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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twelfth meeting

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Item 5.1 of the provisional agenda\*

### BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#### *Proposal from the Convention on Biological Diversity on Options for Mutually Supportive Activities for the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions, Parties and Relevant Organizations*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. Through paragraph 9 of decision VIII/30, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary, through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio conventions, to consider the options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions contained in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/7/Add.1 and invited the JLG to identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations, taking into account the findings of the two reports on biodiversity and climate change (CBD Technical Series No. 10 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/5) for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. In accordance with this request the Executive Secretary prepared proposals on options for mutually supportive activities which were considered at the seventh meeting of the JLG, held on 7 June 2007 in Bonn, Germany.
3. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for information of the participants of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the note as presented to the JLG.

\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/1.



**PROPOSAL FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON OPTIONS FOR  
MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECRETARIATS OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS, PARTIES  
AND RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. Paragraph 9 of decision VIII/30 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requests the Executive Secretary to, through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG), identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, Parties and relevant organizations.
2. Such options should take into account the options paper for enhanced cooperation issued by the fifth meeting of the JLG and the findings of CBD Technical Series No. 10 and No. 25.
3. The need for improved coordination and cooperation among the Rio Conventions has been recognized as a means to capture synergy, reduce areas of potential conflicts between activities taken by Parties to fulfil the provisions under each agreement, avoid duplication of efforts, and use resources more efficiently.
4. The subsidiary bodies of the Conventions have emphasized the need for synergistic activities to be designed in accordance with national circumstances and priorities with a view to achieving sustainable development. As such, options presented in this document take note of the distinct mandates and independent status of each Convention.
5. The options suggested by the JLG will be presented for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD prior to the ninth meeting of the COP.
6. The following document presents options for mutually supportive activities based on options for further enhancing cooperation: at the national and international level (section 1), on issues addressing climate change impacts, adaptation, mitigation, land degradation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (section 2), and in specific cross-cutting areas (section 3).
7. The options presented in this document are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all synergistic activities. Rather, they represent a first list of indicative activities which may be adjusted based on emerging opportunities.

## I. ENHANCING COOPERATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

### *Collaboration among National Focal Points*

#### Objective

8. Collaboration among focal points can enhance the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of synergistic activities, strengthen national implementation of the joint work programme between the CBD and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), identify synergies, and avoid overlaps in negotiation and implementation of the Conventions.

#### Rationale

9. Collaboration among national focal points has been called for by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the CBD<sup>1</sup>. It was also recognized as a priority for cooperation during the roundtable on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change hosted by the CBD from 19 to 20 March 2007<sup>2</sup>. National collaboration was, additionally, one of the key themes identified in the submissions from Parties to the UNFCCC in response to the JLG options paper.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Make the joint Rio calendar available on the websites of all three Conventions	Rio calendar is available and consistently updated on the websites of the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD
Distribute relevant notifications to other Conventions' focal points	Process in place for the sharing of relevant notifications between focal points
Compile lessons learned and case studies on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points <sup>3</sup>	Case studies and lessons learned are compiled and distributed to the focal points of all Conventions
Draft and distribute, at least once per year, a newsletter on synergies between the Rio Conventions	Newsletter contains relevant information on (i) activities in support of synergies and (ii) emerging issues or discussions which may present opportunities for further synergies

#### Activities for Parties

10. Parties should endeavour to expand collaboration between focal points through a mechanism that is appropriate given each country's unique circumstances. Examples of mechanisms for collaboration include *inter alia*:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Scheduling periodic meetings between focal points and focal point teams	To be determined by each Party
Establishing a national coordinating committee for implementation of the Rio Conventions	To be determined by each Party
Building institutional linkages between the ministries responsible for implementation of each Convention	To be determined by each Party
Engaging, when relevant, focal points from other Conventions when forming a position for negotiations	To be determined by each Party

<sup>1/</sup> UNFCCC: FCCC/SBSTA/2003/15, para. 44 (d)); CBD: VII/15, paragraph 3.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=EMBCC-01>

<sup>3/</sup> CBD: VII/15, para. 10.

Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support institutional capacity building to facilitate synergies	Number of Parties receiving support for institutional capacity building
Support training, back to back with relevant meetings, on the findings of the case study analysis and lessons learned developed by the Secretariat	Number of training events held

***Cooperation on National – Level Planning***Objective

11. Although the Rio Conventions each have distinct goals and mandates, all three Conventions share similar needs for mainstreaming, national-level planning, and coordination among policies, programmes and sectors. Cooperation on national-level planning can enhance mainstreaming and coordination by ensuring complementarity among efforts and mandates between different ministries and institutions responsible for the planning and implementation of each Convention.

12. Cooperation also has the potential to enhance the quality of the development, implementation and review of national plans through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders.

Rationale

13. The UNCCD, the UNFCCC and the CBD have all called for complementarity among the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD, the national action programmes (NAPs) of the UNCCD, and the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) for least developed countries of the UNFCCC<sup>4</sup>.

Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Share reports and reviews of national planning processes and highlight lessons learned which may be relevant across Conventions	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of information to relevant staff in other Secretariats
Draft guidance on: the integration of climate change and desertification within NBSAPs for CBD focal points; the integration of climate change and biodiversity within NAPs for UNCCD focal points; and the integration of biodiversity and desertification within NAPAs for UNFCCC least-developed country focal points	Development and dissemination of draft guidance to focal points of all Conventions

Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Review existing national plans to identify gaps in synergies	To be determined by each Party
Identify relevant sector plans and policies that could benefit from cooperation on biodiversity, desertification and climate change	To be determined by each Party
Revise relevant plans and policies, as appropriate to enhance cooperation	To be determined by each Party

<sup>4/</sup> UNFCCC: 28/CP.7, annex; UNCCD: ICCD/CRIC(1) L 1; CBD: VII/2, paragraphs 5 (c)(i) and 6.

Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Organizations which are providing support for national planning processes can couple such support with human, technical and institutional capacity building for enhanced synergies	Number of Parties receiving support for human, technical and institutional capacity building for enhanced synergies within the framework of national planning support
Facilitate regional and inter-regional exchanges of experience on integrating synergistic activities into national level planning	Establishment of a process or processes for the exchange of experiences

*Collaboration at the Level of Convention Bodies and Secretariats*Objective

14. The Convention bodies are the decision-making mechanisms of the Conventions which, along with the Secretariats, provide scientific, technical and procedural support to implementation. Enhancing collaboration at the level of Convention bodies and Secretariats can provide significant value-added through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, the sharing of support tools and processes, and enhanced awareness-raising.

Rationale

15. There are three main mechanisms for collaboration at the level of the convention bodies and Secretariats which have already been piloted and supported by Convention bodies: cooperation among the subsidiary bodies to the conventions<sup>5</sup>; the JLG <sup>6</sup>; and joint work programmes or plans<sup>7</sup>.

Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Continue to facilitate joint meetings between the chairs of the scientific bodies of the Conventions	Participation of the chairs of the scientific bodies in joint meetings
Share reviews and lessons learned regarding the functioning of the Convention bodies	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of reviews and lessons learned to the relevant staff in other Secretariats
Keep staff in other Secretariats informed of discussions and decisions on relevant synergistic activities or programmes	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of information to the relevant staff in other Secretariats

Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Provide input, as requested, to the JLG	Number of Parties responding to requests for views from the JLG
Provide clear guidance to subsidiary bodies and the Secretariats on ways and means to support enhanced synergies	To be determined by each Party

<sup>5/</sup> UNFCCC: 13/CP.8, paragraph 2; UNCCD: 7/COP.5, paragraph 5 and 15/COP.6, annex 2.

<sup>6/</sup> UNFCCC: 13/CP.8 and FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2; UNCCD: 12/COP.6, paragraph 3.CBD: VI/20 and VII/2.

<sup>7/</sup> UNFCCC: FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, para. 42 (d) (ii); UNCCD Article 8.1.

Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support implementation of the joint work programme between the CBD and the UNCCD	Number of Parties receiving technical or financial support for the implementation of the joint work programme

**II. ENHANCING COOPERATION ON ISSUES ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

*Technology Transfer*Objective

16. Access to, and the transfer of, relevant technologies is important for the implementation of the Rio Conventions. With regards to technologies which contribute to the attainment of the objectives of more than one Convention, enhancing collaboration can maximize cost-effectiveness and avoid, to a certain extent, the use of technologies for implementation of one Convention with unintentional adverse impacts on implementation of another.

