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PROPOSED ELEMENTS FOR A JOINT WORK PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND DEGRADATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The objectives of the three Rio conventions namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are mutually supportive and cannot be achieved in isolation from each others. Since 2001, the Convention on Biological Diversity has initiated actions to address the challenges of biodiversity loss compounded by climate change. Since 2004, the Convention on Biological diversity has promoted a joint work programme with the UNCCD.¹ The AHTEG report on climate change and biodiversity² as well as the report on ocean acidification³ demonstrate that joint implementation of the three Rio conventions at national and local levels is essential. The need for enhanced cooperation between the Rio conventions was also echoed in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/203 of 21 December 2009.

2. The complexity of addressing environmental challenges makes it essential to mainstream environmental issues into national development and to enhance coordination and synergies between the Rio conventions and also with other environmental conventions, both at the level of international commitments and at the national level. In particular, the growing threats from climate change, highlighted in the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, raised considerably awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change, and the urgency to achieve the objectives of the Rio conventions and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Parties to each of the Rio conventions called for synergy in the implementation of the conventions (see annexes I and II to this note) in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, strengthen joint efforts and use available resources more efficiently.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.

¹ CBD decision VII/2 and UNCCD decision COP6(4).

² CBD Technical Series 41

³ CBD technical Series 46

3. Recent developments in the framework of the three conventions and the progress made through the collaboration between the secretariats of these conventions revealed a number of opportunities for synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions. The Executive Secretary has prepared this note to describe activities derived from the mandates of each of the Rio conventions whose implementation can be mutually beneficial to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the combating of desertification and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

4. As stated in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/7 that compiled the views of Governments in support of enhanced collaboration between the Rio conventions, national - level activities will often provide the most efficient and effective avenue for synergies and any action to be implemented jointly should be consistent with the following: (i) respect the mandates and legal status of each convention i.e. be consistent with the respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, within existing resources; (ii) reduce unnecessary duplication, ensure added value ,improve efficiency and thus deliver savings or incur no additional costs; (iii) allow flexibility for individual countries to decide on appropriate actions based on national circumstances and priorities; and (iv) avoid additional obstacles or delays in the implementation of the provisions of each Convention.

5. Any suggested activities in this note are indicative, subject to confirmation by the three Rio conventions. The proposed activities of the joint programme of work are articulated around 4 interlinked programme elements (i) coordinated national planning linking biodiversity, climate change and land degradation; (ii) addressing the common drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation/desertification; (iii) understanding, monitoring, assessing and reporting; and (iv) promoting favourable enabling environment.

6. The adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the new strategic plan of the Convention 2011-2020, outcomes on climate change at UNFCCC COP 16 to be held in Mexico in December 2010, as well as the new 10 year strategic plan of the UNCCD offer a unique opportunity to translate in a coordinated manner the objectives of these instruments at national level through coordinated mechanism and the promotion of a joint action plan on climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. At its fourteenth meeting, SBSTTA could request that the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting, consider a proposal to establish in 2011 a joint expert group of the scientific bodies of the three Rio convention with a view to developing a joint work programme for consideration by each Conference of the Parties, ideally before the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.⁴

7. Upon adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, the proposed for the joint development of a Rio conventions' work programme would then be transmitted to the UNFCCC COP 16. As the next Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD is to be held in the autumn of 2011, it is proposed that UNCCD be invited to be involved in the joint expert group, noting that UNCCD has identified working towards the establishment of cooperation with the scientific bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC as a priority in its Committee of Science and Technology (CST) 2010-2013 work programme developed to progress the ten year strategy adopted at UNCCD COP 8 in 2007.

8. The joint work programme developed by the proposed joint expert group in 2011 could be considered by a joint meeting of the CBD SBSTTA, UNFCCC SBSTA and UNCCD CST in June 2011 prior to its consideration at UNCCD COP 10 (to be held in the fall of 2011 in South Korea), UNFCCC COP 17 (in December 2011) and CBD COP 11 in 2012. Refer to annex III for the proposed sequence of meetings towards consideration of the joint work programme by the three Rio conventions by October 2012.

⁴ At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties, would consider the joint work programme if it has not already done so before or as part of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in June 2012. The latter coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of CBD and UNFCCC.

