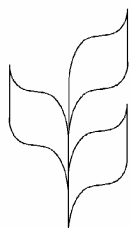




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Item 6.1 of the provisional agenda*

DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS BIODIVERSITY: MATTERS REQUESTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES IN PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6 OF ITS DECISION V/23 AND DECISION VI/4

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In decision V/23, paragraph 5 of 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 on the basis of the outputs of the activities of the programme of work, and make recommendations for the further prioritization, refinement and scheduling of the programme of work. In paragraph 6 of the same decision the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to review the 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. In decision VI/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions, a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention of Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The present note is composed of four sections. Section I is the introduction. Section II includes proposals on how periodic review and assessments of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands could be undertaken and instituted (pursuant to decision V/23, paragraph 5) and considers the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands. Section III proposes an elaboration of the programme of work pursuant to decision V/23, paragraph 6, and includes a detailed table specifying the requested categories. Section IV contains a proposal for mechanisms that would facilitate the coordination of activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for the linking and

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* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/1.

ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans prepared pursuant to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNCCD national action programmes. The proposal was developed together with the UNCCD pursuant to decision VI/4. It is recommended that all proposals made by SBSTTA be communicated and distributed to the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) or other relevant bodies of UNCCD, for consideration.

- The main elements covered in each section of the note may be summarized as follows:

Section I

- Background to the report and the decisions reported on are presented.

Section II

- The importance of assessments as an information tool guiding adaptive management action is re-emphasized.
- The periodicity of such assessments can only be determined once there is an agreement on the guidelines and mechanisms. However, it is recommended that the first global assessment of status and trends of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands be compiled in time for consideration by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2012, and that periodic updates be undertaken in 10-year intervals from then onwards.
- It is suggested that periodic global assessments should primarily be based on national assessments, and, as far as possible, build on ongoing sources and existing mechanisms. There is a need to agree on a strategy defining how current ongoing global environmental assessments such as the Global Lands Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment could be strengthened to incorporate the specific needs of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands.
- It is suggested that to strengthen national assessment processes enabling activities should be prioritized. It is acknowledged that developing countries require provision of new and additional financial and technical resources for this undertaking.

Section III

- A table identifying expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, those who should implement these activities and time tables for action and follow-up was drafted by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands.
- It was subsequently sent to potential collaborating partners as part of a questionnaire in August 2002, to further seek inputs from countries and other potential collaborating partners.
- A synthesis table is annexed to the present document.

Section IV

- Based on the lessons learned and needs expressed by countries during the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) of the UNCCD, held in Rome in November 2002, proposals for synergistic implementation, especially at the local level, are made.

- The mechanisms already for promoting synergies already put in place by the Secretariat, such as established institutional linkages, should be strengthened, for example, through the further operationalization of existing joint work programmes, and the joint liaison group established to coordinate policy development, management and resource use amongst the Rio conventions should continue its work.
- The planned joint workshop of the joint liaison group should be convened with the objective of, *inter alia*, providing guidance to national focal points on how to capitalize on synergies between the conventions.
- Catalytic activities, such as the UNCCD national synergy workshop programme, should be replicated and undertaken in collaboration with all members of the joint liaison group. One outcome of these national synergy workshops could be the formulation of joint project proposals that would identify ways to develop synergy between country level operatives in charge of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national action programmes, especially those in charge of community-based initiatives.
- There could be an expansion of training opportunities for developing country Parties, facilitated by UNCCD and the Convention of Biological Diversity, to plan and develop project proposals for the submission to the GEF.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. SBSTTA may wish to invite the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations as the executing agency of the Global Land Degradation Assessment of Drylands and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to consider integrating, in the context of their respective mandates, the needs for information on status and trends of dry and sub-humid land biodiversity, and to report on this matter to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. SBSTTA may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Adopt* the proposed process for the periodic assessment of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands as described in table 1 in section II of the present note, building on the knowledge and structures of ongoing global assessments, and focusing on strengthening the capacities of developing countries to conduct national level assessments;

(b) *Adopt* the proposal prepared by the Executive Secretary for the further refinement of the programme of work and suggesting collaborating partners annexed to the present note;

