

Integrated approaches to national reporting to the Rio Conventions – a UNEP/GEF project

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Background

- Reporting burden for Parties
- Complex reporting
- Challenge of data & information availability & accessibility



The UNEP/GEF “FNR_Rio” project

- “Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions“
- Implementing agency: UNEP
- Executing agency: UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- 2010-2012
- Six pilot countries (Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States): Afghanistan, Eritrea, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mauritius, Palau
- CBD, UNCCD (Desertification Convention) and UNFCCC (Climate Change Convention)



Specific objectives

- Develop integrated approaches to data collection/analysis and information management of relevance to the three Rio Conventions at the national level
- Increase synergies in the process of reporting to the three conventions without compromising relevant COP decisions
- Contribute to improved overall planning and decision-making processes at the country level related to the implementation of these three conventions



Outputs of the project

- Global situation analysis: reporting requirements
- National situational analysis
- National recommendations: improved information management and national reporting
- National needs analysis: training & technology
- Joint reporting to CBD, UNCCD & UNFCCC
 - Global: assessment of options for joint reporting
 - Global: joint reporting format
 - National: joint reports
 - National: questionnaire on experience
- National reporting manuals



Conclusions from outputs and project reports

- Approaches to reporting vary between countries
- Key priorities: collaboration between focal points/ agencies in charge of different conventions
- Management of national environmental data & information required for reporting
- Workshops & consultations have brought stakeholders together
- Improved communication between stakeholders
- Key personnel has been trained



FNR_Rio workshop in Afghanistan



Joint reporting to Rio Conventions

- Template built on existing reporting requirements
- Joint section on sustainable land management
- Convention-specific sections
- Tested by four pilot countries
- Benefits (from pilot country experience):
 - Potentially reduce the time, cost and resources required to undertake national reporting
 - Help to centralize coordination and enhance cooperation between national focal points
 - Help to centralize data collation at the national level
 - Help to reduce duplication in reporting



Joint reporting to Rio Conventions (*continued*)

Challenges (from pilot country experience):

- Difficulties with coordination across larger number of agencies and stakeholders
- Repetitiveness of questions in the format
- Insufficient staff and resources to coordinate the process
- Lack of guidance on the types of responses required and their length
- Insufficient time to complete the report



Further options to improve national reporting

- Align similar reporting requirements
- Avoid double-reporting
- Joint thematic reports (e.g. forests, sustainable land management)
- Joint glossaries and definitions
- Streamlined indicators



Potential tools and guidance

- Joint **guidance** to Parties by secretariats, highlighting complementary sections of the three reporting formats
- **Guidance** for improving the reporting processes at the **national level**, including providing best practices and lessons learnt
- **Joint information systems** between the conventions easing availability and access to relevant information for parties
- **Online reporting systems**, including options to make use of information reported to one convention available to other conventions



Key findings

- Improved coordination and cooperation at national level
- Improved mechanisms for managing data & information for reporting & implementation
- Increased stakeholder involvement
- Training and resources for building national capacity

<http://rioconventionsreporting.net/>

