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REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA ON SYNERGY
AMONG THE RIO CONVENTIONS AND OTHER
BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS IN
IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMMES OF
WORK ON DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS
AND AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

Gaborone, 13-17 September 2004
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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGY IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, THE CONVENTION ON
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES, THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROGRAMMES OF
WORK ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS AND
AGROBIODIVERSITY IN AFRICA**

A note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision VII/2 on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, in which the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions, *inter alia*:

(a) To further develop mechanisms for facilitating the synergistic implementation of these conventions, especially at the national level, including through organization and follow-up of national and regional synergy workshops (para 5 (c) iv)); and

(b) To facilitate at the national level the review of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to harmonize them with the national action programmes under the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the national adaptation plans of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with a focus on poverty alleviation and intersectoral integration (para 6).

2. In response to this decision, and in collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a regional workshop for Africa on synergy among the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions in implementing the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and on agricultural biodiversity is organized.

3. This paper explores, identifies and discusses the opportunities for promoting synergy in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, CMS and Ramsar conventions as well as the WHC in the context of the programme of work on biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biological diversity in Africa.

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THE CONVENTIONS AND THEIR OBJECTIVES

4. Prior to the Convention on Biological Diversity, there were other conventions already in force that address various aspects of biodiversity that are relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These include the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention (WHC). The objectives of these conventions are summarized in Table 1. Table 1 also shows the number of African parties to these conventions.

Table 1. Summary of Objectives of Different Conventions

Convention	Objective(s)	Number of African contracting parties
CBD www.biodiv.org/	Conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources.	51 as of June 04
CITES www.cites.org/	Trade in species and specimens of wild plants and animals does not threaten the survival of the same species.	51 as of June 04
CMS www.cms.int/	Conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.	14 as of 1 June 04
Ramsar www.ramsar.org	Conservation and wise use of wetland ecosystems for biodiversity as well as human benefit	35 as of 4 June 04
WHC www.whc.unesco.org	Identify and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage for all humanity	46 as of 1 May 04

5. Commonalities in the objectives and provisions of biodiversity related conventions are shown in Table 2. All of the conventions under discussion deal with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that requires collaborative management approaches at national, regional and international scales. It is the realization of these commonalities that led the seventh Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD to request the Executive Secretary of the Convention to “develop mechanisms for facilitating the synergistic implementation of CBD with other Rio Conventions and biodiversity related conventions especially at national level” in a decision specific to the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands (Decision VII/2).

Table 2. Indicative list of complementary provisions in the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity conventions.

	CBD	Ramsar	CMS	CITES	World Heritage
National inventories		Rec 1.5, Res VIII/6	Art 3		Art 3
Identification and monitoring	Art 7	Art 3.2	Art 5		Art 4 & 5
National & regional action plans	Art 6(a),(b)	Art 3.1		AP 1.8	Art 5 (a)
Develop protected areas	Art 8	Art 4	Art 2.3 (b)		Art 5 (b)
Legislation	Art 8(k)	Res VII/7	Art 7	Art 14	Art 5 (d)
Research	Art 12(b)	Art 4.3	Art 2.3 (a)	AP 2.4	Art 5 (c) (e)
Public education	Art 13	Res VIII/31	Art 5.5 (n)	AP 3.4	Art 27
Environmental impact assessment	Art 14	Res VIII/8	Res 7.2		
Clearinghouse for technical information	Art 18	Res VII/8 (23)			
COP/Assess implementation	Art 23	Art 6	Art 7	Art 11	Art 29*
Exchange information	Art 17	Art 4.3	Art 5.5 (d) (l)	AP 1.1.3	
Training	Art 12(a)	Art 4.5		AP 1.3	Art 5 (e)
Reports (to COP)	Art 26	Res VIII/8	Art 7	Art 8.7	Art 29
Indigenous knowledge	Art 8(j)	Rec 6.3 (15)			
Cooperation with other conventions/bodies	Art 5	Res VII/3 & VII/4	Res 7.9	AP 5.1 & 5.2	Art 13.7
Climate change	Dec VII/15	Res VIII/3			
Conservation	Art 1	Art 3 and 4	Art 2.3 (c)		Art 5
Sustainable use	Art 1	Art 3		AP 1.1	
Sharing of benefits ?	Art 1				
Incentives measures	Art 11	Res VIII/23			
Invasive alien species	Art 8 (h)	Res VIII/18			
Agriculture	Dec I/9, VII/3	Res VIII/34			

A. The Convention on Biological Diversity and its programmes of work

1. The programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

6. The programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands of the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in 2000 at its fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Nairobi. The key activities under this work programme were identified as: (1) assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity; (2) identifying areas of particular value and /or under threat; (3) developing indicators of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; (4) building knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity; (5) identification of local and global benefits derived from biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands; (6) identification and dissemination of best management practices, (7) promotion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; (8) promotion of responsible resource management; and, (9) support to sustainable livelihoods. The first six activities were grouped as assessments while the last three activities were classified as targeted actions or responses.

