



Environment Management Group Technical Meeting
14-15 February
UNEP Headquarter-Nairobi-Kenya¹

EMG/TM-1/01
05 February 2009
Distribution: EMG members

Note

Background information and suggested approaches

Introduction

1. This note is prepared by the secretariat of the Environment Management Group (EMG) and provides background information and suggested approaches to substantive agenda items 3 to 6 of the provisional agenda and schedule of work (Attachment I) of the Environment Management Group (EMG) technical meeting. The meeting is convened in accordance with a decision by the 14th Senior officials meeting of the EMG held in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on 10 December 2008.

A. Provisional agenda item 3: The 2010 biodiversity targets and beyond: - contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG)

2. The 14th Senior Officials meeting of the EMG welcomed the contribution by the German Presidency of the COP Bureau and the secretariat of the CBD on a possible UN system-wide contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and the UN General Assembly Special Session in 2010 and the formulation of the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and targets under the CBD.

3. Accordingly, the meeting requested the secretariat of the EMG to solicit the views of its members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond for consideration of a technical meeting of the Group. A Concept Note (Attachment II) has been prepared by the Secretariats of the CBD and EMG to assist EMG members in their consideration of the issue. The note elaborates on possible elements of a process for the contribution by EMG to the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond.. The proposed issues for discussion include:

a. The 2010 process and its relevance for the UN system

4. The Concept Note (Attachment II) presents the scientific and political rationale for the proposed process. EMG members are invited to submit their views on the 2010 process and its relevance for the UN system. An indication of areas of EMG member's involvement in achieving the target would also be welcomed.

b. Characteristics of a possible EMG process including:

i. Objectives and modalities

5. The Concept Note (Attachment II, paragraphs 9 - 12) elaborates on possible objectives and a three-track approach for an EMG process. Participants are invited to provide their views on the suggested approach, areas of an EMG focus on the issue, areas of their agencies involvement in achieving the target and propose scenarios whereby EMG can assist in soliciting a UN-system wide contribution to the implementation and further development of the target.

ii. Expected outcome

6. The Concept Note (Attachment II, paragraphs 13 and 14) suggests that the overall expected outcome is four fold. EMG members may want to respond to the suggested expected outcomes.

iii. Tentative outline and schedule of process

¹ The meeting will take place in conference room 14 in the margins of the 25th session of UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

7. The Concept Note (Attachment II, paragraph 15) presents a tentative outline and schedule. EMG members may want to provide their initial views and perspectives on the suggested timeline. It is envisaged that the question of the timeline and schedule will be revisited for further fine tuning if an EMG process is initiated.

c. Recommendations to the Chair of EMG

8. EMG members will be invited to present their views on a recommendation to the Chair of the EMG on the feasibility of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond, including the question of establishing an Issue Management Group (IMG) for the process under the EMG.

Envisaged outputs of the technical meeting on Agenda item 3

1. Initial solicitation of views of EMG members on the 2010 process and its relevance for the UN system and areas of EMG member's involvement in achieving the target.
2. Identification of common views by EMG members on scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond.
3. A recommendation to the Chair of the EMG on the feasibility of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond, including the question of establishing an Issue Management Group (IMG) for the process under the EMG.

B. Provisional agenda item 4: The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD: - contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG)

9. The 14th Senior Officials meeting of the EMG also considered the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). The meeting welcomed the contribution by the secretariat of the UNCCD on the need for a UN system-wide contribution to the implementation and mid-term review in 2014 of the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD. It recognised the relevance of the strategy to the current cycle of the CSD, its relevance to climate change and the mandate of the EMG on environment and human settlements.

10. Accordingly, the meeting requested the secretariat of the EMG to solicit the views of the members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of a UN system-wide network and process on sustainable land-use for consideration of the technical meeting. Since then the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on the UNCCD recognizing the importance of Desertification and Land Degradation (DLDD) issues in the context of the policy developments of the ongoing cycle of the CSD which also duly invites cooperation amongst the UN organizations. A Concept Note (Attachment III) has been prepared by the secretariats of the UNCCD and the EMG to assist EMG members in their consideration of the issue. The note elaborates on possible elements of an EMG process for how the UN system can engage in implementing the strategy and contribute to its mid-term review in 2014. The proposed issues for discussion include:

a. The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD and its relevance for the UN system

11. The Concept Note (Attachment III) presents the scientific and political rationale for the proposed process. The EMG members are invited to provide their overall views on this exercise, areas of their agencies work on land use and linkages to the CCD strategy, existing joint initiatives, cooperative frameworks, institutions and networks on land and soil, ongoing consultative processes on land related issues and views on possible deliverables under the EMG framework. Awareness raising, policy advocacy, capacity building and science and technology can be conceded as entries through which members may form their contributions to the discussion.

b. Characteristics of a possible EMG process including:

i. Objectives and modalities

12. The Concept Note (Attachment III, paragraphs 17 - 20) elaborates on possible objectives and a three-track approach for an EMG process. Participants are invited to provide their views on the suggested approach, areas of an EMG focus on the issue, areas of their agencies involvement in implementing the strategies and propose scenarios whereby EMG can assist in soliciting a UN-system wide contribution to the strategy.

ii. Expected outcome

13. The Concept Note (Attachment III, paragraphs 21 and 22) suggests that the overall expected outcome is four fold. EMG members may want to respond to the suggested expected outcomes.

iii. Tentative outline and schedule of process

14. The Concept Note (Attachment III, paragraph 23) presents a tentative outline and schedule. EMG members may want to provide their initial views and perspectives on the proposal. It is envisaged that the question of the timeline and schedule will be revisited for further fine tuning if an EMG process is initiated.

c. Recommendations to the Chair of EMG

15. EMG members will be invited to present their views on a recommendation to the Chair of the EMG on the feasibility of an EMG process on the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD, including the question of establishing an Issue Management Group (IMG) for the process under the EMG.

Envisage outputs of the technical meeting on Agenda item 4

1. Initial solicitation of views of EMG members on existing joint initiatives, cooperative frameworks, institutions and networks on land and soil, ongoing consultative processes on land related issues, the relevance and linkages of their agencies land related activities to the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD.
2. Identification of common views by EMG members on scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD.
3. A recommendation to the Chair of the EMG on the feasibility of an EMG process on the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD, including the question of establishing an Issue Management Group (IMG) for the process under the EMG.

C. Provisional agenda item 5: Briefings by the EMG Secretariat on the UN-Climate Neutral, Sustainable Procurement and the Stocktaking report:

16. The EMG Secretariat will provide briefings on progress of its work in the above areas. The 14th Senior Officials meeting of the EMG set out the directions for the further work on the implementation of the statement by the Chief executives board on Coordination (CEB) on moving towards a Climate neutral UN. The secretariat will present a short briefing on the follow up to these directions. Closely linked with the climate neutrality issue and in the context of making the United Nations systems operations sustainable, EMG has continued its work on sustainable procurement, following a survey in 2006 on existing practices in United Nations procurement. Tools and training materials in support of sustainable procurement practices by United Nations agencies have been developed in cooperation with the procurement network of the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM). A short presentation will be made by UNITAR on the last version of the stocktaking report. These will be followed by member's questions, queries and any additional suggestions.

Envisaged output on agenda item 5

1. Solicitation of any views by members on the follow up of the above issues in particular on the finalization of the Stocktaking report.

D Provisional agenda item 6: Briefing by UNEP on relevant issues under the agenda of 24th Session of UNEP /GCGMEF

17. The 25th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be held from 16 to 20 February 2009 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The ministerial session will focus on two themes: "Globalization and the Environment: Global Crises: National Chaos?" and "International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform - IEG: Help or Hindrance?" Documentation for the session is available at <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc25/>. UNEP representative will brief the members on the issues under the agenda of the GC/GMEF which can be followed by a brainstorming on those

Envisaged output on agenda item 6

1. An update of EMG members and initial exchange of views on the issues on the agenda and under discussions at the twenty fifth session of the GC/GMEF.

Attachment I

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening remarks by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chairman of the EMG
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. The 2010 biodiversity targets and beyond: contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG)
 - a) The 2010 process and its relevance for the UN system
 - b) Characteristics of a possible EMG process
 - i. Objectives and modalities
 - ii. Expected outcome
 - iii. Tentative outline and schedule of process
 - c) Recommendations to the Chair of EMG
4. The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD: contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG)
 - a) The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD and its relevance for the UN system
 - b) Characteristics of a possible EMG process
 - i. Objectives and modalities
 - ii. Expected outcome
 - iii. Tentative outline and schedule of process
 - c) Recommendations to the Chair of EMG
5. Briefing by the EMG Secretariat on the UN-Climate Neutral, Sustainable Procurement and the Stocktaking report
6. Briefing by UNEP on relevant issues under the agenda of 24th Session of UNEP /GCGMEF
7. Any other business
8. Closure of the meeting

Provisional Schedule

Saturday 14 February 2009

Morning Session:

- 09.00 – 09.15 Provisional agenda item 1: Opening remarks by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Chairman of the EMG
- 09.15 – 09.20 Provisional agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda
- 09.20 – 10.30 Provisional agenda item 3: The 2010 biodiversity targets and beyond: contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG):
- a) The 2010 process and its relevance for the UN system
- 10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee and Tea break*
- 10.45 – 12.30 Provisional agenda item 3 continued:
- b) Characteristics of a possible EMG process:
 - i. Objectives and modalities
 - ii. Expected outcome
 - iii. Tentative outline and schedule
 - c) Recommendations to the Chair of EMG

Afternoon Session:

- 13.30 – 15.30 Provisional Agenda item 4: The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD: contribution by the Environment Management Group (EMG)
- a) The ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD and its relevance for the UN system
 - b) Characteristics of a possible EMG process:
 - i. Objectives and modalities
 - ii. Expected outcome
 - iii. Tentative outline and schedule
- 15.30 – 15.45 *Coffee and Tea break*
- 15.45 – 17.30 Provisional agenda item 4- Continued
- c) Recommendations to the Chair of EMG
- 17.30 Closure of the second session

Sunday 15 February

Morning Session:

- 9.00 – 10.00 Provisional agenda item 5: Briefing by the EMG Secretariat on the UN-Climate Neutral, Sustainable Procurement and the Stocktaking report
- 10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee and Tea break*
- 10.45 – 12.30 Provisional agenda item 6: Briefing by UNEP on relevant issues under the agenda of 24th Session of UNEP /GCGMEF
- Provisional agenda item 7: Any other business
 - Closure of the meeting

Attachment II

Concept Note

THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND BEYOND: - CONTRIBUTION BY THE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP (EMG)

Introduction

1. The 14th Senior Officials meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG), held in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on 10 December 2008 considered the possible contribution of EMG to the 2010 biodiversity target. The meeting welcomed the contribution by the German Presidency of the COP Bureau and the secretariat of the CBD on a possible UN system-wide contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and the UN General Assembly Special Session in 2010 and the formulation of the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and targets under the CBD.
2. Accordingly, the meeting requested the secretariat of the EMG to solicit the views of its members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond for consideration of a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 13 – 14 February 2009 in the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The current concept note is prepared by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the EMG for the EMG. It suggests a process for how the UN system through the EMG can engage in the review of progress towards the achievement of the CBD strategic plan with the 2010 biodiversity target and identify future biodiversity targets.

The CBD 2010 biodiversity process

3. In 2002, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a [Strategic Plan](#) including the target of *achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth*. This target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly and incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals. In 2010, the year proclaimed by the General Assembly as the International Year of Biodiversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity will review progress made towards the achievement of the CBD strategic plan. The 2010 biodiversity target will be reviewed and agreement should be reached on future biodiversity target(s) and on a new Strategic Plan for the CBD.
4. In CBD [decision IX/9](#) the process and parameters for updating the Strategic Plan were laid out. The process under the EMG would seek to promote coherence between the updated strategic plan (and future biodiversity targets) with broader strategies and plans of the UN system and to identify the possible contributions of UN agencies to the formulation and implementation of the updated strategic plan.
5. The tenth meeting of *the CBD Conference of the Parties, (18 - 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan)* is due to adopt an updated strategic plan linked to a post-2010 biodiversity target. The drafts will be prepared by the 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) which is tentatively scheduled for 13 to 21 May 2010 and the Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3) which is tentatively scheduled for 24 to 28 May 2010. Any information which is to be considered by the Conference of the Parties, in a formal manner, needs to be made available before then, and, if it is to be included in the documentation prepared by the CBD Secretariat, by February 2010.
6. The third edition of *the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3)*. GBO-3 will be an important vehicle for informing a variety of audiences of the progress made in meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target and for providing information on any future biodiversity target(s) the Conference of the Parties may choose to set. GBO-3 will be officially launched on May 22, 2010 (i.e. during the back-to-back meetings of SBSTTA and WGRI mentioned above). It is anticipated that that a first draft of the publication will be available for review in August 2009. However, efforts will be made to include updated information in the GBO-3 up to the end of 2009, provided this is consistent with the peer-review process (see also <http://www.cbd.int/gbo3/production.shtml>).
7. The CBD process for COP 10 coincides with and feeds into the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) in 2010 (UNGA Resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006), and the call for a high-level segment of the UNGA at its 65th session in 2010, confirmed by UNGA Resolution (61/203) of December 2008). The outputs of the process can become part of the activities of United Nations agencies for the IYB as called for in resolution 61/203, including an input to the high-level segment of the UNGA in 2010. A number of activities are planned or contemplated in the lead-up to the adoption of future biodiversity targets, each presenting opportunities for participation and engagement of sister organizations, agencies and programmes (see Annex I).

8. Among the goals of the *International Year of Biodiversity* (Decision VIII/6 and IX/33 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD) is to build momentum for the formulation of strategies and actions to achieve future biodiversity targets. Parties have been invited to hold discussions with stakeholders as part of their general plans for celebration for the year and international organizations have been invited to contribute to the dialogue. Through a variety of media partnerships, the CBD Secretariat also intends to contribute to the production of video news releases and documentaries on the issues involved in the establishment of future targets. These products will be disseminated in advance of a high-level segment of the UNGA in the fall of 2010 and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010.

Objectives and modalities for an EMG contribution to the 2010 biodiversity process

9. The aim of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target would be to identify opportunities for synergies in the review of current and formulation of future biodiversity target(s) and the framework for its implementation. It is proposed that the EMG process build on the involvement of agencies in the CBD and UNGA process (see annex II) and that it follow a three track approach.

10. Track one will involve a preparation by each EMG member of a report on their accomplishments, in contributing to the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target. These contributions will help inform the review of progress towards the achievement of the CBD strategic plan and 2010 target and inform the GBO 3. It is envisaged that submissions should be submitted to the EMG secretariat by June 2009. It is envisaged that members would focus on overall outcomes and broad strategic contributions rather than a listing of detailed activities.

11. Track two will see each EMG member formulate sectoral proposals (i.e. related to their respective mandates) that could inform or serve as elements of the post 2010 framework. The process of developing such proposals will help inform the formulation of the revised 2010 global biodiversity target. It is envisaged that draft proposals will be formulated and submitted to the EMG secretariat by October 2009. The proposals will be reviewed internally in the EMG and discussed in an Issue Management Group (IMG) meeting possibly back to back with a Trondheim conference on biodiversity that is being considered for late 2009. An interim report on track one and two will be submitted to the secretariat of the CBD before February 2010 as a contribution to the preparations for SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3.

12. Track three will build on the interim report as well as comments and outcomes from SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3. It will involve the preparation by June 2010 of a final report on the UN system-wide contribution to provided to CBD COP 10 and the 2010 special session of UNGA. Guidance and timeline for the preparation of the contributions is attached in annex III.

Expected outcomes

13. The overall expected outcome is four fold. Firstly, to demonstrate a UN system-wide contribution to the review of progress towards the achievement of the CBD strategic plan and 2010 target(s) in line with the ideal of a "One UN". Secondly, the process is expected to help ensure coherence between the Strategic Plan of the CBD and its possible future biodiversity targets with broader processes and activities in the UN system at large, and also to facilitate the contribution of activities by relevant organizations, agencies and programmes to the implementation of that Plan, and thereby help to mainstream biodiversity in broader development strategies, plans and programmes. Thirdly, by drawing upon expertise in the System, it will help ensure that the agreed biodiversity targets are credible and achievable as well as ambitious and sufficient to respond to the challenges.

14. Fourthly the process effort of ensuring complementarity and coherencies likely to generate synergies which may include but not be limited to:

- a. Supporting Member States in establishing national biodiversity-related targets and monitoring programmes and in better coordinating implementation of the agenda of biodiversity-related MEAs;
- b. Supporting Member States in the application of tools and guidelines to assess the environmental impacts of planned activities, programmes and policies and to addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss;
- c. More effectively linking biodiversity targets and the goals of the CBD with the MDGs, including mainstreaming in Official Development Assistance and the work of UNDP;
- d. Supporting Member States in integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programmes and strategies and planning processes;
- e. Ensuring that any future biodiversity targets are mainstreamed (where appropriate) into the work of UNFCCC on mitigation and adaptation;

f. Contributing to the delivery of scientific evidence, capacity-development, outreach and information activities aimed at highlighting the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including those that could be carried out as part of the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

Tentative outline and schedule of process

15. The process is envisaged to consist of the following scheduled elements:
 - a. Consultation with EMG members scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond (January 2009)
 - b. Consideration of the issue by a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 14 – 15 February 2009 in the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum Establishment (February 2009)
 - c. Recommendations from the technical meeting to the Chair of EMG on modalities and deliverables of an EMG process of by the EMG (February 2009)
 - d. Subject to recommendations from the technical meeting proposal by the EMG chair to the EMG for the initiation of a 2010 biodiversity target and beyond process including the establishment of an Issue Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity (March 2009)
 - e. IMG 1 to agree on guidance and work plan (April 2009)
 - f. EMG members to prepare a report on their accomplishments, in contributing to the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target (by June 2009)
 - g. EMG 15 to review progress, give guidance and report to the Chief Executives Board on Coordination
 - h. EMG members to formulate proposals for sectoral objectives, targets and indicators (i.e. related to their respective mandates) for internal review (by October 2009)
 - i. IMG 2 to consider complementarity, synergies and coherence in objectives, targets and indicators (November/December 2009) (possibly back to back with the Trondheim conference)
 - j. Preparation of preliminary report to CBD secretariat (January 2010)
 - k. IMG 3/EMG Sign off on EMG report to CBD COP 10 and the 2010 special session of UNGA (June 2010)

Annex I

PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

1. Given the growing momentum surrounding 2010 there are a variety of activities planned or contemplated in the lead-up to the adoption of future biodiversity targets, each presenting opportunities for participation and engagement of sister organizations, agencies and programmes:

a. The CBD Secretariat has established an E-forum to allow stakeholders to exchange views on the current and future strategic plan of the Convention (<http://www.cbd.int/sp/post2010forum/>).

b. The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the Secretariat will undertake an assessment on the use and effectiveness of the targets and indicators related to the 2010 Biodiversity Target. A draft of the report will be circulated for review and consultation in April-May 2009 and an international multi-stakeholder workshop based on the report will be held in June/July 2009. The final report will be available in August 2009.

c. The Secretariat, in collaboration with a team of biodiversity scientists, is also preparing a review of biodiversity-relevant scenarios which aims to determine uncertainties about projected future changes to biodiversity and to identify dangerous changes (“tipping points”) and policy and management options to address these (“sustainability wedges”). A completed draft of this review is anticipated for early July 2009.

d. Throughout 2009 and early 2010 the Secretariat and partner organizations, such as Countdown 2010, will be holding a variety of workshops and multi-stakeholder consultations related to the future strategic plan of the Convention and the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Discussions are also in progress regarding the possibility of having a Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity in 2009 at which matters relating to the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the future strategic plan could be discussed.

e. At the initiative of the German Presidency of COP-9, the COP Bureau will convene in early 2009 a two-day workshop of “eminent personalities” to brainstorm on possible post-2010 biodiversity targets. This workshop, which would be similar to the Potsdam workshop held in December 2006, would focus on the post-2010 biodiversity target and on the development of the future Strategic Plan and the report will be submitted to SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3. The possibility of Japan hosting a workshop on these issues in early 2010 is also under discussion.

