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REPORTS: BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work

Note by the Executive Secretary

Executive summary

At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands as contained in annex I to decision V/23. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, to review this programme of work and identify expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, those who should implement these activities, and time-tables for action and follow-up (decision V/23, paras. 6-10). In addition, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to review and assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, based on the submission made by the Executive Secretary (decision V/23, para. 5).

In accordance with the above, and bearing in mind that the programme of work will be reviewed by SBSTTA, before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the present note reports on the progress of the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands.

A liaison group meeting was held to identify priority areas and related possible projects for integrated implementation of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. As a result, a joint work programme consisting of ten common priority activities has been agreed. Ongoing and planned initiatives are reported under each of these activities.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/1.

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Suggested recommendation

SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report and provide additional guidance for the forthcoming review of the programme of work.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered a draft programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands submitted by the Executive Secretary. Following its consideration, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the programme of work as contained in annex I to decision V/23 and, in paragraphs 6, 8, 9 and 10 of the same decision, requested the Executive Secretary:

(a) To review this programme of work and identify expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, those who should implement these activities, and timetables for action and follow-up, taking into account the suggestions of the ad hoc technical group of experts to be established by SBSTTA in accordance with paragraph 7 of the same decision;

(b) To collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, including through the development of a joint work programme, as well as with other relevant bodies and with countries with sub-humid lands, and with other bodies relevant to sub-humid lands in the implementation and further elaboration of the programme of work;

(c) To establish a roster of experts on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and

(d) To make available relevant information through various means, including the development in the clearing-house mechanism of a database on dry and sub-humid lands.

2. In addition, in paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTTA, *inter alia*, to review and assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and make recommendations for the further prioritization, refinement and scheduling of the programme of work based on the review by the Executive Secretary.

3. Bearing in mind that the programme of work will be reviewed by SBSTTA in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has prepared the present progress report on the implementation of the programme of work, focusing on collaborative activities with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

4. The present report is intended to provide SBSTTA with: (i) a review of the current status of the joint work programme with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (see section II below); and (ii) information on ongoing activities of the Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the joint work programme (see section III below) under the 10 priority activities identified in that joint programme.

II. STATUS OF THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME

5. In accordance with paragraph 8 of decision V/23, the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands was prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Additionally, and on the basis of their existing memorandum of cooperation, the secretariats of the two conventions have identified common priorities and the elements of a joint work programme, in line with decisions III/13 and IV/15 of the Conference of the Parties. Information note UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/15 provides further information on this matter.

6. The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), organized a liaison group

meeting from 31 April to 2 May 2001, in Bonn, Germany, with financial support from the Government of Norway to the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The objectives of the meeting were: (i) to identify priority areas and related possible projects where the provisions of the two conventions can be implemented in an integrated manner; and (ii) to finalize the joint programme of work between the two secretariats, taking into account the identified priorities.

7. The meeting was attended by 33 participants, including some focal points for the Convention to Combat Desertification (Arizona/United States, Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Egypt, Mexico, Mongolia, and Uganda), international institutions and organizations interested in supporting implementation of the joint work programme at the country level (University of Botswana, University of Bonn, Leiden University/Netherlands, Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)-Sahelian Regional Programme, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Niger, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in the Syrian Arab Republic, INSAH/CILSS in Mali, Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare in Italy, IUCN Bonn, University of Nairobi and the UNEP Global Environment Facility Unit).

8. The liaison group selected the following as priority topics/issues in the joint work programme on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands:

(a) *Assessments:*

- (i) Status and trends;
- (ii) Areas of special value;
- (iii) Indicators;
- (iv) Ecological, physical and social threats, particularly to functioning;
- (v) Goods and services;
- (vi) Examples of best management/practices;

(b) *Targeted actions:*

- (i) Implementation of the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (*In situ* conservation);
- (ii) Application of the ecosystem approach;
- (iii) Support to sustainable livelihoods.

9. In addition, the liaison group organized by the two secretariats identified the following areas in the dry and sub-humid lands as of value or under threat: rangelands; desert margins; key areas of species richness ("hot spots"); protected areas/buffer zones; parkland/cropping land; dryland forests; and wetlands/oasis.

