

The Environmental Dimension of Sand and Dust Storms – National and Regional Approaches for Interventions

1st Africa/Middle East Expert Meeting and Workshop on Health Impacts of Airborne Dust, 2–5 November 2015, Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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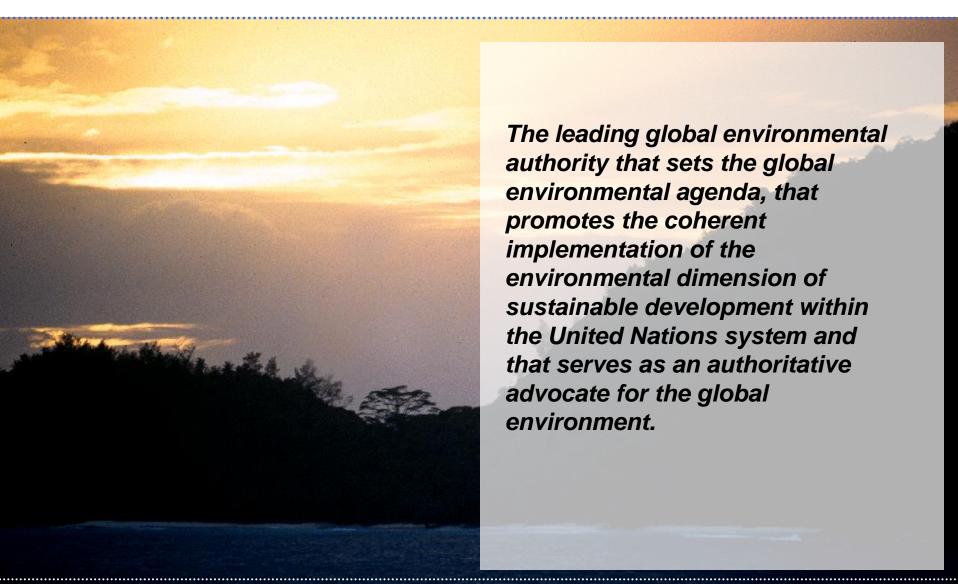
Objective & Outline of the Presentation

OUTLINE

- 1. Basic understandings & definitions
- 2. What we know so far about SDS phenomenon in the Region
- Objective:
 To highlight national and regional approaches to addressing sand and dust storms
- 3. What are the gaps in knowledge
- 4. Conceptual Approach
- 5. National Planning, examples from Kuwait and Iraq
- 6. Regional Approach
- 7. Final remarks



UNEP Vision



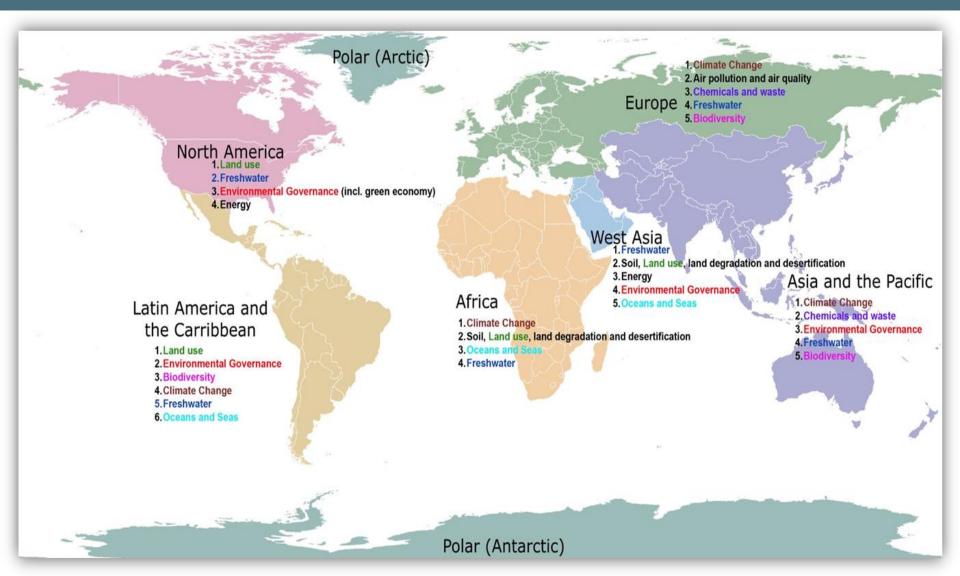
UNEP's Sub-Programme Themes and Service Lines

finance **Climate Change Disasters and Conflict** environmental demonstration **Ecosystem Management** institutional **Chemicals and Waste** policy **Resource Efficiency** for to **Environment Governance** and Access en **Environment Under Review**



Programme of Work Delivery Through Regional Offices – Priorities According to GEO-5 Regional Consultations





UNEP Mandate on Air Quality

UN Environment Assembly Resolution No. 1/7 UNEA EA.1 2014

"Noting the World Health Organization estimate, from the report adopted by its Executive Board in May 2014, that air pollution contributes to 7 million premature deaths each year globally, a burden of disease that may now exceed the burdens of malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined"

- 5. Requests the Executive Director:
- (a) To undertake strengthened capacity-building activities on air quality
- (b) To raise awareness of the public health and environmental risks of air pollution and the multiple benefits of improved air quality,
- (c) To explore opportunities for strengthened cooperation on air pollution within the UN System

UNEP Mandate on Air Quality

UN Environment Assembly Resolution No. 1/7 UNEA EA.1 2014.... continue

- (d) To facilitate the operation of existing UNEP-supported intergovernmental programmes on the assessment of air quality issues;
- (e) To undertake global, regional and sub-regional, assessments by 2016, focused on identifying gaps in capacity to address air quality issues, including monitoring and control, opportunities for cooperation, and air pollution mitigation opportunities, ...

SDS Recipe ""

SDS

Weather conditions

(Temp., wind, rain, evpn., solar...,)



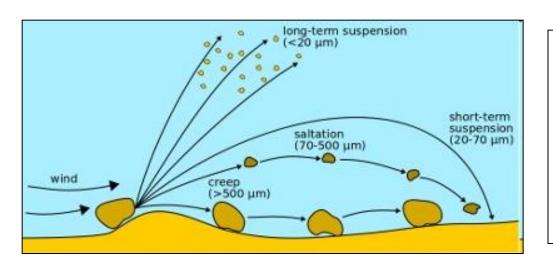
Soil Biophysical Characteristics

(type, texture, moisture, vegetation cover, etc...).

