

Call for Contribution: Drylands Challenge Paper

IUCN, IIED, UNDP/DDC

Drylands – an Economic Asset for Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth

IUCN, IIED and UNDP/DDC are compiling a global drylands challenge paper. This challenge paper will build on previous UNDP Drylands Challenge Papers¹ that have been undertaken under the Global Drylands Imperative – an informal group of international organizations, donors, NGOs and individuals interested or involved in dryland development actively.

Building on the success of the Stern Climate Change reports the focus of the paper will be to challenge existing dryland myths (wastelands, chronic poverty, negative rates of return, etc) with economic facts and figures.

The working title is “Drylands – an Economic Asset for Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth”. A preliminary outline can be found below. We intend to publish this non-commercial publication in September/October 2008 in several languages.

While the different institutions are taking a lead on the various chapters, we would like to ensure a global scope and multi-authored paper by **inviting experts around the globe to contribute 2-3 pages** to individual chapters or the document in general. If elements of these contributions are integrated in the document, they will be cited as contributing authors, though the editorial group reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Submission deadline

The submission deadline for this call is the **30th of April 2008**. Please submit your contributions to caterina.wolfangel@iucn.org; subject: Contribution Challenge Paper.

Why should you contribute?

- You are convinced that drylands deserve more attention and that a case needs to be made on the contribution of sustainable drylands management to livelihoods and national economies.
- You have scientific information from your projects or based on your expertise and available literature that you think should be included.
- You would like to be cited as a contributing author of a global publication.

Guidelines for the submission

- We are looking for contributions of between 2 to 3 pages (excluding references).
- They should be relevant to dryland ecosystems and livelihoods with a focus on challenging dryland myths with facts, figures and concrete examples and showing that sustainable drylands management contributes to livelihoods and national economies.
- They should provide referenced figures.
- Please note that we can only accept contributions that are properly referenced.
- You need to state that you own the right to the information submitted.
- Please inform us if the information has been submitted / published elsewhere.
- They should be in English.

Some examples of what we are looking for

- Examples and figures that show that dryland ecosystem goods and services matter in global as well as national development.
- Dryland myths (with respect to, for example rangelands, water, dryland cultivation and irrigation, rates of return etc) and economic data to counter such myths.

¹ The present series of UNDP/DDC Dryland Challenge papers include: Poverty and the Drylands (Philip Dobie, 2001); Biodiversity in the Drylands: Challenges and Opportunities for Conservation and Sustainable Use (Edouard Bonkougou, IUCN; 2001); Strategies for the Sustainable Development of Dryland Areas (Peter Hazell, IFPRI; 2001); Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Drylands (Ian Burton, 2001); Pastoralism and Mobility in the Drylands (Jeremy Swift; 2003); Land Tenure Reform and the Drylands; MDGs (2007); Ecosystem Services (UNEP, in preparation); Implementing the Millennium Development Goals in the Drylands of the World (GDI, 2007)

- Show that dryland ecosystem degradation ('desertification') can be reversed and contribute to livelihoods and national economies.
- Valuations and cost-benefit analysis of sustainable versus unsustainable dryland management.
- Valuations of the contribution of dryland ecosystem goods and services to livelihoods and national economies.
- Figures and facts on sustainable dryland products and their potential to achieve both conservation and wealth creation (e.g. medicinal plants, Gum Arabic, etc).
- Economic impacts of climate change, and the importance of risk management and resilience enhancement.
- Evidence that investing in drylands (public and private) can pay off.
- Examples on the role of trade, public investment frameworks and incentives.
- Examples of successful market mechanisms such as carbon trading, and payments for ecosystem services in drylands.
- Contributions that show that economics is not enough without good governance and devolved rights and responsibilities.
- Evidence of the resilience of ecosystems and people in drylands.
- Examples on how success was achieved by considering the dryland bio-climatic and ecosystem characteristics (e.g. non-equilibrium ecosystem).
- Other recent studies and new data of relevance to the individual chapters or the challenge paper in general.

Preliminary Outline

Drylands – an Economic Asset for Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth	
1.	Executive Summary
2.	Introduction to the drylands of the world, and links to previous challenge papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scale and extent, types b. Situation, drivers and trends c. Rationale for challenge paper
3.	Challenging Dryland Myths with Economics and Facts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dryland myths b. Investment in drylands – scale, relevance c. Contributions of drylands to national economies d. Facts and figures on return to investment (livestock, cultivation, natural assets, public services) e. Level of investment risks and economics of managing for risk f. Impediments for sustainable private sector engagement
4.	Economic Challenges in the Drylands (Whose drylands) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Under development of drylands as a result of under investment b. Socio-economic analysis of unsustainable versus sustainable development options. c. Tenure and rights underpin economic development d. Importance of good governance, institutions, and devolved rights and responsibilities as the basis for wealth creation
5.	Opportunities : Markets and trade – the niche for sustainable dryland goods and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Products and their value b. Market and value chains c. Potentials for investment
6.	Expected economic impact of climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Economic effects of Climate change on drylands b. Economics of risk management and resilience enhancement – economics and constraints c. Role of market mechanisms (carbon trading, payment for ecosystem services, reduced deforestation) – economics and constraints d. What this means in economic terms
7.	Dryland for sustainable livelihoods and economic growth – a call for action
8.	Conclusions - Drylands matter economically and as a basis for wealth creation
9.	References