2. The programme of work on agricultural biological diversity

7. The programme of work on agricultural biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in decision III/11 during the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Buenos Aires. The programme of work was further elaborated in decision V/5. The programme focuses on (i) impacts of biodiversity of agriculture and (ii) impacts of agriculture on biodiversity. The specific objectives of the programme are:

- (a) To promote the positive effects and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biological diversity and their interface with other ecosystems;
- (b) To promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture; and
- (c) To promote the fair equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

8. The programme is built on four programme elements, each with a specific operational objective:

- (a) *Assessments* – to provide a comprehensive analysis of status and trends of the world's agricultural biodiversity and their underlying causes as well as local knowledge of its management;
- (b) *Adaptive management* - to identify management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and capacity to sustain livelihoods by expanding knowledge, understanding and awareness of the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity;
- (c) *Capacity building* – to strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainably agricultural biodiversity so as to increase their benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action; and
- (d) *Mainstreaming* - to support the development of national plans and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

B. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

9. The primary objective of the Ramsar Convention is the conservation and wise use of wetland ecosystems for biodiversity protection as well as human benefit. The Convention is implemented through strategic plans and work plans. The current Strategic Plan (2003-2008) has the following five general objectives: (1) the wise use of wetlands; (2) the conservation of wetlands of international importance; (3) international cooperation; (4) improvement of implementation capacity; and (5) recruitment of membership to the convention.

10. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has entered into numerous memoranda of understanding and cooperation with the other conventions, various United Nations institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Resolution VIII.5 of the eighth

Conference of the Parties of the convention held in Valencia, Spain in 2002 recognizes the need for development of “Partnerships and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions”.

11. In addition to these memoranda, the Ramsar Convention has initiated a process of formulating joint work plans with conventions and other institutions. Some of the institutions and conventions with which the convention has entered into these agreements are the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD, CMS, WHC, UNCTAD, UNEP, IUCN, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

12. The Joint Work Programme between Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity has initiated the Ramsar-CBD River Basin Initiative (RBI). The RBI is designed to support Parties in their implementation of decision IV/4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the programme of work on inland waters biological diversity and Ramsar Resolution VII.18 on Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management. It promotes and supports the integrated management of wetlands, biological diversity and river basins worldwide and operates through cross-sectoral partnerships at local, country and international scales. The sustainable and integrated management of wetlands and river basins can contribute to achieving the objectives of the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid land biodiversity as well as agro-biodiversity.

13. Resolution VIII.1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of Wetlands, and the technical background report accompanying these guidelines, are relevant to the issue of managing water abstractions for agricultural purposes.

14. For details on steps taken by Ramsar to encourage focal points to build close relationships with counterparts for the other conventions at the national level see: http://www.ramsar.org/about_infopack_10e.htm

1. CITES

15. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna Flora (CITES) has the primary objective of ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The programmes of CITES are focussed on monitoring the status of species, especially those that are traded with the aim of exerting controls on the trade in those species threatened with over-exploitation. The controls are based on the levels of threat to the particular species. Unlike the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar, CITES does not work through programmes of work. Instead, species are placed in one of three lists according to the degree of protection they need. The species covered by CITES are found in all ecosystems including dry and sub-humid lands and are representative of all types including those that relate to agro-biodiversity. The work of CITES contributes to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

16. Participants to a workshop on Promoting CITES-CBD Cooperation and Synergy (Isle of Vilm, April 2004) made concrete proposals on some cross-cutting mechanisms identified during the workshop. They included proposals on overlapping issues of sustainable use of wildlife resources, access and benefit sharing, and linking site-based, thematic and species-based approaches to achieving biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Other areas of possible collaboration were discussed including invasive alien species, ecosystem approach, Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, taxonomy, incentives for research and monitoring, and harmonization of reporting.

For a complete list of proposals and proceedings of the workshop see: <http://www.bfn.de/09/skript116.pdf>

2. CMS

17. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their range, including dry and sub-humid lands. Member countries enter into either legally binding agreements or less formal instruments such as Memoranda of Understanding for the conservation and protection of specific species.