Land degradation



Dust emission



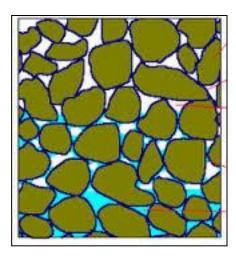
The threshold wind for the mobilisation of soil particles depends on the forces acting to keep these particles in the soil (weight, cohesion between particles, cohesion induced by moisture)

Meteorological factors:

- Wind
- Near-surface turbulence

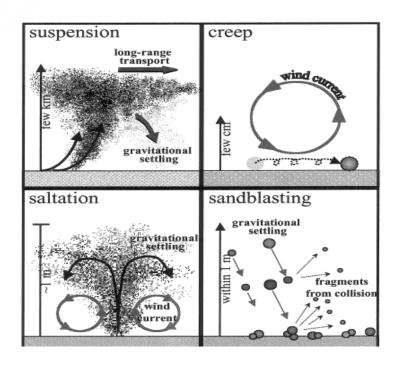
Soil factors:

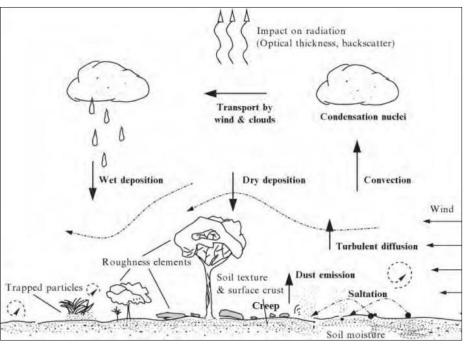
- Soil texture
- Soil humidity
- Vegetation





Dust Cycle





Addressing sand and dust storms requires identifying and mitigation of root causes

(primarily soil, land and water management)



Common language necessary!

Sand or Dust?

Sand Storms or Sand Storms or Suspend or

Important to be clear since each need different mitigation interventions although they contribute to each other's solutions especially if local source is at the same time regional source

Dust storms cannot be stopped by natural or artificial barriers because it leaves a column of suspended dust reaching 3 km height, so it has to be *managed* at the source and *coped with* at the recipient end

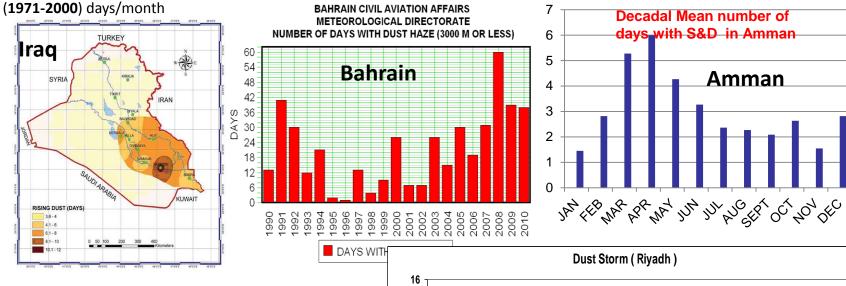
Hot spots (source areas) are point source (small exporting area) within a cluster (large area)

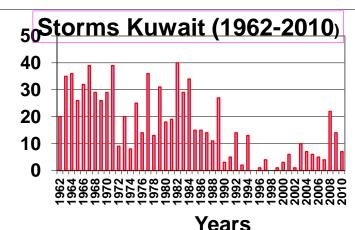
Primary sources (originating area) and secondary sources (dust coming from the primary source blown through this secondary source area)

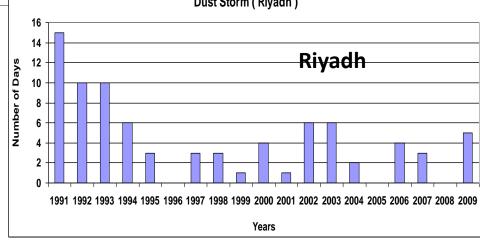


Frequency Regional examples

Rising Dust (Days) distribution over Middle & southern Iraq









Source: Dr Jaser Rabadi, WMO, 2012 ion of Sand and Dust Storms

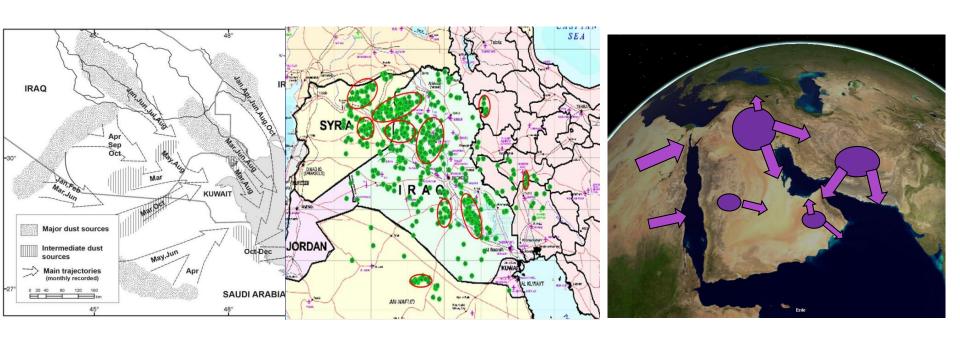
Cited Studies About Dust Sources in the region

WHERE THE DUSTS ARE COMING FROM?

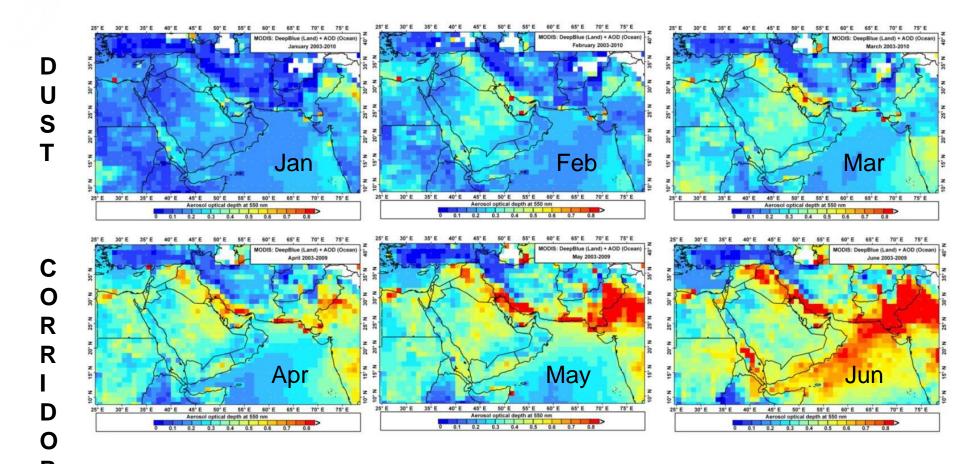
(Al-Dousari, 2012)

(UCAR, 2012)

(**Humaid et. al, 2007**)

