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BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Proposal from the Executive Secretary on options for mutually supportive activities for the secretariats of the Rio conventions, and options for parties and relevant organizations

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions, to consider proposals on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions. The Conference of the Parties further suggested that, in considering these options, the Joint Liaison Group might identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations. At its twelfth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) reiterated the request of the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA.

In response to this request, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity presented draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations for consideration by the Joint Liaison Group at its seventh meeting held on 7 June 2007. Following the submission of the proposals by the Executive Secretary, the Joint Liaison Group decided to consider only the options for the secretariats. In doing so the Joint Liaison Group identified, during its eighth meeting, on 12 September 2007, four priority activities for immediate implementation: (i) a newsletter on synergies between the Rio conventions; (ii) tools to inform Parties about relevant activities on biodiversity and climate change; (iii) the development of educational materials; and (iv) joint web based communication tools. A further list of possible activities by the secretariats for future action and further discussion was also approved.

In addition to activities for the secretariats, options for mutually supportive activities for Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were reviewed by Parties as per the request issued at the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA and in response to notification 2007-085. The review of these options revealed the importance of national-level activities in the implementation of mutually supportive activities, especially with regards to mainstreaming, and noted the need for any activities by Parties to be adopted based on national circumstances.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1.

Further views from Parties emphasized the need to: (i) ensure added value; (ii) reduce duplication and improve efficiency; (iii) respect the mandates and legal status of each convention; (iv) ensure cooperation and consultation with Parties and relevant organizations; (v) maintain a supporting role only for the Secretariats; and (vi) avoid additional obstacles or delays in the implementation of the provisions of each convention while developing activities that are supportive for both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting:

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Joint Liaison Group containing proposals on mutually supportive activities for the Secretariats of the Rio conventions;
2. *Requests* the secretariats of the Rio conventions to collaborate on:
 - (a) The publication of a newsletter on synergies between the Rio conventions;
 - (b) The creation of tools to inform Parties about relevant activities on biodiversity and climate change, including through updating existing tools and publications;
 - (c) The production of educational materials; and
 - (d) The development of joint web-based communication tools;
3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to continue discussions within the Joint Liaison Group on the proposed activities listed in paragraph 9 (c) of the present document;
4. *Noting* that efforts at the national level are of high importance to the achievement of synergies between biodiversity, land degradation and climate change, *invites* Parties and other Governments, where appropriate based on national circumstances, to implement the proposals on options for mutually supportive activities by Parties contained in annex I to this note;
5. *Also invites* Parties and other Governments, when planning or implementing mutually supportive activities among the Rio conventions, to apply the ecosystem approach and make use of the UNEP Issue-Based Modules.
6. *Invites* relevant organizations to take further steps to promote synergies between the Rio conventions, including the activities laid out in annex II to this note and to report on progress to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to compile case-studies, good practice examples and lessons learned on activities, tools and methods to promote synergies between biodiversity and climate change at the national level; and report on implementation of mutually supportive activities for the Secretariats, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations during the in-depth review of climate change activities at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
8. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to support synergies between biodiversity and climate change through relevant capacity-building initiatives.

B. Bearing in mind that the following text was not endorsed at its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

9. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, recalling the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, to enhance cooperation with regard to new risks for biodiversity emerging from climate change effects on plant pests;
10. *Notes* the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility when developing synergies;
11. *Further notes* the statement of the London Convention on the potential risks from ocean fertilization; and

