



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

OBSTACLES TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET IN DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

1. The following obstacles have been compiled from (i) the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, (ii) the report of the Regional Workshop for Africa on Synergy among the Rio Conventions and other Biodiversity-related Conventions, (iii) the appendix to decision VI/26 on obstacles to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and (iv) the report of the Regional synergy Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Biodiversity of Agroecosystems within Dry and Sub-humid Lands.

I. Capacity Constraints

2. Capacity constraints reflect a lack of institutional, technical, and financial capacity that can limit the extent to which Parties are able to implement the programme of work.
3. Institutional capacity constraints can include:
 - (a) lack of support at the political level;
 - (b) poorly defined institutional roles and unclear mandates;
 - (c) inadequate human resources (quantitative and qualitative);
 - (d) lack of expertise; and
 - (e) weak governance structures and legislative frameworks.
4. Weak technical capacity can present obstacles as a result of:
 - (a) lack of appropriate training programmes;
 - (b) inadequate information management systems; and
 - (c) poor access to technologies.
5. Poor financial capacity to implement the programme of work can arise from an overall lack of financial resources or poor prioritization of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity during the assignment of financial resources. Weak financial capacity also results from limitations in the ability of institutions and programmes to manage financial resources.

II. Weak Collaboration and Coordination

6. The lack of clear pathways and methods for collaboration and coordination has been identified as an obstacle on many levels including between and amongst:
 - (a) national agencies / ministries;
 - (b) different sectors;
 - (c) national governments and regional / global organizations;
 - (d) the Rio conventions and other environmental conventions;
 - (e) indigenous and local communities;



- (f) universities and scientific experts; and
- (g) civil society.

7. Weak collaboration has also resulted, in some cases, in disconnect between the needs of Parties and the assistance provided to them by donors and international institutions and from inadequate information exchange between focal points and implementing agencies.

8. At the local level, a lack of local level funding, poor access to multilateral resources and competition between local organizations can hamper the implementation of activities towards the achievement of the 2010 target.

III. Gaps in Scientific and Technical Knowledge

- (a) Weak baselines;
- (b) poorly defined criteria;
- (c) a lack of indicators, and gaps in available information;
- (d) few case-studies that demonstrate impacts on the ground;
- (e) poor provision of timely and accurate information to convince policy makers to make decisions based on biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods;
- (f) and
- (g) weak mechanisms for the collection and sharing of data and knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge.

IV. Gaps in Public Awareness

- (a) Lack of economic assessments of the goods and services provided by dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; and
- (b) poor understanding of the ecosystem approach and other management options that deliver biodiversity and livelihood benefits.

V. Other Constraints

- (a) Limited political support for the Convention at all levels;
- (b) lack of mainstreaming within poverty reduction and development strategies;
- (c) poor attention to issues of sustainability and replicability; and
- (d) on-going conflicts related to resource access and use rights.