

Africa Region

Assistance for the Promotion of the African Initiative for  
Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to  
Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa II

Final Report  
Executive Summary

October 2022

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.

Earth and Human Corporation

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## **Final Report**

### **-Executive Summary-**

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## **Abbreviations**

AfDB	African Development Bank
AI-CD	African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa
AU	African Union
CADEP-SFM	Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of Kenya
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CONACILSS	National Committee of CILSS
COP	Conference of the Parties
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF SGP	GEF Small Grants Programme
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IKI	International Climate Initiative
INSAH	Sahel Institute
ISRA	Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute
ITFP	International Technical and Financial Partner
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEDD	Senegal's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCN	Project Concept Note
PLA	Polylactic Acid
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SNS	Social Networking Service
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## **1. Background and Outline of the Activities**

### **1.1 Background**

Sub-Saharan Africa faces numerous developmental challenges, such as extreme poverty, internal conflicts and disputes, and famine caused by drought. More than 50% of the land in Africa is suffering from soil degradation, and the sub-Saharan region, in particular, is suffering from severe drought. Many of the poor in this region heavily rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, falling into a vicious cycle of excessive resource use, resource depletion, and increasing poverty. The countries in this region have been in a vicious circle: most low-income people heavily depend on natural resources; poverty leads to the overexploitation and exhaustion of said resources, increasing poverty again. In addition, recent climate change is exacerbating drought and desertification, and these phenomena are said to impact climate change.

Considering the above background, JICA launched the "African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa" (AI-CD) in August 2016 at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Kenya, together with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the governments of Kenya and Senegal.

### **1.2 Outline of the work**

#### **(1) The objective of the work**

This work was conducted based on the agreement document for the "African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa (AI-CD)", signed by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Senegal, JICA and UNCCD on August 27, 2016, to support JICA's secretariat functions and activities in the latter half of the initiative (March 2020 to October 2022).

The expected outcomes of the initiative are as follows:

- 1) **Network building** between member countries and development partners (including other donors) of the initiative
- 2) **Promotion of knowledge sharing** related to good practices and initiatives related to combatting desertification
- 3) **Improve access to development funds** available for the AI-CD member countries

#### **(2) Overview of the Work**

The work contains the following five items related to the AI-CD activities. The activities were planned and implemented in consultation with JICA, co-organisers of AI-CD, participating countries and partner organisations.

- 1) Support the realisation of annual forums,
- 2) Support the execution of side events at international conferences,
- 3) Sharing knowledge and experiences with member countries,
- 4) Improve access to external funding to AI-CD member countries and

5) Other accessory works.

**(3) Period**

March 6, 2020 – November 30, 2022

**(4) Target area and Countries**

- Sahel region : Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria
- Horn of Africa : Kenya, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan

**2. Results of the work**

This chapter describes the work performed from March 6, 2022, to October 7, 2022.

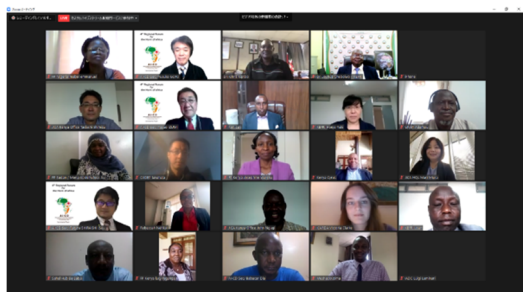
**2.1 Support for the Annual Forums**

**(1) Overview of Annual Forums**

The Secretariat Support Team supported holding the AI-CD Annual Forums in Sahel and Horn of Africa, as shown in the following table. Due to COVID-19, the forums were held online.

**Table 1 Annual forums held in each region**

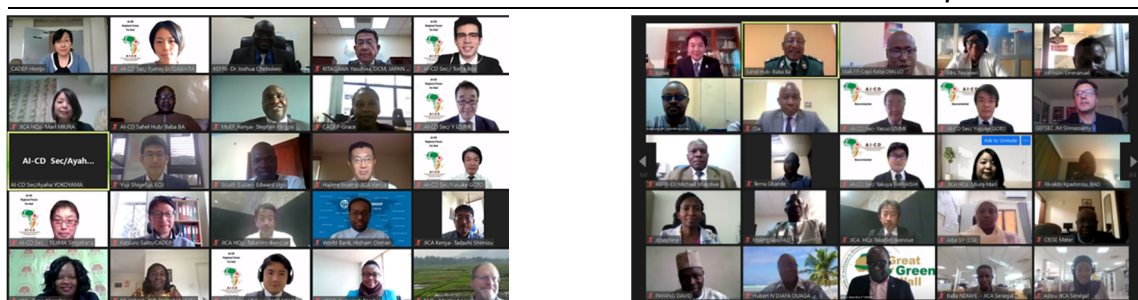
Annual Forum	Date	Participants	Contents
The fourth regional forum in the Horn of Africa (online)	December 9, 2020	45	Activity report from each participating country and information sharing on the strategy of the financing agencies
The fourth regional forum in the Sahel (online)	January 27, 2021	58	Activity report from each participating country and discussion on the strategies of financing agencies and access to finance
The final (fifth) regional forum in the Horn of Africa (online)	August 25, 2021	79	Information sharing and activity reports, including access to finance, by participating countries
The final (fifth) regional forum in the Sahel (online)	March 15, 2022	40	Information sharing and activity reports, including access to finance, by participating countries



The fourth regional forum in the Horn of Africa  
(December 2020)



The fourth regional forum in the Sahel  
(January 2021)



The final (fifth) regional forum in the Horn of Africa  
(August 2021)

The final (fifth) regional forum in the Sahel  
(March 2022)

**Figure 1 AI-CD Annual Regional Forums**

## (2) Contents of the Annual Regional Forums

The following tables show the contents of each annual regional forum.