9. To operationalize the elements of a joint work programme to be adopted for 2012, it is suggested that a joint expert group of the scientific bodies of the three Rio conventions be established for 2011. It is also suggested that this joint expert group of the three Rio conventions be mandated to oversee the ten year implementation of the joint work programme. To this end, SBSTTA may wish to take into account the following possible elements of joint activities to enhance synergies at the national level (Section II).

II. PROPOSED JOINT ACTIVITIES

Programme element 1: Integrated/coordinated national planning linking biodiversity, climate change and land degradation

Activity 1.1: Promote coherence and synergy in national planning for biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and sustainable development

Planning for biodiversity must be consistent with the CBD, for climate change with UNFCCC National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), for land degradation with the UNCCD, for sustainable development with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). This can be achieved through *inter alia*:

- (a) Joint development and application of guidance/guidelines based on good practices;
- (b) Development of joint capacities for planning;
- (c) National level coordination between convention Focal Points, including representatives of local and indigenous communities, and among relevant national agencies (through, for example, the establishment of national committees for the implementation of the Rio conventions) in all phases of planning. This national coordination can be extended to the regional level;
- (d) Application of the ecosystem approach and other relevant tools⁵ taking into account traditional knowledge and economic and non-economic value of biodiversity, and making use of the UNEP Issue-Based Modules, when planning mutually supportive activities among the Rio conventions..

A number of countries are developing or reviewing their NBSAPs to take into account the current and post 2010 CBD strategic plan and targets, or their national mitigation and adaptation plans to decide on how best to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, and on how climate change options can be implemented in the most effective manner.

Programme element 2: Addressing the common drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation/desertification

Activity 2.1: Maintain or enhance carbon storage and sequestration by halting or reducing the loss and degradation of natural habitats, in particular forests

⁵ Such as *inter alia* the voluntary, biodiversity-inclusive, strategic environmental assessments (SEA), the expanded or updated “Synergy among multilateral environmental agreements in the context of national adaptation programmes of action” (FCCC/TP/2005/3; UNFCCC Technical Paper; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/tp/eng/03.pdf>) “Annotated guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action” (Least Developed Country Expert Group, UNFCCC; http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/annguide.pdf), the 2009 OECD Policy Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation (http://www.oecd.org/document/40/0,3343,en_2649_34421_42580264_1_1_1_1,00.html); and the CBD programme of work Gap Analysis – a tool for identifying sites for action under REDD-plus (CBD Secretariat 2009; <http://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/pa-redd-2009-11-27-en.pdf>).

This activity is expected to contribute to the reduction of biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emission and thus to climate change mitigation and, to some extent, adaptation and combating desertification

Under this activity, a portfolio of land-use management activities, including the protection of natural forest and peatland carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests, the use of native assemblages of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands, sustainable agricultural practices and soil management, is to be implemented as a contribution to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A recent review conducted in the Convention on Biological Diversity (fourth national report) indicates that almost all activities linking biodiversity and climate change mitigation occur in forests and are linked to sustainable forest management, reforestation and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Governments could undertake pilot REDD Plus projects and report on their experiences and benefits for biodiversity and climate change mitigation

Activity 2.2: Maintain or enhance ecosystem resilience through conservation and restoration of degraded landscapes.

This activity contributes to the maintenance of ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and combating desertification.

The range of adaptation activities integrating biodiversity are broad and include *inter alia* : (i) the establishment of corridors to improve connectivity and facilitate species migration, including between and on vulnerable mountain ecosystems; (ii) the expansion of protected areas networks; (iii) the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems; (iv) improved water management; (v) the establishment of gene banks and seed banks for vulnerable species; (vi) control of invasive alien species, pollution and other threats to species and ecosystems vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; and (vii) linking climate change and biodiversity to disaster risk management.

Ecosystem-based adaptation is a tool that links biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, combating desertification/land degradation and climate change measures for adaptation. This approach uses biodiversity and ecosystem services in an overall adaptation strategy including through the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. This approach achieves co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change adaptation, including by generating multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and contributing to climate change mitigation by conserving carbon stocks, reducing emissions caused by ecosystem degradation, or enhancing carbon stocks.

Protecting and enhancing ecosystem resilience through biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable management and restoration, are amongst the most cost effective ways of tackling both the causes and consequences of climate change.

