

**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/6  
17 September 2004

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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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

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP****INTRODUCTION**

1. The conferences of the parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as the other biodiversity-related conventions (including in particular the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of the World Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention (WHC)) have called for closer collaboration and increased synergy amongst these agreements.
2. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of its decision VII/2, on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, 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, 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.
3. Following the request of the Conference of Parties, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in close collaboration with the executive secretaries of UNCCD and UNFCCC, and in consultation with other biodiversity-related conventions and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), convened a regional workshop for Africa from 13 to 17 September 2004, in Gaborone, Botswana. The programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on dry and sub-humid lands and on agricultural biodiversity formed the thematic framework of the Workshop.
4. The objectives of the Workshop were to:
  - (a) Develop and/or strengthen cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, WHC) at the national level by enhancing cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders working at the national level; and
  - (b) Exchange views on potential initiatives relating to the programmes, or joint programmes, of work under or between the conventions, in particular in relation to how synergy can enhance positive outcomes for dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biodiversity.

5. The Workshop was attended by 33 Government-nominated experts, from Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. A Representative of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, a representative of the ICRAF- World Agroforestry Center, and an NGO observer also participated in the workshop.

6. A full list of participants is attached as appendix.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

7. The Workshop was opened by Ms. Tutu Tsiang, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Government of Botswana on Monday 13 September 2004. At the outset Mr. M. L. Nchunga, Executive Secretary, National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency, Government of Botswana, welcomed the participants and wished the Workshop success in its deliberations.

8. In her opening remarks Ms Tsiang, welcoming the participants, underscored the importance of synergy in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements for optimization of benefits that accrue from these conventions. Drawing attention to the efforts of the Government of Botswana, to house all the three Rio Conventions and Ramsar Convention under the umbrella of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, she thanked the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for taking the initiative to organize the regional Workshop in Botswana. In this context, she emphasized the importance of the Workshop and hoped that the outcome of the Workshop shall have a positive bearing on the capacity of the countries of the region to achieve coordination in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. She also thanked the Government of Netherlands for extending financial support for the workshop.

9. A member of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, also welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Botswana for their excellent hospitality and the Government of Netherlands for their financial support. Explaining the purpose, objectives and expected outputs of the Workshop, he requested the participants to come out with processes and mechanisms that promote and facilitate synergistic implementation of these conventions.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of officers***

10. After a brief self-introduction of the participants, Ms. Gladys Kenabestho Ramothwa of Botswana and Mr. Bob Humphrey Ogwang of Uganda were elected as Chair and Rapporteur of the Workshop respectively.

### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

11. The Workshop adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters
  - 2.1 Election of officers;
  - 2.2 Adoption of agenda;
  - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. Opportunities for synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions, other biodiversity-related conventions and projects undertaken through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), particularly in the framework of the programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agrobiodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. Experiences in the synergistic implementation of the Rio and other biodiversity-related conventions at the international and national levels.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.
7. Closure of the meeting.

### **2.3. Organization of work**

12. Under this agenda item, participants endorsed the organization of work as proposed in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/1/Add.1). They agreed to consider all items first in plenary and to establish two working groups to deliberate and draft conclusions.

13. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity gave a detailed presentation on the background, objectives and expected outcomes of the Workshop.

14. A representative of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) gave a presentation on national synergies workshop programme of the UNCCD and informed the Workshop of the lessons learned. Important lessons that were identified included the need to strengthen local capacities for synergistic programme development; establishment of the key elements for effective coordination; need for strong political commitment; enhancement of public awareness at all levels; and streamlining guidelines on methodological issues.

### **ITEM 3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS, OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF), PARTICULARLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS AND AGROBIODIVERSITY UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

#### **3.1 Review of lessons learned from synergy initiatives**

15. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity introduced the topic and provided general introduction to the background documents (UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/2; UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/3; UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/4; UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/INF/1; UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/INF/2; and UNEP/CBD/WS-Syn.Afr/1/INF/3). These background documents provided a review of the convention texts; relevant decisions under the Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions; an overview of complementarities between the Rio conventions; linkages with the other biodiversity-related conventions; an overview of the status of activities that promote synergies and cooperation between the biodiversity-related conventions; and lessons learned from these processes.

16. A representative of the Secretariat of the UNCCD gave a presentation on the joint work programme (JWP) on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands between UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity and on complementarities and potentials for synergy.