### ① The fourth regional forum in the Horn of Africa

**Table 2 Outline of the fourth regional forum in the Horn of Africa**

<b>Objective</b>	To discuss networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities to enhance access to finance	
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focal Points</li> </ul>	Horn of Africa: Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal (Sahel Hub country), Nigeria (Sahel member but participated because it is an English-speaking country)  *Eritrea: Attended by watching YouTube live streaming due to unstable communication environment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Technical and Financial Partners (ITFP)*</li> </ul>	World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
<b>Outcomes</b>	The Focal Point of each country expressed the intention to continue promoting AI-CD-related activities, including the realisation of Project Concept Note (PCN).	

\* International technical and financial partners (ITFP) are international partner organizations that can support the activities of each country's FPs in terms of technology and finance.

### ② The fourth regional forum in the Sahel

**Table 3 Outline of the fourth regional forum in the Horn of Africa**

<b>Objective</b>	To discuss networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities to enhance access to finance	
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focal Points</li> </ul>	Sahel: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Kenya (Horn of Africa hub country)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ITFP</li> </ul>	UNCCD, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), FAO, Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), ICARDA, African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union (AU), World Bank, United Nations Development

	Programme (UNDP), UNEP
<b>Outcomes</b>	The forum promoted discussions between the Focal Points and international technical and financial partners. Information on essential funding sources in recent years, including the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), was shared.

### ③ The fifth (final) regional forum in the Horn of Africa

**Table 4 Outline of the fifth (final) regional forum in the Horn of Africa**

<b>Objective</b>	To Share the role played by AI-CD in coping with desertification and strengthen community resilience in the Horn of Africa	
<b>Participants</b>	▪ Focal Points	Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Senegal (Sahel hub country)
	▪ ITFP	World Bank, FAO, GEF, AU
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each country reviewed past AI-CD activities and shared its achievements and impacts with the participants.</li> <li>▪ Information on current funding sources was shared, such as GEF7/8 and LDCF (Least Developed Countries Fund).</li> <li>▪ Discussed actions that each country should take after the end of AI-CD.</li> </ul>	

### ④ The fifth (final) regional forum in the Sahel

**Table 5 Outline of the fifth (final) regional forum in the Sahel**

<b>Objective</b>	To Share results of AI-CD's activities in the Sahel region and discuss future initiatives	
<b>Participants</b>	▪ Focal Points	Sahel: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Kenya (Horn of Africa hub country)
	▪ ITFP	AU, AfDB, CILSS, FAO, GEF
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each country reviewed past AI-CD activities and shared its achievements and impacts with the participants.</li> <li>▪ Focal Points discussed the actions in the future with essential regional partners, such as CILSS and GGWI. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Keeping and deepening the network developed through AI-CD</li> <li>➤ How to access financial sources such as GGWI and GEF8</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## 2.2 Supporting Side Events at International Conferences

### (1) Overview of Side Events of International Conferences

The AI-CD Secretariat Support Team helped in holding the following side events of UNCCD 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (UNCCD COP-15) and 8<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD 8).



**Table 6 International Conferences of which AI-CD supported the Holding of Side Events**

Conference	Date	Host Country
UNCCD COP-15	May 9 – 20, 2022	Cote d'Ivoire (Some of the participants joined online)
TICAD 8	August 27 – 28, 2022	Tunisia (Online)

In addition, many of the Focal Points of AI-CD participating countries also have the same designation for the UNCCD, and most of them participated in UNCCD COP-15. Therefore, AI-CD held a follow-up meeting to confirm its progress, share the results, and confirm future activities.

## (2) Contents of the Side Events

### ① Side event of UNCCD COP-15

**Table 7 Overview of Side Event of UNCCD COP-15**

Item	Contents
Date	May 11, 2022 (2 hours)
Venue	Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Languages	English and French (with simultaneous translations)
Participants	<b>Sahel Focal Points:</b> Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal <b>Horn of Africa Focal Points :</b> Kenya, Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Sudan AI-CD Partners : CILSS, FAO <b>Research Institutions :</b> KEFRI, Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA) and others AI-CD Secretariat
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share practical knowledge and on-the-ground practices in Africa, including AI-CD achievements</li> <li>To discuss effective countermeasures against desertification and climate change and ways to promote partnerships</li> </ul>
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing AI-CD's results (both regional hubs and Secretariat)</li> <li>Panel discussion on accelerating countermeasures against desertification and drought after 2030</li> </ul>



Panel discussion



Exhibition of combatting desertification-related technologies and products of Japanese companies

**Figure 2 Pictures of the Side Event of UNCCD COP-15**

### ② Follow-up meeting at UNCCD COP-15

**Table 8 Outline of the Follow-up Meeting at UNCCD COP-15**

Item	Contents
Date	May 12, 2022 (2 hours)

Venue	Ivory Trade Centre, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Languages	English and French (with simultaneous translations)
Participants	<b>Sahel Focal Points:</b> Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal <b>Horn of Africa Focal Points :</b> Kenya, Eritrea and South Sudan <b>Research Institutions :</b> KEFRI, Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE), Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA) AI-CD Secretariat
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To share the AI-CD-related efforts by each country and evaluate the achievements and challenges so far</li> <li>● To discuss further steps to accelerate efforts to combat desertification in each country towards 2030 and beyond</li> </ul>
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharing the AI-CD's results (both regional hub countries, Secretariat and Focal Points of each country)</li> <li>● Discussions on further steps to accelerate efforts to combat desertification in each country towards 2030 and beyond, based on the achievement.</li> </ul>



Discussion by the participants



Speech by the Chairperson, Mr. Cheikh Mbow (on the right)

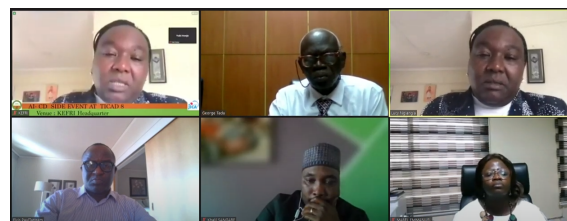
**Figure 3 Pictures of the Follow-up Meeting at UNCCD COP-15**