18. One of the CMS programmes, for example, is the “African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Flyways” funded by the GEF. It includes 14 African countries. Unfortunately, the majority of African countries are not party to the CMS. This project aims to enhance and coordinate catalytic strategic measures to conserve a network of critical areas that migratory waterbirds depend upon to complete their annual cycle (www.cms.int/species/aew_bkrd.htm). Many of these critical wetlands are located within dry and sub-humid lands of Africa. This project’s activities are complementary with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention, objectives that could be integrated and applied to maximize the project’s outcomes.

3. *WHC*

19. The mission of the World Heritage Convention (WHC) is to promote the identification, protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage around the world. Cultural heritage includes: “monuments, groups of buildings or sites of historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value”. Natural heritage on the other hand is “outstanding physical, biological, and geological features and habitats of threatened plants or animal species and areas of value on scientific or aesthetic grounds or from the point of view of conservation”.

20. There is in particular scope for cooperation between WHC protection of natural heritage, the Ramsar Convention and the programme of work on protected areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

21. Each of the above conventions is concerned with the conservation and management of particular components or habitats of biodiversity. Although a work programme for dry and sub-humid lands, or for agro-biodiversity, has been clearly defined only for the Convention on Biological Diversity, those programmes cover the objectives of the other conventions. Synergistic implementation of programmes between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the other conventions on drylands is therefore possible and desirable.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGY (LINKAGES BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CITES, RAMSAR, CMS, WHC)

22. Opportunities for synergy among the convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity-related conventions in the implementation of programmes are identifiable at the following levels:

- (a) International level – through Conventions, institutions and processes, including secretariats;
- (b) Regional level;
- (c) National level;
- (d) Local/programme level.

A. Opportunities at convention level

23. There has always been recognition among the various institutions that oversee the implementation of conventions that there is a need to work across the boundaries of these instruments as a way of promoting holistic approaches to the development process. There is general acknowledgement of the complex physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors that lie at the root of the issues that they deal with. The secretariats of each of the conventions recognize the need for multiple approaches to these issues as will be illustrated later.

24. Each of the conventions recognizes the need for the following:

- (a) Research, information exchanges, training and institutional development as ways of increasing knowledge about environment and development;
- (b) Capacity development for the creation of domestic skills in member countries;
- (c) Working with Governments as it is Governments that create the necessary legal and policy environments for action on the ground;
- (d) Involving civil society organizations in the implementation of activities;
- (e) The creation of an international body of scientific experts to provide technical advice under each convention e.g. the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the Ramsar Convention and the various specialist groups for CITES.

25. These commonalities provide opportunities for synergy in programme design and implementation.

26. Joint work planning is a necessary precursor to joint implementation in the field. A survey of the websites of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, CITES, WHC and CMS shows that there are many ongoing efforts to achieve synergy between and among these conventions.

27. Examples of Joint Work Programmes involving the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions are given at www.biodiv.org/convention/partners-workprogramme.asp. The Ramsar Convention in particular has very comprehensive links with other conventions and organizations. www.ramsar.org/links_index.html links to other conventions, while www.ramsar.org/index_mou.htm links to Memoranda of Understanding and joint work between Ramsar and UNCBD, CMS, WHC and a host of other organizations. The joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar is based on the fact that Ramsar is specialized on wetlands and is the lead partner for the Convention on Biological Diversity on wetlands. Similarly, CITES is expected to lead the aspects of the work Convention on Biological Diversity, that are relevant, affect or are affected by, trade in endangered wildlife species. The programmes of work of these conventions address specific components of the programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the extent that their action plans complement work programmes under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

28. Another opportunity for synergy is in the area of **information-sharing** through which experiences are shared across convention boundaries. At www.biodiv.org/convention/partners-websites.asp the Convention on Biological Diversity links with CITES, CMS, WHC and Ramsar on a “Joint Web Site of the Biodiversity conventions”. This joint website is also featured on the websites of the CITES, WHC, CMS and Ramsar conventions. The Convention on Biological Diversity also lists Memoranda of Cooperation or Memoranda of Understanding that have been entered into with other organizations including CITES, CMS and Ramsar at www.biodiv.org/convention/partners-memoranda.asp.

29. These collaborative arrangements that have already been put in place provide opportunities for information sharing and dissemination of experiences that foster synergies at the managerial level of the conventions. These opportunities can and should be used to enhance effective programme implementation at the local level.