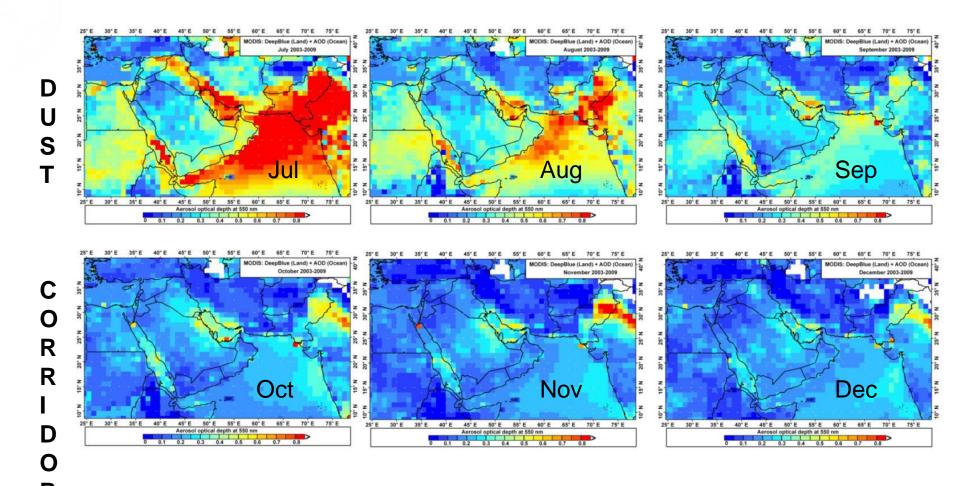






Monthly means AOD from MODIS DB for the period 2003-2010 January-June





Monthly means AOD from MODIS DB for the period 2003-2010 July-December



Dust Trade Balance

Country	Local Sources	Export to (Regional Source)	Import from (Regional)
Turkey	Anatolia (soil erosion)	???	North African (winter & spring) Southwest, central-eastern Sahara in summer; Jordan/Syria/Saudi Arabia (Extension of Nafud Desert) Upper Euphrates (Iraq)
Syria	Eastern Badia (most of the year)	Iraq, Jordan, Turkey	North Africa, Arabian Peninsula (summer)
Jordan	Al Badia region	Iraq??	North Africa, Arabian Peninsula (spring & summer, khamaseen)
Iraq	Numerous locations clustered in 4 large areas (Al Jazeera, North Al Tharthar Lake, Zubair desert, alluvial plain between Tigris & Euphrates), east of Tigiris	Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran	Syria, Jordan?
Saudi Arabia	Numerous	UAE, Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait	Syria/Jordan (extension of Nafud desert) Iraq (lower Mesopotamia), Central desert (Da'hna) Sudan (Tokar Gap), Oman, UAE, Yemen (Empty Quarter)
Kuwait	Small local sources	Limited	Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia
Iran	Local sources (west, centre & east)	Iraq, UAE, Oman	Iraq (from several areas), Saudi Arabia Between Caspian & Aral Sea Turan depression Dry lakebeds (central region) Turkmenistan (Land Strait Lake!) Sistan Basin

Dust Trade Balance - continue

Country	Local Sources	Export to (Dust Sources) (Regional)	Import from (Regional)
Bahrain	Small locations	Limited	Iraq, Saudi Arabia (Da'hna & empty Quarter), Iran (southern coast of the Gulf)
Qatar	Small locations	Limited	Same as Bahrain
UAE	Empty Quarter	Qatar, Bahrain, Iran	Iraq Saudi Arabia Afghanistan, Pakistan
Oman	Empty Quarter	???	Iraq Iran (southern coast of the Gulf) Yemen

Not to quote: this is informal review of literature, more examination of transboundary scale needed



Knowledge Gaps

Any programme to combat SDS should be comprehensive as to address the full cycle of sand and dust storms:

Issues	Requires capacities for
Causes and sources	Knowledge on land & water use, drought, soil types, desertification rate, etc
transportation & climate dynamics	Historical trends, prediction climate models, region-wide assessment
Monitoring, early warning & preparedness	Network of monitoring stations, early warning system, communication, public alert and advisory tools
Impacts Assessments	Impacts on health, productivity and economy as a whole
Prevention and Effective Mitigation	Land & ecosystem rehabilitation, appropriate and nation-wide design programme of soil fixation, plantations, wind barriers, etc
Management	Strong Science-Policy Link, Institutional Collaboration at the governorate, country and regional levels

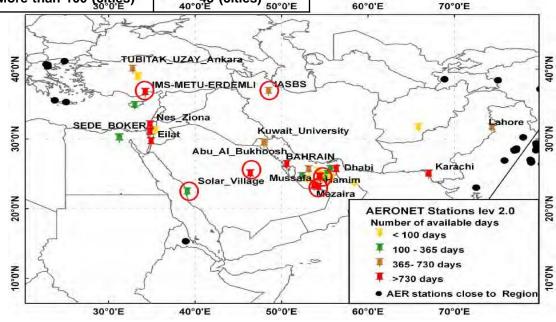


Example of Knowledge Gap - Number of $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$ stations per country in the West Asia Region (WMO-UNEP Study 2013)

Country	Gravimetric Method	NRT – Near Real Time (Beta** or TEOM***)	Chemical Analysis
United Arab		~40	
Emirates			
Islamic Republic of Iran	5	118	
Kuwait	3	11 (2 NRT)	
Oman*		4 (with a mobile unit)	
Saudi Arabia		5	
Turkey	45 (cities)	More than 100 (cities)	45 (cities) 50°0'E

Location of AERONET stations in West Asia. Stations circled in red correspond to present operationally active stations.

NOT ENOUH MONITORING STATIONS



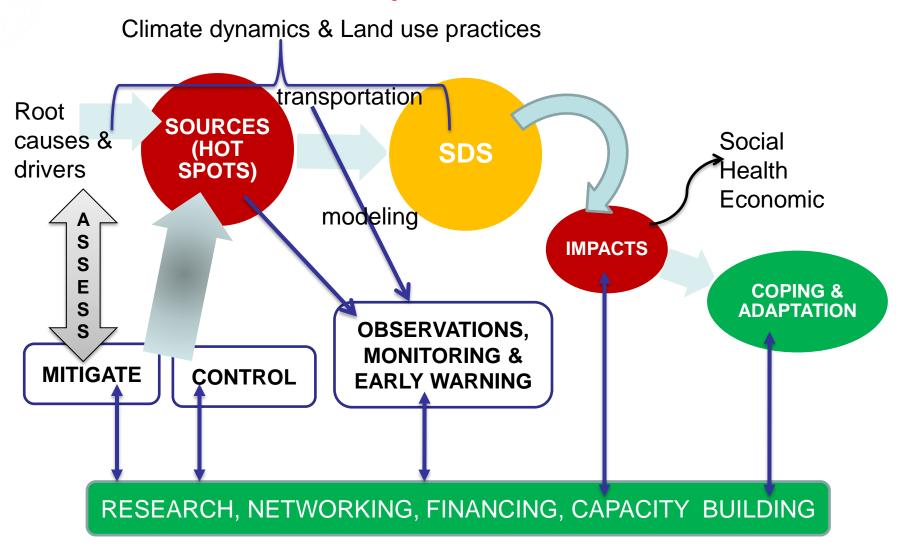


Root Causes, Drivers, Climate & Land dynamics Not Yet Well Defined at the Source Areas, We need local studies

IRAQ			IRAN			
Al Jazeera	Hammad Basin (transboundary with Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia)	Alluvial Plain (Dalmaj to Rumaithah)	Eastern Sand Belt (transboundary with Iran)	Heet (salah e- Idin province)	South West Cluster (Khuzestan and Ilam provinces)	South East Cluster (Sistan, Blueshitan & Karman provinces)
Gypsum, Wadis, Rangeland pastoralists	Rangeland	24% of lad area of Iraq Fertile agriculture land	Wind soil erosion Salty	??/	Soil & Alkaline	Water & watershed management issues
Mining	Land degradation		Degraded vegetation cover		Land degradation, land use, land abandonment	Agriculture Over grazing Watershed management
Tillage practices	Land & water management issues	???	???	???	Salty soil	
Land abandonment	???			??		