### ③ Side Event of TICAD 8

Item	Contents
Date	August 24, 2022 (2 hours)
Venue	Online
Languages	English and French (with simultaneous translations)
Participants	<b>Sahel Focal Points:</b> Nigeria, Mali, Senegal <b>Horn of Africa Focal Points:</b> Kenya, South Sudan <b>AI-CD Partners:</b> CILSS <b>ITFPs:</b> AU/GGWI <b>Other general participants:</b> Ethiopia, Niger, Cameroon
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each country in the Sahel and Horn of Africa to review the six-year achievements of the AI-CD and discuss measures to enhance resilience to climate change by coping with desertification in the future</li> </ul>
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharing the AI-CD's results (both regional hub countries and Secretariat)</li> <li>● Panel discussion on the measures to enhance resilience to climate change by coping with desertification in the future</li> </ul>



Speech by Mr. Baba BA, Acting Representative of Senegal Focal Point



Panel discussion

**Figure 4 Pictures of the Side Event of TICAD 8**

## 2.3 Knowledge Sharing among Participating Countries

To facilitate knowledge sharing among relevant parties regarding efforts and best practices in combating desertification in the Sahel region, the Secretariat Support Team conducted the following activities after consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal and CILSS.

### (1) Collection and Selection of Good Practices

For the knowledge-sharing webinar described later, the first online stakeholders' meeting was held in January 2022 where the webinar preparation unit was formed.

**Table 9 Webinar Preparation Unit**

Item	Institution	Person in charge
Organiser	Senegal's Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Mr. Baïdy BA, DEFCCS, MEDD Mr. Baba BA, MEDD
Co-organiser	CILSS	Dr. Sheick Khalil Sangaré, INSAH Mr. Ibra Sounkarou Ndiaye, CONACILSS
Support partner	JICA	AI-CD Secretariat Support Team

The unit gathered 47 good practices that are closely related to AI-CD from 350 examples in the Sahel region already developed by CILSS

### (2) Conducting Knowledge Sharing of the Good Practices

The Secretariat Support Team supported to hold the knowledge-sharing webinar on March 1, 2022 to share the selected good practices with the AI-CD participating countries. The team cooperated with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal and CILSS for its preparation. The following table shows the outline of the webinar.

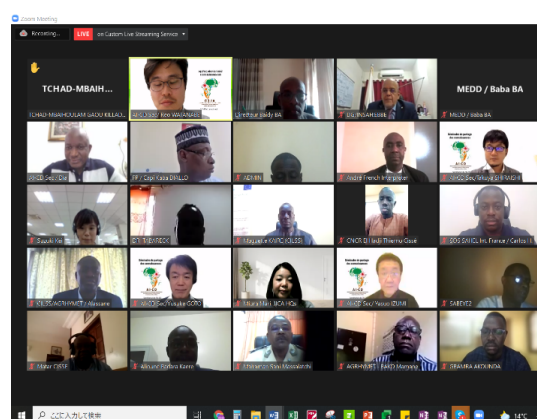
**Table 10 Outline of the Knowledge-Sharing Webinar**

Item	Contents
Date	March 1, 2022 (four hours)
Venue	Online (Zoom)
Languages	English and French (with simultaneous translations)
Participants	<b>Sahel Focal Points:</b> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal

	<p>Horn of Africa Focal Points: Djibouti and Kenya  <b>Governmental organisation:</b> Senegal Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)                  CILSS National Committee (CONACILSS)  <b>AI-CD Partners:</b> JICA, UNCCD, CILSS, ICARDA, FAO, GEF and others  <b>International Technical and Financial Partners:</b> AU/GGWI, AfDB, WB, UNDP, UNEP, NGOs and others                  AI-CD Secretariat</p>
Objective	To conduct knowledge sharing with the AI-CD Focal Points on effective and efficient technologies to combat desertification
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction of knowledge and tools (mainly edited by the CILSS)</li> <li>● Introduction of knowledge-sharing contents posted on AI-CD-related websites</li> <li>● Discussion on using knowledge and tools for combating desertification in member countries</li> </ul>



Example of the technical knowledge provided by CILSS (assisted natural regeneration)



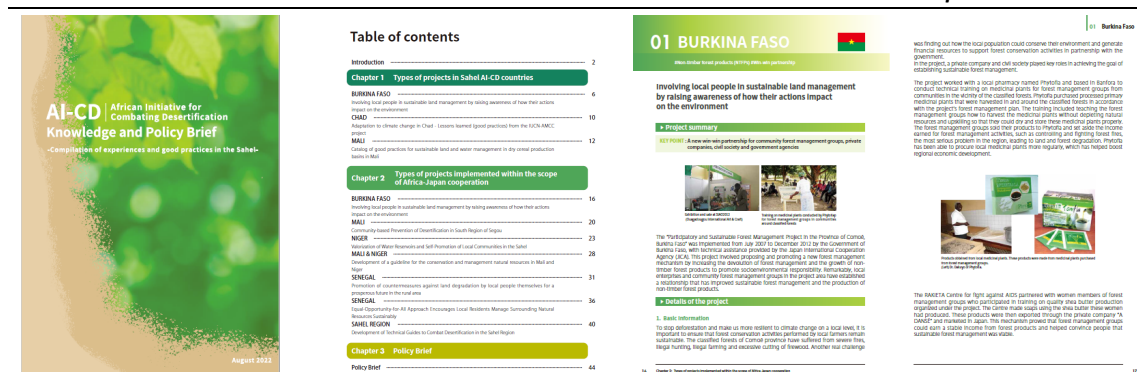
Knowledge-sharing webinar

**Figure 5 Pictures of the knowledge-sharing webinar**

### (3) Development of the Guideline (AI-CD Knowledge and Policy Brief)

To utilise good practices in policy making, a guideline titled "AI-CD Knowledge and Policy Brief", which includes the items listed below, was developed. The Focal Points of Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad contributed to the preparation of this document. In addition, it listed seven projects implemented by Japan to combat desertification in the Sahel. This guideline was widely introduced to concerned organisations and it was posted on the AI-CD website by taking the opportunity of COP 15 of the UNCCD and TICAD 8.