12. *Explores* opportunities for collaboration between the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity towards a mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, in order to ensure that issues of conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components are adequately taken into account.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions, to consider the proposals in the note by the Executive Secretary on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions prepared for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/7/Add.1). The Conference of the Parties further suggested that, in considering these options, the Joint Liaison Group may identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations.
2. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary presented draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations for consideration by the Joint Liaison Group at its seventh meeting held in Bonn on 7 June 2007.
3. The Joint Liaison Group, at its seventh meeting, welcomed the note presented by the Executive Secretary and agreed to consider, during its eighth meeting, the options for mutually supportive activities for the Secretariats based on: (i) technical and logistical feasibility; (ii) political acceptance; and (iii) financial feasibility and staff capacity.
4. In response to the decision of the Joint Liaison Group, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), at its twelfth meeting, requested the Executive Secretary to develop proposals for mutually supportive activities as requested in decision VIII/30, paragraph 9, for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA, taking into account the views discussed by the Subsidiary Body at its twelfth meeting, bearing in mind that these views were not endorsed by Parties during that session because the report of the Joint Liaison Group meeting was not available and, therefore, was not discussed.
5. In response to the requests from SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties, the eighth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held on 12 September 2007 at the margins of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD, in Madrid. A prioritized list of activities based on the goals and objectives of the three conventions and input from Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was developed during the meeting.
6. The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary in response to the above requests and includes proposals from the Joint Liaison Group on mutually supportive activities for the Secretariats of the Rio conventions including resource implications of the proposed activities (section I), and an overview of views from Parties on the draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations as proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (section II).
7. The present note takes into consideration comments submitted by Governments from 5 to 19 October 2007 during which time the note was posted on the Convention website for peer-review.

I. PROPOSALS ON OPTIONS FOR MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECRETARIATS OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS

8. At its eighth meeting held on 12 September 2007 at the margins of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Madrid, the Joint Liaison Group developed proposals on mutually supportive activities for the secretariats of the Rio conventions. The report of the meeting is available as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/18.

9. On the basis of comments received from the secretariats of the Rio conventions with regard to: (i) technical and logistical feasibility; (ii) political acceptance; and (iii) financial feasibility and staff capacity, the Joint Liaison Group considered the activities proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity in three categories, as follows:

- (a) Activities that are already ongoing:
 - (i) Keep staff in other secretariats informed of discussions and decisions on relevant synergistic activities or programmes;
 - (ii) 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 Expert Group on Technology Transfer or its successor;
 - (iii) Continue the provision by the secretariats, of inputs and views on forest issues and adaptation as requested by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions;
 - (iv) Share experiences reported by Parties on communication, education and public awareness events.
- (b) Priority activities that the secretariats could start implementing in the short term:
 - (i) Draft and distribute, at least once per year, a newsletter on synergies between the Rio conventions;
 - (ii) Ensure that Parties are kept informed of relevant activities on biodiversity and climate change through, for example, a common web page on synergies (forests, adaptation and other topics);
 - (iii) Collaborate on the development of educational materials: start with a compilation of educational material being developed under each Convention and development of a proposal for discussion at next Joint Liaison Group;
 - (iv) Development of joint web based communication, education and public awareness tools and materials: a consultancy on information needs.
- (c) Activities that are not a high priority or that need further consideration before they can be implemented and should therefore be discussed at future meetings of the Joint Liaison Group:
 - (i) Make the joint Rio calendar available on the websites of all three conventions;
 - (ii) Make available relevant notifications to other conventions' focal points through the web;
 - (iii) Compile, where available, lessons learned and case studies on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points;
 - (iv) Share reports and reviews of national planning processes, where available, and highlight lessons learned that may be relevant across conventions;
 - (v) Provision, by the secretariats, of comments on the papers: "Synergy among multilateral environmental agreements in the context of national adaptation programmes of action"^{1/} and "Annotated guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action"^{2/} (see also paragraph 17) with a view to identifying opportunities for collaboration;

^{1/} <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/tp/eng/03.pdf>.

^{2/} http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/annguide.pdf.

- (vi) Continue to facilitate joint meetings between the chairs of the scientific bodies of the conventions;
- (vii) Share reviews and lessons learned regarding the functioning of the convention bodies;
- (viii) Enhancing the inter-operability of the UNFCCC and CBD technology databases such that a single search can return results from both sources; ^{3/}
- (ix) 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;
- (x) Provide case-studies and lessons learned on the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within national adaptation plans of action under the UNFCCC; ^{4/}
- (xi) Support, as appropriate, joint side events at relevant meetings;
- (xii) Identify 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 (e.g. the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development);
- (xiii) Provide a mechanism through which research needs of the conventions are communicated to the scientific community; and
- (xiv) Provide the focal points of all three conventions with up-to-date information on relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools.