10. The main recommendations of the liaison group meeting are summarized below:

(a) Implementation of activities under the joint work programme should be supported by the secretariats of the two conventions and other players in various ways including the modalities contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification prepared for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP5/INF/15);

- (b) Element B3 of the joint work programme (Support to sustainable livelihoods) should be given high priority;
- (c) New demonstration sites should be linked to existing ones through networking and by making use of the thematic programme networks (TPNs) under the Convention to Combat Desertification;
- (d) The outcome of the liaison group meeting would be presented to the conference of the parties to the two conventions;
- (e) The Governments that were present at the meeting should follow up on the presentations made on the “GEF project preparation models”, and the focal points should prepare medium-size projects under the umbrella of the joint work programme;
- (f) As a next step, the country focal points from the countries present, namely, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Mongolia, Uganda, Mali (to be assisted by ICRAF) Namibia (Desert Research Foundation of Namibia), Senegal (ICRAF), Niger (ICRISAT) and Yemen (ICARDA), should each prepare a concept paper for GEF, on return to their countries;
- (g) Other countries, not present at the meeting, would be assisted by the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification to prepare project proposals for GEF funding;
- (h) Subregional organizations should be encouraged to prepare subregional medium-size GEF projects. In addition, subregional projects can be prepared by a few countries together, provided the concept is subregional in nature. When the concept is transboundary in nature, UNEP should be approached for assistance, as UNEP has had experience in this regard;
- (i) The secretariats of the two conventions should identify some experts who could assist in the preparation of GEF projects;
- (j) The secretariats of the two conventions should identify other bilateral and multilateral players to join in the joint work programme to ensure its successful implementation;
- (k) Non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to prepare medium-size projects and to utilize the small grants programme administered by UNDP.

11. In paragraph 7 of its decision V/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to establish an ad hoc technical expert group to, *inter alia*, further advance the assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the work on the goods and services of dry and sub-humid land biodiversity on indicators on factors affecting biodiversity and on the socio-economic impacts of its loss. The expert group should also assess the impacts of the specific measures taken for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for the support of sustainable livelihoods and to assess priorities at the regional and global levels.

12. A progress report on the status of this ad hoc technical expert group is provided in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/2) being circulated under item 3.1 of the provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA.

III. REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

13. Under activity 1 of the proposed elements for the joint work programme, the secretariats of the two conventions shall review and identify overlaps and/or gaps in the past and ongoing activities under the three programme elements: assessments, targeted actions and joint reporting through jointly agreed procedures. However, the two secretariats are still in the process of developing the agreed procedures, and the analysis reported here is very preliminary, focusing mainly on the activities of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

14. In accordance with the above, past and ongoing activities of the two secretariats were reviewed under 10 activities of the joint work programme:

A. Assessments

Activity 1: Assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and the effectiveness of conservation measures

15. In accordance with the recommendation I/6 of SBSTTA and decision II/1 of the Conference of the Parties, the Global Biodiversity Outlook, is currently under preparation by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and will be distributed for consideration by SBSTTA at its seventh meeting. The Global Biodiversity Outlook provides information on, *inter alia*, dry and sub-humid land ecosystems under the following headings: (i) types of dry and sub-humid lands; (ii) major values and uses of drylands; (iii) major impacts on drylands; and (iv) status and trends in species in dry and sub-humid lands. It also provides a list of GEF-funded biodiversity projects in the dry and sub-humid lands.

16. A note by the Executive Secretary on assessments of the Status and trends and options for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity: dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/7), prepared for the fourth meeting of SBSTTA, held in June 1999, provided information on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands under the following headings: (i) the relationships between the various ecosystem sub-components; (ii) specific problems and issues in identification, monitoring and assessment; (iii) an overview of the species present; (iv) major impacts on biodiversity; (v) current status of biodiversity ; and (vi) conservation measures.

17. At the thematic programme network workshop on desertification monitoring and assessment, held in China in July 1999 under the Convention to Combat Desertification, it was emphasized that desertification leads to biodiversity loss and, hence, an assessment of desertification indirectly provides information on the status of biodiversity and the consequences of its loss. One of the workshop's objectives was to build capacity of countries in monitoring and assessment of biodiversity loss associated with desertification in the dry and sub-humid lands.

