

Message from Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion – Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management CBD COP10, Nagoya, Japan

The Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion exemplifies the long-standing collaborative relationship among the three Rio conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification. A synergetic approach in implementing the mandates of the three Rio conventions is widely recognized by policy makers, civil society organizations, and other key actors. The Pavilion showcases the potential for synergy on one dimension – awareness raising, information sharing and outreach.

Indeed, a collaborative approach that leads to the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems and their associated services and that advances the implementation of sustainable land management will yield critically and urgently needed benefits on at least two fronts. First, vulnerable populations would be enabled to adapt and develop resilience to the negative effects of climate change. Second, the global community would receive multiple environmental, economic and social benefits, through the synergetic implementation of the three conventions such as human and food security.

Climate change and biodiversity loss contribute to the degradation of the world's drylands, which in turn drives biodiversity loss and exacerbates climate change. The three conventions must address these challenges in a coherent and comprehensive manner for the global community in order to achieve sustainable development, the long-term vision which framed their conception.

Today, three billion people live in poverty, one third of which are in the drylands. They deserve increased attention in the development of adaptation and resilience strategies. In the global efforts to conserve biological diversity, we cannot ignore habitats that are critical to the functioning of a global ecological system.

The UNCCD secretariat is committed to advancing the momentum generated in Nagoya through the Ecosystems Pavilion as we head for the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, in November 2010, the UNCCD COP10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea, to be held from 10-21 October 2011 and the Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.