10. The Joint Liaison Group agreed to propose the continuation of those activities that are already ongoing or have been called for by Parties in the framework of the Rio conventions, as listed under paragraph 9 (a) above.

11. With regard to activities that could be implemented soon, in response to views received from Parties through notification 2007-085, the Joint Liaison Group agreed to prioritize for immediate implementation the set of activities listed under 9 (b) for proposed action in the near future.

12. For the activities listed under 9 (c), further discussion is required in order to either: (i) overcome resource requirements or (ii) better define the activities, methods or processes for collaboration.

13. When proposing options for mutually supportive activities, the concerns of Parties regarding escalating burdens on time and limited financial resources were strongly considered. As such, most of the proposed activities can be conducted within the bounds of existing financial resource availability although it should be noted that any additional activities necessarily require additional time to implement.

14. For all proposed activities, however, it is anticipated that up-front investments in terms of time or financial resources will result in savings over the medium to long term. Additional information is available in table 1 below.

^{3/} As some reservations were expressed with this activity, the group agreed to discuss its meaning and its technical implications.

^{4/} This activity may be difficult to put into practice and requires consultation with Parties.

Table 1. Technical and logistical feasibility of the proposed activities and requirements of the proposed activities in terms of financial resources and staff time

Option	Technical and logistical feasibility	Financial resources and staff time
<i>Activities that are already on-going</i>		
Continue to provide inputs and views on forest and adaptation issues as requested by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions	Feasible (depending on level and timeline of request)	Available although it might require additional resources (depending on level of request for input)
Keep staff in other secretariats informed of discussions and decisions on relevant synergistic activities or programmes	Feasible	Available
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 Expert Group in Technology Transfer or its successor	Feasible and ongoing. For example, UNFCCC Secretariat attendance at meetings of the CBD AHTEG on technology transfer	No cost implication for exchange of information by electronic means. Travel cost implications for attendance of meetings.
Share experiences reported by Parties on communication, education and public awareness events	Feasible	Existing technical capacity and resources adequate for existing materials although it might require additional resources to develop new content.
<i>Activities that the secretariats could start implementing in the short term</i>		
Establish joint web-based communication tools	Given that each of the secretariats has mature web infrastructure and tools, any work to establish new joint web-based tools must take into account what exists (including compatibility issues between the 3 secretariats' websites).	If new needs cannot be met from the use (or reuse) of existing infrastructure and functionalities, additional investments will be required.
Ensure that the Parties are kept informed of relevant initiatives in other conventions	Feasible	Available
Draft and distribute, at least once per year, a newsletter on synergies between the Rio conventions	Feasible	Limited
Collaborate on development of educational materials	Feasible since education materials are often developed by third parties with input/oversight from a convention secretariat	Need to identify if/what educational materials are being developed by whom depending on how much material is being, or planned to be produced, this coordination could likely be accommodated within the existing staff resources in the secretariat
<i>Activities that need further consideration before they can be implemented</i>		
Continue to facilitate joint meetings between the chairs of the scientific bodies of the conventions	Feasible	Available