(c) *Request* the Executive Secretary to develop targets for the implementation of the programme of work, taking into account the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Strategic Plan of the Convention, as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, for consideration by SBSTTA. Such a process could follow the approach taken in the development of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

(d) *Request* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to further develop mechanisms for facilitating synergistic implementation of the conventions at the national level, through the implementation of the joint work

programme, the activities of the joint liaison group among the Secretariats of the three Rio conventions, and joint projects as described in section III of the present note.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision V/23, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to review and assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands on the basis of the outputs of the activities of the programme of work, and make recommendations for the further prioritization, refinement and scheduling of the programme of work.
2. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to review the 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 Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands, and to present these outcomes, activities, actors and timetables to SBSTTA for consideration. This process should be carried out in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of UNCCD and other relevant bodies to provide synergy and avoid duplication.
3. At its sixth meeting, in paragraph 2 of its decision VI/4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions, to prepare a proposal for the development of a mechanism to coordinate activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention of Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under UNCCD.
4. Section II presents proposals on how periodic review and assessments of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands could be undertaken and instituted. It takes into consideration the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands, which was established in paragraph 7 of decision V/23 to support the work of SBSTTA and which met twice during 2002. Section III reports on the elaboration of a further refined programme of work; a detailed table specifying the requested categories is appended as an annex. Section IV contains a proposal for mechanisms that would facilitate the coordination of activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for the linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under UNCCD. The proposal was developed together with the UNCCD secretariat.

II. A PROPOSAL FOR THE PERIODIC REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS AND TREND OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

5. In the preparation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, which was ultimately adopted in decision V/23 of the Conference of the Parties, an overview assessment of the status and trends of biological diversity was carried out (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/7) to identify the components that should be incorporated into the programme of work. In response to identified needs, the programme of work was developed into two programme elements: part A – “Assessments” and part B – “Targeted Actions”) (see also Annex 1). These two components should be implemented in parallel. Knowledge gained through the assessments will help guide the responses needed, while lessons learnt from activities will feed back into the assessment. Activity one under “Assessments” in the programme of work is to assemble and analyse information on the state and trends of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands to help guide targeted response actions needed. Whilst this activity should be implemented at various levels, including the national level, in paragraph 5 of decision V/23, the Conference of the Parties explicitly gave SBSTTA the task of

periodically reviewing and assessing the status and trends of biological diversity and dry and sub-humid lands based on the outputs of the activities of the programme of work.

6. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision V/23, SBSTTA established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands with a mandate to, *inter alia*, consolidate and assess information on the status and trends of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. The AHTEG considered the need for a periodic review and assessment of the biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands during its two meetings, and made suggestions for carrying out periodic assessments of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands. Its report is available as an information document for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2).

7. As noted in its report, the AHTEG emphasized that periodic global assessments of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands are important, especially in areas of particular value for biodiversity or under threat of loss of biodiversity. It is suggested that such global assessments should primarily be based on national assessments, and as far as possible be based on various ongoing sources and existing mechanisms. The principle of complementarity between ongoing national and global level assessments should be built upon.

8. Various global environmental assessments already exist or are currently being planned. However, none of these were explicitly designed for assessment of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. The relevance of various environmental assessments to biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands depends on their breadth and depth of coverage, and the mandates of the various assessments. The AHTEG identified the Global Land Degradation Assessment of Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as having the potential to address aspects of the periodic assessment of status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands, whilst other assessments could mainstream biodiversity aspects into their ongoing activities.

9. LADA is being executed by FAO, with multiple partners, and with UNEP as implementing agency. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Mechanism, a financial mechanism supporting the implementation of UNCCD, support LADA. This assessment was initiated specifically in response to the needs of the parties to UNCCD and aims at assessing the status and trends of land degradation in all its components including biodiversity. Although biodiversity aspects are currently considered at a rather general level only, it is anticipated that LADA could potentially address sufficiently needs of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, if supported by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The two-year preliminary development phase of LADA was launched in 2002. This phase focuses on: (i) methods of assessment; (ii) development and pilot testing; (iii) building a cooperative network of institutions; (iv) identifying and assessing sources of data with global and regional coverage; (v) preparation of the full-scale project. It should be noted that although LADA is a global assessment, it aims to be operational at the national level. It could therefore potentially establish appropriate mechanisms to build, incorporate and strengthen national assessment efforts.

10. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is already addressing various assessment needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD and appears to have value as a source of information about status and trends in biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. However, it should be noted that the Assessment is still under development, and the precise nature of the outputs has yet to be defined. In addition, the focus of the Millennium Assessment is primarily on ecosystem condition and trends, in relation to the services provided to people. Biodiversity is being treated as a crosscutting issue. It is therefore not yet clear to which extent information with respect to biodiversity components other than ecosystems will be provided. It should be noted that the attention given to dry and sub-humid lands is likely to be limited (provisionally, a chapter of about 20 pages in the main "Conditions and trends" volume). Furthermore, the

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Millennium Assessment will not be accessing or compiling original data, but will focus on analysis and presentation of existing data. This feature is shared with most other ongoing global environmental assessments. Delivery of the main outputs of the Millennium Assessment is expected to take place in 2004.

11. Based on the above, it is suggested that the SBSTTA invites LADA and the Millennium Assessment to investigate, with relevant partners, how the needs of the dry and sub-humid land programme, specified through the programme of work, could be integrated into or complemented by the ongoing assessments, and to report on this matter to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting in 2004. Special consideration should be given to the need to strengthen national efforts to assess the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands.

12. This could, for example, be supported by the collaborative development of a set of guidelines for national assessments of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands together with interested country Parties. Such guidelines should take into account the many different approaches, methods, technologies and ongoing efforts that are relevant for the assessment of dry and sub-humid land biological diversity and the impacts and implications of human activities and natural events. Lessons learned from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment should especially be considered in these guidelines. Additionally, the Forest Resource Assessment should be considered, as it is unique among the global environmental assessments in that FAO is mandated to undertake the assessment, which involves compilation of national statistics, in collaboration with national governments. To further facilitate especially developing country parties to apply such guidelines, appropriate opportunities for access to and transfer of technology and technical and scientific cooperation should be specifically identified and included. Such a set of guidelines could be tabled at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the year 2006.

13. According to the proposal of the Executive Secretary on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5/Add.2/Rev.1), the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands might be reviewed in depth at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2006. It is suggested that, based on the in-depth review and the finally established mechanism(s) for the assessment of status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, the final periodicity for future assessments should be decided on. It is proposed that a first global assessment of status and trends be compiled by the year 2012, and that periodic updates be undertaken in 10-year intervals from thereon.

14. It is acknowledged that developing countries require provision of new and additional financial and technical resources for addressing biodiversity needs. Consideration should therefore be given to the priority capacity-development needs relating to the thematic area of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, including assessment of status and trends of biological diversity.

Table 1. *Proposed process for the periodic assessment of status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands (Phases II-IV will depend on the recommendations made after completion of phase I).*

Phase I: 2002-2004 (COP7)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite LADA and the Millennium Assessment to investigate how the needs of the dry and sub-humid land could be integrated into the ongoing assessments 2. Develop proposal of mechanisms(s) linking national assessment to regional/global assessment/report processes 3. Participatory development of draft guidelines for national assessments including indicators initiated
Phase II: 2004-2006 (COP8) Phase III: 2006-2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Agree to final guidelines for national assessments and adoption for implementation 5. Implementation mechanism agreed upon and functional 6. Data collection, processing and communication according to agreed guidelines and mechanisms 7. In 2010, Parties report on WSSD biodiversity-related targets, as appropriate 8. Global assessment report on status and trends on biological diversity
Phase IV: 10-year periodic assessment reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Periodic ten-year report based on continuous assessments on national level and up-scaling

III. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND IDENTIFICATION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES, FURTHER ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES, THOSE WHO SHOULD IMPLEMENT THESE ACTIVITIES, AND TIMETABLES FOR ACTION AND FOLLOW-UP

