



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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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

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS AND AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The need for synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) as well as the other biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Ramsar Convention and World Heritage) has been recognized by the parties to the conventions. Numerous decisions of the conferences of the parties and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies have expressed the parties' concern to realize and utilize synergy among multilateral environmental agreements at all levels. The documents on opportunities for synergy in implementing the three Rio conventions and the decisions of their conference of the parties (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/2), on lessons learned from international initiatives on synergy in implementation of the three Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/3), as well as the status report on activities promoting synergies and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in particular biodiversity-related conventions, and related mechanisms (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/INF/1), and the document on opportunities for synergy in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity related conventions (i.e., CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention and WHC) in the context of the programmes of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and agrobiodiversity (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/INF/3) provide background information on these decisions and recommendations and how the conventions, and their secretariats, have responded in terms of general collaboration on synergies between the multilateral environmental agreements.

* UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/1.

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2. The present document focuses on projects and how they have or could take advantage of synergy between multilateral environmental agreements in the framework of the programmes of work on Biological Diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biological diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, this document will explore how the two programmes of work can contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa (NEPAD). Five case-studies of ongoing or planned projects will be presented, identifying opportunities and challenges for further synergy. Stemming from the analysis of projects, recommendations are made concerning the design and planning of future synergy projects and initiatives.

II. WHY SYNERGY?

3. The word “synergy” is defined as “interaction or cooperation of two or more agents, organizations etc. to produce a new or enhanced effect compared to their separate effects” (9th edition of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*).

4. Synergy in implementing conventions is expected to benefit countries by:

- (a) Reducing actual and potential conflicts between and among conventions;
- (b) Improving cost effectiveness by achieving the same or greater results with fewer human and/or financial resources especially at national and local levels;
- (c) Avoiding duplication of costs and efforts that would be incurred through individual implementation of each convention especially at the national and local level;
- (d) Reducing the burden on local communities and national institutions that are often required to implement the different conventions through joint implementation;
- (e) Reducing the burden on reporting institutions, some of whom have to report on more than one convention, by joint reporting to the Conferences of Parties (often comprising the same States);
- (f) Synergy in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions is likely to lead to better achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially goal 7 (box 1); and
- (g) Synergy in implementing the conventions can also be expected to contribute towards achieving the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (box 2).

III. THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

5. The programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands was adopted in 2000 at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Nairobi, (decision V/23). ^{1/} Key activities under this work programme were identified as:

- (a) The assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity;
- (b) Identifying areas of particular value and /or under threat;
- (c) Indicators of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity;
- (d) Building knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity;
- (e) Identification of local and global benefits derived from biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands;
- (f) Identification and dissemination of best management practices,
- (g) Promotion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;

^{1/} <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?lg=0&dec=V/23>.

- (h) Promotion of responsible resource management;
- (i) Support to sustainable livelihoods.

The first six activities were grouped as assessments while the last three activities were classified as targeted actions or responses.

6. A number of sub-activities under the responses include:
- (a) The use and the establishment of additional protected areas;
 - (b) Rehabilitation and restoration of the biodiversity of degraded areas;
 - (c) Management of invasive alien species;
 - (d) Sustainable management of production systems, as well as water resources;
 - (e) Complementary *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures;
 - (f) Economic valuation of biodiversity resources;
 - (g) Promotion of adaptive technologies that enhance productivity in dry and sub-humid lands;
 - (h) Sustainable use and husbandry of plant and animal biomass;
 - (i) Promotion of training, education and public awareness;
 - (j) Information exchange;
 - (k) Research and development programmes;
 - (l) Cooperation with other environment-related conventions.

IV. THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

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

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(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.