Option	Technical and logistical feasibility	Financial resources and staff time
Provide comments on the papers: “Synergy among multilateral environmental agreements in the context of national adaptation programmes of action” <u>5/</u> and “Annotated guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action” <u>6/</u>	Feasible	Available
Share reviews and lessons learned regarding the functioning of the convention bodies	Feasible	Available
Share reports and reviews of national planning processes and highlight lessons learned which may be relevant across conventions	Feasible	Limited
Compile lessons learned and case-studies on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points	Feasible at least to ask for lessons learned and case-studies	Available
Distribute relevant notifications to other Conventions’ focal points	<p>Depends on the methodology employed (links or a manual updating system versus interoperable access to notification and focal point databases)</p> <p>There are some potential technical issues related to duplications and sending by fax.</p>	<p>Creation of appropriate links has minimum capacity implications provided focal points are named; creation of updating system may have resource implications.</p> <p>CBD and UNFCCC have technical capacity but no available resources; UNCCD has neither technical capacity nor resources.</p>
Enhancing the inter-operability of the UNFCCC and CBD technology databases such that a single search can return results from both sources <u>7/</u>	<p>Feasible. The issue has been explored by technical staff of CBD and UNFCCC secretariats.</p> <p>Partners need technical expertise to establish an advanced information exchange mechanism with SCBD</p>	In the medium term some staff capacity will be required in order to maintain and update the system.
Make the joint Rio calendar available on the websites of all three conventions	Depends on the methodology employed (links or a manual updating system versus an interoperable Rio calendar)	CBD and UNFCCC have technical capacity but no available resources; UNCCD has neither technical capacity nor resources.
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	Feasible	<p>Feasible. The issue will be considered by the AHTEG on technology transfer. No cost implication for further exploration and consultation by electronic means.</p> <p>Travel cost implications may arise in case of a need for future meetings.</p>
Provide case-studies and lessons learned	Feasible	Limited since, although a

5/ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/tp/eng/03.pdf>>

6/ Available at <http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/annguide.pdf>

7/ As some reservations were expressed with this activity, the group agreed to discuss its meaning and its technical implications.

Option	Technical and logistical feasibility	Financial resources and staff time
on the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within National Adaptation Plans of Action under the UNFCCC ^{8/}		case-studies database already exists there are no resources currently allocated to the identification of lessons learned
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 (e.g. the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development)	Feasible	Limited
Providing a mechanism through which research needs of the conventions are communicated to the scientific community	Feasible	Limited
Providing focal points of all conventions with up-to-date information on relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools	Feasible	Limited as information would first need to be compiled before it could be disseminated

II. OVERVIEW OF VIEWS FROM PARTIES ON THE DRAFT OPTIONS FOR MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR SECRETARIATS, PARTIES AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS AS PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

15. Four Parties ^{9/} representing 30 countries responded to notification 2007-085 circulated on 11 July 2007 inviting Parties to submit views on the draft options for mutually supportive activities for secretariats, Parties and other relevant organizations.

16. Overall, all responding Parties support enhanced collaboration but emphasized that any action to implement the activities listed in annex I and annex II to this note should be based on the following aims, objectives, and guiding principles for mutually supportive activities:

- (a) Reduce duplication and improve efficiency;
- (b) Ensure added value;
- (c) Deliver savings or incur no additional costs;
- (d) Recognize that national-level activities will often provide the most efficient and effective avenue for synergies;
- (e) Respect the mandates and legal status of each convention;
- (f) Acknowledge similar needs among the conventions with regards to mainstreaming;
- (g) Allow flexibility for individual countries to decide on appropriate actions based on national circumstances and priorities;
- (h) Ensure cooperation and consultation with Parties and relevant organizations;

^{8/} This activity may be difficult to materialize and need consultation with Parties.

^{9/} Australia, Canada, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) and Turkey.

- (i) Maintain a supporting role only for the secretariats;
- (j) Avoid additional obstacles or delays in the implementation of the provisions of each Convention.

17. With regards to themes for collaboration, responding Parties support activities for capacity-building; communication, education and public awareness; climate change adaptation; forests and climate change; technology transfer; research and monitoring; information exchange; and harmonized reporting. Each of these themes is reflected in the activities proposed in annex I and annex II below.

18. In terms of tools for enhanced collaboration, responding Parties strongly supported continued meetings of the Joint Liaison Group and recommended the development of work plans or the expansion or updating of existing tools such as “Synergy among multilateral environmental agreements in the context of national adaptation programmes of action” (FCCC/TP/2005/3) and “Annotated guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action” (Least Developed Country Expert Group, UNFCCC).