15. At its first meeting, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group elaborated a table identifying expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, those who could implement these activities and timetables for action and follow-up (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/39). On 15 August 2002, the table was sent to potential collaborating partners (focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD and relevant institutions) as part of a questionnaire, to further seek inputs from, and explore possibilities of collaboration with, countries with dry and sub-humid lands, and with other bodies relevant to dry and sub-humid lands, pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision V/23. As of 30 October 2002, 22 responses had been received, as follows:

(a) From Burkina Faso, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, Namibia and Switzerland, through their CBD focal points;

(b) From Togo and Uganda, through their UNCCD focal points; and

(c) From the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the European Commission (EC), BirdLife International, the Secretariat of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Centre of Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), IUCN and the World Bank.

16. The revised table of activities, expected outcomes, timeframe, potential actors and progress indicators is annexed to the present document.

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17. Activities 7 to 9 constitute part B of the programme of work (“Targeted actions in response to identified needs”). Ways and means of implementing the various activities of part B are outlined in the programme of work and include: (i) capacity-building; (ii) establishment of demonstration sites; (iii) documentation and dissemination of case-studies; (iv) improved consultation and information sharing among stakeholders; (v) enhanced interactions between the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD; and (vi) partnerships between all relevant stakeholders at all levels. It is emphasized that these activities should be primarily implemented by country Parties, amongst others, through incorporation in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity and action programmes of the UNCCD, and other relevant national strategies. Examples of ways and means for implementation are listed in table 2.

Table 2: *Examples of ways and means of implementing activities 7 to 9 of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands*

Ways and Means	Examples
(i) Capacity-building	Training (e.g. regional training workshops on biodiversity management and sustainable use; research training for university students, exchange visits between communities)
	Institutional support/strengthening (e.g. strengthen zoos and seed banks, especially national & regional centres of excellence; technology development centres, institutions for land tenure conflict resolution)
	Education (e.g. mainstreaming of key biodiversity issues into school and tertiary education curricular; agricultural and conservation technicians to include biodiversity conservation measures into programmes)
	Public awareness (e.g. dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity year)
(ii) Demonstration sites	Selection of sites and best practices (e.g. for integrated catchment management, appropriate technology development and applications, natural resource management for livelihood improvement, traditional knowledge systems demonstration)
	Exchange visits and training modules (e.g. between and for communities, decision makers, practitioners)
	Documentation and dissemination of best practice information
(iii) Case-studies	Projects (e.g. testing measures and approaches to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources for sustainable livelihoods)
	Best practice and management guidelines (e.g. effective protected areas networks, invasive alien species, in- and ex-situ conservation, economic valuation)
	Documentation and dissemination (e.g. development of best practice guidelines, evaluation of case-studies, support for write-up, establishment of accessible dissemination channels)
	Up-scaling, policy implementation (e.g. guidelines for up-scaling of case-study lessons learnt, mainstreaming into policy development, support for policy implementation)
(iv) Improved consultation and information sharing	Participation and exchange of information (e.g. between local communities, communication to national level decision makers, Focal Points, international level)
	Information networks (e.g. UNCCD TPNs, databases, expert groups)
	Technology transfer (e.g. guidelines, policies, incentives)
(v) Enhanced interactions	Regular consultation between the secretariats of the CBD and UNCCD (e.g. joint liaison group, side events at the Conference of the Parties, joint work programmes)

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between CBD & UNCCD	Synergy workshops
	Joint projects (e.g. on rehabilitation, sustainable resource management)
(vi) Partner-ships	Documentation of successful cases (e.g. establishment of participatory processes, student tandem systems, research collaboration, public-private-partnerships)

18. As requested by SBSTTA, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group identified and summarized priority capacity-development needs of country Parties in the thematic area of biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. The assessment was based, amongst others, on outcomes from the UNDP-GEF Capacity Development Initiative, and the main priorities are reflected in the annex to the present document.

19. It is recognized that developing country Parties may need new and additional financial and technical resources to implement these activities effectively. As a catalytic activity, it is suggested that the Secretariats of UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity expand the training programme for developing countries to plan and develop project proposals for submission to GEF, as initiated in cooperation with the Agronomic Institute for Overseas (Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO)) in Florence, Italy, where two training courses were organized during 2002, with invitations sent to 20 participants from the African region.