9. Several of the activities under this programme of work clearly call for or are meant to lead to synergy with other biodiversity conservation efforts, e.g., activity 4.1 (support the institutional framework and policy planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and plans for biological diversity)

V. SYNERGY BETWEEN THE TWO PROGRAMMES OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

10. With regard to Africa, the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and that on agricultural biological diversity are closely interrelated. While agriculture is the main source of livelihood for most rural communities, including being a major economic activity and export sector, in all African countries agriculture is also seen of as a major threat to biodiversity. The livelihood of rural communities in dry and sub-humid lands is dependent on biodiversity, and especially agro-biodiversity. For example, local communities that clear land for agriculture but also need continued access to wild plants for food, fibre and medicines.

11. Close analysis of the objectives, activities and anticipated outputs of these two programmes shows much scope for mutual benefits from synergistic implementation, especially at the local level. Many of the activities prescribed by the programmes of work are very similar although the programme of work on agrobiodiversity tends to be more specific. Projects can be designed that incorporate complementary activities from both programmes of work. For instance, capacity-building of farmers, indigenous and local communities to sustainably manage biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) in order to increase its benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action for biodiversity, can be carried out jointly thus maximizing the outcome of the activity. Thus, sustainable use of agro-biodiversity and sustainable agriculture are inter-dependent.

12. Other activities common to both programmes of work, where impacts can be maximized through joint implementation, include the promotion of adaptive technologies that enhance (i) productivity, and (ii) capacity to sustain livelihoods and biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. Activities geared towards sustaining and improving the livelihoods of local people are central parts of both programmes of work.

VI. SYNERGY BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONS, MDGS AND NEPAD

13. Degradation and loss of biodiversity have been recognized to have a particularly negative impact on the livelihoods of the poor (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1). Therefore, sustaining biodiversity is central to any comprehensive strategy for poverty reduction. In addition, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can make important contributions to food security, health and reducing the vulnerability of the poor to environmental stress, all of which contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Box 1. *The Millennium Development Goals*

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target for 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target for 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Targets for 2005 and 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target for 2015: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target for 2015: Reduce by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target for 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Targets:

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.

Source: UNDP web site: www.undp.org/mdg/

14. The objectives of the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biological diversity are also mutually supportive with those of the NEPAD (Box 2). The specific objectives of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan for the First Decade of the 21st Century include:

- Promote sustainable use of African natural resources;
- Support implementation of global and regional environmental conventions;
- Promote integration of environmental considerations into poverty reduction strategies;
- Foster regional and sub-regional cooperation to address environmental challenges.

15. Particularly the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment includes programme areas which overlap with the MEAs. They include:

- Combating land degradation, drought and desertification;
- Conserving Africa's wetlands;
- Preventing, control and management of invasive alien species;
- Combating climate change in Africa.

Box 2. NEPAD Objectives

- (a) To eradicate poverty
- (b) To place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development.
- (c) To halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy.
- (d) To accelerate the empowerment of women.

Source: UNDP web site: www.nepad.org/inbrief.html

16. The linkage between loss of biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity, and the integrity of livelihoods is compelling in dry and sub-humid lands. Examples of activities under the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity and agrobiodiversity that contribute to achieving the MDGs and the NEPAD objectives and possible areas of applicability are outlined below.

A. Programme of work on agrobiodiversity

17. Identification of cost-effective practices and technologies, and related policy and incentive measures that enhance the positive and mitigate the negative impacts on agricultural biodiversity (programme of work, element 2) such as:

- (a) Intensification of agriculture may have potential detrimental impacts on the benefits derived from the goods and services natural ecosystems provide,
- (b) Unsustainable water consumption for irrigation can jeopardize economic and social development objectives (i.e. agricultural production and human health), and
- (c) Soil erosion and pollution (pesticides, fungicides and herbicides) have potential negative impacts on agricultural productivity

B. Programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands

18. Activities that (a) protect and sustain biodiversity crucial for a healthy environment and (b) contribute to sustainable livelihoods (element B):

- Income diversification activities to alleviate pressure on certain biological resources (eco-tourism, commercialization of medicinal plants).