17. These presentations highlighted a number of issues that the participants subsequently discussed for possible consideration in the conclusions of the Workshop.

#### **3.2 National priorities**

18. The following countries gave brief presentations on identification of opportunities and major challenges for the implementation of the three conventions, lessons learned, national priority development goals, and issues in the sector of agriculture and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte D' Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

19. A representative of the ICRAF -World Agroforestry Centre gave a presentation on “ Examples of synergies in agroforestry in dry and sub-humid lands and agriculture in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD and UNFCC”.

20. These presentations highlighted a number of issues that the participants discussed subsequently for possible consideration in the conclusions of the Workshop.

**ITEM 4. EXPERIENCES IN THE SYNERGISTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIO AND OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS**

**4.1. *Practical application of experiences in the sector of agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands***

21. In the afternoon of 14 September, the participants agreed to split into two working groups for in-depth consideration of issues under 4.1, taking into account experiences from agenda item 3, and for arriving at conclusions of the Workshop. Working Group I was chaired by the United Republic of Tanzania, while Botswana acted as Rapporteur. Cameroon chaired Working Group 2 while Mauritius acted as Rapporteur.

22. Participants agreed to extend the scope of sub-item (v) of the agenda item 4.1 on “Proposals for harmonization of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national action programmes for the UNCCD and their integration into the national development strategies” to include other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

23. The sub-items of the agenda item 4.1 were grouped into five outcome elements:

(a) Identification of constraints to maximizing synergy at national level to achieving synergies between the conventions;

(b) Lessons learned for achieving synergies between the conventions;

(c) Processes to address the constraints and framework for synergy;

(d) Proposals for harmonization of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the Convention on Biological Diversity and national action programmes for UNCCD and other environmental conventions and their integration into national development strategies;

(e) Development of project concept notes related to dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural land use, that maximize synergy between biodiversity-related conventions while addressing national priorities.

24. The two working groups each met five times. On the mornings of 15,16 and 17 September, the plenary met briefly to listen to the reports from working group chairs.

25. The plenary adopted the conclusions of the working groups on the five outcome elements on 17 September as contained in annexes I, II, III, IV and V below, respectively.

**4.2. *Integration of the main findings into the process of reviewing the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands***

26. On 17 September, the plenary considered agenda item 4.2. Because of time constraints, participants did not make any suggestions to the review of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands. It was agreed that participants would provide their suggestions to the Secretariat in writing at a later date.

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

27. On 17 September, the plenary took up agenda item 5. Cameroon suggested that similar workshops also needed to be organized at the subregional level to develop capacity and requested the

secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC to explore possibilities of organizing them.

**ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

28. This report was adopted at the plenary meeting on Friday, 17 September 2004 on the basis of draft report prepared and presented by the Rapporteur.

**ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

29. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the Workshop closed at 1 p.m on Friday, 17 September 2004.

*Annex I*

**OUTPUT ELEMENT 1: IDENTIFICATION OF CONSTRAINTS TO MAXIMIZING SYNERGY AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO ACHIEVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONS**

The Workshop identified the following constraints to achieving synergies between the conventions at national level. They were divided into short- and long-term constraints. All were thought to be a priority and no ranking of priority is intended here.

**SHORT-TERM CONSTRAINTS**

- (a) Lack of coordination:
  - Conflicting objectives between different sectoral plans and programs;
  - Lack of coordination among stakeholders;
  - Weak functioning of multidisciplinary working groups that provide policy guidance;lack of continuity of personnel dealing with conventions resulting in inadequate follow-up of conventions;
- (b) Inadequate participation of the civil society in the management of projects;
- (c) Inadequate information management systems;Inadequate information exchange between focal points and implementing agencies;
- (e) Lack of linkages and information flow at the local level between key actors;
- (f) Conflict at local level between organizations;
- (g) Inadequate recognition of local and indigenous knowledge;
- (h) Inadequacies in the provision of timely and accurate information to convince policy makers to make right decisions based on sustainable livelihoods; Difficulty to access multilateral funds;
- (j) Weak local funding capacity;
- (k) Mainstreaming national priorities into regional initiatives;
- (l) Few case-studies demonstrating synergy that include coordinating, implementing, and demonstrating impact on the ground;
- (m) Financial constraints identified as a problem as funding for one activity may not be used for another one e.g. desertification funds cannot be used for activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (n) The obligations of conventions not properly mainstreamed in national policies and legislation;
- (o) Inability of countries to tap resources of different conventions.