Annex II

INDICATIVE AREAS OF COLLABORATION ON BIODIVERSITY-RELATED ISSUES OF EMG MEMBERS

The Convention on Biological Diversity depends on a wide range of partners, including in particular members of the EMG, to effectively implement its Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target. This is manifest through numerous Joint Work Plans (e.g. with FAO and its Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as well as IPPC, UNCCD, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO, UNFF, UNDP) and Memoranda of Cooperation (e.g. CITES, CMS, ICAO, IPPC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNITAR, WIPO). Further information on partnerships and agreements is accessible from <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/partners.shtml> and <http://www.cbd.int/agreements/>.

More specifically with regard to monitoring of the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, a number of EMG members already participate in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership coordinated by UNEP-WCMC (see <http://www.twentyten.net/Partnership/tabid/73/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>).

At the same time there are other EMG members whose mandate may not be centrally linked to biodiversity itself, but which contribute significantly to enabling human societies to minimize biodiversity loss and to face its consequences and from whose active participation the EMG process would benefit. Examples of these would include ILO, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, WMO.

Annex III

GUIDANCE ON PREPARATION OF EMG CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CURRENT (2010) AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE (POST 2010) BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND CBD STRATEGY

Responding to the biodiversity challenge

1. Biodiversity decline and loss of ecosystem services continue to be a major global threat to future development, according to the inter-governmentally endorsed summary of the fourth Global Environment Outlook (UNEP 2007). The summary concluded that biodiversity plays multiple roles in the daily lives of people through the supply of ecosystem services. Yet, reduction in distribution and functioning of land, freshwater and marine biodiversity is more rapid than at any time in human history. Ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and drylands are being transformed and, in some cases, irreversibly degraded. Rates of species extinction are increasing. The great majority of well-studied species, including commercially important fish stocks, are declining in distribution or abundance or both. Genetic diversity of agricultural and other species is widely considered to be in decline (see also appendix 1 for further details).
2. The 2010 biodiversity target is to **achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth**. The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its decision VIII/15 addressed the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target. It consists of four goals and 19 objectives of the Strategic Plan adopted by the COP in decision VI/26 and a limited number of indicators (see appendix II). The framework also includes a provisional framework consisting of seven focal areas, 11 goals and 21 targets with indicators presented in appendix III.
3. The COP in its decision IX/9 requested the Working Group on the Review of Implementation, at its third meeting, undertake an in-depth review of progress towards goals 1 and 4 of the current Strategic Plan. It also requested the group to prepare, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, a revised and updated Strategic Plan including a revised biodiversity target, drawing upon further submissions from Parties and observers. *The COP also recognised* that the revised and updated Strategic Plan should:
 - a. Cover the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner;
 - b. Build upon the existing Strategic Plan (adopted in decision VI/26) and associated framework of goals, targets and indicators (decision VIII/15), and avoid unnecessary changes;
 - c. Be short, focused and action-oriented to facilitate enhanced implementation of the Convention;
 - d. Include ambitious but realistic, and measurable short term targets or milestones and a long term target or vision, developed on the basis of robust scientific evidence;
 - e. Provide a framework for the establishment of national, and, where possible, quantitative, targets, that Parties can implement according to their own priorities;
 - f. Highlight the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity should contribute to poverty eradication at local level and not harm the livelihoods of the poor;
 - g. Address the drivers of biodiversity loss and integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programmes and strategies and planning processes;
 - h. Draw upon, as appropriate, the framework and findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;
 - i. Address challenges to implementation of the Convention, including the need for new and additional financial resources in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention;
 - j. Address capacity-building and resource mobilization;
 - k. Provide for effective national monitoring and reporting; and
 - l. Encourage universal membership of the Convention;
4. *It also requested* the Executive Secretary amongst others:

- a. To invite Parties and observers to submit views;
- b. To prepare a synthesis/analysis of issues relevant to the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan, drawing upon the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Add.1), submissions of Parties and observers, the fourth national reports, the results of the in-depth reviews of the Convention's programmes of work, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and other material gathered for the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;
- c. To submit a draft revised and updated Strategic Plan for peer review and the revised version to the Working Group for Review of Implementation of the Convention at its third meeting;

Track one: - preparation by each EMG member of a report on their accomplishments, in contributing to the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target (by June 2009)

5. Track one will involve a preparation by each EMG member of a report on their accomplishments, in contributing to the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target. These contributions will help inform the review of progress towards the achievement of the CBD strategic plan and 2010 target and inform the GBO. It will respond to goal 1 of the strategic plan: "The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues" and in particular its objective 1.5: "Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels".

6. It is envisaged that submissions should be submitted to the EMG secretariat by June 2009. It is suggested that the report considers the following elements:

- (a) Overall outcomes and broad strategic contributions rather than a listing of detailed activities;
- (b) Success stories and obstacles towards the implementation of the target;

<to be further developed>

Track two: formulation of proposals for sectoral post 2010 objectives, targets and indicators (by February 2010)

7. Track two will see each EMG member formulate sectoral proposals (i.e. related to their respective mandates) that could inform or serve as elements of the post 2010 framework. Such proposal could for instance take the form of sectoral objectives, targets and indicators. It is envisaged that draft proposals will be formulated and submitted to the EMG secretariat by October 2009. The proposals will be reviewed internally in the EMG and discussed in an Issue Management Group (IMG) meeting possibly back to back with the Trondheim conference in late 2009. An interim report on track one and two will be submitted to the secretariat of the CBD before February 2010 as a contribution to the preparations for SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3. The process of developing such proposals will help inform the formulation by parties to the CBD of the revised 2010 global biodiversity target under the CBD.

8. EMG members may wish to consider the circular conceptual framework of which the drivers-pressures-state-impacts-responses (DPSIR) concept of the fourth global Environment Outlook. It draws on different types of assessments that have taken place over the years, including previous GEO reports, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (MA), especially with regard to the concepts of human well-being and ecosystem services (see appendix IV). Objectives, targets and indicators may be linked to drivers, pressures, state, impacts and responses.

9. It is suggested that the proposal should consider the following elements:

<to be developed. (The deliberations on the assessment on the use and effectiveness of the targets and indicators related to the 2010 Biodiversity Target (to be available in draft form in April-May 2009) will further inform EMG) >

Track three: a consolidation of the UN system-wide accomplishments (by March 2010)

10. Track three will build on the interim report as well as comments and outcomes from SBSTTA-14 and WGRI-3. It will involve the preparation by June 2010 of a final report provided to CBD COP 10 and the 2010 special session of UNGA. The COP may also want to consider referring to such targets in the wider post 2010 biodiversity target framework.

Appendix I

THE CHALLENGE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

11. The fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4) report concluded that Biodiversity provides the basis for ecosystems and the services they provide, upon which all people fundamentally depend. Chapter 5 of the report identified the following main messages:

12. **People rely on biodiversity in their daily lives, often without realizing it.** Biodiversity contributes to many aspects of people's livelihoods and well-being, providing products, such as food and fibres, whose values are widely recognized. However, biodiversity underpins a much wider range of services, many of which are currently undervalued. The bacteria and microbes that transform waste into usable products, insects that pollinate crops and flowers, coral reefs and mangroves that protect coastlines, and the biologically-rich landscapes and seascapes that provide enjoyment are only a few. Although much more remains to be understood about the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem services, it is well established that if the products and services that are provided by biodiversity are not managed effectively, future options will become ever more restricted, for rich and poor people alike. However, poor people tend to be the most directly affected by the deterioration or loss of ecosystem services, as they are the most dependent on local ecosystems, and often live in places most vulnerable to ecosystem change.

13. **Current losses of biodiversity are restricting future development options.** Ecosystems are being transformed, and, in some cases, irreversibly degraded, a large number of species have gone extinct in recent history or are threatened with extinction, reductions in populations are widespread and genetic diversity is widely considered to be in decline. It is well established that changes to biodiversity currently underway on land and in the world's fresh and marine waters are more rapid than at any time in human history, and have led to degradation in many of the world's ecosystem services.

14. **Reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity, and ensuring that decisions made incorporate the full values of goods-and-services provided by biodiversity will contribute substantially towards achieving sustainable development as described in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission report).**

(a) Biodiversity plays a critical role in providing livelihood security for people. It is particularly important for the livelihoods of the rural poor, and for regulating local environmental conditions. Functioning ecosystems are crucial as buffers against extreme climate events, as carbon sinks, and as filters for waterborne and airborne pollutants.

(b) From the use of genetic resources to harnessing other ecosystem services, agriculture throughout the world is dependent on biodiversity. Agriculture is also the largest driver of genetic erosion, species loss and conversion of natural habitats. Meeting increasing global food needs will require one or both of two approaches: intensification and extensification. Intensification is based on higher or more efficient use of inputs, such as more efficient breeds and crops, agrochemicals, energy and water. Extensification requires converting increasing additional areas of land to cultivation. Both approaches have the potential to dramatically and negatively affect biodiversity. In addition, the loss of diversity in agricultural ecosystems may undermine the ecosystem services necessary to sustain agriculture, such as pollination and soil nutrient cycling.