19. Strengthening of local institutions for land tenure, resource management and governance per se, as well as conflict resolution (activity 8)

- Community-based management of local resources and technology may contribute to reduce conflict and ensure equitable sharing of resources, thereby alleviating poverty.

20. The overlap between the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the MDGs, in the context of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agrobiodiversity highlights the importance of incorporating the programmes of work not only into national development plans but also into sector development projects and initiatives together with relevant considerations for the MDGs and NEPAD.

VII. PROJECT CASE-STUDIES

21. A few ongoing or planned projects and programmes have been briefly analysed to explore the opportunities and challenges for synergy within the framework of the programmes of work.

Case-Study 1: BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTICIPATORY REHABILITATION OF THE DEGRADED LANDS OF THE ARID AND SEMI-ARID TRANSBOUNDARY AREAS OF MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL

A. Background

22. The project addresses the root causes of biodiversity loss from land degradation in the five critical, upland and floodplain ecosystems of a 60,000 km² portion of the trans-border Senegal River Valley in Senegal and Mauritania.

B. Project summary

23. The project will improve techniques for rehabilitating the natural ecosystems of these degraded lands. It will develop and apply participatory resource management systems, especially those that generate resource-based income and economic incentives for sustainable management. Fire prevention and suppression of fire-sensitive ecosystems will be strengthened. Measures to decrease pressures on the forest and range resources will be undertaken. Ecosystem restoration and improved fire control will have the double benefit of enhancing carbon sinks. Institutional capacity will be strengthened at all levels from the village to the cross-national. The project was funded by GEF and the executing agency was the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), while the implementing agencies are the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development, Mauritania, and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Protection, Senegal.

24. The identified constraints that the project will address are the following:

- (a) Land and resource tenure systems that do not adequately empower local populations to control and manage their lands and resources;
- (b) Lack of proven, sustainable management systems for range, forest and wildlife resources;
- (c) Lack of economic incentives that link income generation to the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources;
- (d) Lack of identified alternatives to the urban charcoal supply presently based on the harvest of drought-killed trees;
- (e) Lack of effective fire prevention and suppression systems;
- (f) The lack of effective, cross-border collaboration in addressing common problems;
- (g) Recent, on-going development of large-scale irrigated agriculture programmes;
- (h) Land clearing for marginal, rainfed agriculture.

25. Measures to alleviate identified constraints to the conservation and sustainable management of the biodiversity include:

- (a) Rehabilitation and management of degraded ecosystems;
- (b) Reduction of resource pressures;
- (c) Reduction of wildfires;
- (d) Development of sustainable natural resource-based revenues.

26. The goal is to improve livelihoods while restoring biodiversity, enhancing soil productivity and assisting in carbon sequestration on a regional scale.

C. Opportunities for synergy

1. Links to other conventions

27. The project addresses the basic objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD and UNFCCC. It is specific to the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands because the area of the project takes place in a semi-arid area and aims to rehabilitate natural ecosystems, fire prevention, and sustaining livelihoods amongst others. The programme of work on agrobiodiversity is also addressed by the project as it aims to mitigate negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity.

2. Links to the MDGs and NEPAD

28. The initiatives undertaken by both countries emphasize national priority objectives, concurrent with the MDGs and NEPAD, such as: food security; the battle against poverty; land and environmental degradation; the protection of crops against soil degradation; the reduction of pressures on the forestry resource; the empowerment and participation of local people; the enhancement of the conservation of natural resources for sustainable economic and social development; the conservation and sustainable utilisation of fuelwood resources by sound management.

3. Challenges

29. Integrated water management as a key measure to alleviate the identified constraints.

30. Considering the project takes place in the Senegal River basin, it should integrate some of Ramsar's objectives as well as identify opportunities to contribute to the objectives of CITES and CMS.

4. Lessons learned

31. Real progress has been made using participatory approaches and interventions. In most cases, the costs of the various environmental protection activities have gradually diminished as local people's participation has increased.

