

GCC Narrative for USAID RCSA Activities Conducted in FY 2004

The FY 2004 Global Climate Change report for USAID/RCSA covers the old FY 1997-FY 2005 strategy, and the new FY 2004 – FY 2010 strategy.

The remaining GCC relevant activities from the old strategy are two transboundary natural resource management area (TBNRMA) activities under SO 12. Activities in the energy sector {Short-term Electricity Market (STEM)} under SO 2 came to an end early in FY 2004 and, as a result, are not included here.

Under the new strategy, activities under two SOs are relevant to GCC. The first is an environment program that aims at improving cooperation among riparian states for management of shared river basins under Strategic Objective (SO) 690-017. This program focuses on training and technical assistance to help collaborating institutions, especially international river basin organizations, to strengthen their capacity for analysis, planning, consensus-driven decision making and environmentally sound recommendations for allocation and management of water resources. The second is an agricultural program aiming at enhancing farm incomes through increased production and sales of farm products under the diversification of rural livelihoods in the region Strategic Objective (SO) 690-015. This program involves research and technology transfer for improved farm production and marketing support for increased sales of farm products.

I. Increased Participation in the UNFCCC

- A. Significant Policy Achievements: USAID/RCSA did not fund any activities that directly promoted increased participation in the UNFCCC.
- B. Increased Capacity to meet requirements of the UNFCCC: USAID/RCSA did not fund any activities that directly enhances capacity to meet requirements of the UNFCCC.

II. Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Land Use, Forestry Activities, and Natural Resource Management

A. Land Use/Forest Management Activities

The transboundary natural resources management programs funded by USAID/RCSA improved protected area management in the Great Limpopo and Four Corners areas. In addition to improving management practices for reserves in the governmental sector, the programs promoted sustainable natural resources management among community groups resident in areas adjacent to protected areas.

These parks together with community lands which are adjacent to the protected areas, cover approximately 139,700 sq. km, (Great Limpopo TBNRMA at 99,700 km² (9,970,000 hectares) and Four Corners area approximately 4,000,000 hectares. USAID funding of the two activities described above resulted in significant increase in the extent of land area under improved management. This will improve the status of land coverage and increase carbon sequestration.

Under SO 690-017: Improved Management of Selected River Basins, the initial award was signed to strengthen the capacity of the Okavango River Basin Commission to protect and manage natural resources and increase community involvement in the decision-making processes related to water use at the local level.

B. Significant Policy Achievements

None.

C. Public and Private Sector Funding Leveraged

No significant amounts were documented to report.

III. Reduced Green House gas Emissions from the Energy Sector, Industry and Urban Areas.

Nothing to report.

IV. Reduced Vulnerability to the Threats Posed by Climate Change

USAID/RCSA supported Okavango Sharing Water program aimed at promoting transboundary consensus in the management of the Okavango River and developed a design for the new strategic objective based in part on these consultations. This activity creates the foundation to develop information that is critical to river flow monitoring and could therefore provide for some early warning signals of potential natural disasters.

To provide more early warning signals for a potential food security disaster, RCSA supported an activity that aimed at informally monitoring cross-border trade in the region. Furthermore, USAID/RCSA supported activities aimed at reducing effects of drought through agriculture research on drought tolerant crops and the transfer of agricultural technologies such as drip irrigation.

V. “Human Interest Story” of GCC activity and Sustainable Development

None.