B. Opportunities at the regional level

30. All African countries are members of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and usually a number of sub-regional organizations. Primary among these are the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS); East African Commission (EAC), Commercial Market of East and Southern Africa (COMMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The membership of these continental and sub-continental bodies entails commitments to a variety of obligations for collaborative implementation of programmes of action, including the conservation of environmental resources. The same countries that are members of these regional and sub-regional bodies are also parties to the various international conventions.

31. The obligations entailed by these regional initiatives and bodies therefore provide opportunities for synergistic implementation of the provisions of the conventions within the context of continental and sub-regional programmes of action. An example of this is the NEPAD Programme of Action under which AU member states are expected to implement an Environmental Initiative. Components of this initiative relate very closely to the programmes of work Convention on Biological Diversity on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity and agro-biodiversity. The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) is a comprehensive framework for development in the region. The programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and those under the biodiversity-related conventions can also be developed under this plan. Member countries of these entities need to ensure that the provisions of the other biodiversity-related conventions are incorporated in the planning of activities to be implemented on the ground.

C. Opportunities at national level

32. The following areas of synergy between the Rio conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, CCD and UNFCCC) have been identified in the note by the Executive Secretary on lessons learned from international initiatives on Synergie in implementation of the three Rio Conventions (UNEP/CBD/ WS-Syn.Afr/1/3):

- (a) Institutional arrangements;
- (b) Information systems and reporting;
- (c) Planning;
- (d) Policy formulation;
- (e) Capacity building;
- (f) Financing.

33. All of the above also apply to synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS, CITES, the Ramsar Convention and WHC.

34. In order to enhance synergistic implementation, joint planning by the institutions responsible for the conventions is obviously desirable. For example, in Rwanda, the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Natural Resources (MINITERE) is responsible for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CMS and the Ramsar Convention. One would expect that this would help the country design programmes that synergistically implement the

components of the convention work programmes that are common to these conventions in order to maximize benefits from using the same human and financial resources, as well enabling the application of the programmes to the same physical sites.

35. An example illustrating how Botswana integrated conventions into its national plan is provided in annex I.

36. Some African countries have groups of experts called “reference group” or steering committees set up to advance the purposes of some of the conventions and assist focal points in meeting the obligations under the convention. Where reference groups exist for the different conventions, there are varying degrees of duplication in the membership of such reference groups.

37. A number of African countries have set up national environment coordinating agencies that have a diverse range of functions. Good examples of these are found in Botswana, Lesotho and Zambia where the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency (NCSA), the National Environment Secretariat (NES) and the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ) respectively, operate as national clearing-houses for environmental issues. These could become central institutions for promoting and governing synergy in the implementation of the various conventions. However, these institutions are more able to deal with biodiversity in general and tend to be less equipped or skilled to deal with agricultural biological diversity.

D. Opportunities at local/programme level

38. Most African countries have adopted National Conservation Strategies and National Environmental Action Plans, including district level plans. These are all-encompassing plans cutting across the whole spectrum of environmental concerns. A good example of a national programme that was designed to incorporate the provisions of the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on dry and sub-humid lands and agro-biodiversity into national and local level development planning is the District Environmental Action Planning (DEAP) process implemented in Zimbabwe as a way of turning the National Conservation Strategy into an active development plan. DEAP was intended to develop a national framework for strategic planning that integrates environmental planning with the overall development planning process. It was based on the need for empowering local communities and local authorities to understand the relationship between their well-being as well as that of their surrounding ecosystems, and with that understanding, to develop their own locally relevant strategies to improve both. A conscious decision was taken to ensure that the Convention on Biological Diversity would be implemented within the DEAP framework. Components of the provisions of CITES and WHC, to which the country is signatory, were also to be covered under this programme. The Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) provided a vehicle for incorporating the provisions of CITES and WHC into the DEAP as it promoted the participation of community groups in the management of endangered wildlife species at the same time as they protected environmental goods that were related to their culture.

39. The example of DEAP highlighted above was replicated in other countries where National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs) were developed to inform national development planning. These processes provide useful opportunities for developing synergy in implementing conventions at the national and local levels.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Conclusions

(a) There are numerous opportunities for synergy among the Convention on Biological Diversity and the biodiversity related conventions. These are at the convention level, the regional level, through national focal institutions, national development planning processes, and implementation of national development plans.

(b) Many initiatives have been taken at the Convention level, including many Memoranda of Understanding and Memoranda of Cooperation, but much effort and subsequent planning remain to be achieved at the national level.