32. The implementation of environmental protection measures, which are linked to reforestation have resulted in local communities taking greater control of resource management production activities, has drawn attention to the great potential for growth in rural production. These integrated activities have given hope to local communities, particularly women and young people, who see these achievements as an alternative to meet the needs of their families and halt the migration of men folk.

Source: <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetails.cfm?projID=457>

Case-study 2 SADC WETLANDS PROJECT

A. Background

33. The Regional Office for Southern Africa of the World Conservation Union (IUCN ROSA) has just completed Phase I of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Wetlands Project and is about to commence Phase II. Most of the wildlife habitats (national parks, game reserves and hunting safari areas) are closely associated with wetlands, although many species use both wetlands and the surrounding dry and sub-humid lands. A number of World Heritage sites are located within, or close to, these wetland ecosystems e.g. Tsodilo Hills (Botswana), Lake Malawi, Victoria Falls, Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas.

34. People living in the concerned areas derive an income from fisheries, wildlife, agriculture (mainly rice production), livestock farming, mangrove and forest products harvesting, sea-weed farming, trade, petroleum gas extraction and coral mining for lime production as well as tourism.

B. Project summary

35. The wetland management plan seeks to strike a balance between maintenance of ecological integrity of the wetland system and wise-use of the resources. This will be achieved through engagement of all key stakeholders in the community, government agencies active in the area and other civil society grouping, and the private sector benefiting from the natural resources.

36. The SADC Wetlands Conservation Project will work in collaboration with the national contact institution (Wildlife Division), Department of Natural Resources, and Marine Parks and Reserves, as well as other relevant government agencies in coordinating the development of the marine wetland management plan.

C. Opportunities for synergy

37. The linkages between wetland ecosystems and the surrounding dry and sub-humid lands provide opportunities for synergy between the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

38. While there is scope for synergy with the CMS, out of the concerned countries only South Africa is party to this convention.

39. The SADC Wetlands Project is designed within the framework of the Ramsar Convention – the Ramsar Convention has joint work plans or MoUs with the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, WHC and CMS.

40. The project advocates river basin management, including shared (international) river basins. At this scale, effective wetland management will include biodiversity conservation and appropriate agricultural practices. The large river basins of southern Africa include vast expanses of dry and sub-humid lands, e.g., the Okavango, Limpopo, Orange (Gariep) and Zambezi.

41. Synergy between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, through joint implementation at the national level, e.g., by incorporating Ramsar into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and into SADC BSAP, is likely to lead to mutually beneficial results for both the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar.

Challenges

42. Although all SADC states participating in this project are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe are not parties to the Ramsar Convention.

43. Programmes for implementing NBSAPs were developed independent from the development of the Wetlands Project – planning for joint implementation may now be seen as burdensome by some stakeholders.

Source: <http://www.iucn.org/ourwork/ppet/programme/pa2002/wl/docs/reports/rosa2part.pdf>

Case-study 3 OKAVANGO DELTA MANAGEMENT PLAN (ODMP)

A. Background

44. The Delta is under population pressure leading to unsustainable use of a number of its natural resources. Water resources are increasingly used for medium-scale irrigated agriculture, mining and domestic use upstream of and around the Delta. The livelihoods of the people living in the delta are closely interwoven with the diversity of natural resources and are now under threat.

45. This project was developed by Botswana with assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN. The project is a partnership between local authorities, NGOs, the Government of Botswana, private

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sector (tourism enterprises) and the Delta communities. The overall objective of the project is “to integrate resource management for the Okavango delta that will ensure its long-term conservation and that will provide benefit for the present and future well-being of the people through sustainable use of its natural resources”. The project was designed to contribute to Botswana meeting its obligations with respect to the Ramsar Convention. After its formulation, the project was integrated into the District Development Plan in order to give ownership to people of the delta and ensure incorporation of the project output into district and national planning.