**LONG-TERM CONSTRAINTS**

- (a) Mainstreaming national priorities into regional initiatives (also regarded as a short-term constraint);
- (b) Inadequate capacity particularly at local government (district and lower) levels to manage synergy;
- (c) Inadequate articulation of environmental concerns in poverty-reduction strategies and other development initiatives;
- (d) Lack of support form the political level to catalyse the synergistic process;

- (e) Lack of a proper legal framework in some countries;
- (f) Differences in legal system to mainstream the objectives of the conventions;
- (g) Socio-economic constraints, e.g., difficulties in involving the rural community in activities in line with the conventions;
- (h) Lack of expertise to address the issue of synergy;
- (i) Access to technology;
- (j) Conflicts (wars, internal and external) which breakdown the implementation of conventions;
- (k) Lack of human resources (qualitative and quantitative);
- (l) Political instability leading to change of leadership and objectives;
- (m) Land-tenure system as related to the strategies of the conventions.

*Annex II***OUTPUT ELEMENT 2: MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP REGARDING LESSONS LEARNED FOR ACHIEVING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONS**

Based upon experiences gained and lessons learned in different country situations, the participants identified the following elements that foster synergy:

- (a) Existing customary laws and management systems promote and embody synergy;
- (b) Putting conventions under one umbrella agency;
- (c) The essence of synergy comes from the need to increase efficiency of the different actors by working together through inter-related actions;
- (d) Clearly identify what synergy is, its focus, and why it is required;
- (e) The rationale for synergy includes the following considerations and they require an integrated approach:
  - Ecosystem considerations;
  - The problems themselves;
  - The conventions and how they overlap;
  - Institutional and legal aspects;
  - Socio – economic aspects (poverty reduction);
- (f) Strengthen local capacities;
- (g) Establish the key mechanisms for effective coordination;
- (h) Strong political commitment;
- (i) Enhance development of public awareness at all levels;
- (j) Streamline guidelines on methodological issues;
- (k) Adopt problem-solving approach;
- (l) Use of simple integrated message when informing decision makers;
- (m) Sensitizing policy makers to the needs and advantages of synergy;
- (n) The process takes time to properly mobilize communities to adopt projects;
- (o) Synergy can help increase the interest of stakeholders;
- (p) Community involvement at all stages greatly increases the success of projects.

*Annex III*

**OUTPUT ELEMENT 3: PROCESSES TO ADDRESS THE CONSTRAINTS AND  
FRAMEWORK FOR SYNERGY**

The Workshop grouped the solutions to, and processes to address, the constraints (as identified in annex I) as follows. There is some overlap between categories and some solutions or processes address a number of categories. With further work the solutions and processes could possibly be streamlined further. The solutions and processes identified will identify more specific actions, e.g. determining capacity-building requirements, including at the national level as appropriate.

**I. COORDINATION**

**A. Constraints**

- (a) Lack of coordination:
- Conflicting objectives between different sectoral plans and programmes;
  - Lack of coordination among stakeholders;
  - Weak functioning of multidisciplinary working groups that provide policy guidance; Dispersal of organization resulting in lack of continuity in follow-up of conventions;
- (c) Conflict at local level between organizations.

**B. Solutions and processes**

- (a) Review the terms of reference of the focal points with a view to have a more dynamic approach to the issue of synergy (and consider the provision of incentives);
- (b) Creation/strengthening of structures/mechanisms to ensure that synergy is achieved by the existing coordinating body for the conventions;
- (c) Networking of implementing agencies to achieve synergies;
- (d) Action will follow normal development cycle;
- (e) All relevant actions to include provision of regular monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved on synergy processes;
- (f) Strengthen existing national coordinating mechanisms (financing for this is an important consideration);
- (g) Institutionalize and formalize at least one meeting, for the multilateral environment agreements - a forum where they can meet and discuss synergy issues;
- (h) Establish a coordination committee for national focal points (one of their terms of reference, will be to identify conflicting objectives. Some countries already have these. These coordination committees should organize multi-stakeholder sensitization workshops)
- (i) Empower local communities to implement, e.g. by giving them autonomy;
- (j) Incorporate environmental concerns into national development initiatives such as poverty-reduction strategies in a synergetic manner.

**II. INADEQUATE LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

**A. Constraints**

- (a) The obligations of conventions not properly mainstreamed in national policies and legislations;

- (b) Lack of proper legal framework in some countries;
- (c) Differences in legal systems to mainstream the objectives of the conventions;
- (d) Land tenure system as related to strategies of the conventions.