Conceptual framework





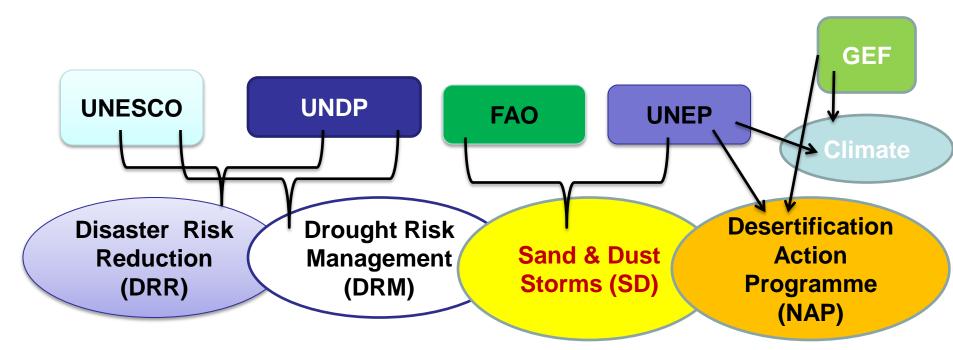
Examples of National Interventions

1. National Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms in Iraq

- •The formulation of the programme started in 2013, lead by the Ministry of Environment and supported by UNEP, FAO, UNDP and UNESCO through the Drought Risk Management Programme
- •All relevant stakeholders participated
- •A National team supported by international consultants and research centres (AEMET & BSC) accomplished the tasks in May 2015
- •The programme will be launched in Baghdad, December 2015



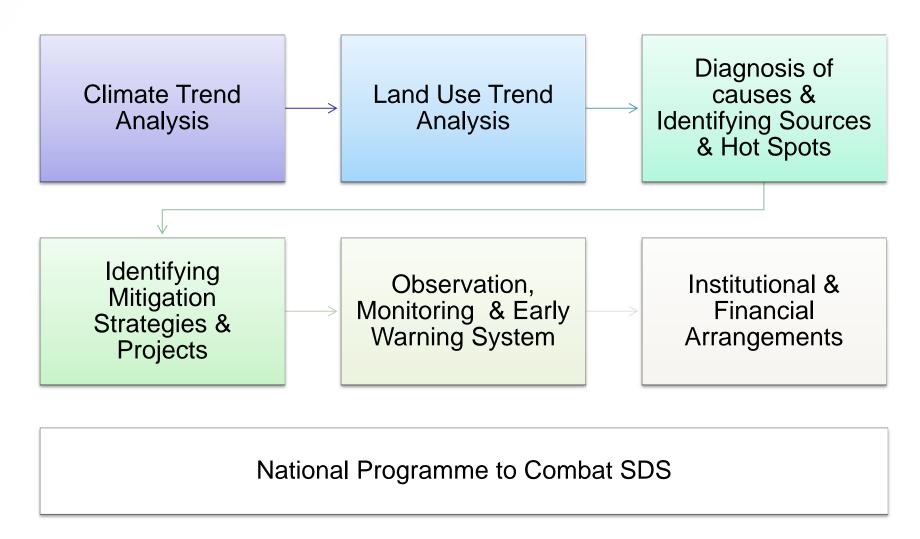
Inter-Agency Collaboration - The 4 Ds Good Example of Iraq



National Institutions (Miniseries of Environment, Agriculture, Water Resources, Science & Technology, Meteorology, Prime Minster Office, Local Governments, NGOs, Academia)



SDS Iraq Project Approach





Summary of FAO's Component

FAO will focus in the assessment and analysis of causes including on-farm water and land-use management practices which is expected to guide us towards appropriate mitigation and improvement measures.

Approach

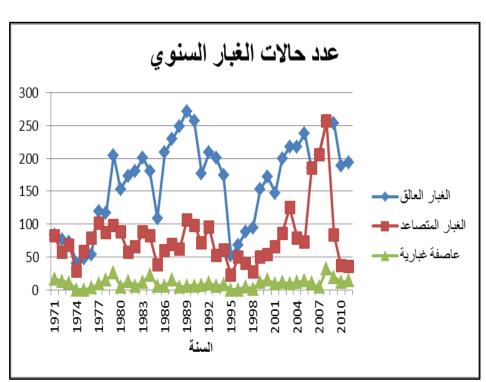
- Phase I:
 Identifying Sources and
 Mapping Hotspots
- Preparing compendium of land use and agriculture practices
- Identification of ecosystembased vulnerability indices on land degradation and drought
- Mapping of areas of highest potential sources for sand storms (hot spots and sensitive areas)

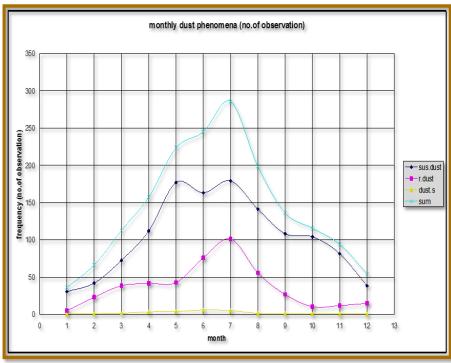
- Phase II: Filling in Gaps
- Identify data/information and capacity gaps and recommend appropriate measures
- Analyse trends of dust/sand storms based on historical observational data to the extent possible

- Phase III:
 National Programme
- Stakeholder analysis and institutional mapping
- Suggest institutional mechanism to address dust/sand storms
- Develop the logical framework for the action plan highlighting causes, impacts and responses
- Describe the major components of the programme and their ultimate results

1. Meteorological Studies (In Collaboration with AEMET & Barcelona Dust Forecast Centre)

Observation Data:: Number of Incidence of Dust Storms & Monthly Distribution in Baghdad as recorded by MetOffice, Iraq