B. Project summary

46. The project will develop a comprehensive, integrated management plan addressing water resource management and land and resource use planning. Components will include (i) policy planning and strategy, (ii) research, data management and training, (iii) hydrology and water resources, (iv) wildlife management, (v) sustainable tourism, (vi) fisheries and animal health, (vii) vegetation resources, (viii) physical planning, (ix) land-use planning and land management, and (x) local authority services’ provision.

47. The National Conservation Strategy Co-ordinating Agency (NCSA) is the responsible government implementing agency, while IUCN provides technical support. Several government departments participate in the project: Water Affairs (hydrology), Wildlife and National Parks (wildlife management), Tourism (sustainable tourism), Animal Health and Production (livestock fisheries and related issues), Crop Production and Forestry (agriculture and forestry), Waste Management (waste), Town and Regional Planning (physical planning), Land Use Planning, as well as the North West District Council and the University of Botswana (research and data acquisition). The outcomes of this project are also expected to feed into the Okavango Basin Commission (OKACOM) which is responsible for the overall management of the Okavango River Delta (Angola, Botswana & Namibia).

C. Opportunities for synergy

48. The NCSA, in charge of the Okavango Delta Management Plan, is the focal institution for both the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks, responsible for CITES, is in the same ministry as the NCSA. The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Departments of Animal Health & Production and Crop Production & Forestry, responsible for agricultural biological diversity, is taking part in the project. The project was formulated within the framework of the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention already has joint work plans or MoUs with the Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS, WHC and CITES. IUCN provides technical support to the project, and also works very closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, WHC, CMS and CITES.

1. Synergy with MDGs and NEPAD

49. The project has been integrated into the District Development Plan, and could further be integrated into the National Development Plan. Diversifying sources of income (tourism industry) contributes to poverty alleviation. Managing the delta and its resources is a key to sustaining the livelihoods of people who fish, hunt, and practice subsistence agriculture in the area.

2. Challenges

50. The IUCN-assisted project management team should explicitly promote synergy among the different government departments.

51. The project management team should consciously encourage synergy in implementing relevant conventions within the project (CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar and WHC) – Botswana is not party to the CMS.

52. The project’s contribution to combating desertification should be acknowledged and enhanced.

53. Incorporating conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, as well as access and benefit-sharing derived from the use of the genetic resources of the delta (Programme of work on agrobiodiversity), into the plan (because subsistence agriculture is practised in the area).

Source:

http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/library/reports/gbf_articles/botswana_okavango_ruud_jansen.doc

Case-study 4 SADC BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT PROJECT

A. *Project summary*

54. The objective of this programme is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Southern Africa by strengthening regional planning, cooperation and information exchange. The programme is being implemented in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This programme is also meant to assist the same countries in meeting their obligations with respect to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Much of the project area is within dry and sub-humid lands. The project, supported by UNDP, does not make mention of any other conventions.

55. All the countries involved in this regional project, with the exception of Swaziland, have significant areas that are dry and sub-humid. In all these countries, agriculture (crop & livestock production) is the main source livelihood for rural communities.

56. While all the nine states involved in the SADC BSP are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, only one is party to the CMS and four are not party to the Ramsar Convention (Table 1).

57. **Table 1. Southern African Parties to the five biodiversity conventions**

Country	CBD	CITES (01/07/04)	WHC (01/05/04)	CMS (01/06/04)	Ramsar (01/07/04)
Angola	X		X		
Botswana	X	X	X		X
Lesotho	X	X	X		
Malawi	X	X	X		X
Mozambique	X	X	X		X
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X
Swaziland	X	X			
Zambia	X	X	X		X
Zimbabwe	X	X	X		

58. There is no synergy specifically planned or intended between the CBD and the other four conventions in this project. However, within the planned activities within the project's immediate objectives there is scope for integration with the other conventions. In fact, success of the SADC BSP could be greatly enhanced if there was synergy between the conventions.