- Approaches in Achieving AI-CD Pillars
- Implementation at the Local Level
- Good Practices in the Sahel Countries



Cover page

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Examples of Good Practices

Figure 6 AI-CD Knowledge and Policy Brief

#### (4) Examination of How to Utilise Knowledge-Sharing Assets

The Secretariat Support Team examined and proposed measures for the knowledge-sharing assets, including the reports and guidelines of the knowledge-sharing webinar described above, to be utilised them even after the end of AI-CD. As a concrete measure, we proposed to link the project sheet to the repository of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). However, after discussions with JICA, it was decided not to implement it. After that, the Secretariat Support Team proposed to switch the AI-CD website, which contains various knowledge and assets, to the web portal "Nature-Based Solutions toward a Resilient and Prosperous Africa (NbS Knowledge for Africa)" and this was implemented through the consent of JICA.

#### (5) Other Initiatives

##### ① Short Film Making

The Secretariat Support Team assisted in the development of short film in Nigeria and Mali for AI-CD participating countries to attract stakeholders' attention to issues and efforts in combatting desertification. Specifically, the Focal Points of Nigeria and Mali were encouraged to provide photographs, videos, and project materials. The Secretariat Support Team played a central role in creating a short film using these materials. In addition, a workshop on video shooting with smartphones was held in Nigeria. The participants quickly showed interest in short filmmaking and finished creating a prototype video.

##### ② Establishment of the KEY PRODUCTS Website

The KEY PRODUCTS page was created on the AI-CD website that contains a set of assets, including the AI-CD Knowledge and Policy Brief and short films, as well as the AI-CD Guidelines and Case Studies produced by the Horn of Africa.

## 2.4 Improving Access to External Funding in AI-CD Participating Countries

### (1) Organising the Modality Information from International Development Partners

Information on strategies and support modalities of international development organisations listed below, considered helpful for AI-CD participating countries to formulate projects and acquire funds, were collected, analysed, and organised. The Secretariat Support Team compiled the information into the "*AI-CD Access to Finance Guidebook*" and provided it to all Focal Points of AI-CD participating countries.

- Embassy of Japan (Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GFP))
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- World Bank
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Private-Public Partnership (projects and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities)

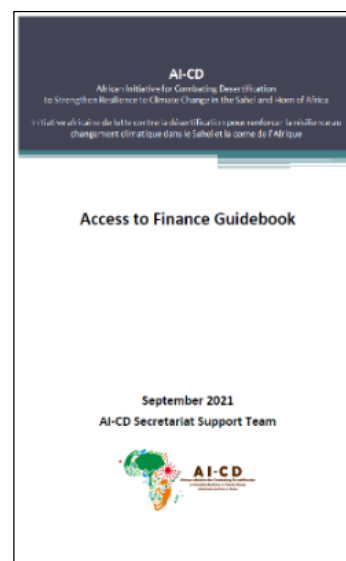


Figure 7 Access to Finance Guidebook

The *Access to Finance Guidebook* introduced the background and related information on land degradation and desertification, such as SDGs and climate change countermeasures, organisations and mechanisms involved in combatting desertification and climate change, and outlines of funding schemes related to AI-CD. Also included is the format of the Project Concept Note used to access finance support by the AI-CD.

### (2) Support and Results of the Activities on Access to Finance in Participating Countries

The Secretariat Support Team provided necessary advice that each participating country could prepare a project proposal based on the Project Concept Note and facilitated the fundraising. For example, the team conducted the following activities: (1) sharing information on financial resource, (2) technical assistance regarding the application for funding schemes; (3) technical assistance to improve the Project Concept Notes; (4) interviewing international organisations and donors, and organising the matching meetings between them and the Focal Points (online); (5) seeking the possibility of cooperation with the private sector and international initiatives.

#### ① Sharing the Information on Financial Resources

In addition to the systematic and comprehensive information sharing through the *Access to Finance Guidebook*, the Secretariat Support Team also provided financial information on the International Climate

Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Government, FAO and others. These information-sharing activities resulted in the acquisition of funds by NGOs in Mali, as described in another section of the report. Furthermore, the team provided the opportunities to obtain the latest information on the fundraising for the Focal Points by inviting international funding partners such as GEF, AfDB and GGWI to the annual regional forums, where they presented their strategies and programmes.

## ② Technical Assistance to the Application for Funding Schemes

Initially, the Secretariat Support Team provided technical support to all 15 countries. However, considering the Focal Points' aggressiveness to get funding, project feasibility and access to finance, the team focused on eight countries, including Sudan, Niger, Mali, and Nigeria, through discussions with JICA.

### ②-1 Technical Assistance to Improve the Project Concept Notes

All 15 countries prepared Project Concept Notes (PCN), but the degree of maturity submitted by each country differed significantly, and some lacked necessary items. Therefore, the Secretariat Support Team reorganised each PCN using the World Bank's form and provided advice on the project structure, technical requirements, instructions, and others.

In addition to the PCN, the action plan prepared by each Focal Point under the JICA training and dialogue programme related to the AI-CD was also regarded as a project seed and targeted for technical support. As for Mali, as part of the matching with international organisations and donors, which will be described later, dialogue with the international NGO, Wetlands International, began aiming to propose a regional program on integrated management of dryland and wetland to international organisations and donors. Table 11 shows the list of the PCNs in the Horn of Africa, and Table 12 shows the list of the PCNs in the Sahel region.