### ***B. Solutions and processes***

Development, where necessary, of appropriate policies, mechanisms and/or legislation to address issues of land tenure, enhance implementation process for strategies under relevant environmental conventions and, where applicable, harmonization of national environmental legal frameworks to foster international cooperation in implementing environmental conventions and related treaties and promoting synergy among them.

## **III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

### ***A. Constraints***

- (a) Inadequate information management systems;
- (b) Inadequate information exchange between focal points and implementing agencies;
- (c) Lack of linkages and information flow at the local level between key actors;
- (d) Inadequacies in the provision of timely and accurate information to convince policy makers to make the right decisions based on sustainable livelihoods;
- (e) Few case-studies demonstrating synergy that include coordinating, implementing, and demonstrating impact on the ground.

### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) Creation and operationalization of shared databases by implementing agencies;
- (b) Under the auspices of the clearing-house mechanism, create practical ways of sharing information through for example, the establishment of resource centres containing books, maps, leaflets, database, etc. for use by all;
- (c) Collect information, identify and document knowledge on local and traditional knowledge at the national level and make this available – ensure that the benefits from these accrue to these sources of information:
  - The solution is to really involve local people in the articulation and management of synergy projects. For example, identifying where the bottlenecks actually are. The knowledge will have to be used in a strategic way to plan and implement projects and programmes that realize the objectives of the multilateral environmental conventions;
- (d) Promote the utilization of traditional knowledge in order to better achieve the objectives of the MEAs;
- (e) Technical experts and policy makers should hold regular meetings;
- (f) Create awareness with regards to how the clearing-house mechanism can facilitate access to multilateral funds;
- (g) Capacity-building in criteria for eligibility to access the funds;
- (h) Capacity-building in implementing projects;
- (i) Training of actors in project design and formulation;
- (j) Establish and operationalize the national environmental fund:

- Engage affected stakeholders in funding raising activities for the environmental fund, e.g. this could be done through the national legislation. It is also important engage the private sector and fully involve young people.

#### **IV. FINANCING**

##### ***A. Constraints***

- (a) Funding for one activity may not be used for another one e.g. desertification funds cannot be used for activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (b) The obligations of the conventions not properly mainstreamed in national policies and legislation;
- (c) Inability of countries to tap resources of different conventions;
- (d) External incremental funding requires Government contributions, but very often Government does not show interest for this type of funding.

##### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) Influence GEF and other cooperating partners to provide adequate funds for projects promoting synergy on an expedited basis;
- (b) Lobby for more support from decision makers at national level on conventions synergies;
- (c) Make the various financial schemes at the national level aimed at synergy more accessible/visible and strengthen them.

#### **V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS**

##### ***A. Constraints***

- (a) Socio-economic constraints, e.g., difficulty in involving the rural community in activities in line with the conventions.

##### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) Empower NGOs to carry out projects that involve rural communities and demonstrate synergies;
- (b) Direct empowerment of local populations through existing or revised institutional arrangements;
- (c) Creation of awareness;
- (d) All above measures require the full participation of the rural communities, for example determination of their immediate needs and priorities;
- (e) Recognition/revalidation of traditional knowledge (see Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

#### **VI. CAPACITY**

##### ***A. Constraints***

- (a) Lack of expertise to address the issue of synergy;
- (b) Lack of human resources (qualitative and quantitative).

##### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) National capacity self-assessment and other initiatives to determine country capacity-needs;
- (b) Identification of expertise (national and sub-regional);

- (c) Use synergies as models to be adopted/adapted.

## **VII. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

### ***A. Constraint***

- (a) Access to technology.

### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) Facilitate transfer of appropriate technology (referring to the provisions of the conventions where appropriate).

## **VIII. POLITICAL INSTABILITY**

### ***A. Constraints***

- (a) Conflicts (wars, internal and external), which breakdown the implementation of the conventions;
- (b) Political instability leading to change of leadership and objectives.

### ***B. Solutions***

- (a) Good governance should be promoted and inscribed in the constitution and other appropriate legislation.

## **IX. SENSITIZING IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS**

### ***A. Constraint***

- (a) Lack of support from the political level to catalyse the synergistic process.