(c) Many of the factors leading to the accelerating loss of biodiversity are linked to the increasing use of energy by society. Dependence on and growing requirements for energy are resulting in significant changes in species and ecosystems, as a result of the search for energy sources and of current energy use patterns. The consequences can be seen at all levels: locally, where the availability of traditional biomass energy is under threat, nationally, where energy prices affect government policies, and globally, where climate change driven by fossil-fuel use is changing species ranges and behaviour. The latter is likely to have very significant consequences for livelihoods, including changing patterns of human infectious disease distribution, and increased opportunities for invasive alien species.

(d) Human health is affected by changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Changes to the environment have altered disease patterns and human exposure to disease outbreaks. In addition, current patterns of farming, based on high resource inputs (such as water and fertilizers) and agricultural intensification, are putting great strains on ecosystems, contributing to nutritional imbalances and reduced access to wild foods.

(e) Human societies everywhere have depended on biodiversity for cultural identity, spirituality, inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment and recreation. Culture can also play a key role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Loss of biodiversity affects both material and non-material human well-

being. Both the continued loss of biodiversity and the disruption of cultural integrity represent obstacles towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

15. Biodiversity loss continues because current policies and economic systems do not incorporate the values of biodiversity effectively in either the political or the market systems, and many current policies are not fully implemented. Although many losses of biodiversity, including the degradation of ecosystems, are slow or gradual, they can lead to sudden and dramatic declines in the capacity of biodiversity to contribute to human wellbeing. Modern societies can continue to develop without further loss of biodiversity only if market and policy failures are rectified. These failures include perverse production subsidies, undervaluation of biological resources, failure to internalize environmental costs into prices and failure to appreciate global values at the local level. Reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 or beyond will require multiple and mutually supportive policies of conservation, sustainable use and the effective recognition of value for the benefits derived from the wide variety of life on Earth. Some such policies are already in place at local, national and international scales, but their full implementation remains elusive.

Appendix II

PROVISIONAL INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic goals and objectives	Possible indicators
Goal 1: The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues.	
1.1 The Convention is setting the global biodiversity agenda.	CBD provisions, COP decisions and 2010 target reflected in workplans of major international forums
1.2 The Convention is promoting cooperation between all relevant international instruments and processes to enhance policy coherence.	
1.3 Other international processes are actively supporting implementation of the Convention, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.	
1.4 The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is widely implemented.	
1.5 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of regional/global plans, programmes and policies which specifically address the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies</i></p> <p><i>Application of planning tools such as strategic environmental assessment to assess the degree to which biodiversity concerns are being integrated</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity integrated into the criteria of multilateral donors and regional development banks</i></p>
1.6 Parties are collaborating at the regional and subregional levels to implement the Convention.	<p><i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i></p> <p><i>Number of Parties that are part of (sub-) regional biodiversity-related agreements</i></p>
Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.	
2.1 All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategy and action plans.	
2.2 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention.	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention (OECD-DAC Statistics Committee)
2.3 Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have increased resources and technology transfer available to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.4 All Parties have adequate capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
2.5 Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity.	<i>Indicator to be developed consistent with VII/30</i>
Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.	
3.1 Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of	Number of Parties with national biodiversity

the Convention and to set clear national priorities.	strategies
3.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has a regulatory framework in place and functioning to implement the Protocol.	
3.3 Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies in which biodiversity concerns are integrated</i>
3.4 The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Number of national biodiversity strategies and action plans that are being actively implemented</i>
Goal 4: There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation.	
4.1 All Parties are implementing a communication, education, and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention.	<i>Possible indicator to be developed:</i> <i>Number of Parties implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation</i> <i>Percentage of public awareness programmes/projects about the importance of biodiversity</i> <i>Percentage of Parties with biodiversity on their public school curricula</i>
4.2 Every Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in support of the Protocol.	
4.3 Indigenous and local communities are effectively involved in implementation and in the processes of the Convention, at national, regional and international levels.	<i>To be developed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j)</i>
4.4 Key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, are engaged in partnership to implement the Convention and are integrating biodiversity concerns into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	<i>To be developed</i> <i>Indicator targeting private sector engagement, e.g. Voluntary type 2 partnerships in support of the implementation of the Convention</i>

Appendix III

INDICATORS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONAL FRAMEWORK OF GOALS AND TARGETS

Goals and targets	Relevant indicators
Protect the components of biodiversity	
<i>Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes</i>	
Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of protected areas • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity</i>	
Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Change in status of threatened species
Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Coverage of protected areas
<i>Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</i>	
Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Promote sustainable use	
<i>Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.</i>	
Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management • <i>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources (indicator under development)</i> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index • Nitrogen deposition • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Target 4.2. Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological footprint and related concepts
Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in status of threatened species
Address threats to biodiversity	
<i>Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</i>	
Target 5.1. Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species • Marine trophic index
Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species	
Target 6.1. Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
Target 6.2. Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in invasive alien species
Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution	
Target 7.1. Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems
Target 7.2. Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen deposition • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems
Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods	
Target 8.1. Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</i> • Water quality in aquatic ecosystems • Marine trophic index • Incidence of Human-induced ecosystem failure
Target 8.2. Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services • <i>Biodiversity used in food and medicine</i>
Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
Goal 9. Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities	
Target 9.1. Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages • <i>Additional indicators to be developed</i>
Target 9.2. Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
Target 10.1. All access to genetic resources is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Target 10.2. Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with the countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>
Ensure provision of adequate resources	
Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention	
Target 11.1. New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention
Target 11.2. Technology is transferred to	<i>Indicator to be developed</i>

developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4.



Appendix IV

THE GEO-4 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The *GEO-4* conceptual framework could assist in the development of post-2010 biodiversity objectives targets and indicators. It is based on the drivers-pressures-state-impacts-responses (DPSIR) concept. It draws on different types of assessments that have taken place over the years, including previous GEO reports, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (MA), especially with regard to the concepts of human well-being and ecosystem services. The framework reflects the key components of the complex chain of cause-and effect, taking place in space and time that characterizes the interactions between society and environment. Environmental changes are induced by drivers and caused by pressures, but they do also affect each other. These changes interact with demographic, social and material factors in determining human well-being. Responses include measures by society for mitigating and adapting to environmental changes. These processes take place at all spatial scales, from the global to the local.

The conceptual framework (Figure 1), contributes to society's enhanced understanding of the links between the environment and development, human wellbeing and vulnerability to environmental change. The framework places, together with the environment, the social issues and economic sectors in the 'impacts' category rather than just exclusively in the 'drivers' or 'pressures' categories. The characteristics of the components of the *GEO-4* analytical framework are explained below.

Drivers

Drivers are sometimes referred to as indirect or underlying drivers or driving forces. They refer to fundamental processes in society, which drive activities with a direct impact on the environment. Key drivers include: demographics; consumption and production patterns; scientific and technological innovation; economic demand, markets and trade; distribution patterns; institutional and social-political frameworks and value systems. The characteristics and importance of each driver differ substantially from one region to another, within regions and within and between nations. For example, in the area of population dynamics, most developing countries are still facing population growth while developed countries are faced with a stagnant and ageing population. The resource demand of people influence environmental change.

Pressures

Key pressures include: emissions of substances which may take the form of pollutants or waste; external inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals and irrigation; land use; resource extraction; and modification and movement of organisms. Human interventions may be directed towards causing a desired environmental change such as land use, or they may be intentional or unintentional by-products of other human activities, for example, pollution. The characteristics and importance of each pressure may vary from one region to another, but is often a combination of pressures that lead to environmental change. For example, climate change is a result of emissions of different greenhouse gases, deforestation and land-use practices. Furthermore, the ability to create and transfer environmental pressures onto the environment of other societies varies from one region to another. Affluent societies with high levels of production, consumption and trade tend to contribute more towards global and transboundary environmental pressures than the less affluent societies which interact in more direct fashion with the environment in which they live.