Rationale

17. All Rio Conventions share the overarching objective of achieving sustainable development. From this perspective, synergies may be realized in particular if focus is given not on the transfer of technology for narrow purposes, but rather on the transfer of entire technology packages to achieve the sustainable use of biological resources, including for instance specific biotechnological applications for the development of biotechnological products based on genetic resources.

18. Furthermore, all three Conventions have, through their respective bodies, emphasized the importance of facilitating the exchange of information and experiences, including through improving the inter-accessibility of available web-based data<sup>8</sup>.

Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Enhancing the inter-operability of the UNFCCC and CBD technology databases such that a single search can return results from both sources	Single search available for multiple databases
Continuing the sharing of experiences by secretariat staff in forums such as the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the UNFCCC Working Group in Technology Transfer or its successor	Participation, where appropriate, of relevant staff from other Secretariats in technology transfer meetings and bodies
Respond to the decision of the eighth meeting on the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requesting the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer to further consider options for collaboration	Development of further activities and processes for collaboration on technology transfer
Enhance cooperation with UNEP to explore the nature and scope of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building with a view to identify possible collaborative activities and options to synergize	Development of further activities and processes for collaboration on technology transfer

<sup>8</sup>/ UNFCCC : FCCC/SBSTA/2004/6, para. 130; CBD: VII/23, para. 7 (e); UNCCD: 17/COP.3, para. 9.

Activities for Parties

19. Parties to the Conventions are called on to enhance the sharing and uptake of new technologies so as to enhance technology transfer. Specific activities to this end could include *inter alia*:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Providing inputs to the technology transfer databases of the three Conventions	Number of Parties contributing to technology transfer databases
Prepare, as appropriate, transparent impact assessments and risk analysis so as to ensure that transferred technologies are economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly	To be determined by each Party
Enhance cooperation among national focal points for the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Technology Transfer through, for example, the designation of appropriate institutions acting as a central consulting point for technology transfer	To be determined by each Party
Identify technologies of joint interest and relevance	To be determined by each Party

Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support for the establishment of effective networks of electronic databases of relevant technology	Establishment and implementation of a network of electronic databases
Support the strengthening the research and innovation systems of developing countries, including through the training of staff at all levels as well as the enhancement of technical and institutional capacity	Number of Parties receiving supports for research and innovation systems
Assist in the exploration of the applicability of the UNDP-GEF Handbook on Technology Needs Assessment and in the exploration of options for realizing synergy in technology needs assessments for the purposes of different conventions	Development of further activities and processes for collaboration on technology transfer
Enhance cooperation with relevant organizations, conventions and processes, in the implementation of supporting activities that foster an enabling environment for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies	Development of further activities and processes for collaboration on technology transfer

***Forests and Climate Change***Objective

20. Forests are one of the most significant terrestrial carbon sinks and deforestation accounts for approximately 20% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. At the same time, deforestation is a significant contributing factor to desertification and to the loss of biodiversity. Given these strong links between the Rio

Conventions centring on forest ecosystems, enhancing synergies in the implementation of forest activities and the development of forest policies and plans has the potential to mobilize significant co-benefits.

#### Rationale

21. Climate change and forest links are currently being addressed under all three Conventions through (i) reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries under the UNFCCC, as well as certain LULUCF activities (ii) the forest programme of work under the CBD, and (iii) the Forest Principles of the UNCCD.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Draft an information note for Parties to all Conventions on the interlinkages between forests, climate change, desertification and biodiversity	Drafting and dissemination of the information note
Continue to provide inputs and views on forest issues as requested by the subsidiary bodies of the Conventions	Submissions from each Convention in response to relevant calls for information
Ensure that the Parties are kept informed of relevant initiatives in other Conventions	Relevant information provided on Convention websites, and, as appropriate through information provided to Convention bodies

#### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Enhanced consideration of biodiversity, climate change and desertification issues in forest sector planning	To be determined by each Party
Involvement of focal points from different Conventions in discussions on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity and other relevant issues	To be determined by each Party

#### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support capacity building for national monitoring of forests including criteria on biodiversity, carbon sequestration and other benefits	Number of Parties receiving capacity building support for relevant forest monitoring

### *Climate Change Adaptation*

#### Objective

22. Enhancing synergies on the issue of climate change adaptation can ensure the preservation of ecosystem services for the benefit of people and biodiversity. Collaboration between Conventions on the issue of adaptation can also minimize unintentional negative impacts from the implementation of one Convention on the others and can maximize co-benefits.