### ***B. Solutions and processes***

- (a) Sensitize the important stakeholders about the outcomes of this Workshop;
- (b) Get the focal points together to discuss the outcomes of this meeting at the national level;
- (c) Develop a way to promote this formally through the convention processes so that this is reinforced at the political level, including by the secretariats of each convention informing the conferences of the parties and the Committee on Science and Technology, SBSTA and SBSTTA with regard to the outcomes of this Workshop.

*Annex IV*

**OUTPUT ELEMENT 4: PROPOSALS FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS FOR THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES FOR THE UNCCD AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

The Workshop considered the model presented by Ethiopia for developing harmonization of national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the Convention on Biological Diversity and action programmes for UNCCD and other environmental conventions. After detailed discussions, the Workshop adopted a modified version that suits various national requirements. A schematic diagramme of the model is shown in figure 1. Brief descriptions of various steps of the procedure is as follows:

***Step 1: Define synergy***

In the context of the conventions, synergy comes when two or more of the conventions have a common thematic area of implementation (or objective). There are therefore numerous potential areas of synergy. This synergy should be defined and its potential outcomes identified.

***Step 2: Identify common thematic areas for synergy***

This can be done through content analysis of the conventions and identification of thematic areas for synergy.

***Step 3: Identify common provisions in each thematic area***

Review and cross-reference contents of the conventions and identify provisions in each of the conventions with the respect to the thematic area under consideration.

***Step 4: Convene first national workshop***

Convene a national workshop for stakeholder consultations and for identification of problems and for developing participatory project proposals. The Workshop suggested this as a mechanism for consolidating prior consultations. It is, of course, necessary for all stakeholders to be involved in the entire process, where appropriate.

***Step 5: Generate a single statement for each thematic area***

For each thematic area compare and contrast the provisions of the conventions, then generate a synthesized common statement that constitutes the provisions of the conventions with respect to thematic area under consideration.

***Step 6: For each thematic area identify parallels or gaps between the national environmental policy with the synthesized statement***

The rephrased common synthesized statement is used to analyse the environmental policy (as applicable at national level) thereby relevant country policy provisions can be identified for each common provision. This step also helps to identify environmental or related policy gaps to implement the conventions at national level.

***Step 7: Convene “mini workshops for policy makers”***

To analyse and identify gaps for each thematic area in relation to approved environmental policies or sustainable development strategies and to determine the need for policy formulation the Group recommended “mini-workshops for policy and decision-makers” should be held at appropriate stages. These should include adequate representation of all stakeholders.

***Step 8: Construct country-context statement for each thematic area***

Compare and contrast with relevant policy statements of the national environment policy and reconstruct a country-context statement. The implication of the implementation of the areas of common interest of the conventions is identified here.

***Step 9: Formulate national strategies for synergistic implementation with respect to each thematic area***

Propose strategies to implement the common provisions of each thematic area by contextualizing with the objectives of the country.

***Step 10: Develop/propose action for each strategy statement***

Elaborate each strategy by generating essential actions that take into account current policy, strategy, and institutional and operational circumstances of the country.

At this stage, the national action plan for combating desertification (NAP), national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), and the national climate change action plan (NCCAP), and other such mechanisms of the other relevant conventions, are reviewed (if available) to identify major strategies, objectives and actions, which have relevance to synergetic implementation of the conventions. Synergy is expected to boil down to common actions at field-implementation and strategic levels in the country.

***Step 11: Formulate institutional mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation***

Perform a mandate analysis of relevant government and non-government organizations with respect to implementing the action on the ground. This mandate analysis will help identify the lead (executing) institution and implementing (collaborating) institution/s for each action identified. The analysis helps to foresee the necessary monitoring and evaluation mechanism to be put in place.

***Step 12: Produce draft national strategy and action plan document***

At this stage, it is expected that all the groundwork to produce a draft national strategy and action plan document is in place.

***Step 13: Convene a national consultative workshop***

Convene a national workshop for stakeholder consultations and endorsement of the document and ensure their active participation in implementation. Recommendations of these workshops help to enrich the document.