2. *Recommendations*

40. In order to improve synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the other biodiversity-related conventions, the following measures are recommended at the national level:

(a) Introduce institutional reforms (where necessary) that allow for increased synergy and cross-sectoral design and implementation of programmes. This would eliminate the current situation where, in some countries, some conventions are represented by individuals that promote purely sectoral programmes;

(b) Improve capacities of inter-sectoral institutions such the NCSA (Botswana), NES (Lesotho) and ECZ (Zambia) to enable them to effectively lead in crosscutting environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation under the dry and sub-humid lands and agro-biodiversity programmes of work;

(c) Where necessary, promote the provision of technical advice through the various technical and advisory committees, at secretariat level if appropriate, for the development of capacity for the implementation of joint programmes;

(d) Integrate the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity related conventions into overall national and local level planning processes. The development of national strategies and action plans already initiated in a number of countries provides a useful starting point for this;

(e) Improve arrangements for collaborative reporting and information dissemination on activities emanating from the various conventions. This would minimize the burdens currently carried by some countries through the requirement for reporting under each convention. Further, approaches to environmental reporting would be holistic as opposed to current practice where these are sectoral; and

(f) Encourage donors to fund projects that promote synergy between and among the conventions.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- (a) Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2nd edition.
- (b) Report of the IUCN Task Force on Arid and Semi-arid Lands
- (c) 9th edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English
- (d) www.biodiv.org
- (e) J. Prescott Allen (1997). *Synergy among Rio conventions* – report on the experts meeting held in Israel in March 1997.
- (f) Synergy in implementing the Rio conventions in West Africa.
- (g) National workshops in synergy in implementing Rio conventions in Uganda, Tanzania and Namibia.

Annex I

BOTSWANA EXAMPLE

41. One way to promote synergy is for the Convention on Biological Diversity to identify components of the work programmes that can be best implemented together with one or more of these conventions. Most African countries have completed their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The NBSAP for Botswana includes activities that would contribute to the dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biological diversity work programmes.

42. Botswana is virtually all dry or sub-humid to the extent that the NBSAP for Botswana mirrors the dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This NBSAP was formulated with 11 strategic objectives:

- (a) Better understanding of biodiversity and ecological processes;
- (b) Long-term conservation and management of Botswana's biological diversity and genetic resources;
- (c) Efficient and sustainable utilization of all components of biodiversity in Botswana through appropriate land and resource use practices and management;
- (d) An institutional environment, including human capacity, conducive to effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and management;
- (e) Coping with environmental change and threats to biodiversity;
- (f) Appropriate valuation/appreciation of biological diversity, and raised public awareness on the role of biodiversity in sustainable development and public participation in biodiversity related activities and decision making;
- (g) Fair access to biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources;
- (h) Safe industrial and technological development and other services based on national biodiversity resources for future prosperity;
- (i) Improved availability and access to biodiversity data and information, and promotion of exchange of information;
- (j) Recognition of Botswana's international and regional role with regards to biodiversity; and,
- (k) Implementation of this Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

43. A number of strategic targets have been identified for each strategic objective and there are a number of activities listed that would lead to achieving the strategic targets and, ultimately, the strategic objectives.

44. Strategic Targets under Strategic Objective 3 address the concerns of the programmes on biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biological diversity. The strategic targets under this strategic objective are:

- (a) Biodiversity consideration and essential ecological processes adequately incorporated into national land use and resource planning processes;
- (b) Identification and promotion of biodiversity compatible land and resource uses, including tourism;
- (c) Increased levels of community participation and use of indigenous knowledge systems in land use and sustainable management processes;
- (d) Sustainable use of fuel wood and forest resources;
- (e) Rangeland/dryland biodiversity maintained through promotion of sustainable use of natural rangelands for economic growth and ecological balance;
- (f) Sustainable use of wetlands ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological processes;

- (g) Sustainable use of wildlife, wild plants and other biological resources;
- (h) Sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity; and,
- (i) Sustainable and efficient use and trade in veldt products for maximum economic and livelihoods benefits.

45. Effective implementation of this national action plan offers opportunities for synergy among the different conventions. The key institution responsible for the NBSAP is the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency (NCSA) in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism. The agency is the focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar, while CITES is coordinated by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in the same ministry.

46. It is expected that the ministry would take into account the specific objectives of the different conventions and mobilize human and financial resources for synergistic implementation of the convention work plans within the context of the NBSAP, which itself was designed within the context of the National Development Plan 9 (NDP9). This approach is thus recommended for all countries.