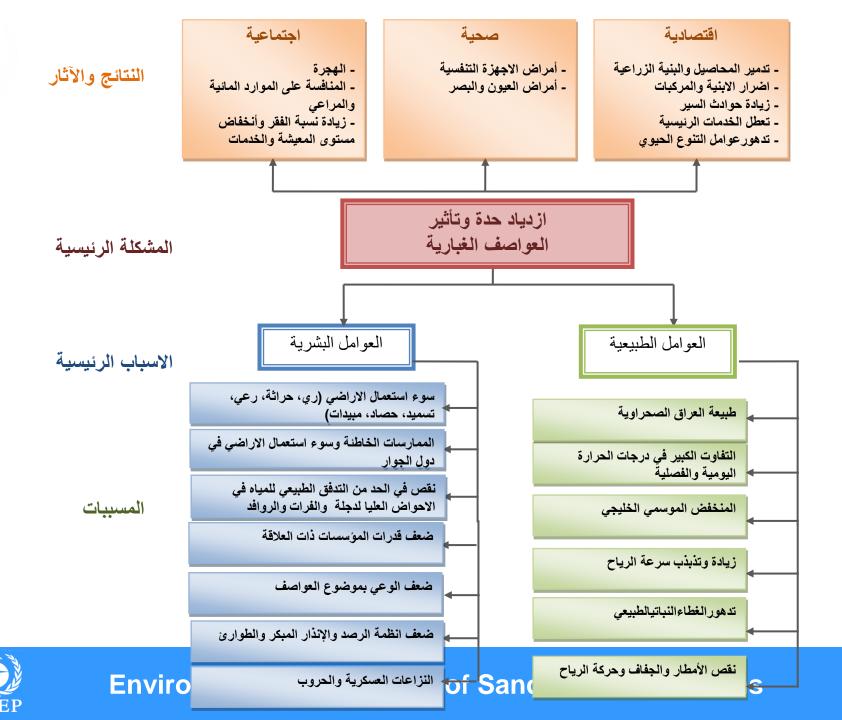


Change Drivers

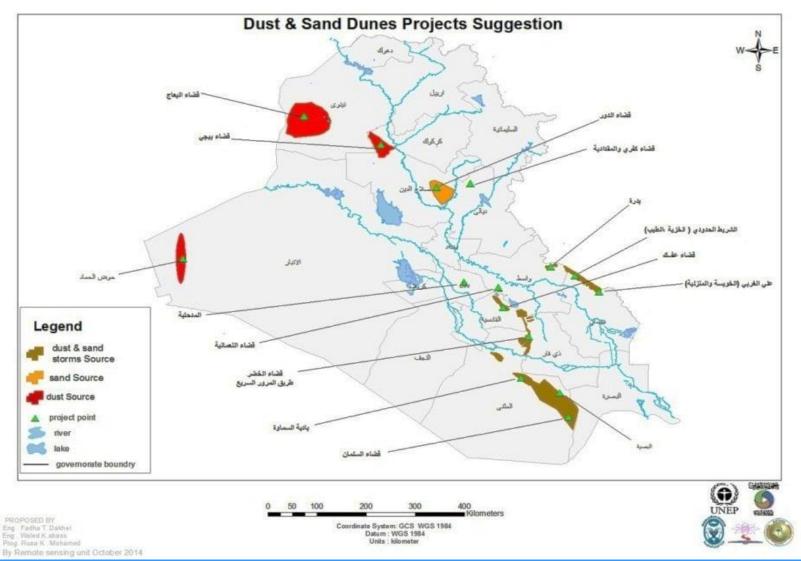
Changes in on-farm practices and technology will play a critical role in ensuring the mitigation of the effects of Sand and Dust Storms

Enablers of SDS Enablers are current practices and land uses that contribute a conducive environment for the harmful effects of Sand and Dust Storms. Loss of Vegetative Cover Rangeland Abuse: Overgrazing, Conversion to Crop Land **Shifting Sand Dunes** Water Logging Declining Soil Characteristics: Salinity, Erodibility, Wetness

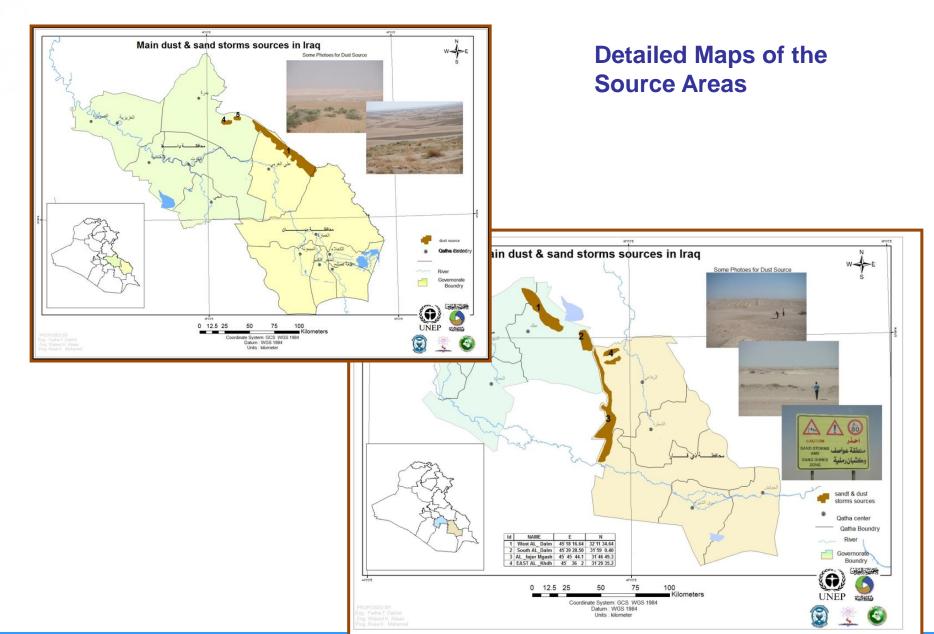
Disruptors of SDS Disruptors are technologies and practices that can create sustainable positive disruption in the effects of Sand and Dust Storms and their role in Agriculture. Protecting Grasslands and Oases Conservation Tillage **Operations** Windbreakers on Farm Peripherals Sustainable Crop Management Improving Soil Quality



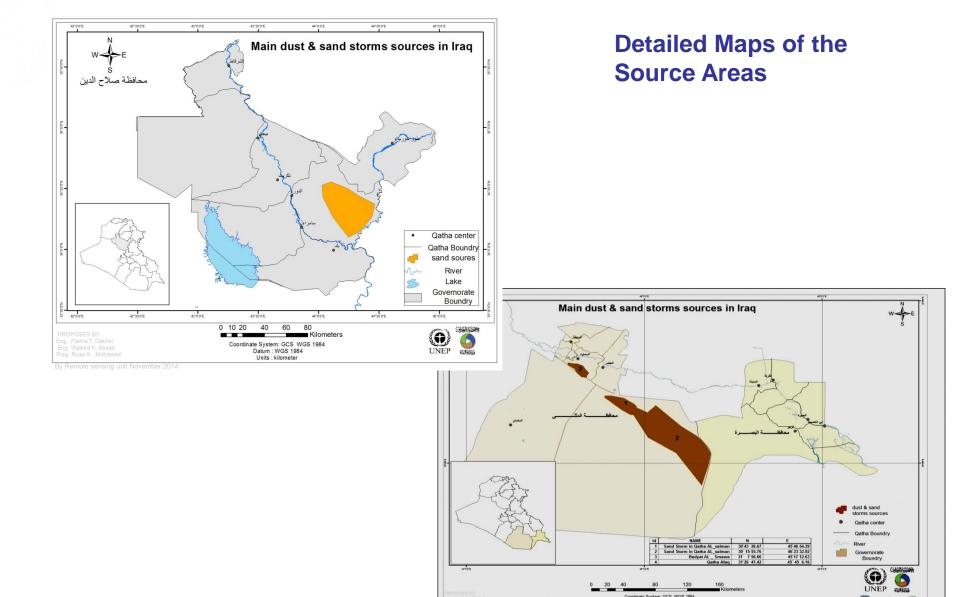
Sand and Dust Sources in Iraq



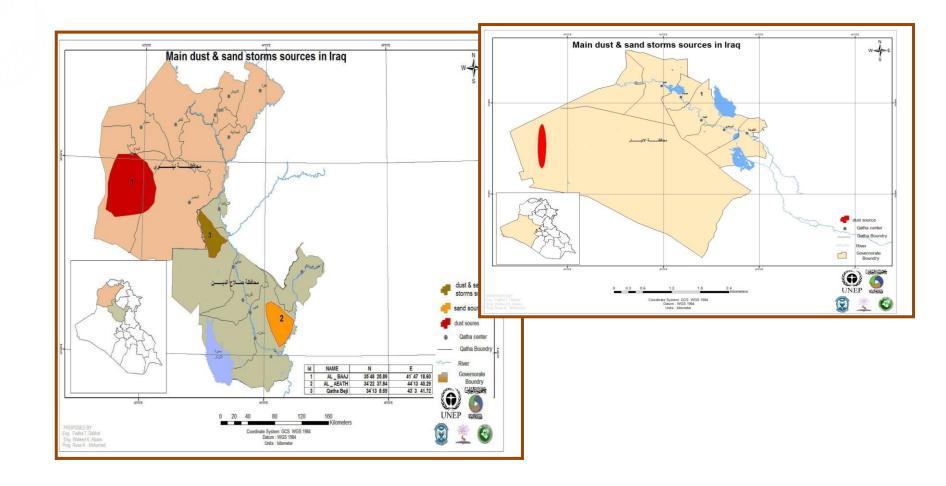












Detailed Maps of the Source Areas



مؤشرات الأداء للبرامج والمشاريع

انخفاض معدلات ووتيرة وفترات حدوث العواصف الترابية والرملية. وخطط وطوارئ لمواجهة العواصف الترابية. وزيادة مساحات الأراضي الصالحة للاستزراع. وخطة وطنية لمكافحة التصحر والتنبؤ المستقبلي.