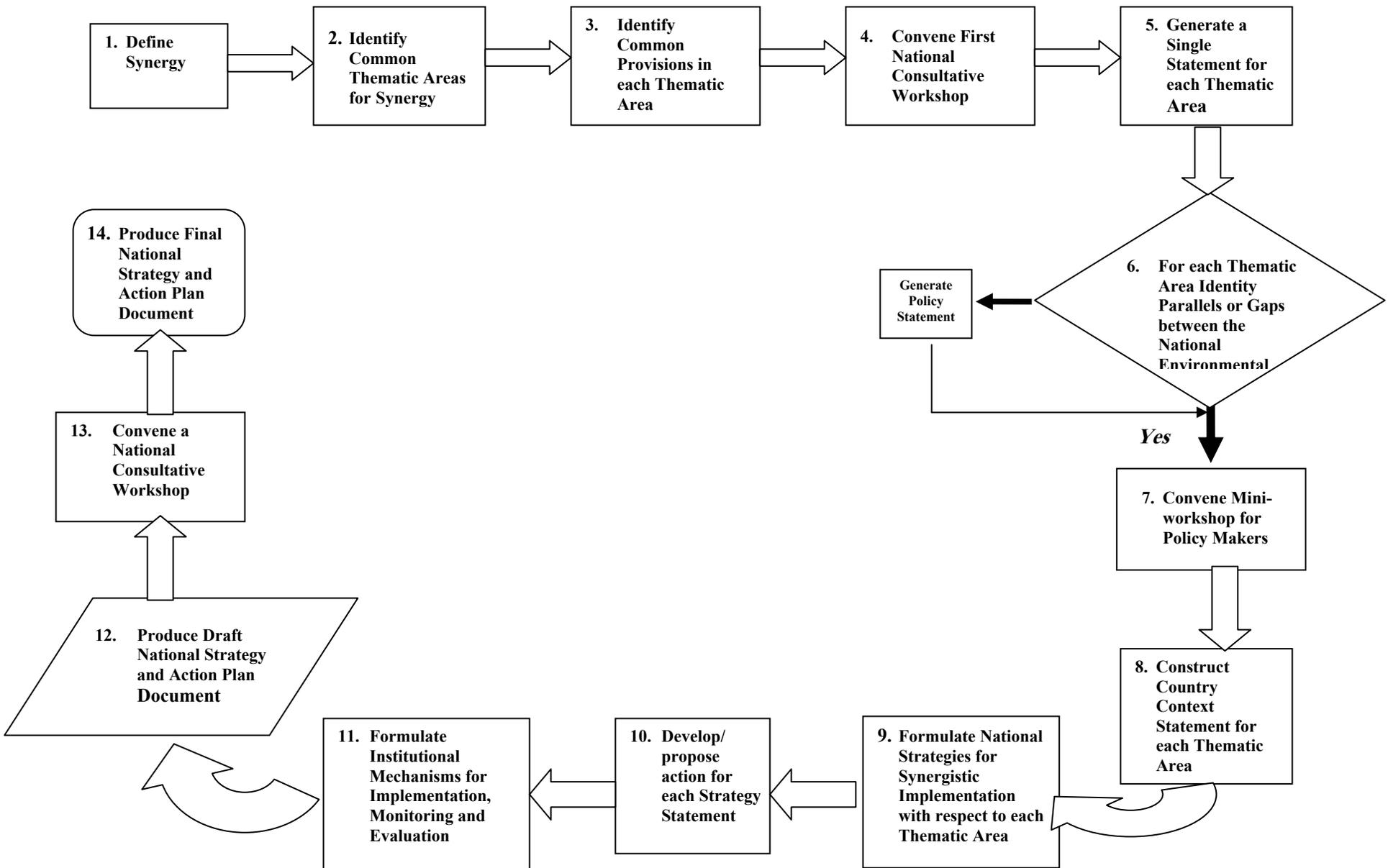
***Step 14: Produce Final National Strategy and Action Plan Document***

This step addresses national development priorities and strategies.

Steps 2 to 11 could be applied iteratively to develop the final strategy and action plan document.

The Workshop also concluded that holding complementary series of technical and steering committee meetings throughout the process of formulating strategies and action plan for the implementation of the conventions in synergy, will enhance effective synergy development.

Figure 1: SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE MODEL



*Annex V***OUTPUT 5 - EXAMPLES OF PROJECT/INITIATIVE CONCEPTS TO ACHIEVE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS FOCUSSED ON DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS AND AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY**

Based upon the work done and outputs achieved (annexes I-IV above) the working groups spent one full day discussing and designing project concepts that would put synergies into practice in the field of agricultural biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. Projects that were supported as a priority by the majority of Parties were given preference. The proposed projects are as listed below. They are not in any order of priority.

The Workshop noted that these concept notes obviously require much more consideration before they can be developed further. This would include consulting further the stakeholders in question. It was also noted that each potential funding agency, including at national level, requires different project formulation procedures and formats. The concept notes, therefore, had to remain rather general in nature.