18. The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), launched under the Convention on Biological Diversity in accordance with decision V/9 of the Conference of the Parties, is currently under implementation and will contribute to the assessment of the status of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands by addressing: (i) the lack of taxonomic information on the identity of components of biological diversity in many regions; and (ii) the need to build capacity for taxonomic activities, especially in developing countries. Further information on the GTI was provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject prepared for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/10).

19. In line with paragraph 7 of decision V/23, SBSTTA has established an ad hoc technical expert group on dry and sub-humid lands (see para. 11 above), and a meeting of this group is planned for early 2002, in Montreal.

20. In accordance with the recommendation adopted at its sixth meeting for a scientific assessment of invasive alien species (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3), SBSTTA plans to initiate a pilot assessment study on the impact of invasive alien species. In the project briefs prepared by the Executive Secretary dry and sub-humid lands is one of the thematic areas to be covered by the study. The objective of the study is to prepare an ecosystem-approach assessment of the impacts of invasive alien species. It will also identify alien species that are key threats and their most important impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

21. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is currently in the process of reviewing national reports submitted by Parties, and compiling relevant information on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. This review will provide information on dry and sub-humid lands under the following topics: (i) status and trends; (ii) effectiveness of existing conservation measures; (iii) benefits derived from biodiversity; (iv) socio-economic consequences of biodiversity loss; and (v) best management practices, including use of indigenous knowledge

22. The guidelines developed in the note by the Executive Secretary on further development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into the procedures of environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/13) will contribute to the incorporation of biodiversity issues into such assessments of the status of biodiversity, including in the dry and sub-humid lands.

23. The thematic programme networks workshop on ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote-sensing and early-warning systems to be held in 2002 under the auspices of the Convention to Combat Desertification will contribute directly to enhancing global capacity for the assessment of the status of biodiversity in the dry and sub-humid lands including quantitative information of the extent of land affected and biodiversity loss incurred.

Activity 2: Identification of specific areas of value and/or under threat

24. In accordance with paragraph 8 of decision V/23, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification have had consultations and agreed to hold joint liaison meetings in order to facilitate their collaborative activities. Accordingly, a liaison group meeting was held in Bonn from 30 April to 2 May 2001, in which the following specific areas were identified as of particular value:

- (a) Rangelands: largest extension, high species/genetic diversity richness;
- (b) Desert margins: fragility, serve as areas of population over-spill from higher potential areas;
- (c) Key areas of species richness commonly referred to as "hot spots": species richness, centres of crop origin and/or diversity; gene pools;
- (d) Protected areas/buffer zones;
- (e) Parkland/cropping land: vulnerability / environment services;

- (f) Dryland forests: important refuge for wildlife; gene pools;
- (g) Wetlands/oasis: node of development, migratory animals, interaction dry-wetlands (mangroves).

Activity 3: Further development of indicators of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and its loss, for use in the assessment of status and trends

25. The document entitled “Synthesis of Scientific and technical information, particularly with regard to the benchmarks and indicators used to measure progress, and an assessment thereof, contained in the reports received from country parties for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology” (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/5) of 3 November 2000, is a synthesis of information on indicators and benchmarks in dry and sub-humid lands provided to the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification by countries. Most developing countries have very little information on indicators and benchmarks but are in the process of developing them.

26. The note by the Executive Secretary on designing national level monitoring programmes and indicators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/12) covers dry and sub-humid lands. Most developing countries are at a very early stage of developing indicators and benchmarks for assessment of biodiversity in the dry and sub-humid lands and hence this will contribute to further enhancement of efforts at the national level, under the umbrella of the joint work programme.

Activity 4: Building knowledge on ecosystem functioning

27. Climate change has very serious implications for biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands, especially changes such as global warming. Dry and sub-humid lands are already water-stressed and further climate changes which reduce water availability are likely to seriously affect the survival of plants and animals in this ecosystem. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change established under the Convention on Biological Diversity will meet in Helsinki from 26 to 30 November 2001. This meeting will contribute to a better understanding of the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity in the dry and sub-humid lands.

28. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is just beginning work in the area of ecosystem functioning. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biodiversity in its first report (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6) has provided information on the subject, which is applicable to forests in dry and sub-humid lands. Two other notes by the Executive Secretary prepared under item 4 of the provisional agenda for the current meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7 and 8) also provide information on ecosystem functioning applicable to dry and sub-humid lands. The documents emphasize that an ecosystem approach is necessary for the maintenance of sound ecosystem functioning in all ecosystems including the dry and sub-humid lands.

Activity 5: Identification of local and global benefits of biodiversity and socio-economic impacts of its loss

29. The note by the Executive Secretary on the development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11) prepared for the fourth meeting of SBSTTA also covers the dry and sub-humid lands. Dry and sub-humid lands are probably the most important ecosystems for tourism because of the large populations of large terrestrial mammals found there. The document looks at tourism as one of the benefits of biodiversity, but also

considers the negative impacts of tourism on biodiversity, very important for the fragile areas found in the dry and sub-humid lands.

30. A thematic programme network workshop on agro-forestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas was held in India in March 2000 under the auspices of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Agroforestry and soil conservation in dry and sub-humid lands contributes to reclamation of desertified land, conservation of soil and water, an increase in biodiversity of local and global importance and improvement in livelihoods. An objective of the workshop was to assist in capacity building of countries to understand economic losses associated with biodiversity loss in the dry and sub-humid lands. The Workshop on Biodiversity and Tourism organized under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Santo Domingo from 4 to 7 June 2001 was convened pursuant to decision V/25, paragraph 2, of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with the aim of developing international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable areas. Several documents were produced for the Workshop, including the notes by the Executive Secretary entitled “Framework for the development of guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development and biological diversity in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and mountain ecosystems” (UNEP/CBD/WS-Tourism/2) and “Overview of tourism and biodiversity issues, and appropriate management approaches” (UNEP/CBD/WS-Tourism/3). The draft international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development produced by the Workshop are annexed to the note by the Executive Secretary on sustainable use prepared for the current meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/5). Tourism being very important economically in the dry and sub-humid lands, the above Workshop has contributed very significantly to the sustainable use of biodiversity in this ecosystem.

31. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is currently in the process of reviewing national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans and compiling information on local and global benefits of biodiversity in the dry and sub-humid lands and the socio-economic impacts of its loss. The resulting report will provide a synthesis of country information on dry and sub-humid lands with regard to benefits derived from biodiversity, the socio-economic consequences of biodiversity loss, and other topics.

Activity 6: Identification and dissemination of best management practices

32. The Executive Secretary has prepared for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA the following documents containing information relating to the best management practices for biodiversity, including dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity.

(a) Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9 entitled “Agricultural Biodiversity: Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work, including development of the International Pollinators Initiative” provides information on “best practices” in agro-biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. It will contribute to the joint work programme through the dissemination of information on “best practices” in the management of dry and sub-humid lands;

(b) Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/5 entitled “Sustainable use: progress on development of practical principles, operational guidance and associated instruments” emphasizes, *inter alia*, the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity to support livelihoods in the dry and sub-humid lands and provides information on case studies such as the community-based CAMPFIRE (wildlife utilization) programme in Zimbabwe.

33. The Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification has also held a number of thematic programme network workshops that are also relevant to activity 6;

(a) The workshop on integrated management of international river, lake and hydrogeological basins was held under the auspices of the Convention to Combat Desertification from 30 November to 2 December 2000 in Accra, Ghana. It was held in the context of the launching of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Africa. The workshop has contributed to the promotion of international cooperation among countries and an integrated ecosystem approach to the sustainable management of water resources in the dry and sub-humid lands;

(b) The workshop on agroforestry and soil conservation was held from 13 to 15 June 2001 in Lomé, Togo. This workshop contributed to the joint work programme by building the capacity of countries to use “best practices” in agro-forestry and soil conservation to rehabilitate land, enhance biodiversity and improve livelihoods of local communities in dry and sub-humid lands;

