

North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

UNCCD COP-10 Side-event

Multilateral cooperation on combating desertification and land degradation in North-East Asia

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Outline

1. Why multilateral cooperation?
 2. Examples of multilateral initiatives
 3. Short overview of DLDD in North-East Asia
 4. NEASPEC and its project on mitigation of dust and sand storms in North-East Asia
 5. Potential to enhance collaboration of the subregional member States
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Why multilateral cooperation?

- Rich experience accumulated in North-East Asia over the last few decades
- Significant complementarities among countries in terms of technical and policy expertise
- Many issues are transboundary in nature, e.g. dust and sandstorms
- Better opportunities to partner with other regions outside Asia for joint projects
- Higher potential for fundraising

Examples of multilateral initiatives

- Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) in North-East Asia
- North-East Asia Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification and Dust and Sandstorms (NEASRAP)
- North-East Asia Forest Network (NEAFN)
- UNCCD regional network in Asia

Regional Master Plan

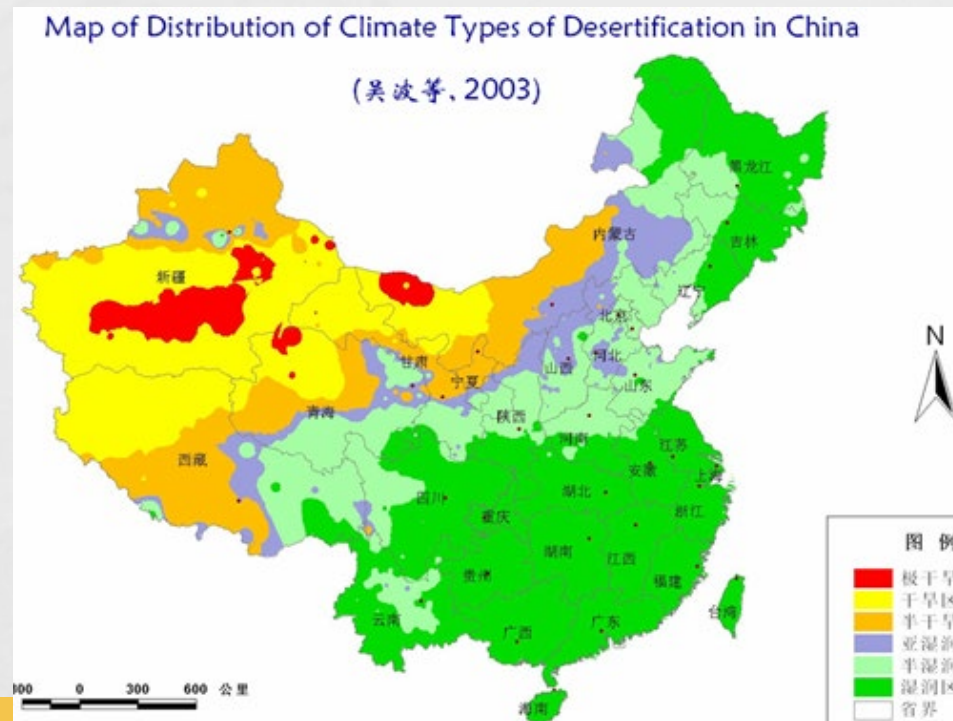
- **Main focus:** Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms (DSS) in North-East Asia (2005) by ADB, UNEP, UNCCD, UNESCAP, adopted by China, Japan, Mongolia and ROK
- **Time frame:** 15-20 years
- **Component I:** Establishment of a regional monitoring and early warning network for DSS in Northeast Asia implemented by UNEP and ADB
- **Component II:** An investment strategy for the prevention and control of DSS through demonstration projects implemented by ESCAP and UNCCD

UNCCD Regional Framework

- Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to Implement UNCCD in Asia (Beijing, 1997)
- Subregional Actions Programmes (NEASRAP for North-East Asia), National Actions Programmes (NEA countries)
- 6 Thematic Programme Networks:
 - Desertification Monitoring and Assessment
 - Agroforestry and Soil Conservation in Arid, Semi-arid and Dry Sub-humid areas
 - Rangeland management in arid areas including the fixation of sand dunes
 - Water resources management for agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas
 - Strengthening capacities for drought impact mitigating and desertification combating
 - Assistance for the implementation of integrated local area development programmes (LAPDs) initiatives