**Table 11 List of Project Concept Notes from the Horn of Africa**

Country	Title of PCN
Eritrea	1. Land Degradation Neutrality Target Monitoring 2. Dissemination of Asmara Solar Stove in the Highlands of Eritrea
Ethiopia	Bamboo for Landscape Restoration and Livelihood Improvement to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change
Kenya	Digitising and Sharing Forestry Research Information, Knowledge, Technologies and Innovations for Sustainable Development and Livelihood Improvement
Somalia	1. Capacity Building on Environmental Conservation and Management in Somalia 2. Establishment of a Plant Nursery in Beledweyne
South Sudan	1. Peri-urban Focus Integrated Farming to Combat Desertification in South Sudan 2. Supporting the Resettlement and Reintegration of the Returnees and IDPs Through Agricultural Production
Sudan	1. Building Community Resilience to Degraded Land in Sudan "Fixing Sand Dunes Encroachment" 2. Improving Livelihood in Degraded Land in Kurdufan and White Nile States

**Table 12 List of the Project Concept Notes from the Sahel**

Country	Title of PCN
Burkina Faso	1. Strengthening Local Community Resilience to Climate Change Through SLM Good Practices 2. Enhancing the Resilience of Local Communities and the Ecosystems Facing Floods and Droughts
Cameroon	Restoration of Degraded Lands in Cameroon
Chad	Restoration of Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Department of Ngourkosso (Western Logone)

Mali	Scaling Up of Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLM) in the Regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou and Mopti
Mauritania	Support for the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural Populations in the Face of the Devastating Effects of Climate Change in the Wilayas of Assaba and Guidimakha
Niger	Promoting Good Practices in Sustainable Land Management Through the Farmer Field School Approach
Nigeria	Assisted Natural Regeneration of 80 Hectares of Degraded Land in Banaga, Zamfara State, Nigeria
Senegal	Project for the Restoration of Socioecological Balance in the Kanel Department

## **②-2 Interviewing International Organisations and Donors, and Organising the Matching Meetings between Them and the Focal Points**

The Secretariat Support Team interviewed international organisations and donors online to explore the possibility of obtaining funds and provided feedback to each country's Focal Point. The international organisations and donors interviewed included the AfDB, GEF, IFAD, EU, FAO, and UNDP. In addition, when there was a possibility of obtaining the funds or formulating a project, the Secretariat Support Team planned and held matching meetings to secure dialogue channels between the Focal Points and the relevant international organisations and donors. In addition, the feasibility of utilising Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects and the supplementary budget for the grant assistance through the partnership with the international organisations were examined.

## **②-3 Seeking the Possibility of Cooperation with the Private Sector and International Initiatives**

The Secretariat Support Team introduced and explained technologies developed by private companies to related organisations in Senegal, including ISRA, GGWI and SOS Sahel. The team travelled to Senegal in March and May 2022 and conducted the activities to seek the possibility of cooperation with international initiatives by starting the preliminary small-scale experiment that serves as a demonstration of the technologies with research institutes in Senegal. The three technologies introduced are arid land greening and agricultural production promotion biodegradable tubes (PLA tubes), soil coating agents, and soil conditioners made from recycled glass. These technologies have low environmental impact and are expected to solve soil degradation problems effectively.

In the private sector technology introduction meeting, the representatives of the related organisations showed a high interest that would lead to one solution to the problem. In particular, ISRA was interested in the biodegradable PLA tubes and mentioned the potential for vegetable cultivation in unsuitable land that might be a solution for Senegal's environmental and agricultural sectors. Therefore, as a result of the discussions with ISRA several times, the team concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with companies handling the product and conducted a small-scale experiment in the test field in Dakar. In addition, with the collaboration of local farmers in Diourbel, small-scale experiments on these technical products were carried out in parallel.





PLA tube experimental site in ISRA  
(July 2022)



PLA tube installation with the  
collaboration of local farmers (March  
2022)

**Figure 8 Pictures of small-scale experiment by using PLA tube**

### **(3) Support for In-Country AI-CD Workshop**

#### **① Selection of target countries for In-Country AI-CD Workshop**

To promote consensus building and access to finance on the project proposal developed by the Focal Points among stakeholders in the country and to support the knowledge-sharing activities, the Secretariat Support Team conducted relevant activities for holding the workshop initiated by the Focal Points. Although there were differences among the countries due to the degree of maturity of the project proposal, to respect the ownership and initiative of the participating countries, all AI-CD participating countries were invited to submit proposals. Consequently, six countries submitted proposals, among which the Secretariat Support Team supported five countries in holding the country workshops. The following table shows the overview of the country workshops held in these countries.

**Table 13 Overview of Country Workshops**

Country	Date	Participants	Organiser	Institutions / Participants	Objectives	Contents
South Sudan	8-9 Jun. 2021 (2 days)	45	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)	Governmental organisations, UN agencies, Research Institutions, Embassy of Japan, JICA, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing and progress report on the AI-CD for the stakeholders in the country</li> <li>Enhancing the coordination mechanism with related government agencies, research institutions, international organisations, NGOs and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress Report to combat desertification and strengthen resilience to climate change</li> <li>Group discussion on cross-cutting approaches to implement the initiatives</li> <li>Introduction of combat desertification measures (case study)</li> <li>Introduction of good practices at local level</li> <li>Introduction of practices by international organisations, NGOs and others</li> </ul>
Mali	16-17 Jun. 2021 (2 days)	50	Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD)	Governmental organisations, UN agencies, GIZ, JICA, Private companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of AI-CD and its activities</li> <li>Exchange of opinions with related organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current situation and countermeasures for desertification</li> <li>Introduction of the sustainable agricultural production system</li> <li>Introduction and exchange of opinions on the AI-CD</li> <li>Introduction of good practices on sustainable land management from the NGOs</li> <li>Introduction of the project contents proposed by the government</li> </ul>
Sudan	16-17 Jul. 2021 (2 days)	61	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR)	Federal Government, JICA, Research Institutions, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing the AI-CD's achievements and future programme</li> <li>Strengthening of networks among stakeholders</li> <li>Knowledge sharing of research results and good practices in combatting desertification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explanation of changes in desertification in Sudan and efforts to combat desertification</li> <li>Introduction of research and projects regarding combatting desertification technology</li> <li>Region-specific knowledge sharing on combatting desertification, food security, and water resource management</li> <li>Group discussion by participants and presentation of proposals for information collection and knowledge sharing</li> <li>Excursion (El-Rawakeeb Dryland Research Station) and tree planting</li> </ul>
Burkina Faso	22-26 Nov. 2021 (5 days)	18	Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEEVCC)	Governmental organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of the concept note of two LDN projects prepared in the AI-CD workshop held in 2019</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the contents of the Project Concept Notes (PCNs) prepared in 2019</li> <li>Exchange of opinions and finalisation of the PCNs</li> <li>Exchange of opinions on funding for project implementation</li> <li>Confirmation of policies for realising the projects described in the PCNs/</li> </ul>
Nigeria	25-26 Nov. 2021 (2 days)	61	Federal Ministry of Environment (FME)	Federal Ministries and Agencies, Universities and Research Institutions, Civil Society Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting private sector participation in dryland natural resource development and management</li> <li>Promoting participation of funding agencies in implementing initiatives for sustainable arid land management</li> <li>Promotion of information sharing and cooperation among related organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keynote speech on "Enhancing Collaboration Between Institutions Engaged in Combatting Desertification including Research Institute"</li> <li>Keynote speech on the "Promotion of Private Sector Involvement and Investment in the Development of Dryland Natural Resources"</li> <li>Group discussion and feedback from the experts on the examples of investments towards the development of drylands, how the private sector can be encouraged to improve its investment efforts, and issues and solutions in cooperation of related organisations</li> </ul>