•عدد الاتفاقيات الإقليمية والدولية التي يتم إقرارها ضمن هذا المجال

• مساحات مشاريع
• الحزمة الخضراء قيد التنفيذ
• نسبة الزيادة في المناطق الحرجية سنويا
• مساحة الأراضي التي تم تخضيرها
• مساحة المراعي التي تمت إدارتها وتأهيلها
• خرائط تحديد مواقع الترب المتدهورة
والملوثة جاهزة
• مواقع الكثبان الرملية ذات الأولوية محددة مع
خطط عمل لمكافحتها
• مساحات المناطق المعد تأهيلها المعرضة
لإنجراف التربة

الأهداف الإستراتيجية البيئية

الهدف الإستراتيجي الثالث:

الحد من تدهور الأراضي ومكافحة التصحر

المحور الثاني:

الهدف الإستراتيجي الأول:

حماية وتحسين نوعية الهواء

المحور الأول: تلوث الهواء نتيجة العوامل الطبيعية

أهداف برنامج الغبار

1

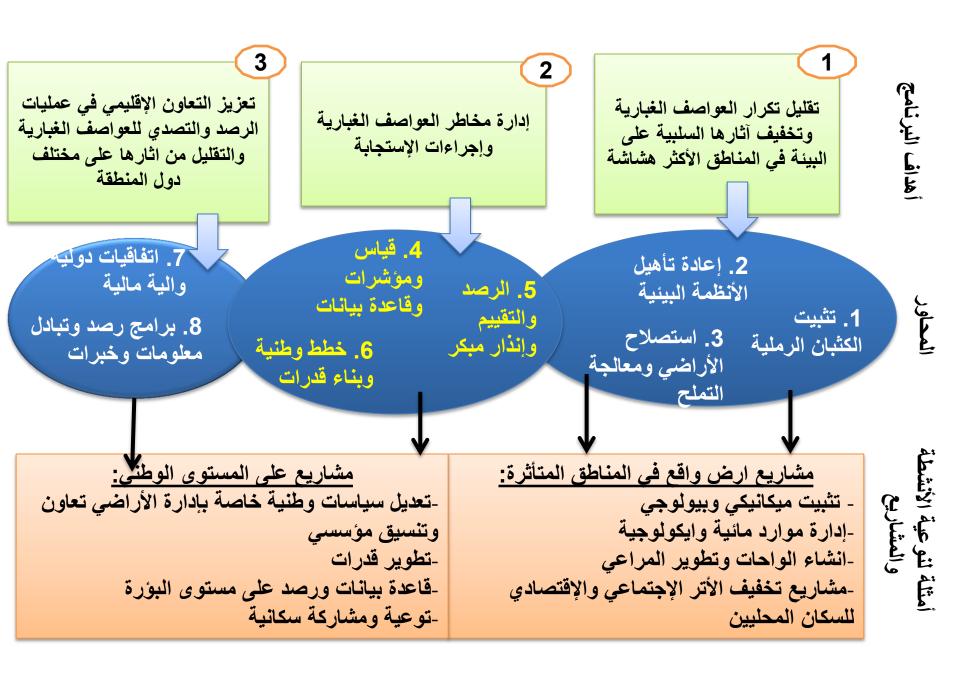
تقليل تكرار العواصف الغبارية وتخفيف آثارها السلبية على البيئة في المناطق الأكثر هشاشة

2

آدارة مخاطر العواصف الغبارية وإجراءات الإستجابة ؟؟ وخطة الطوارئ

3

تعزيز التعاون الإقليمي في عمليات التصدي للعواصف الغبارية والتقليل من اثارها على مختلف دول المنطقة بالتعاون مع المنظمات الدولية ذات العلاقة



Typology of Interventions (projects)

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		/	
لتدخلات في المناطق المتأثرة بالملوحة والتي تتواجد	نوعية التدخلات في المناطق ذات الغطاء	مناطق المصدرة	سة التدخلات المطلوبة في الم	نوع
القرب من احزمة الكثبان الرملية في السهل الرسوبي	النباتي المتدهور		ار	للغبا
1 تشخيص وتحديد أصناف ملوحة الترب وترسيم	• اعادة الغطاء النياتي الطبيعي الذي	المصدرة للغيار	زيادة مقاومة بيئة المناطق	•

- زيادة مقاومة بيئة المناطق المصدرة للغبار لمجابهة عناصر المناخ المسببة لإثارة الغبار
- الحد من الزراعة الديمية للمحاصيل الحقلية (الحبوب) في المناطق غير مضمونة الأمطار والحفاظ على الطابع البيئي لتلك المناطق (تقليل إجراءات الحراثة وتعرية التربة)
- تفعيل السياسات والقوانين والتشريعات التي تحد من مخاطر الرعي الجائر وقطع الأشجار والشجيرات وتأكيد الحفاظ على النبت الطبيعي وإعادة تأهيل النبت المتدهور
- اتباع اساليب الاستدامة لادارة التربة والمياه والتي ستساهم في الحفاظ على بناء الطبقة السطحية للتربة لاسيما في المناطق غير مضمونة الامطار منها حيث يتم اتباع نظام الزراعة بدون حراثة لتقليل تحطم بناء التربة واثارة سطحها لتقليل احتمالية تصاعد الغبار.
- إعادة تأهيل البنية التحتية للمؤسسات الخدمية و توفير التجهيزات الصحية والمعيشية بما و يتلاءم مع الحفاظ على صحة وحالة الأفراد في ظل العواصف الغبارية.

