

Royaume du Maroc
Ministère chargé de l'Aménagement
du Territoire, de l'Eau et de
l'Environnement

Département de l'Environnement



المملكة المغربية
الوزارة المكلفة بإعداد التراب
الوطني والماء والبيئة

قطاع البيئة

Rabat le, 4-08-2004

Mr. A. Slama
Director Near East and North Africa
IFAD, Rome-Italy. Fax: + 39-065043463

Mr. A. R. Ben Brahim
Director, Agro-Industries and Sectoral Support Branch
UNIDO, Vienna-Austria. Fax: 43 1 26026 6849

31 AOÛT 2004

ENDORSEMENT LETTER

Subject "Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of the Eastern Morocco" Project

Dear Sir,

This is to inform you that the Ministry of Territory Management, Water, and Environment, endorses the project **"Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of the Eastern Morocco"**.

This proposed project by IFAD and UNIDO has been closely developed with concerned institutions in Morocco. It is in line with the Moroccan Government strategy for rural development and poverty reduction "2020 Rural Development Strategy", "Long term development strategy for the agricultural sector" and the National Action Program for combating desertification. The project would support Morocco in strengthening its natural resource and environmental management agenda, which is one of the highest priority of the Government. More specifically, it will contribute to responding to the following major concerns:

- Sustainable land management based on the participation of range land users associations to the preservation of the natural resource base, through the resolution of common land utilization problems.
- Poverty alleviation, income security, and value added production through rural development, rural employment promotion, and development of human resources in rural areas.
- Participatory, integrated small-scale agro-industrial projects targeting rangeland production in the eastern plateau ecosystems of Morocco.

The project has an innovative approach to the problem of land degradation in the arid and semi-arid areas of the eastern plateau of Morocco which is severely threatening the livelihood of the rural population and the environment. We are strongly convinced that it qualifies for GEF funding and its resulting implementation will promote into the country, as well as in North Africa and Middle East countries, sustainable land management practices and desertification control.

Yours Sincerely

M. Taha BALAFREJ
Environment Department
and GEF Operational Focal Point in Morocco.

Le Directeur du Partenariat, de la
Communication et de la Coopération

Signé : Taha BALAFREJ



ROYAUME DU MAROC

INSTITUT AGRONOMIQUE ET VÉTÉRINAIRE HASSAN II

N° 533

DG/2004

Tuesday, 3th August, 2004

The Director of Institut Agronomique et
Vétérinaire Hassan II
to

Mr. A. Slama
Director Near East and North Africa
IFAD, Rome-Italy.
Fax: + 39-065043463

Subject: "Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in
the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of the Eastern
Morocco" Project.

Dear Mr Slama,

The above-mentioned project has been developed with the close involvement of several of IAV Hassan II departments, including Plants Production, Ecology, Soil Sciences, Agricultural Engineering and Socio-Economic Sciences.

The project is in line with the adopted strategy of the Moroccan Government for rural development and poverty reduction, with the Moroccan national program for combating desertification, and the national action plan for preserving the environment.

Therefore, IAV Hassan II fully endorses the project and will provide all necessary support for bringing this project to success, including its human resources, laboratories, experimental fields and expertise in dealing with the local communities.

We are strongly convinced that the implementation of this project will contribute to introduce improved technologies for sustainable land management in the arid and semi-arid areas of Morocco and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,



Le Directeur de l'Institut Agronomique
et Vétérinaire Hassan II

[Signature]
Pr. Fouad GUESSOUS

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المملكة المغربية
Royaume du Maroc



المندوب السامي للمياه والغابات ومحاربة التصحر

Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification

N° DDF/DIAF/AM (LB-CHA)

Rabat, le 07/08/2004

09387

OBJET : Projet de lutte contre la désertification dans les écosystèmes arides et semi-arides des hauts plateaux de l'oriental

Le Projet de Développement Pastoral et de l'Elevage dans l'Oriental (PDPEO II) accorde la priorité à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations pauvres des zones rurales défavorisées et vise le développement des parcours et de l'élevage, avec la participation des populations aux actions de réhabilitation, de préservation et de gestion durable des ressources naturelles.

Le projet de lutte contre la désertification dans les écosystèmes arides et semi-arides des hauts plateaux de l'Oriental, vient consolider les acquis de la première phase du projet PDPEO.

Par ailleurs, ce projet s'inscrit parfaitement, par ses objectifs et son approche, dans le cadre du programme forestier national (PFN). En effet, le PFN donne une importance particulière à la restauration et la reconstitution des espaces pastoraux et à la lutte contre la désertification et la réduction de la pauvreté.

A cet effet, le Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification marque son intérêt pour le projet, dont les résultats ne peuvent être que positifs tant sur les plans social et environnemental qu'économique. Le projet vise également à promouvoir le développement durable des ressources pastorales sur la base des efforts de lutte contre la désertification. Aussi, le Haut Commissariat appuie la requête auprès du GEF pour la préparation de ce projet.

المندوب السامي للمياه والغابات

ومحاربة التصحر

إمضاء : عبد العظيم الحافي

DIRECTION DU DEVELOPPEMENT FORESTIER

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ROYAUME DU MAROC

INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE LA
RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE

N° 69 INRA/DG

*August 4th , 2004*Mr A. Slama
Director Near East and North Africa
IFAD, Rome-Italy**Subject : « Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid
And Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of the Eastern Morocco » Project**

Dear Sir,

The project proposal on desertification control and poverty reduction in the High plateaus of Morocco was developed with close involvement of our scientists positioned at the Regional Agricultural Research Center located in Oujda.

The project will be a significant contribution to the implementation of the Government strategy on rural development and the national action program for combating desertification. INRA is committed to provide all necessary support for bringing this project to success, including its human resources, laboratories and expertise in dealing with the production and environmental issues of the High plateaus in eastern Morocco.

I am convinced that the implementation of this project will contribute to better land resources management and to poverty alleviation in the arid region of Morocco and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Hamid Narjisse
Director of INRA