20. Furthermore, parties that are undertaking the national capacity self-assessment exercise should be encouraged to explicitly consider and review their capacities to successfully implement the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid land.

IV. PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MECHANISM TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS OF BIODIVERSITY, DESERTIFICATION/LAND DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOR LINKING AND ENSURING INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

21. The challenges posed by the intricate impact of climate change, loss of biological diversity, drought and desertification on social, economic and environmental conditions in many countries, have been exemplified over the past years. It has also been amply demonstrated that there is a clear convergence of objectives among the three multilateral environmental conventions, and that there is a need for a reorientation of the strategic approaches that have hitherto been pursued by the various interested Parties, particularly at the country level.

22. In particular, there is a need for the various actors to focus more on a broad framework encompassing, *inter alia*, biological diversity and sustainable natural resource management, desertification control and sustainable land management, climate change and adaptive measure, and socio-economic development. All these issues have been addressed by the three Rio conventions separately. There is a need to develop tangible proposals and mechanisms for the facilitation of synergistic implementation.

23. Various decisions of the Conference of the Parties have progressively established close working relationships between the three Rio conventions, and other conventions.¹ The dry and sub-humid lands programme was developed closely with UNCCD and it entails a joint work programme between the two conventions. To further facilitate the synergistic implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

¹ See, in particular, decision I/5, II/13, III/21, IV/15, V/21 and VI/20.

UNCCD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting requested the Executive Secretary, together with the UNCCD, to develop proposals to establish mechanisms to coordinate activities and ensure integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and national action programmes under UNCCD. Accordingly, the proposals have been prepared in close consultation with the UNCCD and, in particular, are based on the lessons learned and needs expressed by countries during the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) of the UNFCCC, which was held in Rome from 11 to 22 November 2002. One of the main themes of the review was that of linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and as appropriate, with national development strategies.

24. CRIC welcomed the synergy-related interventions by the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD, as well as with other environmental conventions, and urged, *inter alia*, further collaboration ventures particularly aimed at the local level.

25. An overview of country views and recommendations brought forward by countries was provided in the review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with relevant conventions, international organizations, institutions and agencies prepared by the CCD secretariat (ICCD/CRIC/(1)/9), and detailed reports are included in the regional review reports.² Suggestions for possible action included:

(a) Action programmes of environmental conventions need to be integrated into national development strategies;

(b) It is necessary to strengthen synergies with those legal instruments dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;

(c) The focal points for CCD, GEF, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNFCCC and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands should liaise more closely for integrated management of projects and preparation of project proposals;

(d) The private sector, which is expected to contribute financially to the implementation of environmental and sustainable development conventions, should be better informed about the benefits of synergies among them;

(e) The search for synergies at country level should be supported by appropriate incentive systems, institutional arrangements for coordination and responsiveness by the respective COPs of the conventions and their secretariats;

(f) Collaboration between the scientific support structures of the various conventions should be fostered;

(g) Technical and financial strategic alliances should be built to foster and strengthen effective regional and international cooperation and partnership, including South-South dimension; and

(h) The number of national synergy workshops, already convened by the UNCCD, should be increased to enhance decision-makers' capacity at country level to implement the conventions in a synergistic manner.

² For all relevant documentation for the first meeting of CRIC, see the website of the Convention to Combat Desertification (<http://www.unccd.int/>).

26. The strategy adopted by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity towards promotion and strengthening of synergies among the environmental conventions has to date focused mainly on:

(a) Strengthening institutional linkages; e.g. by establishing memoranda of cooperation/understanding and joint work programmes with the secretariats of various environmental conventions;

(b) Developing common policies and strategies at a management level, for example, through a joint liaison group of the three Rio conventions at the executive-head level; and

(c) Encouraging the integration of the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity into relevant sectoral policies through supporting inter-ministerial/sectoral coordination/steering committees through the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

27. It is suggested that the mechanisms for promoting synergies already put in place by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity should be strengthened further. The established institutional linkages referred to in paragraph 26 above should be further operationalized. One example for such operationalization options is the request of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to the secretariat of that convention, and other members of the joint liaison group, to jointly organize a workshop. This workshop should:

(a) Prepare guidance to the national focal point of each convention and contribute to enhancing coordination and communication between them; and

(b) Identify options to increase cooperation and capture synergies among the conventions in existing mechanisms, particularly the exchange of information in selected areas.

