

GLOBAL LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

In large parts of the world, home to a majority of the global population, land and water use is neither ecologically nor economically sustainable. Land unfit for agriculture is used as such whereas good agricultural land is poorly managed, leading to large-scale deterioration. Faulty water use, especially in irrigation, leads both to land deterioration and large scale wastage, with shortages as a result. More than half the world population already faces serious water shortages, or will come to face them in the coming decades.

The proposed project aims to develop a global land and water management plan, to be elaborated at world, regional, national and local level. This plan will focus on reaching a situation in which water and land are used in an ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically feasible manner. In a second phase a program for implementation of the plan is envisaged, in the form of a range of large-scale projects, involving infra-structural development, hardware supply and knowledge management and transfer. Costs of the first phase would amount to several hundred million dollars, that of the second phase would run into the tens of billions of dollars, over a thirty to forty year time span. Funding for part of the first phase has been requested from the European Community.