1. *Opportunities*

- (a) Integrate relevant aspects of the SADC BSP with activities/programmes of work of the Ramsar Convention, CITES and WHC.
- (b) Integrate NBSAPs with programmes of work of the Ramsar, CITES and WHC

2. *Challenges*

- (a) The SADC BSP was planned with a specific focus on biodiversity. The time-frame for the project forces project staff to consider seeking synergy as time-consuming and may delay in their ability to produce the project deliverables within the project time-frame.

(b) Secured funding for the project does not provide for synergy with conventions' work programmes.

Case-study 5 THE GREAT LIMPOPO TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

59. This project, set in the drylands of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, sought to create a transboundary natural resources management area. It culminated with the signing of treaty to establish the Great Limpopo transfrontier Park by linking up the Limpopo National Park (former Coutada 16 hunting concession), Banhine and Zinave National Parks, plus interstitial areas between these parks (Mozambique), the Kruger National Park and adjoining provincial or private game reserves (South Africa) and the Gonarezhou National Park, Malipati Safari Area, Manjinji Pan Sanctuary, the Sengwe Communal Lands and commercial wildlife conservancies along the western border of the Park (Zimbabwe).

60. The preamble to the Treaty states that "*Recalling* that the countries establishing the Great Limpopo Transfrontier park are signatories of, or party to, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CCD, SADC Treaty, CITES as well as other Conventions and Agreements of relevance agree as follows ...". This implies an intention to practise synergy in the implementation of the relevant conventions and agreements with respect to the management of the Transfrontier Park. The project document stated that "The desired "end state" of the Great Limpopo TBNRM Initiative is community groups interacting effectively with public and private sector entities and realizing economic and social benefits from resource use and management, supported by a policy foundation for collaborative natural resources management and business development, and institutions capable of implementing program activities." This desired end state is very close to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

61. There is no evidence in the project document of deliberate mention of synergy between or among different conventions. Successful implementation of this Transfrontier Park, set within dry and sub-humid lands, is yet another opportunity for synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity and, at least CITES, Ramsar and CMS.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

62. Participation of stakeholders in convention activities should be promoted. This will be most effectively achieved through the participation of stakeholders in all stages of project design, development, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Greater involvement of an empowered civil society is likely to lead to more synergy and efficiency in implementing conventions. Coordination should not only take place amongst ministries and actors but should also link regional, national and local levels, as appropriate, to ensure the applicability of national objectives at the local level.

63. The workshop should identify better ways of significantly enhancing cross-sectoral coordination regarding the design, implementation and management of synergy projects.

64. Funding bodies should be encouraged to require all funded projects or programmes, where appropriate, to include synergistic implementation of at least two conventions. This can be facilitated, *inter alia*, by a clearer analysis and statement of the inter-relationships between the conventions and the sustainability of project benefits.

65. Convention work plans need to be consistent with national development planning.

66. Regional organizations need to integrate convention work plans into relevant regional and pan-African plans. This is especially necessary for dealing with ecosystems that transcend national boundaries, e.g. river basins (such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) and pan-African bodies such as the African Union, through its NEPAD).

67. The ecosystem approach ^{2/} has been accepted as the main framework for implementing the Rio conventions and the Ramsar Convention and should be applied to all synergy-related activities.
68. The application of the ecosystem approach fosters synergy at various scales, from local to global.
69. Incentives should be provided to ensure sustainable resource management and conservation. Such incentives need not be financial and could include, for example, diversification of incomes, land reform etc.
70. Training, education and public awareness should be pursued so that project outputs are sustainable.
71. Projects have short-term objectives, while conventions aim to have a long-term effect.
72. Networks should be created to share best-practices and lessons learned, not only between environmental projects but also for development projects with significant sustainable development/biodiversity conservation and sustainable use component.
73. Efforts should be made to improve participation of stakeholders in project design, implementation and management, including involving farmers to identify anthropogenic or natural forces impacting the environment.
74. Best-management practices locally should be promoted and adaptive management approaches developed, learning by experiences of best-practice.

^{2/} Described as *a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way* and as endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifth meeting in Nairobi, in 2000.