19. Additional synergistic activities were proposed by Parties but not considered by the Joint Liaison Group since they are not activities for the secretariats. These activities include:

- (a) Invite Parties to manage wetlands to maintain ecosystem services;
- (b) Invite relevant international partnerships to put mutually supportive activities among conventions on their agenda;
- (c) Invite Parties, with support from the secretariats, to conduct a technology needs assessment;
- (d) Invite relevant organizations to review approved Clean Development Mechanism afforestation and reforestation projects so as to identify options to maximize biodiversity co-benefits;

Annex I

**PROPOSALS FOR ACTIVITIES BY PARTIES TO PROMOTE SYNERGIES AMONG THE
RIO CONVENTIONS**

1. Schedule periodic meetings between focal points and focal point teams.
2. Establish a national coordinating committee for implementation of the Rio conventions including mainstreaming into sustainable development strategies, the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant sectors and strategies.
3. Build institutional linkages between the ministries responsible for implementation of each convention.
4. Engage, when relevant, focal points from other conventions when forming a position for negotiations.
5. Review existing national plans to identify gaps in synergies.
6. Identify relevant sector plans and policies that could benefit from cooperation on biodiversity, desertification and climate change.
7. Revise relevant plans and policies, as appropriate to enhance cooperation.
8. Provide input, as requested, to the Joint Liaison Group.
9. Provide clear guidance to subsidiary bodies and the secretariats on ways and means to support enhanced synergies.
10. Provide inputs to the technology transfer databases of the three conventions.
11. Prepare, as appropriate, transparent impact assessments and risk analysis so as to ensure that transferred technologies are economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally friendly.
12. Enhance cooperation among national focal points for the implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer under the Convention on Biological Diversity through, for example, the designation of appropriate institutions acting as a central consulting point for technology transfer.
13. Identify technologies of joint interest and relevance.
14. Enhanced consideration of biodiversity, climate change and desertification issues in forest sector planning.
15. 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.
16. Enhance the integration of biodiversity and desertification issues within climate change adaptation planning.
17. Evaluate, as appropriate, the extent to which biodiversity and desertification issues are integrated into existing climate change adaptation plans.
18. 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.
19. Clearly express capacity-building needs to the secretariats.
20. Conduct, as appropriate, national and local assessments of climate-change impacts on biodiversity and desertification.

21. Identify, as appropriate, sources of local and indigenous knowledge that can contribute to synergies.
22. Identify research and/or monitoring needs and establish mechanisms or processes by which such needs could be met.
23. Share experiences and lessons learned on communicating synergies.
24. National focal points share, to the extent possible, databases containing reporting data and information sources.
25. Where relevant, focal points work together on drafting the national reports for each convention.

*Annex II***PROPOSALS FOR ACTIVITIES BY RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE SYNERGIES AMONG THE RIO CONVENTIONS**

1. Support institutional capacity-building to facilitate synergies.
2. Support training, back to back with relevant meetings, on the findings of a case-study analysis and lessons learned on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points to be developed by the Secretariat.
3. Organizations which are providing support for national planning processes can couple such support with human, technical and institutional capacity-building for enhanced synergies.
4. Facilitate regional and inter-regional exchanges of experience on integrating synergistic activities into national level planning.
5. Support implementation of the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
6. Support for the establishment of effective networks of electronic databases of relevant technology.
7. Support the strengthening of 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Support capacity-building for national monitoring of forests including criteria on biodiversity, carbon sequestration and other benefits.
11. Support capacity-building for the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in climate change adaptation planning.
12. Enhance guidelines for the application of the ecosystem approach so as to facilitate its use as an adaptation planning tool.
13. Support joint capacity-building efforts.
14. Support capacity-building for national research and monitoring.
15. Enhance communication and public awareness regarding the findings of existing assessments.
16. Endeavour to fill research and monitoring gaps at the regional and global scale.
17. Support national communication education and public awareness programmes on climate change, biodiversity and desertification.
18. Develop communication materials and promote awareness raising on synergies.
19. Continue to support the activities for harmonized reporting developed during the UNEP-WCMC workshop on reporting.
20. Provide support to Parties for the development of knowledge management systems to facilitate the sharing of reporting data among focal points.
