

Desertification and drought (Government focal point: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Norway is not affected by desertification or drought and has therefore not drawn up a national policy on these topics. Norwegian policy on desertification and drought focuses on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in relevant developing countries, through both multilateral and bilateral channels.

Norwegian support for activities related to desertification is based on general Norwegian development cooperation policy and the Government's 10-year Action Plan for Environment in Development Cooperation, launched in 2006. Norway is also focusing more on the links between desertification and drought on the one hand and climate change, conflict, humanitarian crises and food security on the other.

International engagement

In line with the Norwegian policy and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, national ownership is emphasised. Inclusion of desertification and drought issues in national development strategies in partner countries is a prerequisite for bilateral support.

Support for desertification- and drought-related activities is directed through bilateral cooperation with African countries, historically mainly in the Sahel region, as well as through multilateral actors, mainly the Global Mechanism and the UNDP Drylands Development Centre. In addition, research institutions and Norwegian and international non-governmental organisations have received support for desertification and drought related activities, mainly in Africa.

Norway was *Chef de file* for UNCCD in Ethiopia until September 2007, when this work was suspended after Norway reduced its diplomatic representation in Ethiopia. As *Chef de file*, Norway was responsible for donor coordination and policy dialogue and cooperation with Ethiopian authorities.

The Action Plan for Environment in Development Cooperation gives top priority to sustainable management of biological diversity and natural resources. This includes sustainable land management and drylands management in line with UNCCD. It is therefore expected that expenditure in this area will increase.

A dialogue has been established with UNDP's Drylands Development Center with a view to substantial cooperation in this field in Tchad and the Darfur region in Sudan.