Programme element 3: Understanding, monitoring, assessing and reporting on the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change, land degradation/desertification and sustainable development

Activity 3.1: Build knowledge on the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change, land degradation/desertification and sustainable development

The relationship between ecosystem resilience and key ecosystem services (including carbon storage, water cycling, climate regulation, etc.) is of common interest to the Rio conventions.⁶ The relevant ecological, economic and policy linkages are broader than the technical challenges of accounting for UNFCCC-compliant carbon in forests as well as other land-based mitigation activities. Addressing related scientific and technical challenges, such as monitoring and risk mitigation, will be important for the long-term success of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures, such as REDD-plus.

This activity will include consideration of the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the services it underpins; the links between biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation

Under this activity, joint (regional) technical support programmes can be established to enhance our understanding of the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystem services and carbon stock changes (and human activity), with the aim of identifying win-win actions for the Rio conventions as well as help with trade-off analyses regarding mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity policy options.

Activity 3.2: Identifying monitoring, and assessing interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change, land degradation/desertification and sustainable development (including developing databases)

Under this activity, identify areas of high biodiversity value and high carbon sequestration and storage potential, in particular areas which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and which are exposed to land degradation and desertification. These areas would then be considered under programme element 2 above

Establish multi-purpose (beneficial in maximizing the use of limited resources) monitoring programmes that integrates biodiversity status, land degradation and threat status and the recording of the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation measures

Carry out national and regional level integrative risk and vulnerability assessments, bringing together expertise on ecosystem management, climate change modelling, natural disaster risk reduction, and development planning, to help evaluate trade-offs between policy priorities, including adaptation options at regional and national level.

Develop common, interoperable databases for biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation/desertification.

Activity 3.3: Harmonize reporting

Under this activity, enhance harmonized data collection and reporting at the national level, including through the use of common indicators, common databases and convening joint teams for the production of national reports. Governments could submit the same report on common issues to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Programme element 4: Promoting a favourable enabling environment

Activity 4.1: Enhance communication, education and public awareness;

⁶ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005; IPCC Fourth Assessment Report 2007; IPCC Technical Report on Water and Climate Change; the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change Report 2009 (CBD Technical Series No 41); TEEB Summary for policy makers 2009

Increase public awareness through information sharing, exchange of experience, analysis of case studies on interlinkages between biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation/desertification, which can lead to the recognition that addressing these challenges collectively is more economic and effective. Specific examples can be identified e.g., in protected areas and under sustainable forest management.

Activity 4.2: Strengthen (human and financial) capacity-building and participation

Support financially and with human capacities the meetings of focal points and national coordinating committees for implementing the Rio conventions; build institutional linkages between the ministries responsible for implementation of each convention; and encourage participation, including of indigenous and local communities.

Support and finance the use of natural ecosystems and, in particular, protected area systems in carbon storage and capture and in ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, and to embed improved design and management approaches of ecosystems into national strategies and action plans for addressing climate change, including through existing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).

Explore funding opportunities for implementation of relevant programmes under NBSAPs and NAP through Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Forest Degradation – (REDD) plus funds, bearing in mind in particular paragraph 6 of the Copenhagen Accord which recognizes the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emissions by forests and the need to provide positive incentives to such actions.

Activity 4.3: Apply positive incentives

Ensure that incentives for climate-change-biodiversity-related activities are carefully designed to simultaneously consider cultural, social, economic and biophysical factors while avoiding market distortions.

Annex I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED JOINT WORK PROGRAMME

Table 1: Objectives of the Rio conventions⁷

UNFCCC	UNCCD	CBD
(...) achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.	(...) combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification , particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.	(...) the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

Table 2: Relevant decisions of the Rio conventions regarding synergies ⁸

UNFCCC secretariat	UNCCD secretariat	CBD secretariat
Article 8(2) of the Convention – Ensuring coordination; Dec. 2/CP.13 – Consistency with Sustainable Forest Management and UNFF/UNCCD/CBD provisions; Dec. 13/CP.8 – Need for coordination and support to the mandate of the Liaison Group; SBSTA 14 conclusion 42 (d(ii)) – Reference to a joint work plan.	Article 23(2) – Coordination with other secretariats; Dec. 1/COP9 – Multi-year work plan, cooperation (annex IV); Dec. 8/COP9 (3) – Coordination through the Liaison Group; Dec. 4/COP8 – Cooperation on dry/sub-humid lands (6), strengthening the links between NAPs, NBSAPs, NAPAs (8).	Article 24 of the Convention – Coordination / administrative and contractual arrangements; Dec. IX/5 – Collaboration with CPF members on REDD; Dec. IX/6 – REDD, biodiversity, indigenous Peoples and local communities (Art. 8(j)); Dec. IX/16 (A-3, B-1/2/7/11) – Detailed collaboration with Rio Convention Secretariats, Liaison Group, CPF; Dec. IX/17 – Cooperation on dry/sub-humid lands and biodiversity (8, 11) and climate change (10); Dec. VIII/30 (9) – Enhancing cooperation through the Joint Liaison Group.