## 2.5 Accessorial works

### (1) Sharing the Activity Plan with hub countries of the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions

Upon commencement of this project, an outline of the Activity Plan in English was prepared and shared with stakeholders in Senegal and Kenya, which are the leading AI-CD participating countries.

### (2) Collecting, organising, and sharing information on Japanese support related to the field of natural environment

#### ① Collecting and organising information on Japanese supported projects

Seven supported projects related to combatting desertification implemented by Japan (including government, JICA, research institutes, NGOs, etc.) were selected and their outlines, outputs (manuals, etc.), and other useful results were collected and organised. These 7 projects are listed in table below.

**Table 14 Collected and Organised Projects in the Field of Natural Environment Supported by Japan**

#	Name of projects	Implementation period
1	[BURKINA FASO – MoE] Technical Assistance of Traditional Knowledge and Local Technology Transfer	2004-2007
2	[KENYA-JICA] Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of Kenya (CADEP-SFM)	2016-2021
3	[SUDAN-SATREPS] Development of Climate-Resilient Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Wheat Production in the Dry and Heat-Prone Agroecologies of Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa	2018-2023
4	[BURKINA FASO-JIRCAS] Promotion of Low Carbon Rural Development Through Efficient Utilisation of Local Resources for the Realisation of Sustainable Development	2013-2016
5	[ETHIOPIA-JICA] Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project Through Farmer Field School (SNRMP) in the Rift Valley Area of Oromia Region	2013-2018
6	[SENEGAL-JICA] Capacity Building Project for Controlling Land Degradation and Promoting Its Recovery in Degraded Soil Areas	2011-2017
7	[SENEGAL-JICA] Capacity Development Project for the Governance of Food Security and Resilience	2017-2022

Moreover, one project (Capacity Development Project for the Governance of Food Security and Resilience) was still ongoing at that time, so it was difficult to open the collected/organised data publicly as of report writing. Thus, posting this project information on the AI-CD website was shelved after a discussion with JICA.

#### ② Publishing on a website

Information for 6 out of 7 projects mentioned above (except “Capacity Development Project for the Governance of Food Security and Resilience”) was collected and arranged as “project sheet”, and published on the AI-CD website.

#### ③ Link of AI-CD website to external sites

After consultation and coordination with UNCCD, the Secretariat Support Team posted a link to the AI-

CD website where the project sheet is posted on the UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace, as well as a link to the aforementioned JICA "NbS Knowledge for Africa" portal site. In addition, after consulting with ICARDA, the team proposed to JICA that the project sheets be posted on WOCAT and ICARDA's repositories. But from the viewpoint of cost-effectiveness considering the expected man-month input, it was decided not to push with the plan.

### **(3) Operation and maintenance of the AI-CD website**

#### **① Operation and maintenance of the AI-CD website**

A total of 22 pages, including reports on regional forums and events, have been added to the AI-CD website. In about 2.57 years from March 2020 to September 2022, 96 English pages and 104 French pages (37.4 English pages and 40.5 French pages per year) were added. The content of pages to be updated or added was approved by JICA in advance.

### **(4) Information dissemination by using SNS and other means**

Information related to combatting desertification and activities of AI-CD were posted about 3 times a month on the average by continuous maintenance of Facebook<sup>1</sup> and Twitter<sup>2</sup>.

### **(5) Other activities**

#### **① Creating synergy with other related projects**

One of the members of AI-CD Secretariat Support Team had the advantage of engaging in the following two related JICA projects, and this created synergies for both projects.

##### **①-1 Knowledge co-creation programme “Combating Desertification to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa” (September 2021-February 2022)**

Two persons, particularly the Deputy Chief of Operations of AI-CD and the one involved in public relations/regional cooperation promotion, were engaged in this co-creation programme, and created the following synergies with the prospect of follow-up after the programme.

##### **➤ Selecting participants of the programme by considering AI-CD context**

The two persons mentioned above recommended the selection of participants from ministries and departments that are closely related to the AI-CD focal points.

##### **➤ Collaboration with private companies**

Lectures from private companies mentioned in 2.4 (3) “seeking the possibility of cooperation with the private sector and international initiatives” were introduced in the programme. The lectures were highly

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/aicd.official> 7,369 followers (25<sup>th</sup> August, 2022)

<sup>2</sup> [https://twitter.com/aicd\\_official](https://twitter.com/aicd_official) 51 followers (25<sup>th</sup> August, 2022)

evaluated by the participants and some of them mentioned that they would like to incorporate the products into their own country's efforts. In particular, the participant from Nigeria requested further introduction of the soil conditioner explained in the lecture. Thus, as part of the follow up, matching meetings were held between the participant and related companies, and coordination have been being made. The Nigerian focal point reported that this series of efforts is one of the achievements of AI-CD at the TICAD8 side event.

➤ **Sharing action plans**

For South Sudan, the Secretariat Support Team provided an opportunity for participants to present their action plans to focal points, JICA overseas office staff, and JICA technical cooperation project experts in order to harmonise with AI-CD's access assistance activity. The team also facilitated discussions for the realisation of the action plans.