28. It is recommended that the Executive Secretary, based on the outcomes and recommendations of the above-mentioned workshop, draft guidelines for the review of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a focus on intersectoral integration, potentially in collaboration with the other Rio Conventions and/or members of the joint liaison group.³ The importance to include local and national level practitioners in the formulation of such guidelines cannot be over-emphasized. The views and results obtained from the UNCCD CRIC process are invaluable in the identification of the real needs of national level implementing partners, and the established working partnerships need to be further elaborated.

29. In the same line of action, catalysing activities, such as the already tested UNCCE national synergy workshop programme, should be replicated and undertaken in collaboration with all members of the joint liaison group, and as far as possible at the regional and subregional levels. Upon the request of Parties, the UNCCED secretariat has been facilitating the organisation of national workshops in selected developing countries to stimulate the discussion of modalities of collaboration by various stakeholders in the implementation of the three Rio conventions. The three main objectives are:

(a) To strengthen current coordination at the local level, including through the exchange of information, in order to achieve an optimal use of domestically available resources;

(b) To facilitate policy dialogue with the donor community, to attract financial resources towards concrete agendas for effectively addressing common objectives of the conventions; and

³ It should be noted that SBSTA recommended that the Executive Secretary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands be included as a permanent member in the joint liaison group.

(c) To assist the convention secretariats in preparing and/or updating joint work plans to meet the expectations of countries, particularly in capacity-building, information systems and innovative options for cooperation and assistance.

30. One outcome of these national synergy workshops could be the formulation of joint project proposals that would identify ways to develop synergy between country-level operatives in charge of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the national action programmes, especially those responsible for community-based initiatives, which, in this context, might stand a better chance of enabling countries to forge collaborative ventures with implementation tools under the two conventions. The training opportunities for developing country Parties, facilitated by the secretariats of the Rio conventions and outlined in paragraph 19 above, could support the implementation of such synergistic pilot projects. Lessons learned from such joint implementation activities could be most useful for the further refinement of strategies to capitalize to the greatest extent possible on the synergies among the conventions, and should be reported to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, in the context of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

ANNEX 1: SYNTHESIS TABLE OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND TIMEFRAMES, POTENTIAL ACTORS, AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Time-frame	Key actors [§]	Status	Progress Indicators	Date
PART A: ASSESSMENTS						
Activity 1. Assessment of status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive review and assessment report on status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid land 	2012	FAO, LADA, MA, Parties, SCBD	Planned	Preliminary assessment Draft full assessment	2006 2010
Activity 2. Areas of particular value and/or under threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and assessment of areas of value/under threat 	2012	World Heritage Centre, MAB Secretariat, WCPA, IUCN, WCMC, Parties	Planned	Draft map and assessment report	2008
Activity 3. Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators for assessment of status and trends fully operational 	2012	FAO, LADA, MA, Parties, SCBD	In progress	Draft set of indicators	2004
Activity 4. Knowledge on processes that affect biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and publications on the structure and functioning of dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems, including the potential impact of climate change on dry and sub-humid lands. 	Ongoing	Various research and development institutes, including local knowledge systems, Parties	Ongoing	Draft summary publication AHTEG on biodiversity and climate change	2006 2003
Activity 5. Benefits derived from the biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compilation of information on local and global benefits 	2012	Various research and development institutes, including local knowledge Parties,	In progress	AHTEG on dry and sub-humid lands Draft publication	2002 2006
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the socio-economic impact of biodiversity loss and linkage to poverty 	2006	Parties, various research and development institutes, including local knowledge	In progress	AHTEG on dry and sub-humid lands Draft report	2002 2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies on inter-linkages between biodiversity loss and poverty 	2006	Parties, collaborating partners, SCBD	Planned	Submission of case-studies from Parties	2005
Activity 6. Best management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies including consideration of traditional knowledge 	2006	Parties, collaborating partners, SCBD	Planned	Submission of case-studies from Parties	2005
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for assessment of good practices 	2004	SCBD, Parties	Planned	Draft guideline	2003

[§] Indicative summary from the list of potential collaborators in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2).