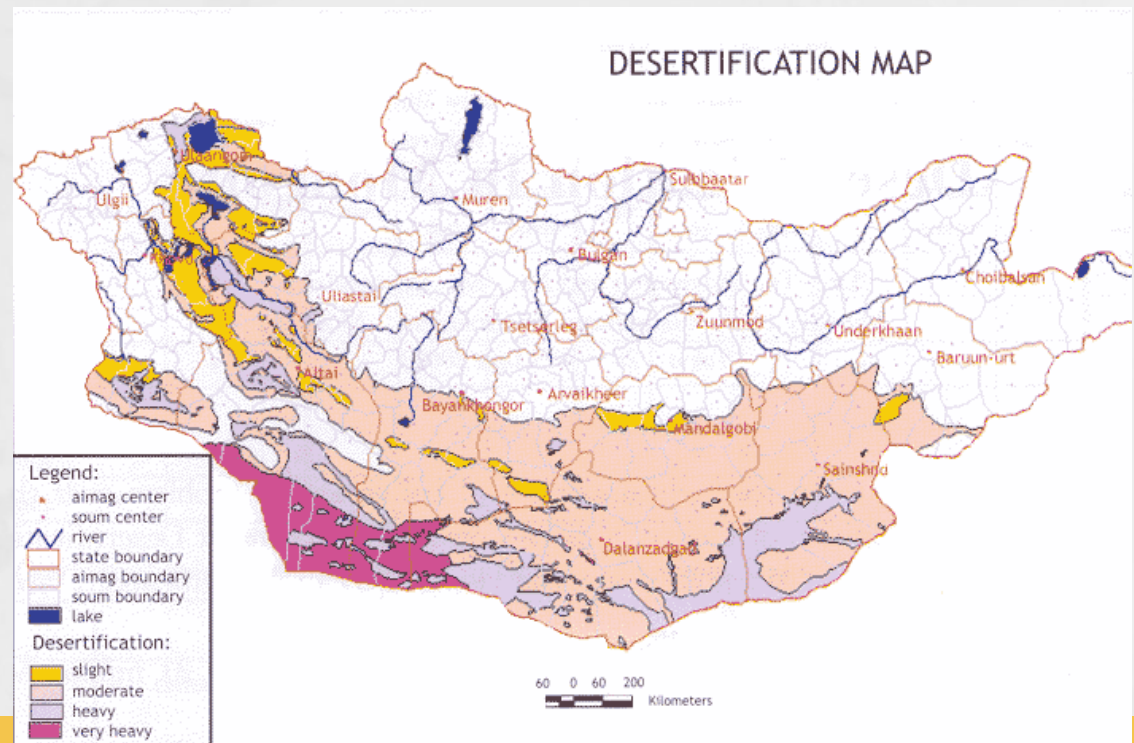
Desertification and Land Degradation in North-East Asia: China

- China: 27.5 % of territory covered by deserts
- More than 30% of population, exceeding 400 mln. people affected by desertification
- Annual direct economic losses exceed 64 billion yuan



Desertification and Land Degradation in North-East Asia: Mongolia

- 41.3% of total territory is Gobi desert and arid zone
- 90% of pastureland vulnerable to desertification and land degradation
- Negative effects of climate change on fragile ecosystems



Other North-East Asian Countries

- **DPRK:** soil erosion and sedimentation due to deforestation and unstable crop cultivation in sloping lands
- **ROK and Japan:** exemplary successes of national reforestation programs in 20th century, some threat related to climate change and continued economic development
- **Russian Federation:** 1 million sq. km of land subject to desertification, loss of biodiversity, increased occurrence of droughts

NEASPEC: Major Programme Areas

Transboundary Air Pollution

Focus: coal-fired power plants
2010-20: China and Mongolia

Nature Conservation Programme

Focus: flagship species and transboundary areas
2010-12: Tumen River Area, Dauria International Protected Area and Khanka-Xingkai Lake International Nature Reserve

Dust and Sandstorms

Focus: transboundary cooperation
2010-11: Erenhot (China) and Zamyn-Uud (Mongolia)

Eco-efficiency Partnership

Focus: Support national initiatives; Multi-stakeholder approach

NEASPEC Project on Mitigation of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia

- Contribute to implementation of the Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms
- To be implemented between 2010-2012
- **Main partners:** Mongolian National Committee to Combat Desertification and Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism, Chinese National Bureau to Combat Desertification and State Academy of Forestry, Korea Forest Service, NGOs, UNDP Mongolia, UNCCD

Project Overview

- Pilot DSS prevention area in Zамын-Ууд, close to Chinese city of Erenhot, wind and sand-breaks plantation
- Development of innovative financing mechanisms for reforestation projects (work with local governments and communities)
- Facilitate exchange of best practices on combating desertification among NEASPEC countries, especially China and Mongolia
- Capacity building of Mongolian experts on policy and technical aspects (trainings, development of GIS database)
- Strengthen cooperation between China and Mongolia on local, provincial and national levels
- Contribute to success of national programs/strategies, e.g. Mongolian National Action Programme to Combat Desertification

Pilot Project Location



Implementation

- Inception meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Zamyn-Uud and Erenhot, 19-21 April 2011 provided specific technical and policy advice on different aspects of the project
- Initiated implementation of the pilot project in Zamyn-Uud
- Capacity building training for 20 Mongolian experts by the Institute for Desertification Studies, Chinese Academy of Forestry, 19-25 September 2011
- Study on successful practices in cooperation with Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, China





Way forward for subregional cooperation in North-East Asia

- Utilize fully complementarities of member States for knowledge and data sharing, exchange of expertise on policy and technical issues
- Scale-up assistance to developing countries
- Work jointly on strategies to mobilize resources – private sector, PPP, GEF, etc
- Explore opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation with other regions of the world
- ESCAP will continue to serve member States to facilitate multilateral cooperation

Thank you!

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