## ①-2 **Knowledge Programme: Nature-Based Solutions towards a Resilient and Prosperous Africa” (NbS Knowledge for Africa) (December 2021- May 2023)**

Two persons including the Deputy Chief of Operations of AI-CD and the one involved in public relations/regional cooperation promotion were engaged in this programme, and created the following synergies.

➤ **Utilisation of SNS tools**

In order to increase impact on public relations in terms of utilisation of existing followers, the Secretariat Support Team proposed to reuse AI-CD's SNS (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) as SNS for NbS Knowledge for Africa project, and implemented it with the approval of JICA.

➤ **Utilisation of project sheet**

Project information compiled as project sheets by AI-CD overlap with the target projects of the NbS Knowledge for Africa project. These project sheets were utilised as much as possible to extract and organise information in the NbS Knowledge for Africa project.

## ② **Cooperation in public relations activities**

The Secretariat Support Team cooperated with JICA Magazine's coverage for AI-CD and with the above mentioned knowledge co-creation programme<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the team cooperated with TV5Monde, a French media company, to report on AI-CD initiatives in Senegal. The video, produced by TV5 Monde, was also uploaded to the Prime Minister's official YouTube channel<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup>

[https://jicamagazine.jica.go.jp/article/?id=202206\\_12s&tits=%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E3%81%A7%E5%BE%97%E3%81%9F%E3%80%8C%E6%B0%97%E3%81%A5%E3%81%8D%E3%80%8D%E3%82%92%E7%A0%82%E6%BC%A0%E5%8C%96%E5%AF%BE%E7%AD%96%E3%81%AE%E4%BF%83%E9%80%B2%E5%8A%9B%E3%81%AB&src=2022%2F05%2F1-1.jpg](https://jicamagazine.jica.go.jp/article/?id=202206_12s&tits=%E6%97%A5%E6%9C%AC%E3%81%A7%E5%BE%97%E3%81%9F%E3%80%8C%E6%B0%97%E3%81%A5%E3%81%8D%E3%80%8D%E3%82%92%E7%A0%82%E6%BC%A0%E5%8C%96%E5%AF%BE%E7%AD%96%E3%81%AE%E4%BF%83%E9%80%B2%E5%8A%9B%E3%81%AB&src=2022%2F05%2F1-1.jpg)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIX7A4jx7lc>

### 3. Lessons Learned / Recommendations

#### 3.1 Main achievements in this project

Based on the three pillars of AI-CD, the main results obtained through the implementation of this project are as follows:

##### (1) Building networks

- **Fostering ownership and responsibility in regional hubs and member countries**

Throughout this project, the AI-CD Secretariat Support Team set up numerous forums for discussions with the focal points of member countries and hub countries, and facilitated the exchange of various opinions.

- **Promoting harmonisation among partner institutions' commitments and other initiatives**

Through the active use of online meetings, the Secretariat Support Team was able to activate discussions with various partner institutions. In addition, the team harmonized aspects of programmes and initiatives of partner institutions which have similar objectives, such as seeking the possibility of utilising programmes of international organisations (e.g., FAO, IFAD, UNDP) and financial schemes related to GEF, the exploration of cooperation with wetland conservation related initiatives and GGWI, etc.

- **Realisation of South-South/Triangular Cooperation**

There were cases in which South-South cooperation was promoted as a result of this project. For example, in South Sudan, taking opportunities of JICA's follow-up supports to action plan implementation, AI-CD relevant officials visited KEFRI (Kenya's focal point), conducted indoor training at KEFRI (workshops, group discussions, etc.), and carried out on-site visit. In addition, South Sudan officials visited National Agricultural Research Organization in Uganda and selected crop types suitable for the combined farming system of vegetables and trees in South Sudan.

##### (2) Knowledge Sharing

- **Documentation and visualisation of nationally and jointly created knowledge**

Nationally and jointly created knowledge was documented in such forms as AI-CD Guidelines & Case Studies and AI-CD Knowledge & Policy Brief. In addition, by supporting the creation of short films in Nigeria and Mali, the challenges and efforts of their own countries were visualized. Besides, knowledge sharing in the field or online was facilitated through country workshops in five countries and information sharing on the AI-CD website and SNS such as Japanese supported projects related to combatting desertification and KEFRI-compiled good practices.

- **Utilisation of shared knowledge/good practices from other countries to facilitate policy formulation and on the ground implementation**

Co-organized by Senegal MEDD and CILSS, holding a knowledge-sharing webinar to share selected best practices was realised. The Secretariat Support Team also encouraged the use of good practices in policy making through the preparation of the AI-CD Knowledge and Policy Brief. The result of

sharing knowledge/good practices and creating synergies with related projects led to promoting collaboration with Japanese private companies, as shown in matching meetings between Nigeria and the company which makes soil conditioner, and realisation of preliminary experiments on biodegradable materials in Senegal.

### **(3) Access to Finance**

- **Strengthening the process of formulating fundable projects and accessing finance in each country**

By encouraging the domestic network through holding domestic workshops, etc., the involvement of cross-sectoral stakeholders in project formulation has been strengthened. In addition, cooperation among ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, was strengthened with regard to countermeasures against desertification and climate change, which are cross-cutting issues.

- **Enhancing dialogue between countries and partners based on PCN**

With the assistance of the AI-CD Secretariat Support Team, all 15 countries documented their needs as PCNs. Through individual proposals, consultations, and discussions based on the PCN, dialogue between each country's focal point and international organisations/donors was strengthened.

- **Acquiring finance by NGOs in Mali**

Information on the FAO West Africa Regional Office's public offering ("Support to implement a community-based forest/land management demonstration initiative for knowledge dissemination") in April 2021 was provided to each country, and NGOs in Mali and Nigeria applied. The AI-CD Secretariat Support Team provided technical support for additions and revisions to the proposals of two NGOs based on a support request from Mali focal point. As a result, one of the two NGO proposals was selected. From December 2021 to the present, contract negotiations are underway between the selected NGO and the FAO Regional Office for West Africa.