State-and-trends

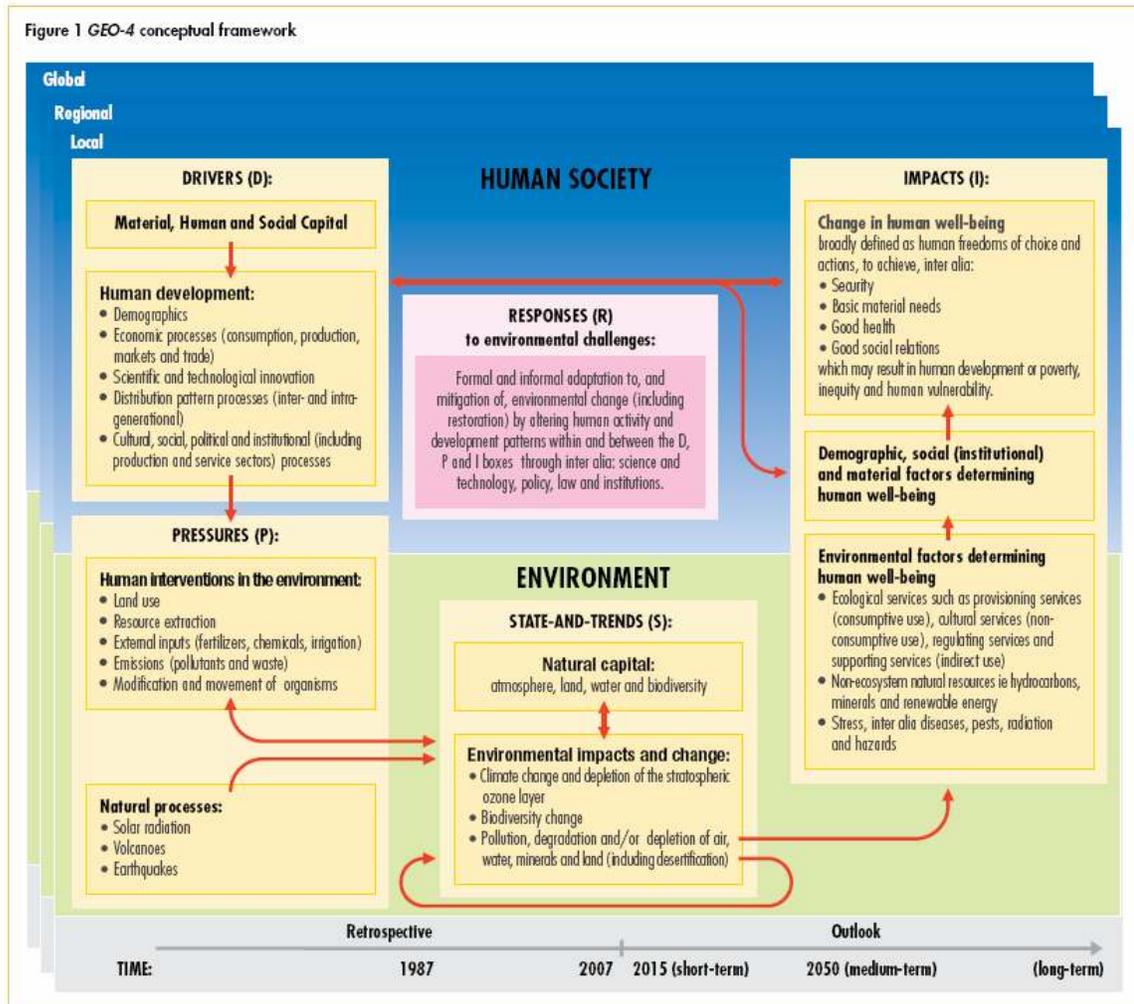
Environmental state also includes trends, which often refers to environmental change. This change may be natural, human-induced or both. Examples of natural processes include solar radiation, extreme natural events, pollination, and erosion. Key forms of human induced environmental change include climate change, desertification and land degradation, biodiversity loss, and air and water pollution, for example. Different forms of natural or human-induced changes interact. One form of change, for example, climate change, will inevitably lead to ecosystem change, which may result in desertification and/or biodiversity loss. Different forms of environmental change can reinforce or neutralize each other. For example, a temperature increase due to climate change can, in Europe, partly be offset by changes in ocean currents triggered by climate change. The complexity of the physical, chemical and biological systems constituting the environment makes it hard to predict environmental change, especially when it is subject to multiple pressures. The state of the environment and its resilience to change varies greatly within and among regions due to different climatic and ecological conditions.

Impacts

The environment is directly or indirectly affected by the social and economic sectors, contributing to change (either negative or positive) in human well-being and in the capacity/ability to cope with environmental changes. Impacts, be they on human well-being, the social and economic sectors or environmental services, are highly dependent on the characteristics of the drivers and, therefore, vary markedly between developing and developed regions.

Responses

Responses address issues of vulnerability of both people and the environment, and provide opportunities for reducing human vulnerability and enhancing human well-being. Responses take place at various levels: for example, environmental laws and institutions at the national level, and multilateral environmental agreements and institutions at the regional and global levels. The capacity to mitigate and/or adapt to environmental change differs among and within regions, and capacity building is, therefore, a major and overarching component of the response components.



Attachment III

Concept Note

THE TEN-YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCCD: - CONTRIBUTION BY THE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP (EMG)

Introduction

1. The 14th Senior Officials meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG), held in the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on 10 December 2008 considered the possible contribution of EMG to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD). The meeting welcomed the contribution by the secretariat of the UNCCD on the need for a UN system-wide contribution to the implementation and mid-term review in 2014 of the ten-year strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD. It recognised the relevance of the strategy to the current cycle of the CSD, its relevance to climate change and the mandate of the EMG on environment and human settlements.
2. Accordingly, the meeting requested the secretariat of the EMG to solicit the views of the members on the scope, modalities and deliverables of a UN system-wide network and process on sustainable land-use for consideration of a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 14 – 15 February 2009 at the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The current concept note is prepared by the secretariats of the UNCCD and the EMG for the EMG. It suggests a process for how the UN system through the EMG can engage in implementing the strategy and contribute to its mid-term review in 2014.

'Land': a multidisciplinary issue of global significance

3. Unsustainable land and water use, and the impacts of climate change are driving land degradation, including soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity, salinity, chemical contamination and disruption of biological cycles, according to the inter-governmentally endorsed summary of the fourth Global Environment Outlook, GEO4 report (UNEP 2007). The summary concluded that the cumulative effects of these changes threaten food security, biodiversity, and carbon fixation and storage. Poor people suffer disproportionately from the effects of land degradation, especially in the drylands, which support some two billion people, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries.
4. Desertification occurs when land degradation processes, acting locally, combine to affect large areas in drylands, according to the GEO4 report. It found that six million km² of drylands bear a legacy of land degradation. It is hard to deal with the problem, because of cyclical swings in rainfall, land tenure that is no longer well adjusted to the environment, and because local management is driven by regional and global forces. These forces have to be addressed by national, regional and global policies. Local responses need to be guided by consistent measurement of indicators of long-term ecosystem change.
5. The report also found that globally, 70 per cent of available freshwater is held in the soil and accessible to plants, whereas only 11 per cent is accessible as stream flow and groundwater. Better soil and water management can greatly increase the resilience of farming systems and the availability of water downstream, but nearly all investment goes into the withdrawal of water, of which 70–80 per cent is used for irrigation. Meeting the Millennium Development Goal on hunger will require doubling of water use by crops by 2050. Even with much-needed improvements in efficiency, irrigation cannot do it alone. A policy shift is needed towards greater water-use efficiency in rain-fed farming, which will also replenish water supplies at source.
6. Demands on land resources and the risks to sustainability are likely to intensify says the report. There are opportunities to meet this challenge, and to avoid potentially unmanageable threats. Population growth, economic development and urbanization will drive demands for food, water, energy and raw materials; the continued shift from cereal to animal products and the recent move towards biofuels will add to the demand for farm production. At the same time, climate change will increase water demands, and increasing variability of rainfall may increase water scarcity in drylands. Opportunities to meet these challenges include application of existing knowledge, diversification of land use, in particular to farming systems that mimic natural ecosystems and closely match local conditions instead of ignoring them, technological advances, harnessing markets to the delivery of ecosystem services, and independent initiatives by civil society and the private sector. Potentially unmanageable threats include runaway biological cycles, climate-related tipping points, conflict and breakdown of governance.

7. Land degradation is a fundamental and persistent global development issue - degradation and poverty are mutually reinforcing – but it is, according to the report, politically invisible and largely ignored. The damage can be arrested, even reversed, but this requires concerted, long-term investment across sectors, by all levels of government and by individual land users, research to provide reliable data, and adaptation of technologies appropriate to local circumstances. Such a package of measures has rarely been attempted. Examples of long-term success in combating land degradation include however the Great Plains of the United States and the Land Care programme in Australia. In Africa and other developing regions, many countries have embarked on national action programmes to combat desertification within the framework of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). (see also annex 1)

'Land', an inter-agency matter

8. Land degradation needs as explained above to be addressed by concerted actions by different sectors at several scales. Typically, 'Land' is thus the focus of a high number of activities undertaken by the international community to address problems of desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, impact of climate change and variability and their subsequent effects on livelihoods and development. Most prominently, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with its 192 Parties, is the only universal sustainable development instrument addressing the problems of desertification and land degradation, and effects on loss of fertility and biodiversity. It consequently addresses sustainable livelihood issues, for millions of people in the world.

9. As the international community increasingly focuses on the necessity to adapt to climate change, the UN system is recognizing the need for strategic partnerships when it comes to cross-cutting sustainable development issues. In the case of the 'land challenge', several agencies could join forces with CCD to further action at the international and national levels. Agencies such as FAO and IFAD are working to provide adequate responses to land-based problems, such as soil fertility and food production and address the all important issue of rural development.

10. Other agencies, directly or indirectly, address land degradation and land-based issues, such as the CBD when it comes to dry-land, wetland or forest ecosystems, UNFCCC on climate change and adaptation, Ramsar on wetlands, the chemical cluster on land pollution issues, UN-HABITAT on land-management issues related to urbanization, WHO and WFP are concerned with drought related malnutrition issues while UNHCR does attempt to address the environmental impact of refugees in drylands. The UN International Strategy for Disaster reduction ISDR closely relates to UNCCD related matters such as drought, sand storms, forest fires or flash floods. UN DESA especially within the current CSD cycle focused on agriculture, rural development and land

11. Of particular importance, UNDP and the UNDG could assist through the UNDAF to mainstream UNCCD issues through the alignment of the National Action Programmes with the Strategy presented below. UNDP /EEG and UNDP/Drylands Development Centre can strengthen joint policy advocacy. UNEP has a significant role to play in supporting regional initiatives and providing assistance to monitoring and assessment, for instance through the current work on land Degradation assessments and tools and through UNEP/GEF support to Parties' self assessment. UNEP and UNDP bring other complementary visions on the issue respectively through the lenses of the ecosystem and livelihood approaches of sustainable land use management.

12. The trade regime, with WTO and UNCTAD, is also regulating the movement and exchanges of land products. The Common Fund for Commodities can assist to better exploit the potential of drylands commodities. The focus of IMO on migrations is relevant when raising the issue of minimizing the push factors of forced migrations from the drylands. IUCN is active on the front of desertification, land and soil.