(c) The workshop on rangeland management in arid areas including the fixation of shifting sand-dunes was held in April 2001 in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The workshop has assisted in building the capacity of countries to manage rangelands in dry and sub-humid lands sustainably through the use of proven techniques, which can be replicated elsewhere;

(d) The workshop on rational use of rangelands and development of fodder crops to be held in November 2001 will contribute to the joint work programme by promoting environmentally sound rangeland and livestock management in the dry and sub-humid lands. Rangeland biodiversity is one of the key resources in the dry and sub-humid lands and provides livelihoods to pastoralists and others. Hence loss of rangeland biodiversity leads to loss of livelihoods of pastoralists and others. In addition, there are many other resources such as wild animals, medicinal plants, which support local communities. Hence, loss of biodiversity in the rangelands will lead to loss of livelihoods of dryland communities;

(e) The workshop titled sustainable agricultural farming systems will be held in 2002 to promote sustainable farming in the dry and sub-humid lands. Farming systems are one of the modes of benefiting from biodiversity in the dry and humid lands (both locally and globally). Unsustainable farming practices result in loss of productivity and loss of livelihoods.

34. The third meeting of the SCBD/UNESCO Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biodiversity Education and Public Awareness to be held from 13 to 15 September 2001 in Bilbao, Spain, is also expected to contribute to the joint work programme by providing guidelines to countries on educating children and raising public awareness on the value and sustainable use of biodiversity in the dry and sub-humid lands.

B. Targeted actions

Activity 7: Promotion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

35. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed its request for case-studies on best practices and lessons learned from the sustainable use of biological diversity under the thematic areas of the Convention was made to parties and organizations involved in sustainable use initiatives. On receipt of the case-studies, the Executive Secretary will review them and compile a document on “best practices” for dissemination. It is expected that some case-studies will address best practices in dry and sub-humid lands.

36. Pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties in decision V/24, the Executive Secretary is organizing a series of three workshops on sustainable use of biological diversity. The first workshop will

be held from 24 to 28 September 2001 in Maputo and will focus on identifying guidelines and principles for the sustainable use of dry and sub-humid biodiversity.

37. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to develop a strategy for plant conservation to halt the loss of plant biodiversity. The Executive Secretary organized informal consultations and has prepared a proposal for a global strategy for plant conservation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/10) for the consideration of SBSTTA at its seventh meeting. An interesting feature of the proposed strategy is the setting of targets applicable to all the thematic areas addressed by the Convention, including dry and sub-humid lands.

Activity 8: Promotion of responsible resource management, at appropriate levels, applying the ecosystem approach, through an enabling policy environment

38. In decision V/6, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to elaborate the concept of ecosystem approach and to review the incorporation of the ecosystem approach into the various programmes of work of the Convention prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At the same time it called on Parties, other Governments and International organizations to apply as appropriate, the ecosystem approach giving consideration to principles and guidance contained in that decision. The Parties have started to integrate the ecosystem approach in their strategies, programmes and plans, including in the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands. Parties will report on the progress of this work to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

Activity 9: Support for sustainable livelihoods

39. Sustainable livelihoods is an important objective of the Convention to Combat Desertification, and various activities under the Convention support this objective, including, for example:

(a) The workshop on water resources management for agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry sub humid areas to be held in November 2001 in the Syrian Arab Republic will assist in building the capacity of countries to sustainably manage water resources in the dry and sub-humid lands for sustainable agriculture and conservation of agrobiodiversity;

(b) The thematic programme network workshop on assistance for the implementation of integrated local area development programme initiatives planned for 2002 in Pakistan. The workshop will promote *inter alia* integrated development in the dry and sub-humid lands to improve the livelihoods of local communities while conserving biodiversity.

C. Joint reporting

Activity 10: Harmonized formats of reporting

40. At the fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, by paragraph 9 (c) of its decision V/19, requested the Executive Secretary to develop and implement the proposals for streamlining national reporting with a view of producing a harmonized information management infrastructure for biodiversity related treaties. The Conference of the Parties also identified the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification as the main partner for this exercise. The note by the Executive Secretary on national reports prepared for the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention On Biological Diversity, to be held in November 2001 (UNEP/CBD/MSP/3), provides further information on the current status of development of the harmonized formats of reporting.