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Time-frame	Key actors§	Status	Progress Indicators	Date
PART B: TARGETED ACTIONS						
Activity 7. Measures for conservation and sustainable use						
(a) Protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines on establishment of “adequate and effective protected areas networks” Additional protected area established 	2008 Ongoing	WCPA, Environmental conventions, IUCN, World Heritage, MAB Sec. Parties	In process Ongoing	Protected areas report	2012
(b) Rehabilitation and/or restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report and database on appropriate technologies and transfer mechanisms Evaluation of effectiveness of measures at test sites Measures implemented through NBSAPs and NAPs 	2002 Ongoing	Norway, SCBD, Parties and various collaborating partner Parties	Ongoing Proposed Proposed	Workshop on transfer of technologies Sites established; exchange visits between affected countries Explicit rehabilitation Project implemented worldwide	2003 2008 2008
(c) Invasive alien species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased information and information exchange on invasive alien species Guidelines and mechanisms for best management; integration through NBSAPs 	Ongoing 2008	Parties, supported by GISP Parties, GISP	In progress In progress	Workshops, CHM includes explicit information Draft guidelines	2008 2006
(d) Production systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational guidelines on sustainable use, good farming practices, integrated production system and drought preparedness Progress report on development of incentives, including “fair and equitable” markets 	2004 2004	Parties, FAO, CGIAR centres, WB, various research institutes Parties	In progress Proposed	Draft guidelines Draft resource paper; 3 rd National Reports	2003 2006
(e) Water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines on management and sustainable use of water resources implemented Case-studies on best practices available 		Parties, Ramsar and other environmental conventions, GIWA, research institutes Parties	Proposed Proposed	Guidelines drafted Submission of case-studies by Parties	2008 2007

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Time-frame	Key actors§	Status	Progress Indicators	Date
(f) <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for in situ and ex situ conservation and management needs based on best practices implemented Capacities of zoos and seedbanks and other institutions for ex-situ conservation strengthened 		WCPA, IUCN, WWF, CGIAR centres, Parties	Proposed	Draft guidelines	2006
			Parties, regional centres	Proposed	Integration into NBSAP and NAP	2008
(g) Economic valuation and adaptive technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study on economic valuation of goods and services in areas of specific value for biodiversity Guidelines for the use of economic instruments implemented through NBSAP 		Parties, WB, various research and development institutes	Proposed	Draft report by AHTEG	2002
			Parties, various research and development institutes	Proposed	Draft guidelines	2006
(h) Plant and animal biomass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies on best practices Incorporation of lessons learnt in NBSAPs and NAPs 		Parties, various collaborating partners	Proposed		
			Parties	Proposed		
(i) Training, education and public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training programmes nationally and regionally in place Public awareness campaigns on the importance of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity 		Parties, regional centres of excellence, TPN of UNCCD	Proposed	Training workshops per year per region	2006
			Parties, CBD, UNCCD	Proposed	Year of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands	
(j) Information on sustainable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of information exchange mechanisms 		Parties, sub-regional organisations, TPNs	Planned, ongoing	TPNSs discuss 2 themes relevant to PoW per year	2008
(k) Promotion of research and development programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research priorities established Pilot projects developed and implemented on local level 		Parties, research and development institutes	Planned, ongoing	Partnerships for collaborative research	
			Parties	Planned, ongoing	Demonstration sites per region per year	2006
(l) Integrated catchment management and endangered species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies on (i) integrated catchment mngt, (ii) migratory species corridors, (iii) conservation of rare and endangered species 		Parties	Proposed	Case-studies per region documented	2006
(m) Cooperation with relevant conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) with relevant conventions Joint work programme with relevant conventions 		Various conventions	In progress		
			Various conventions	In progress	Synergy workshops Pilot synergy projects	
Activity 8. Promotion of responsible resource						