⁷ This list is an excerpt from the Convention texts. See annex II for a more extensive list.

⁸ This list is not exhaustive, but provides an overview of existing mandates from the three Conferences of Parties to the Secretariats for cooperation and synergies. See annex I for a more extensive list.

Annex II

EXTENDED LIST OF PRINCIPLES AND MANDATES OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS ON SYNERGIES

I. TEXT OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS

a) UNFCCC

- *Introductory paragraphs* affirm the need for exchange of information and coordination of research with WMO, UNEP and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and underline the role of actions to address climate change in helping to solve other environmental problems.
- *Article 8(2)* instructs the secretariat “(e) To ensure the necessary coordination with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies”.

b) UNCCD

- *Introductory paragraphs* explicitly refer to the relationship between desertification and other environmental problems and to the “contribution that combating desertification can make to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related environmental conventions”.
- The *introductory paragraphs* also stress the “urgent need to improve the effectiveness and coordination of international cooperation to facilitate the implementation of national plans and priorities”.
- *Article 23(2)* lists, among the functions of the Permanent Secretariat, the task to (d) “coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions”.

c) CBD

- *Article 24*, in defining the role of the Secretariat, includes “(d) To coordinate with other relevant international bodies and, in particular to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions”.

II. DECISIONS PERTAINING TO COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

a) UNFCCC

- *Dec. 2/CP.13*: The Annex (indicative guidance related to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries) includes: “8. Demonstration activities should be consistent with sustainable forest management, noting, *inter alia*, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- *Dec. 13/CP.8 1: (1)* “Affirms that there is a need for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with the aim of ensuring the environmental integrity of the conventions and promoting synergies under the common objective of sustainable development, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, strengthen joint efforts and use available resources more efficiently;” and (4) “Urges the Joint Liaison Group to continue its efforts to enhance coordination between the three conventions and their secretariats in accordance with its mandate”.

b) UNCCD (advance copies, possible renumbering)

- *Dec. 8/COP9 (3): Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue coordinating with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Joint Liaison Group to facilitate exchanges of information and joint approaches to harmonizing and facilitating the reporting requirements of Parties.
- *Dec. 1/COP9: Annex IV, 2010-2013 multi-year work plan* for the secretariat, includes “The secretariat effectively supports the CST in establishing modalities for cooperation with the scientific subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)”⁹; and “Scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange with the scientific subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC and CBD are increased”, as expected accomplishments.
- *Dec. 4/COP8 (6) “Invites* the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UNCCD to pursue their work under the Joint Work Programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, and *encourages* developed country Parties to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund to enable the secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Joint Work Programme;”
- *Dec. 4/COP8 (8) “invites* the Joint Liaison Group of the Executive Secretaries of these conventions to advise on ways and means to strengthen the links between NAPs, NBSAPs and NAPAs;”

c) CBD

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has adopted numerous decisions directly pertaining to cooperation with other conventions, organizations and processes. The Conference of the Parties has additionally made reference to cooperation in a number of decisions on specific thematic areas, cross-cutting issues and other issues.

In multiple decisions, the Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate with secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, institutions and processes with a view to, *inter alia*, facilitating exchange of information, exploring harmonization or efficiencies of reporting requirements, exploring the possibility of coordinating joint work programmes and exploring liaison arrangements for greater coherence in intergovernmental organizations and processes (decision II/13, paragraph 4; decision III/21, paragraph 3; decision IV/15, paragraph 5). Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, on its behalf, to consider matters of liaison, cooperation and collaboration as a key responsibility (decision IV/15, paragraph 4).

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties reaffirmed the importance of cooperation and the need to design and implement mutually supportive activities with other conventions international organizations and initiatives (decision VI/20), and adopted the Strategic Plan by decision VI/26 that places significant importance on promoting cooperation. The Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, underlined that enhanced cooperation and improved coordination at national level will be important in meeting the 2010 target of slowing the rate of biodiversity loss, and urged the Executive Secretary to further enhance cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes, within existing resources (decision VII/26).⁹ A more detailed list follows.