- **Matching with the private sector produced concrete actions**

As mentioned in the above results of knowledge sharing, there is a gradual increase in the movement to promote cooperation with private companies that will lead to the utilisation of useful Japanese technology in order to solve development issues related to desertification. It is expected for a future approach of access to finance that utilises private-sector partnerships.

### **3.2 Lessons Learned and Recommendations for the Future**

From the Horn of Africa to the Sahel, the various activities carried out within the three-pronged initiative of networking, knowledge sharing and access to finance have brought together 15 countries facing the same challenges of combatting desertification. These played a major role in strengthening ties with international organisations and other initiatives, and in recognising the importance of cooperating with each other to solve problems in each country in the future. This can be seen from the fact that at the side event of UNCCD COP-15 in May 2022, participants proposed that each country utilise the assets obtained through AI-CD and connect them to global initiatives such as the GGWI. Lessons and recommendations for the future that

are important for more effective utilisation of AI-CD assets are summarised below.

### **(1) Building Networks**

- **Creation of synergistic effects through building networks**

Through a series of activities related to network building in this project, strengthening ties among the 15 target countries was achieved. As one of the impacts mentioned above, South Sudan has learned from other neighbouring countries to strengthen its own capacity. In the case of projects targeting multiple countries which have similar development issues, it can be expected that a synergistic effect will occur in which countries learn from each other. Furthermore, as part of access to finance support, the network between each country and international organisations/donors (headquarters, regional offices, country offices, etc.) was strengthened through the facilitation of the AI-CD Secretariat Support Team. The AI-CD Secretariat Support Team created opportunities for information exchange and learning among related countries through holding domestic workshops and regional forums, and also strengthened dialogues with related organisations based on their individual needs. These approaches can also be useful in projects that target multiple countries with similar development challenges and seeking to develop activities through partnerships.

### **(2) Knowledge Sharing**

- **Need for more effective use of existing knowledge**

In this project, existing knowledge and useful cases were organised, and activities to share them with other countries and other development partners were developed. On the other hand, although databases and repositories of technologies and examples for combatting desertification already exist, the accumulated knowledge and information have not yet been fully utilised in policymaking and at the field level. In order to improve this situation, it is assumed to be effective to create example of utilisation of existing information, and introduce each implementation step to other countries or promote efforts for utilisation. For example, collaboration with partners who have assets of database and repositories, active utilisation of the information accumulated from the planning stage, and feedback of the results to the same system are some of the effective methods to utilise existing knowledge.

### **(3) Support for Access to Finance**

- **Promotion of collaboration and cooperation on a project basis with FAO / UNDP and other organisations**

Discussions of individual specific collaboration and cooperation with FAO/UNDP and other international organisations were achieved. For example, there were several opportunities with FAO to discuss ways to jointly advance the Niger Programme. However, it was difficult to match the strategies of each organisation and project ideas of each focal point through mere discussions, since there are some projects underway and consideration of affinity and degree of contribution for these projects are necessary. In addition, regarding the role and contribution of the AI-CD Secretariat Support Team, it



has contributed to the promotion of dialogues between these organisations and the focal points of each country. But considering the nature of its role, the Secretariat Support Team could not provide more technical support and funding. It was difficult to move forward while receiving trust and evaluation from both sides. In the future, it will be useful if the Secretariat can play a complementary role with some form of funding framework to promote these dialogues.

- **Establishment of coordination and cooperation system among related ministries and agencies of AI-CD in each country**

Although the focal points who were selected from each country's Ministry of Environment (or Ministry of Agriculture) have a detailed perspective on dealing with sector-specific issues, they either have little experience in policy proposals and inter-ministerial cooperation, especially cooperation with international organisations such as donors. Sometimes, there were other departments in charge for these, not the focal points. Because of these issues, the assistance from the Secretariat Support Team was limited in many cases. In the future, it is expected to build a coordination/collaboration system between the technical departments in each country that are involved in this project, especially in dealing with desertification, climate change, soil degradation, and the departments that are responsible for planning and contacting donors such as international organisations.

- **Promoting dialogue with funding candidates through PCN**

At the stage when AI-CD activities started, it was assumed that each country's focal point would have a draft of a project or similar planning documents to enable solving their own problems. But it turned out that neither the HoA nor Sahel region had it. Therefore, following the example of the World Bank, the AI-CD Secretariat Support Team recommended for the creation of PCNs. First, the team started with the Horn of Africa region, and then it requested each focal point in the Sahel region to create a PCN. As a result, PCNs were prepared by the focal points of all 15 target countries. But the depth of the contents varied, and the Secretariat Support Team judged that these PCNs would be difficult to bring to international organisations in their original versions. It took more than a year to revise the PCNs to a certain level of quality after discussions between each focal point and Secretariat Support Team. The prepared PCNs were gradually distributed to international organisations, from the incomplete stage, and when opportunities were found, individual proposals, discussions, and consultations between international organisations and Secretariat Support Team were realised. As for the content, it is assumed that the revised PCNs received a certain evaluation from each institution. In the future, it is expected that the standardised PCN and the related policies of each country will be harmonised, and a methodology developed to facilitate better understanding of proper PCN preparation.

#### **(4) Others**

- **Cooperation with JICA overseas offices**

The project covered 15 countries, and it was necessary to carry out the activities while efficiently coordinating with each country. Due to the global spread of the new coronavirus, each activity event had to be held remotely, and the use of online tools has made it possible to communicate regardless of

location or time difference. On the other hand, when implementing remote events such as domestic workshops and regional forums, operational work became extremely complicated such as considerations of how to hold the event examining the local infection status of the new coronavirus, arrange an appropriate venue, check the communication status in advance, communicate with the participants, and payment of expenses. As a result of an online coordination meeting initiated by the JICA Headquarters in order to strengthen coordination and cooperation with JICA overseas offices for the smooth implementation of operations during the corona virus crisis, the Secretariat Support Team was able to hold each event. (Thanks to the cooperation of JICA overseas offices in terms of operation in various countries when the Secretariat Support Team could not travel overseas.)