#### Rationale

23. Climate change adaptation is addressed within the framework of the UNFCCC through the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change<sup>9</sup>. Within the CBD, adaptation activities are integrated into all programmes of work with the exception of the programme of work on technology transfer. Furthermore, collaboration on adaptation was called for under decision VIII/30 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Draft an information note for Parties to all Conventions on adaptation activities, plans and programmes adopted within the framework of each Convention	Drafting and dissemination of the information note
Continue to provide inputs and views on adaptation as requested by the subsidiary bodies of the Conventions	Submissions from each Convention in response to relevant calls for information
Provide case studies and lessons learned on the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within National Adaptation Plans of Action under the UNFCCC	Drafting and dissemination of case studies and lessons learned

#### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Enhance the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within climate change adaptation planning	To be determined by each Party
Evaluate, as appropriate, the extent to which biodiversity and desertification issues are integrated into existing climate change adaptation plans	To be determined by each Party
Identify areas which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, contain high levels of biodiversity or biodiversity at risk, and are exposed to land degradation and desertification	To be determined by each Party

#### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support capacity building for the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in climate change adaptation planning	Number of Parties receiving support for stakeholder participation in adaptation planning
Enhance guidelines for the application of the ecosystem approach so as to facilitate its use as an adaptation planning tool	Drafting and dissemination on ecosystem approach guidance for adaptation planning

### **III. ENHANCING COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC CROSS CUTTING ISSUES**

#### ***Capacity Building***

##### Objective

<sup>9</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_12/application/pdf/sbsta\\_26.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_12/application/pdf/sbsta_26.pdf)

24. While capacity building components are integrated into all other proposed options, there is a potential advantage in establishing activities to support all other capacity building.

#### Rationale

25. The UNFCCC has called for the exploration of options for joint workshops at the international level<sup>10</sup>, while the CBD Conference of the Parties has requested joint capacity-building activities, including training and local, national and regional workshops to promote synergy in implementation<sup>11</sup>.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Organize joint (or back-to-back) workshops, capacity building or training, where feasible and cost-effective	Hold value-added joint workshops, capacity building and training
Support, as appropriate, joint side events at relevant meetings	Number of joint side events

#### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Clearly express capacity building needs to the Secretariats	To be determined by each Party

#### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support joint capacity building efforts	Number of joint events receiving technical, logistic or financial support

### ***Research and Monitoring / Systematic Observation***

#### Objective

26. Collaboration on research, monitoring and systematic observation can contribute to filling the research needs and information gaps identified by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

27. Systemic observations:

- How biodiversity, physical processes and ecosystems will be affected by climate change;
- Identification and quantification of the biological factors and ecosystem processes that contribute to resilience and natural adaptive capacity; and
- The coupling of climate and ecosystem models and improved capacity for simulating effects of multiple drivers and pressures on biodiversity.

28. Monitoring:

- The use of key indicators and other methodologies for assessing biodiversity status and trends;
- Long-term monitoring of key biophysical parameters so to provide baselines; and
- Monitoring the success of adaptation.

29. Adaptation research needs:

<sup>10/</sup> UNFCCC: FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, para. 42 (d) (ii).

<sup>11/</sup> CBD: VII/2, para. 5 (c).

- How biodiversity will be impacted by current adaptation activities;
- Developing adaptation research agendas that reflect priorities for vulnerable communities such as local and indigenous populations and those with limited capacity for adaptation.

### Rationale

30. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD has called for cooperation in the development of advice, methodologies and tools<sup>12</sup>. Methods and tools are also one of the activities of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change<sup>13</sup>.

### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Identify and promote common needs of the three Conventions with respect to research, monitoring and systematic observation, for example, with the global monitoring networks and the wider research and scientific community	Common needs identified Joint statements
Identifying options for the development of research partnerships, such as the CBD Consortium of Universities, including the identification of possible sources of funding for such partnerships ( <i>e.g.</i> the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development)	Proposals on options for the development of research partnerships
Providing a mechanism through which research needs of the Conventions are communicated to the scientific community	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of research needs to the scientific community
Providing focal points of all Conventions with up-to-date information on relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools

### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Conduct, as appropriate, national and local assessments of climate change impacts on biodiversity and desertification	To be determined by each Party
Identify, as appropriate, sources of local and indigenous knowledge that can contribute to synergies	To be determined by each Party
Identify research and / or monitoring needs and establish mechanisms or processes by which such needs could be met	To be determined by each Party

### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support capacity building for national research and monitoring	Number of Parties receiving support for national research and monitoring

<sup>12/</sup> CBD: VII/15, para. 15 and VIII/30 para. 3, 4 and 5.