The 10-year UNCCD Strategy 2008/2018

13. The UNCCD "10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention", also called "The Strategy" was adopted at COP 8 in Madrid in September 2007 (annex II). The Strategy puts a renewed emphasis on the problems related to land degradation and effectively portrays 'land' as the principal subject of sustainable development, as it links the amelioration of living conditions of populations and ecosystems and the provision of global benefits to the halting of land degradation and sustainable land management. The new strategy addresses the points above, by enlarging the scope of CCD action from desertification to land degradation as a whole and promoting a proactive approach to awareness raising and advocacy and the strengthening of the scientific capacity on land issues.

- a. This ten-year strategic plan and framework contains four strategic objectives that address the livelihood of people, the sustainable use of ecosystems, the overall global added value generated by the UNCCD, and the tools, namely the resource base, for the implementation of the Convention. These strategic objectives would guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners during the period of 2008-2018.
- b. The strategy also contains five operational objectives that would guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term (3-5 years) with a view to supporting the attainment of the strategic objectives. These objectives focus on

- i. Advocacy, awareness raising and education
- ii. Policy framework
- iii. Science, technology and knowledge
- iv. Capacity building and
- v. Financing and technology transfer

14. The Strategy identifies a number of objectives and expected impacts which are of interest to and within the scope of many other UN agencies. For instance, the Strategy is aiming at:

- a. Improving and diversifying the livelihood base and benefits from income generated from sustainable land management;
- b. Reducing populations' socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought;
- c. Enhancing land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas in a sustainable manner;
- d. Reducing the vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought;
- e. Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change through sustainable land management and combating desertification.

15. As stated in its mission, the Strategy provides a global framework to “support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction”.

16. The UNCCD strategy could therefore set the foundation for an inter-agency coalition on sustainable land management and land use issues within the UN system which should serve to facilitate cooperation and resource efficiency and help to avoid duplication/fragmented actions. The 63rd session of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the UNCCD recognizing the importance of DLDD issues the context of the policy developments of the ongoing cycle of the CSD and duly inviting cooperation amongst the UN organizations.

Objectives and modalities for an EMG contribution to the Strategy

17. The aim of an EMG process would be to identify opportunities for synergies in the contribution to the implementation and mid-term review in 2014 of the Strategy. It is proposed that the EMG process build on the involvement of agencies in land and the UNCCD process (see annex III) and that it follow a three track approach.

18. Track one will involve a preparation by each EMG member of a synopsis report on their ongoing and expected contributions to the implementation of the Strategy up to 2013 (i.e. related to their respective mandates). Members would focus on overall outcomes and broad strategic contributions rather than a listing of detailed activities. It is envisaged that draft reports will be formulated and submitted to the EMG secretariat by September 2009. The proposals will be reviewed internally in the EMG and discussed in an Issue Management Group (IMG) possibly back to back with the UNCCD COP 9 in October 2009 to facilitate system-wide complementarity, synergy and coherence.

19. Track two will use the outcome of the IMG for the formulation by the UNCCD and EMG secretariat together with a core set of agencies (to be decided) of a draft UN-system-wide land framework for cooperation on the implementation of the Strategy for consideration of the IMG. It is envisaged that such an IMG will serve as a network/forum for cooperation within the land framework.

20. Track three will involve a reporting by EMG members on high level achievements and lessons learned from cooperation within the framework and planned new initiatives. A consolidated report will be prepared and submitted through the secretariat of the UNCCD in order to inform parties to the UNCCD on the mid term review in 2014 of the Strategy. The IMG would also consider an extension of the land framework up to 2018.

Expected outcomes

21. The overall expected outcome is four fold. Firstly, to demonstrate a UN system-wide contribution to the implementation and mid-term review in 2014 of the Strategy in line with the ideal of a “One UN”. Secondly, the process is expected to help ensure coherence between the Strategy with broader processes and activities in the UN system at large, and also to facilitate the contribution of activities by relevant organizations, agencies and programmes to the implementation of that strategy, and thereby help to mainstream efforts to address land degradation in broader development strategies, plans and programmes. Thirdly, by drawing upon expertise in the System, it will help ensure

that the activities to implement the Strategy are credible and achievable as well as ambitious and sufficient to respond to the challenges.

22. Fourthly the process effort of ensuring complementarity and coherencies likely to generate synergies which may include but not be limited to:

- a. Supporting Member States in establishing national targets and monitoring programmes and in better coordinating implementation of the agenda of UNCCD;
- b. Supporting Member States in the application of tools and guidelines to assess the environmental impacts of planned activities, programmes and policies and to addressing the drivers of land degradation;
- c. More effectively linking biodiversity targets and the goals of the UNCCD with the MDGs, including mainstreaming in Official Development Assistance and the work of UNDP;
- d. Supporting Member States in integrating land degradation considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programmes and strategies and planning processes;
- e. Ensuring that any future land degradation considerations and targets are mainstreamed (where appropriate) into the work of UNFCCC on mitigation and adaptation;
- f. Contributing to the delivery of scientific evidence, capacity-development, outreach and information activities aimed at highlighting the importance of land degradation for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- g. Promoting the concept of sustainable and integrated land management and use, including on agriculture, biodiversity conservation and sustainable urban development;
- h. Providing a platform for a coherent and common global communication strategy;
- i. Strengthening the science-policy interface *i.a.* by promoting scientific and socio economic assessments of the impact of inaction on land degradation at the national and international levels (including the production of a “Land-Stern” report) and the possible consideration of an International Panel on Land and Soil (IPLS) with FAO and UNEP;
- j. Provide inputs to considerations by parties under the UNCCD for development of any further instruments (protocol, guidelines, and principles) such as on soil conservation and the consideration of fertile top soil as a global public good².
- k. Supporting the consistent application of standardized science-based methods for assessment and monitoring of land health and intervention impacts.

Tentative outline and schedule of process

23. The process is envisaged to consist of the following scheduled elements:

- a. Consultation with EMG members scope, modalities and deliverables of an EMG process on the strategy (January 2009)
- b. Consideration of the issue by a technical meeting of the EMG tentatively scheduled for 14 – 15 February 2009 in the margins of the 24th session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum Establishment (February 2009)
- c. Recommendations from the technical meeting to the Chair of EMG on modalities and deliverables of an EMG process of by the EMG (February 2009)
- d. Subject to recommendations from the technical meeting proposal by the EMG chair to the EMG for the initiation of a process on the UNCCD Strategy including the establishment of an Issue Management Group (IMG) on land (March 2009)
- e. IMG 1 to agree on guidance and work plan (April 2009)
- f. EMG members to prepare a report on their ongoing and expected contributions to the implementation of the Strategy up to 2013 (i.e. related to their respective mandates) (by September 2009)
- g. EMG 15 to review progress, give guidance and report to the Chief Executives Board on Coordination

² In economics, a public good is one that cannot or will not be produced for individual profit, since it is difficult to get people to pay for its large beneficial externalities. It is [non-rival](#) and [non-excludable](#). This means that consumption of the good by one individual does not reduce the amount of the good available for consumption by others; and no one can be effectively excluded from using that good

- h. IMG 2 to consider to facilitate system-wide complementarity, synergy and coherence in actions (November/December 2009) (possibly back to back with the UNCCD COP 9 in October 2009)
- i. IMG 3/EMG to agree on UN-system-wide land framework for cooperation on the implementation of the Strategy and modalities for further cooperation under an IMG network/forum on land (February 2010)
- j. Preparation of a consolidated report from EMG on high level achievements and lessons learned from cooperation within the framework to be submitted through the secretariat of the UNCCD in order to inform parties to the UNCCD on the mid term review in 2014 of the Strategy. (2013)
- k. Consideration of modalities for support to phase two of the strategy (2013)

Annex I

The land challenge

Chapter 3 of GEO-4 concluded that the demands of a burgeoning population, economic development and global markets have been met by unprecedented land-use change. The chapter presented the following the main messages:

During the last 20 years, the exponential expansion of cropland has slackened, but land is now used much more intensively: globally in the 1980s, on average a hectare of cropland produced 1.8 tonnes, but now it produces 2.5 tonnes. For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lives in cities, which are growing rapidly, especially in developing countries. Cities draw upon extensive rural hinterlands for water and disposal of waste, while their demands for food, fuel and raw materials have a global reach.

Unsustainable land use is driving land degradation. Land degradation ranks with climate change and loss of biodiversity as a threat to habitat, economy and society, but society has different perspectives on various aspects of land degradation, according to political visibility. Inaction means a cumulative addition to a long historical legacy of degradation, from which recovery is difficult or impossible.

Harmful and persistent pollutants, such as heavy metals and organic chemicals, are still being released to the land, air and water from mining, manufacturing, sewage, energy and transport emissions; from the use of agrochemicals and from leaking stockpiles of obsolete chemicals. This issue is politically visible, effects on human health are direct and increasingly well understood, and better procedures and legislation to address chemical contamination are being developed. There has been progress in dealing with pollution in the industrialized countries, where the problem first emerged, but the shift of industry to newly-industrialized countries is yet to be followed by implementation of adequate measures to protect the environment and human health. Achievement of an acceptable level of safety, worldwide, requires strengthening of institutional and technical capacity in all countries, and the integration and effective implementation of existing controls at all levels. There remains an unacceptable lack of data, even for proxies, such as total production and application of chemicals.

Forest ecosystem services are threatened by increasing human demands. Exploitation of forests has been at the expense of biodiversity and natural regulation of water and climate, and has undermined subsistence support and cultural values for some peoples. These issues are increasingly acknowledged, prompting a range of technical responses, legislation and non-binding agreements (such as the United Nations Forum on Forests) to conserve forests, and financial mechanisms to support them. The historical decline in the area of temperate forest has been reversed, with an annual increase of 30 000 km² between 1990 and 2005. Deforestation in the tropics, having begun later, continued at an annual rate of 130 000 km² over the same period. The decline in forest area may be countered by investment in planted forest and more efficient use of wood. More forest is being designated for ecosystem services, but innovative management is required to maintain and restore ecosystems. There is an urgent need to build institutional capacity, in particular community-based management; the effectiveness of this response depends on good governance.