The following are observations that are common to all the project concepts:

- (a) The focus of the projects (objectives) should relate to achieving human development goals – in particular poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- (b) Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are seen as ways in which the first objective can be achieved;
- (c) They all deal with rehabilitation of degraded agricultural or agro-forestry lands. Preventing further land degradation, or rehabilitating existing degraded land, was the common priority identified by the Workshop;
- (d) The conventions and other multilateral environment agreements are seen as means of providing inputs as to how relevant considerations can be incorporated into projects. The means by which this can be achieved, including attention to utilising and fostering appropriate synergies, are outlined in annexes I-IV. None of the projects put the conventions explicitly within the objectives (see point 1 above). It is assumed that the priority objective is sustainable human development – which the conventions and other multilateral environment agreements should be used to support. The objective, therefore, is development, not synergy.

## PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE NUMBER 1

### Title/project concept

Establish or strengthen early warning systems for food security.

### Objective

- (a) To improve farm production and productivity by 30 per cent by 2015;
- (b) To improve farm management by empowering farming communities to conserve agro-biodiversity.

### Justification

- Poverty reduction
- Realizing increased levels of poverty due to low harvests at household level arising from losses due to:
  - Disease incidence
  - Land degradation
  - Soil fertility loss

### Rationale

Early warning systems for farmers are seen as a major contribution to improving food security, combating land degradation and sustainable development.

### Projected beneficiaries

Farmers, local communities, key implementing institutions. **Major stakeholders**

Farmers; relevant NGOs, researchers e.g meteorologists, academia etc., technical experts, policy makers, financial institutions, media. **Activities**

- Dissemination of information on best agricultural practices
- Undertake stakeholder consultation
- Training of farmers in good agricultural practice and application of meteorological data
- Conduct research
- Carry out integrated resource management
- Monitoring and evaluation **Projected inputs**
- Equipment
- Infrastructure
- Finance
- Technical Expertise

### Projected outputs

- Improved food production
- Improved management of resources
- Improved livelihoods

- Good agricultural practices Application of agricultural and meteorological info used by farmers **Linkages with the conventions**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

#### **Linkages with national priorities**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using Workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

## **PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE NUMBER 2**

### **Title/project concept**

Restoration of soil fertility

### **Objective**

To increase food production by 10 per cent by 2015.

### **Justification**

- Reduction in yields over time
- Decline in soil fertility
- The need for sound management techniques

### **Rationale**

Agriculture is the mainstay of many economies, yet there has been a reduction in yields over the years due to declining soil fertility. Some of the factors that have contributed to this scenario to varying degrees are: soil erosion, drought, poor soil management (e.g., through the use of inappropriate soil management techniques), over-tilling of the soils.

### **Projected beneficiaries**

Farmers, local community, key implementing institutions

### **Major stakeholders**

Farmers, relevant NGOs, researchers e.g, academia etc., technical experts, policy makers, financial institutions, local authorities.

### **Activities**

- Manuring and crop rotation
- Protection of catchments areas
- Establishment of nurseries
- Tree planting
- Practising of agroforestry
- Training of local communities
- Mobilizing of local communities
- Production of reference manuals
- Monitoring and evaluation

### **Projected inputs**

- Human resources
- Finance
- Equipment
- Technical expertise
- Soil enriching agroforestry species
- Organic, renewable fertilizers.

### **Projected outputs**

- Soil fertility restored or improved
- Increased food production
- Reduced soil erosion
- Trained farmers
- The use of good agricultural practices
- Conservation of biodiversity

### **Linkages with the conventions**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

### **Linkages with national priorities**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

## **PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE NUMBER 3**

### **Title/project concept**

Rehabilitation of degraded lands.

### **Objective**

- To reduce land degradation by 10 per cent by 2015.
- To improve the conservation of natural resource base

### **Justification**

- To minimize spread of desertification and effects of drought
- Conservation of biodiversity resource
- Amelioration of climate change by combating desertification
- To achieve synergies among multilateral environmental conventions
- Reduce sedimentation problem
- To realize the objectives of national sustainable development and poverty reduction programmes

### **Rationale**

Land degradation is the major problem in dry and sub-humid lands.

**Projected beneficiaries**

Farmers, local community, key implementing institutions.

**Major stakeholders**

Farmers, relevant NGOs, researchers, technical experts policy makers, financial institutions, local authorities civil society.