<sup>13</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_12/application/pdf/sbsta\\_26.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_12/application/pdf/sbsta_26.pdf)

Enhance communication and public awareness regarding the findings of existing assessments	Number of communications products for existing assessments
Endeavor to fill research and monitoring gaps at the regional and global scale	Research or information produced to fill existing gaps

### ***Information Exchange and Outreach***

#### Objective

31. Biodiversity, desertification and climate change are complex issues to communicate to the general public, policy makers and other stakeholder groups. Many of the challenges facing the communication, education and public awareness teams at all levels of implementation cut across the Conventions. As such, there is a great potential benefit to sharing experiences and lessons learned and holding joint outreach events.

#### Rationale

32. Cooperation in communication, education and public awareness programmes has been highlighted for the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including through the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness<sup>14</sup>. The CBD and UNFCCC are also participating in the development of a common message on climate change.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Continue collaboration on the development of common messages on the linkages among climate change, biodiversity and desertification	Development of a common message the linkages among climate change, biodiversity and desertification
Collaborate on development of educational materials	Development of an education guide for primary schools with support of UNEP and UNESCO
Collaborate on capacity-building for communication, education and public awareness	Participation in relevant workshops, side events and activities organized by either secretariat.
Share experiences reported by Parties on communication, education and public awareness events	Establishment of a process for the dissemination of information to the relevant staff in other Secretariats
Establish joint web-based communication tools	Launch of joint web-based communication tools
Explore opportunities for enhanced use of the Clearing House Mechanism to disseminate information on synergies	Proposal on ways and means to enhance the use of the Clearing House Mechanism

#### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Share experiences and lessons learned on communicating synergies	To be determined by each Party

#### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Support national communication education and public awareness programmes on climate change, biodiversity and desertification	Number of Parties receiving support for communication, education and public awareness

<sup>14/</sup> CBD: VII/24, paragraph 4 (b) and VIII/6, annex

Develop communication materials and promote awareness raising on synergies	Development and dissemination of relevant materials
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### ***Harmonized Reporting***

#### Objective

33. All three Rio Conventions include reporting mechanisms, which respond to the unique requirements of each process and procedure. Despite this distinction, there are some areas which overlap in reporting especially when considering land use change, forestry, soil degradation, agriculture, and wetland management. Enhancing synergies in reporting can help alleviate some of the reporting burden faced by countries, which is especially important in developing countries where reporting capacity is often weak.

#### Rationale

34. The Conferences of the Parties of the CBD and other related conventions recognize the need to harmonize reporting among them and suggest that proper steps be taken towards this direction. For example, the COP 7 of the CBD, in its decision VI/22, requested that the CBD, UNFF and other members of the Collaborative Forests Partnerships streamline and harmonize forest-related reporting. The COP 8 of the CBD, in its decision VIII/14, encouraged Parties to harmonize the gathering and management of data for the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. The Liaison Group was also encouraged to give further consideration to issues of harmonization of reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and to develop proposals. The COP 8 also identified inland waters ecosystem and dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity as two thematic areas where some work could be undertaken on harmonizing reporting among related conventions, in particular the Ramsar Convention and the UNCCD. It is also considered as one of the focal areas of the work of the Environmental Management Group of the United Nations Environment Programme.

#### Activities for Secretariats

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
Responsible staff in each Secretariat will consult and inform other Convention Secretariats on the development of new reporting guidelines, timelines and procedures	Establishment of a process for the consultations and dissemination of information to the relevant staff in other Secretariats

#### Activities for Parties

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
National focal points share, to the extent possible, databases containing reporting data and information sources	To be determined by each Party
Where relevant, focal points work together on drafting the national reports for each Convention	To be determined by each Party

#### Activities for Relevant Organizations

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Continue to support the activities for harmonized reporting developed during the UNEP-WCMC workshop on reporting	Implementation of the activities contained within the UNEP-WCMC meeting report
Provide support to Parties for the development of knowledge management systems to facilitate the sharing of reporting data among focal points	Number of Parties receiving support for the development of relevant knowledge management systems

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