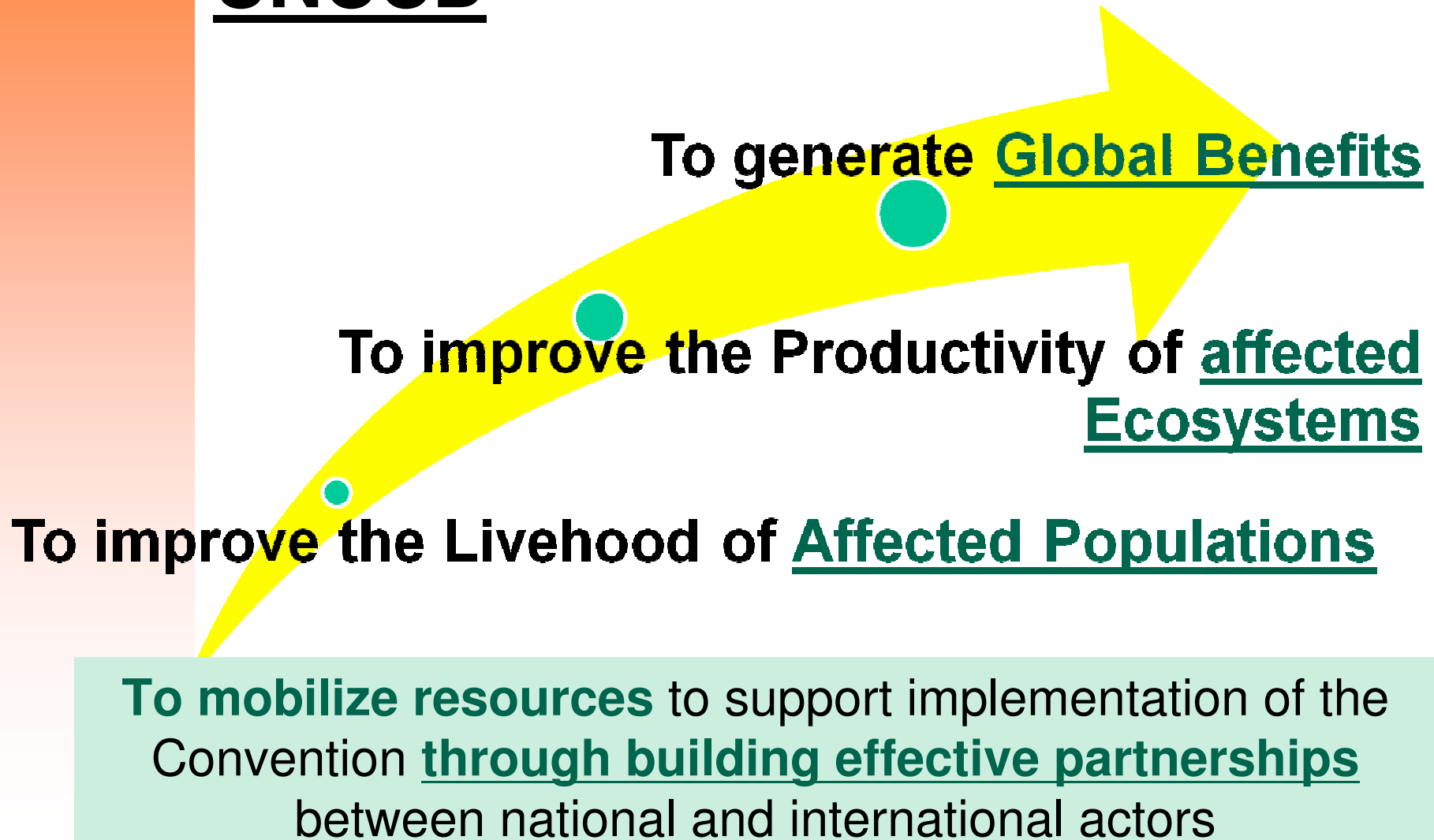
⇒ **Silviculture** and **agroforestry**: tools aimed at the market on sustainable management of agricultural systems

- Capacity building at the community level
- Communitarian participation
- Inter-institutional cooperation
- Information dissemination
- Exchange of experiences (comparative advantages)





# The strategic Objectives of the UNCCD





## Role of the national and regional action processes

- **SLM** as strategic priority
- Advocacy of **synergistic** action
- Strengthening of **policies and measures on DLDD and SLM**
- To generate more **knowledge** and science on **DLDD**
- To promote **cooperation**
- An inclusive and empowerment process aimed at local populations (youth and women) for design (capacity building) and implementation & monitoring

[WWW.UNCCD.INT](http://WWW.UNCCD.INT)