**Activities**

- Reforestation
- Setting up enclosures
- Introduction of micro-organisms
- Creation of for a for engaging local communities
- Training at all levels
- Document and promote the use of traditional knowledge

**Projected inputs**

- Human resources
- Finance
- Equipment
- Technical expertise

**Projected outputs**

- Restored 10 per cent of degraded lands
- Restoration of endemic and endangered species
- Improved soil fertility
- Empowered local communities(will be actively engaged in environmental management activities)
- Increased CO2 sequestration

**Linkages with the conventions**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

**Linkages with national priorities**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

**PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE NUMBER 4**

**Title/project concept**

Erosion control by local communities through reforestation, wetland management towards sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation

**Objective**

- To reduce soil erosion through integrated management of watersheds by local communities
- To promote agro-forestry activities and fight poverty

### **Justification**

- Precarious existence of rural communities (survival)
- Urgency to undertake remedial action towards combatting land degradation and loss of diversity
- Improve agricultural productivity (fertility), better pasture management
- Provide material for handicrafts
- Provide food, fodder, firewood, honey
- Income generation
- Activities are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD, UNFCCC
- Synergies' contribution to national priorities and human development goal
- Poverty alleviation
- Improvement of land resources for future generations
- Production of firewood less import of fossil fuels
- Food/ medicinal plants contribute to improve health
- Biodiversity/ wildlife/ tourism

### **Rationale**

The need use agriculture and agro-forestry to address land degradation as a major priority in dry and sub-humid lands.

### **Projected beneficiaries**

Rural communities/youth/women, NGOs, technicians (through capacity-building)

### **Major stakeholders**

Ministries/Governments/ focal points/ local Government, implementation agencies, NGOs, private sector, especially village communities, village chiefs, youth, women groups.

### **Activities**

- Fencing/demarcation of pilot areas
- Creation of tree nurseries to produce seeds, seedlings and cuttings to produce fodder, fruit/ food and medicinal plants
- Field plantation
- Fertilization/mulching
- Water conservation activities through check dams/ small reservoirs/ rainfall capture
- Adding value to locally available materials, e.g. fibre for handicrafts, fruits for fresh juice/jam, honey, etc.

### **Projected inputs**

- Resources (human and financial) to identify pilot areas

- Funds for capacity-building
- Materials and equipments
- Setting up of nurseries for production of seedlings, etc.
- Vehicles
- Salaries and allowances

#### **Projected outputs**

- Improved land resources management
- Reduced erosion
- Improved fertility
- Better forest / vegetation cover on catchment area
- Increased income/employment for rural population
- Trained human resources
- Better environment for village people which leads to improved quality of life
- Increased food security

#### **Linkages with the conventions**

Incorporate relevant linkages during the concept development stage using workshop outputs as listed in annexes I-IV above.

#### **Linkages with national priorities**

- Synergies contribute to national priorities and human development
- Poverty alleviation
- Improvement of land resources for future generation
- Production of renewable firewood leads to reduced dependency on non-renewable fossil fuel
- Food and medicinal plants improve health, which leads to fight against HIV/AIDS
- Improved habitat for biodiversity and wildlife, which in turn has potential for eco-tourism
- General environmental protection
- Improve microclimate

### **PROJECT CONCEPT NOTES 5 to 8**

An additional four concept notes were developed. It was noted that they were all very similar to concept note number 4. Their titles and objectives are listed below. Other aspects of the concepts are as per listed in concept note number 4.

#### **Concept note number 5**

##### **Title**

Bamboo resources as alternative reforestation

**Objectives**

- To use bamboo species to address land degradation through reforestation aiming at improving livelihood of local communities
- To address problems of water loss and desertification

**Concept note number 6**

**Title**

Rural development projects using the synergy approach to combat land degradation and conservation of biodiversity.

**Objective**

- To address the problem of land degradation and loss of biodiversity through reforestation in sustainable pasture management by involving local communities.

**Concept note number 7**

**Title**

Building capacity of local populations to enhance shared responsibility in managing bush fires by protecting and using grassland biodiversity.

**Objectives**

- To empower local communities to use a natural resource (grass) in a sustainable manner
- To combat land degradation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through shared responsibilities in bushfire management and alleviate poverty

**Concept note number 8**

**Title**

Rehabilitation of degraded land through reforestation activities by the local communities.

**Objectives**

- To mitigate the effect the effect of drought vis a vis desertification through sustainable use of natural resources
- To combat desertification by promoting a good land management practices

*Annex VI*

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