Land degradation in the form of soil erosion, nutrient depletion, water scarcity, salinity and disruption of biological cycles is a fundamental and persistent problem. Land degradation diminishes productivity, biodiversity and other ecosystem services, and contributes to climate change. It is a global development issue – degradation and poverty are mutually reinforcing – but is politically invisible and largely ignored. The damage can be arrested, even reversed, but this requires concerted, long-term investment across sectors, by all levels of government and by individual land users, research to provide reliable data, and adaptation of technologies appropriate to local circumstances. Such a package of measures has rarely been attempted.

Depletion of nutrients by continued cropping with few or no inputs limits productivity over vast tropical and subtropical upland areas. Research has shown the benefits of biological nutrient cycling by integration of legumes into the cropping system, improved fallows and agroforestry. However, widespread adoption is yet to be achieved, and for severely nutrient-deficient soils, there is no remedy except external nutrient inputs. The simple addition of manure or fertilizer may raise crop yields from as little as 0.5 to between 6 and 8 tones of grain/ha. In contrast to intensive farming systems that pollute streams and groundwater by excessive fertilizer application, many smallholders in poor countries do not have the means to purchase fertilizer, despite favorable benefit-cost ratios.

Increasing water scarcity is undermining development, food security, public health and ecosystem services. Globally, 70 per cent of available freshwater is held in the soil and accessible to plants, whereas only 11 per cent is accessible as stream flow and groundwater. Better soil and water management can greatly increase the resilience of farming systems and the availability of water downstream, but nearly all investment goes into the withdrawal of water, of which 70–80 per cent is used for irrigation. Meeting the Millennium Development Goal on hunger will require doubling of water use by 2050. Even with much-needed improvements in efficiency, irrigation cannot do it

alone. A policy shift is needed towards greater water-use efficiency in rain-fed farming, which will also replenish water supplies at source.

Desertification occurs when land degradation processes, acting locally, combine to affect large areas in drylands. Some 2 billion people depend on drylands, 90 per cent of them in developing countries. Six million km² of drylands bear a legacy of land degradation. It is hard to deal with the problem, because of cyclical swings in rainfall, land tenure that is no longer well adjusted to the environment, and because local management is driven by regional and global forces. These forces have to be addressed by national, regional and global policies. Local responses need to be guided by consistent measurement of indicators of long-term ecosystem change.

Demands on land resources and the risks to sustainability are likely to intensify. There are opportunities to meet this challenge, and to avoid potentially unmanageable threats. Population growth, economic development and urbanization will drive demands for food, water, energy and raw materials; the continued shift from cereal to animal products and the recent move towards biofuels will add to the demand for farm production. At the same time, climate change will increase water demands, and increasing variability of rainfall may increase water scarcity in drylands. Opportunities to meet these challenges include application of existing knowledge, diversification of land use, in particular to farming systems that mimic natural ecosystems and closely match local conditions instead of ignoring them, technological advances, harnessing markets to the delivery of ecosystem services, and independent initiatives by civil society and the private sector. Potentially unmanageable threats include runaway biological cycles, climate-related tipping points, conflict and breakdown of governance.

Annex II

Strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD (2008–2018) (hereinafter referred to as “The Strategy”)

The Strategy

I. Introduction

1. Developed as a result of the Rio Summit, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a unique instrument that has brought attention to land degradation in the drylands where exist some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people in the world. Ten years after its coming into force, the UNCCD benefits from universal membership and is increasingly recognized as an instrument which can make a lasting contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction globally.
2. After a decade of implementation, it is recognized that limiting factors have prevented optimal deployment of the Convention. Chief among these factors are insufficient financing compared to its two Rio sister conventions, a weak scientific basis, insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses and difficulties in reaching consensus among Parties.
3. Also, the UNCCD operates today in an environment that has evolved considerably since when it was first negotiated and it faces different opportunities and constraints which will condition its implementation in the forthcoming decade.
4. For one thing, the policy environment has changed considerably since Rio with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), increased support to Africa and the least-developed countries, stronger commitment for climate change mitigation and adaptation, prospects of global agricultural trade liberalization, and growing numbers of environmental refugees and migrants shedding new light on the impacts of poverty and environmental degradation.
5. The scientific environment has also evolved with the work of the Millennium Assessment (MA) on dryland ecosystems, which has contributed to improved understanding of the biophysical and socio-economic trends relating to land degradation in global drylands, and their impacts on human and ecosystem well-being. The MA has also contributed to mapping out key gaps in data and knowledge on dryland ecosystems and people.
6. The financing environment has also changed profoundly in the last decade, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) becoming a financial mechanism of the Convention, official development assistance (ODA) flows increasing again after a decade of stagnation, and declining resources for rural development and agriculture. Donors have refocused their financing strategies to support country-driven priorities, based on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other country-led development planning instruments. Lastly, various innovative financing instruments have come to life, including payments for ecological services and carbon finance.
7. This new environment provides the starting point for this strategic plan along with an assessment of the successes and limiting factors of the Convention as it enters its second decade. This strategic plan provides a unique opportunity to address some of the Convention's key challenges, to capitalize on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders.

II. The vision

8. The aim for the future is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

III. Strategic objectives and expected impacts

9. The following “strategic objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008–2018, including raising political will. Meeting these long-term³ objectives will contribute to achieving the above-mentioned vision. The “expected impacts” are the long-term effects intended by the strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations

Expected impact 1.1. People living in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management.

Expected impact 1.2. Affected populations’ socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Indicator S-1⁴: Decrease in numbers of people negatively impacted by the processes of desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.

Indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas.

Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems

Expected impact 2.1. Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.

Expected impact 2.2. The vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced.

Indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.

Indicator S-5: Increase in net primary productivity in affected areas.

Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

Expected impact 3.1. Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.

Indicator S-6: Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas.

Indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.

Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

Expected impact 4.1. Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention.

Expected impact 4.2. Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation at all levels.

Indicator S-8⁵: Increase in the level and diversity of available funding for combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought.

Indicator S-9: Development policies and measures address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

³ For the purposes of this strategic plan, “long term” means ten years or more.

⁴ The indicators contained in the strategic plan are indicative of the types of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. These global indicators are to be refined further by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) capitalizing on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2. See below: Chapter VII. Performance monitoring, paragraph 1.

⁵ Indicators pertaining to Parties’ implementation are to be further developed and refined. (See below: Section VII. Performance monitoring, paragraph 1).

IV. The mission

10. To provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

V. Operational objectives and expected outcomes

11. The following “operational objectives” will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term⁴ with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives. The “outcomes” are the short and medium-term effects intended by the operational objectives.

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.

Outcome 1.1: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.

Outcome 1.2: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Outcome 1.3: Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and desertification/land degradation and drought are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties revise their national action programmes (NAPs) into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.

Outcome 2.3: Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.

⁴ For the purposes of this strategic plan, “short and medium-term” means for a period of three to five years. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 19)

Outcome 2.4: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.

Outcome 2.5: Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socioeconomic trends in affected countries are supported.

Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socioeconomic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.

Outcome 3.3: Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.

Outcome 3.4: Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.

Outcome 3.5: Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge⁵, are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

Outcome 3.6: Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

Operational objective 4: Capacity-building

To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought

Outcome 4.1: Countries which have carried out the national capacity self assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels⁶ to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national and local levels.

Outcome 4.2: Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and local levels.

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.

Outcome 5.1: Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

Outcome 5.2: Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Outcome 5.3: Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.

Outcome 5.4: Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.

Outcome 5.5: Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation.

VI. Implementation framework

12. This section defines the roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders in meeting the above-mentioned objectives.

A. The Committee on Science and Technology

13. Operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge is a central component of the strategic plan. The CST is given primary responsibility to fulfil this objective as well as a support role for implementing operational objective 1. In order to fulfil this mandate, the CST shall be strengthened to assess, advise and support implementation, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, of the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the causes and impacts of desertification/land degradation, and shall inform COP decisions. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 21)

14. The CST shall be reshaped in the following manner:

⁵ Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources

⁶ See the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) "Resource Kit for National Capacity Self-Assessment", 2005, page vi, for a description of the various levels at which capacity can be developed. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 20)

(a) Institutional arrangements

(i) Representation in the CST and the roster of experts is to be based on professional expertise and is to include a wide range of disciplines and experience regarding biophysical and socio-economic aspects. It shall respect equitable representation according to the United Nations rules. Parties shall establish a specific procedure to this effect as per the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations.

(ii) The COP decides the appropriate frequency of CST meetings, including the possibility of synchronized CST and Committee for the Review of the Implementation (CRIC) meetings, with a view to ensuring continuity and providing timely policy advice to the COP in accordance with this strategic plan.

(iii) The COP appoints the chairperson of the CST for a two-year term. It also appoints the members of the bureau of the CST for two-year terms. With a view to staggering the replacement of the members of the bureau in order to ensure continuity in the work of the CST, half of the members are, exceptionally, to be appointed at COP 8 for one-year terms and their replacements are also to be appointed at COP 8, for two-year terms.

(b) Programme of work

(i) The COP adopts a focused work programme for the CST and establishes clear priorities based on the strategic plan.

(ii) The COP may invite, as appropriate, renowned scientific institutions and subject-matter expert task forces to consider issues.