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Time-frame	Key actors§	Status	Progress Indicators	Date
management						
(a) Local institutional structures; and indigenous and local techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies in place and success stories documented and shared Broad implementation through NBSAP and NAP 		Parties Parties	Proposed Proposed	Regional level exchange Visit programmes in place	2006
(b) Decentralization of management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies and success stories of community-based management of resources 		Parties	Proposed	Publication of case-study; exchange visits to sites	2006
(c) Institutions for land tenure and conflict resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies and success stories of strengthened national organization structures 		Parties	Proposed	Workshops demonstrating case examples	2008
(d) Transboundary issues (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines on transboundary collaboration implemented through NBSAP and NAPs Increased number of bilateral and subregional collaborative arrangements in place 		Parties, WCPA, IGOs Parties	Proposed Ongoing	Draft guidelines	2008
(e) Policies and instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms for collaboration between respective national focal points developed Case-studies, guidelines for cross-sectoral integration, integration of NBSAP and NAPs 		Parties, SCBD, UNCCD Parties	In process In process	Synergy workshops held per annum Presentation of first case-studies (UNCCD CRIC 1)	2004 2002
Activity 9. Support for sustainable livelihoods						
(a) Income diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-studies on income diversification Guidelines for income diversification opportunities implemented through NBSAP and NAPs 		Parties Parties	Proposed Proposed	Initial case-studies reported on Draft guidelines	2006 2008
(b) Sustainable harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines on best practices incorporated in NBSAP, NAPs and other relevant policies 		Parties	Proposed	Draft guidelines	2004
(c) Innovations for local income generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant case-studies made available 		Parties	Proposed	Workshops and exchange visits	2006
(d) Market development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products derived from sustainable use increasingly marketed Conducive market relationships developed 		Parties, WHO Parties, WHO	Proposed Proposed	Initial case-studies reported on	2006
(e) Fair and equitable sharing of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines produced and integrated in 		Parties, SCBD	Proposed	Draft guidelines	2008

Activity	Expected Outcomes	Time-frame	Key actors§	Status	Progress Indicators	Date
the benefits	NBSAP, NAPs and other relevant policies					

Indicative list of potential collaborators and abbreviations**

CBD=Convention on Biological Diversity; CCD=Convention to Combat Desertification; CGIAR=Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; CIAT=International Centre for Tropical Agriculture; CIFOR=Centre for International Forestry Research; CILSS=Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel; CITES=Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; CMS = Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CPF=Collaborative Partnership on Forests; FAO=Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations; GEF=Global Environment Facility; GISP=Global Invasive Species Project; GIWA=Global International Waters Assessment, ICARDA=International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas Species Programme; ICRAF=International Centre for Agroforestry; ICRISAT=International Crops Research Institute for the semi-arid Tropics; IFAD=International Fund for Agricultural Development; IGBP=International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme; JITA=International Institute for Tropical Agriculture; ILRI=International Livestock Research Centre; ILTER=International Long-term Ecological Research Network, IPGRI=International Plant Genetic Resources Institute; IPPC=Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control; IGO=Intergovernmental organization; IUCN=International Union for Conservation; IUFRO=International Union of Forestry Research Organizations; LUCC=Land Use and Cover Change Programme (of IGBP); MA=Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; OIE=World Organization for Animal Health; OSS=Observatoire du Sahara et Sahel; SADC=Southern African Development Community; TPN=Thematic Programme Networks of the CCD; UNDP=United Nations Development Programme; UNEP=United Nations Environment Programme; UNEP-WCMC=World Conservation Monitoring Centre; UNESCO=United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNESCO-MAB=Man and Biosphere Project; UNFCCC=United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UNFF=United Nations Forum on Forests; UNITAR=UN Institute for Training and Research; WB=World Bank; WCPA=World Commission on Protected Areas; WHC=World Heritage Centre (UNESCO); WIPO=World Intellectual Property Organization; WMO=World Meteorological Organization; WRI=World Resource Institute; WTO=World Trade Organization; WWF=World Wide Fund for Nature

** As listed in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2) and updated based on a questionnaire sent out in August 2002.