- اعادة الغطاء النباتي الطبيعي الذي السيحد من نشاط التعرية الريحية والاضرار للطبقة السطحية للتربة
- منع عملية الرعي الجائر والمبكر في الك المناطق المتدهورة
- توفير نقاط المياه لمربي الحيوانات 3. بشكل متجانس لتقليل الضغط على المراعي
 - توفير الاعلاف المركزة لمربي المركزة لمربي المياري المالي المالية الما
- اقامة المحميات الطبيعية في المناطق 5. المتدهورة للحفاظ على الاصول الوراثية
 - انشاء محطات المراعي الطبيعية بهدف توفير الخدمات بانواعها لمربي الحيوانات
 - انشاء مشاتل تخصصية لانتاج النباتات ذات التحمل العالي للجفاف وذات القيمة العلفية العالية بهدف زراعتها في تلك

- تشخيص وتحديد أصناف ملوحة الترب وترسيم خرائط رقمية بذلك ومتابعة دور نوعية المياه في تطور وتوسع الملوحة
- الاهتمام بعمليات الاستصلاح بدءاً بدراسات التربة والتحريات الهيدرولوجية وتنفيذ طرق الاستصلاح والاستزراع
- ضرورة استخدام التقنيات الحديثة في مجال الري والزراعة والمصادر الوراثية النباتية خاصة المقاومة للملوحة
- تاهيل شبكات الري والبزل وحسن الإدارة واعتماد مبدأ الاقتصاد المائي والنوعية في المشاريع القائمة حالياً في السهل الرسوبي
- تشخيص المعوقات والمحددات التي تواجه الزراعة الإروائية ومحاولة بناء سياسة للإدارة المستدامة لموارد المياه واستغلال أمثل لمورد التربة والمياه

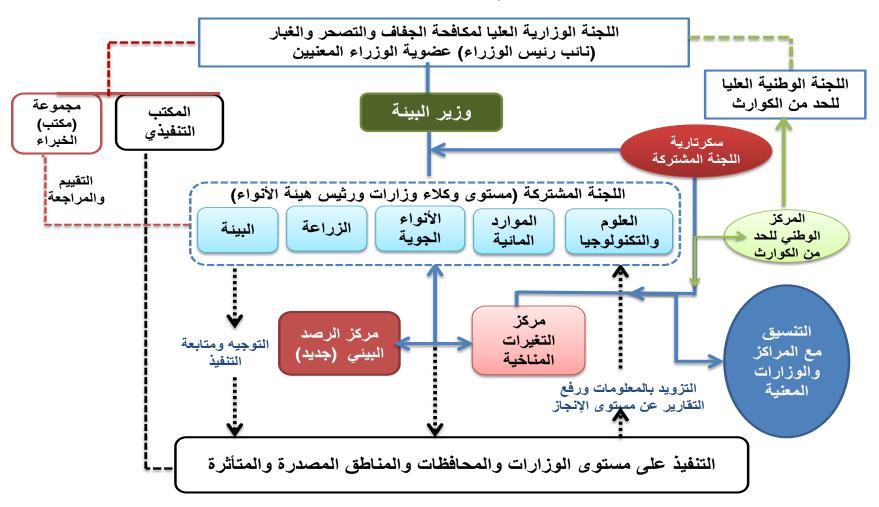
Project Sheets

•مشروع انشاء نظام وشبكة رصد وطنية للانذار المبكر

إسم المشروع:	انشاء نظام وشبكة رصد وطنية للانذار المبكر		
إسم الموقع	شامل لكل مناطق العراق وخاصة المناطق المتاثرة بظاهرة الغبار		
		خارطة الموقع	
نوع المشروع:	وقائي 🔽		
	🗌 علاجي		
	تأقلمي		
	√ مۇسسى		
	_استثمارى		
عمر المشروع	5 سنة		
-	مليون ونصف دولار		
	امریکی		
المشاكل التي سيعمل المشرو	وع على حلها	 عدم تغطية وشمولية بيانات الغبار لكامل مساحة العراق. 	
		- صعوبة تداول المعلومات للتعامل والتنبؤ مع حالات الغبار <u>.</u>	
		- ضعف الامكانيات وتطبيقات التكنولوجيا الحديثة في مجال رصد ظاهرة الغبار والتحسب لها.	
		 الارتقاء بمستويات العاملين في مجال رصد ظاهرة الغبار بما يتناسب والتطورات العلمية 	
		الحاصلة في هذا المجال.	
الأنشطة المقترحة		 نشر اجهزة جمع الغبار في مواقع منتخبة. 	
		 تعزيز محطات الانواء الجوية والزراعية الموجودة حالياً بأجهزة حديثة لجمع بيانات الغبار. 	
		- انشاء شبكة لتداول بيانات الغبار بين المراكز الحكومية المعنية.	
		- تنصيب برامجيات تخص التقييم والتنبؤ لحالات الغبار.	
		۔ تدریب کو ادر .	
النتائج المتوقعة		 تطوير كفاءة المؤسسات المعنية في رصد ظاهرة الغبار. 	
		 التوصل الى بيانات شاملة لمعلومات الغبار تمكن من التنبؤ والمواجهة لحالات الغبار. 	
		 توظیف النتائج بما یخدم مواجهة ظاهرة العواصف الغباریة وطنیاً و اقلیمیاً. 	
طرق التنفيذ		الأنواء الجوية بالتعاون مع مراكز الأبحاث ومنظمة الأرصاد العالمية	
التمويل		حكومي ودولي	
المستقدة من والمستقددون و	مالمؤسسات ذات العلاقة	السكان الدنيات المدنية ذات الدلاقة بمجال مكافحة ظاهدة الضابي بنيابة النقل الميئة الدامة الانمام	

Proposed institutional structure for Iraq Programme

الإطار المؤسسي لمكافحة الجفاف والتصحر والغبار



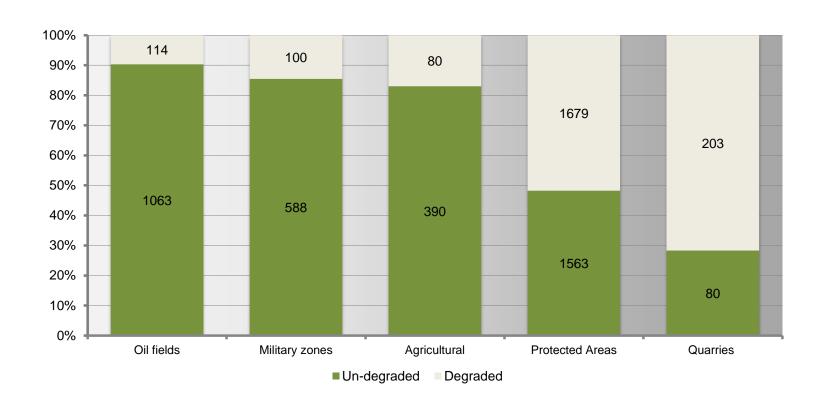


Example 2 – National Action Programme to Combat Desertification in the State of Kuwait

- Kuwait suffers most from dust storms (its location close to major dust sources)
- Dust storms identified as one of the top priority action in the NAP
- •Formulation of the NAP ongoing expected completion time is January 2016
- All relevant stakeholders participated with the leadership of the national committee to combat desertification (NCCD)
- Kuwait ha strong research base on dust storms



Status of Land & Land Use in Kuwait



Source: The National Committee for Combating Desertification

Constrains for Sustainable Land Management in Kuwait

Impaired
Sustainable
Land
Managmen
t (SLM)

Policy

Lack of a national land use plan

Current plans does not address SLM in a holistic & programmatic fashion

Desertification has little priority in the national development plans

Legislative

In adequate national land use plan &legislation

Lack of accompanying regulations and/or guidelines in many cases

Provisions granting oil operations high level of autonomy

Minimal implementation and enforcement

Institutional

Overlapping institutional Mandates

Duplication of responsibilities of organizations working in land management

Limited guidelines and specific directives for land management and rehabilitation in the EIA system

Absence of good governance principles

Priority Project on Dust Storms in Kuwait

- Component 1: Design and implementation of practices to reduce dust-related damages including to infrastructure and humans
- Component 2: Implementation of methods to reduce anthropogenic causes of local dust movement.
- Component 3: Regional collaboration to address the causal factors of SDS.