(iii) Modes of delivery:

a. The CST develops a two-year work programme, following a resultsbased management (RBM) approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.

b. CST meetings produce sound scientific outputs and policy-oriented recommendations based on the analysis and compilation of peer reviewed and published literature that inform policy formulation and dialogue at the COP.

c. The CST mobilizes science and technology experts, networks and institutions with excellence in desertification/land degradation issues under its auspices to bolster the scientific and technical basis of the UNCCD.

d. The CST enhances its convening power by adding high-level expertise and systematically peer-reviewing its outputs.

e. The CST agenda is to focus on one or two priorities reviewed every biennium, as appropriate.

f. The CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, creates and steers knowledge-management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 22)

g. The CST strengthens its linkages with thematic programme networks (TPNs) and other relevant regional implementation activities whose mandates are improved to provide regional input to the work of the CST.

(iv) Priorities:

a. The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, tools and methods, biophysical and socio-economic baselines on desertification/land degradation at the national level.

b. The CST develops, in cooperation with relevant institutions, methodologies and guidelines for monitoring and assessment of desertification/land degradation trends.

(c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

B. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

15. The CRIC plays a central role in reviewing the implementation of the strategic plan through an effective reporting process and documenting and disseminating best practices from experience in implementing the Convention, thereby bringing a cross-cutting contribution to all operational objectives. Overall, the CRIC shall be strengthened to improve feedback loops to measure progress and support continuous improvement in implementing the strategic plan.

16. The CRIC shall be reshaped in the following manner:

- (a) Institutional arrangements: The COP is invited to pursue its review of the CRIC and its institutional arrangements in the light of the provisions of this strategic plan.
- (b) Functions:
 - (i) Determining and disseminating best practices on implementation of the UNCCD.
 - (ii) Reviewing implementation of this strategic plan.
 - (iii) Reviewing Parties' contributions to the implementation of the Convention.
 - (iv) Assessing and monitoring of CRIC performance and effectiveness.
- (c) Programme of work:
 - (i) Modes of delivery:
 - a. Multi-year planning: The CRIC adopts a multi-year work programme, following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - b. In the context of its ongoing review of the CRIC, the COP should explore the possibility of synchronizing CRIC and CST sessions as appropriate and decide on their required frequency in the light of this strategic plan. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 23)
 - (ii) Priorities:
 - a. The CRIC is restructured around a simplified and effective reporting process based on information which is comparable across regions and over time. New reporting guidelines are adopted taking into account the work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Reporting. Reporting should be inclusive of NAPs, subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs).
 - b. The CRIC systematically documents and disseminates best practices.
 - c. The CRIC is assigned responsibility for assessing on a regular basis progress made in implementing this strategic plan, based on a set of indicators.
- (d) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are required to ensure the effective implementation of the above recommendations.

C. The Global Mechanism

- 17. Operational objective 5 on financing and technology transfer is a central component of the strategic plan. The GM has a central responsibility in contributing to this objective, given its mandate to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms and to mobilize and channel substantial financial resources. The GM also has a support role for operational objectives 1 and 2. In order to fulfil its role, the GM shall strengthen its capacity to mobilize existing as well as fresh sources of finance and to facilitate access to technology.
- 18. The GM shall be realigned in the following manner:
 - (a) Institutional arrangements:
 - (i) GM institutional arrangements with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to remain unchanged.
 - (ii) The COP to monitor the effectiveness and added-value of the GM's institutional arrangements with IFAD in line with JIU recommendations.
 - (b) Programme of work:
 - (i) The GM adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.
 - (ii) The GM revises its consolidated strategy and enhanced approach (CSEA) in order to prioritize its role in mobilizing financial resources for programmatic investments in affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, in affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern European region:
 - a. The GM engages with donors, the private sector, financial institutions and other relevant institutions to promote actions leading to the mobilization of substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources.
 - b. The GM advises and assists affected developing country Parties and, where appropriate, affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 24) European region regarding the development of integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

- c. The GM explores new sources of finance and financing mechanisms to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade organizations, foundations, CSOs, and other financing mechanisms, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the fight against hunger and poverty.
- d. The GM supports the development of (sub) regional financing platforms to improve effectiveness, harmonization and alignment among donor institutions.

(iii) The GM develops a strategy to operationalize its complementary role to the GEF.

(iv) Facilitation Committee (FC):

- a. The FC is invited to revise its mandate and adopt a joint work programme aligned with the strategic plan.
- b. Individual members of the FC are invited to develop consistent and complementary financing platforms to align their activities with the UNCCD strategic plan.
- c. The FC reports in a coordinated fashion to the COP and the CRIC on issues relevant to its programme of work.

(c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the consistent and predictable deployment of GM functions under the strategic plan.

D. The secretariat

19. Successful implementation of this strategic plan requires a strengthening of the core servicing, advocacy and agenda-setting and representation functions of the UNCCD secretariat – with commensurate capacity and resources – in order to support Parties, the COP and the subsidiary bodies of the Convention in fulfilling their respective roles. The secretariat has a lead role for operational objective 1 and specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 and 3 as well as a support role in other operational objectives.

20. The secretariat shall be reshaped in the following manner:

(a) Institutional arrangements: The secretariat implements and systematically reports to the COP on relevant institutional recommendations contained in the JIU report. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 25)

(b) Programme of work:

(i) The secretariat adopts a four-year strategic plan complemented by a biennial programme of work following an RBM approach consistent with the objectives and results of this strategic plan.

(ii) Servicing and facilitating functions:

a. The secretariat performs enhanced servicing functions to support COP and CRIC sessions by:

- i. Providing compilation and synthesis of national reports on the basis of new guidelines.
- ii. Producing case studies, best policy practices.
- iii. Supporting the preparation of national reports.

b. The secretariat develops its capacity to service the CST effectively by:

- i. Supporting the knowledge management systems established by the CST and performing information and knowledge brokering functions.
- ii. Supporting the convening and mobilization by the CST of relevant science, knowledge and technical capacities.

c. The secretariat supports efforts of affected country Parties to strengthen dialogue and consultation at subregional and/or regional and interregional level.

d. The secretariat services the regional implementation annexes on request through facilitating cooperation at regional/subregional levels.

e. The secretariat facilitates a process to determine optimal mechanisms for regional coordination, recognizing the positive experience in, and according to the needs defined by, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe, to support the implementation of this strategy, the process to be concluded at COP 9.

(iii) Other core functions:

- a. The secretariat develops increased advocacy and awareness-raising, agenda-setting and representation activities, as appropriate, in relevant forums at the international level.
- b. The secretariat coordinates the development and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy at the international level with a set of core communications objectives and expected results.
- c. The secretariat works with the Joint Liaison Group to strengthen cooperation in the implementation process of the Rio conventions in order to move towards more concrete modalities of substantive cooperation in line with JIU recommendations.
- d. CSO participation:
 - i. The secretariat develops revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions in line with JIU recommendations. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 26)
 - ii. The secretariat develops stronger mechanisms to support a CSO network.
 - iii. The secretariat advocates for more support and channels grants to facilitate CSO participation in UNCCD meetings and processes.

(c) Budget: Adequate and predictable resources are essential to ensure the good functioning and efficient operation of the secretariat in performing its core functions and delivering services required for implementing this strategic plan through an RBM framework as mentioned in the JIU report.

E. Secretariat/Global Mechanism coordination

21. In order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM as per JIU recommendation, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines of the strategic plan, the secretariat and the GM shall strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level.

22. This entails the following:

(a) Programme of work: The secretariat and the GM submit to the COP a joint biennial work plan setting out a common approach to supporting the Parties and delineating a clear division of labour.

(i) Accountability: The secretariat and the GM report in a clear and transparent way on the effective share of labour and the use of the core and voluntary funds relating to the joint work plan. The two organizations report jointly to the COP on the implementation of the joint work plan. The bureau is mandated by the COP to oversee implementation of the joint work plan.

(ii) Efficiency: The secretariat and the GM will each engage in an exercise on how to increase the efficiency of human and financial resources and seek professional advice on how to organize more effectively for delivery of the joint work plan.

(b) Regional dialogue and coordination:

The COP is invited to consider the establishment of appropriate regional dialogue and coordination facilitation mechanisms. This entails that each region should, for consideration by the COP:

(i) Identify the immediate added value of such a regional body in the context of the new secretariat and GM work plans.

(ii) Identify what would be the appropriate institutional arrangements for such a body in their region.

(iii) Develop the short/medium-term RBM framework for these bodies. (ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, Page 27)

F. Additional Joint Inspection Unit recommendations to Parties and the Conference of the Parties

23. Parties have a lead role in delivering all the objectives and outcomes of this strategic plan and the substantive JIU recommendations which were integrated into them. In addition, Parties shall implement these process-related recommendations from the JIU report:

(a) The COP is invited to ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 7.

(b) The COP may wish to consider how the Bureau deals with operational and financial contingencies when the COP is not in session.

G. The Global Environment Facility

24. The COP may invite the GEF to take into account this strategic plan and to align its operations accordingly in order to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

VII. Performance monitoring

25. Indicators:

(a) The strategic objectives indicators contained in this strategic plan are indicative of the type of indicators to be established to provide information on the trends in affected areas. Many of these indicators have been selected from the GEF land degradation focal area strategic objectives, MDGs and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2010 Target. These global indicators are to be refined further by the CST, capitalizing on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data trends under outcome 3.2.

(b) Operational objectives indicators pertaining to Parties' implementation are to be developed within the follow-up to the IIWG and reviewed by the CRIC.

(c) Indicators pertaining to UNCCD institutions are to be developed as part of the RBM frameworks to be developed by these institutions and adopted by the COP. The CRIC will review the institutions' progress in the light of these indicators.

26. A mid-term evaluation is to be undertaken by the COP based on the performance monitoring system six years after the adoption of the strategic plan. This evaluation will review progress made in implementing the strategic plan and will recommend appropriate measures to improve performance and further its implementation.

27. Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies are to report on implementation of the strategic plan at CRIC and COP sessions, based on their results-based framework.

Annex II

LIST OF EXISTING UN FOCAL POINTS AND CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UN CONVENTION ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

<to be completed by CBD secretariat>