Example 3 on Regional Level

The Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms in West Asia (in collaboration with WMO)



The Regional Programme - Rationale

- 1. Alarming acceleration in the frequency and pervasiveness of SDS in the West Asia Region (and the additional concern that climate factors are going to be further compounding drivers of the SDS problem);
- 2. The transnational nature of the SDS problem (that requires a concerted, coordinated approach); and,
- 3. The lack, so far, of strategic, technically sound interventions in areas along the SDS corridor (national initiatives are patchy and perhaps not using the most appropriate technologies).
- 4. It will provide a catalyzing and harmonizing function that is critical for the data gathering and targeted interventions required to solve the regional SDS problems over the long-term. The Regional Programme will hopefully prevent the social and economic costs of sand and dust storms in the West Asia Region from escalating.



Programme Objectives

- ✓ To strengthen cooperation among countries of the region (and within countries)
- ✓ To enhance scientific and societal knowledge about the causes, sources, impacts, dynamics of and coping with the SDS
- ✓ To reduce sources and impacts of SDS through the design and support to the implementation of innovative and scalable solutions.
- ✓ To establish systems of coordinated and state-of-the art monitoring and early warning

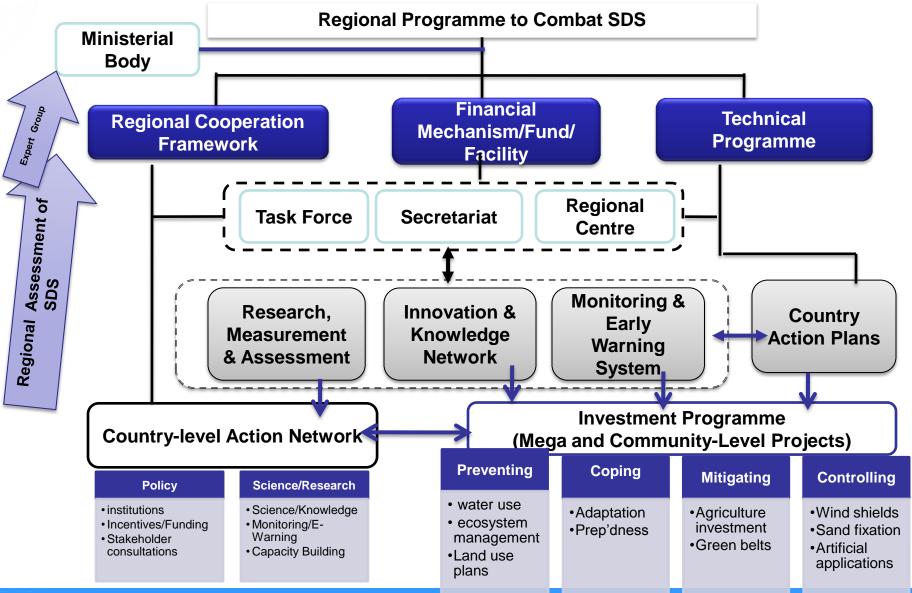
Step-Wise Approach

- 1. Understand & diagnose the problem
- 2. Propose and get Consensus on the Solutions
- 3. Implement The Agreed Actions
- 4. Monitor, Learn and Scale Up



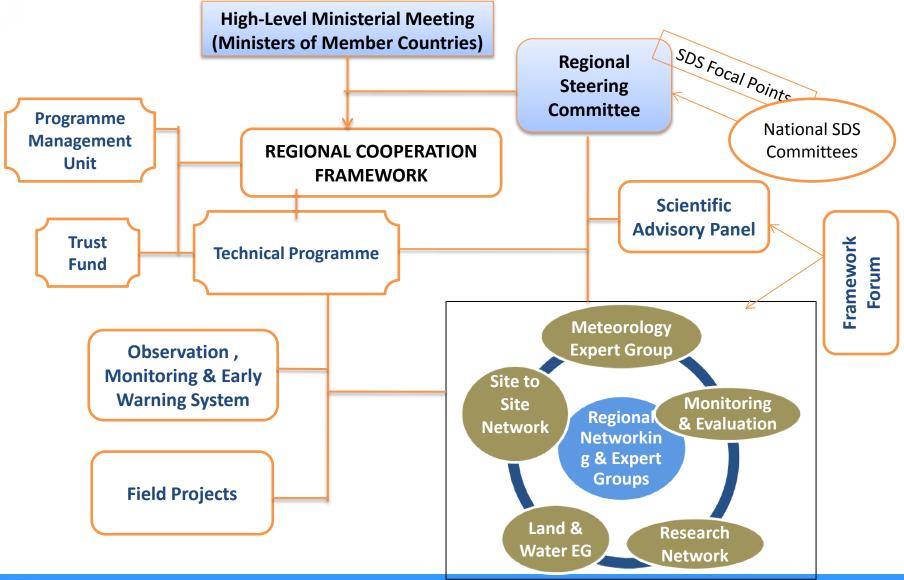
OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL PROGRAMME TO COMBAT SAND AND DUST STORMS

(strategic partnership for transformational and scaled-up actions to realize impacts)





SDS Programme Structure





Outcome of the technical Meeting, Abu Dhabi, 6-7 May 2013

- Hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Water and the National Centre for Meteorolog and Seismology of the UAE
- 2. Total of 52 participants attended
- 3. Agenda covered all technical aspects of the programme



4. Five major outcomes:

- Road map for the development of the Programme
- Agreement on the overall programme framework including technical bodies such as the Regional Steering Committee and the thematic expert groups
- Recommendations on the draft regional cooperation framework and regional trust fund
- Establishment of the Observation and Early Warning System
- Agreement on Listing the Hot Spots and Pilot Projects in those hot spots

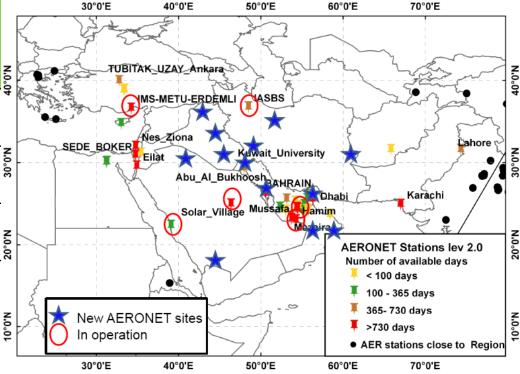


Countries Agreed to Proceed with

1. Work on Proposed Preliminary List of Hot Spots

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		(mitigation,	significance,	the	
		adaptation,	likely	national	
		controlling,	contribution	plan, or	
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2. Consider Enhancing Observation Network



3. Review the proposed TOR for Reg. Cooperation Framework & Trust Fund



Final Remarks

Sand and dust storms are complex and multi-dimensional, comprehensive national programmes are need in those affected countries to have sustainable efforts and make meaningful impacts

SDS should be addressed from its root causes in parallel to preparedness, coping & adapting

Not enough attention to early warning, preparedness and coping, especially in the health sector.

There are considerable knowledge gaps in all aspects of dust cycle in the region

Establishing networks at various levels will help bridge the knowledge gaps

Regional and inter-regional cooperation needed to address the transboundary nature of the problem



Thank You