- Dec. IX/5 (3): The Executive Secretary is requested to:

⁹ For a more detailed list of decisions on Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives refer to <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/decisions.shtml>

(a) Facilitate, as requested, in close cooperation with existing international, regional and subregional processes, initiatives and organizations, such as the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional, subregional and/or thematic workshops to support Parties in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity;

(b) Collaborate with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the World Bank, in order to support Parties efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(d) Explore, together with the Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, possibilities for developing a work plan with targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests by identifying commonalities and complementarities of the respective work programmes and submit the results for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

- *Dec. IX/6 (5)* “Invites Parties, other Governments and international organizations to ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, but provide benefits for forest biodiversity and, where possible, to indigenous and local communities;”
- *Dec. IX/16 (A) (3)* “Requests the Executive Secretary, as far as possible in collaboration with the secretariats of the other two Rio conventions, to compile and synthesize information on interactions between acidification, climate change and multiple nutrient-loading as possible threats to biodiversity during the in-depth reviews of the programmes of work on inland water and marine and coastal biodiversity;
- *Dec. IX/16 (B) (1)*: Recognizing the distinct mandates and independent legal status of each convention and the need to avoid duplication and promote cost savings, requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions in order to:
 - (a) Continue with the activities that are already ongoing or have been called for by Parties in the framework of the three Rio conventions, including those activities listed in annex I to the present decision;
 - (b) Implement the following, making full use of existing tools, such as the clearing-house mechanism: (i) Publish an electronic bulletin on synergies between the three Rio conventions, including reports on progress from Parties;
 - (c) Identify further opportunities for mutually supportive activities and continue deliberating on streamlining reporting;
 - (d) Pursue opportunities to support activities linked to national capacity self-assessment projects towards implementation of the three Rio conventions.
- *Dec. IX/16 (B) (2)* “Requests the Executive Secretary to continue discussions within the Joint Liaison Group on the following activities:
 - (a) Make available relevant notifications to other conventions' focal points through the Web;
 - (b) Compile, where available, lessons learned and case-studies on national mechanisms for coordination among focal points in order to enhance cooperation;

- (c) Share reports and reviews of national planning processes, where available, and highlight lessons learned that may be relevant across conventions in order to improve integrated planning;
- (d) Provide case-studies and lessons learned on the integration of biodiversity and desertification / land degradation issues within national adaptation plans of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- (e) Improve ways to communicate to the scientific community the three Rio conventions' research needs on synergies; and
- (f) Provide the focal points of all three conventions with up-to-date information on relevant assessments, research programmes and monitoring tools.
- *Dec. IX/16 (B) (7)* “Invites the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to build on and strengthen existing tools and synergies with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including the CPF Web platform, for forest-related activities;”
 - *Dec. IX/16 (B) (11): (b)* Invites the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to take full account of opportunities for its work to provide benefits for biodiversity, including through collaboration among the subsidiary bodies of the three Rio conventions and the application of the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management, and (c) Invites the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adequately address traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity noting relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - *Dec. IX/16 (B) (12): (a)* Recognizes the need to provide biodiversity relevant information to the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in a timely manner; (b) Establishes in this regard, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (...) with a mandate, to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change (...) so as to support the enhanced implementation of synergies; (c) Requests the Executive Secretary to convey the deliberations of this Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for appropriate consideration;
 - *Dec. IX/16, annexes I and II*, also highlight activities, ongoing or forward-looking, to promote synergies between the Rio conventions.
 - *Dec. IX/17 (8)* “Requests the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant organizations and collaborators to:
 - (a) Compile and publish a list of case studies on scientific and technical knowledge including traditional knowledge regarding the management, and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
 - (b) Carry out a feasibility study for the development of a tool-kit to support the efforts of local and indigenous communities (...);
 - (c) Prepare a compilation of experiences in the field of climate-change mitigation and adaptation, soil management and pastoralism in dry and sub-humid lands;
 - (d) Explore harmonized reporting between relevant conventions and strengthen collaboration on the assessment of status, trends and threats in dry and sub-humid lands;”
 - *Dec. IX/17 (9)* “Further requests the Executive Secretary to explore, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and UNCCD, the means to strengthen collaboration in pastoralism and agricultural use of dry and sub-humid lands in line with paragraph 11 (c) of decision VIII/2, and to produce a report on the actions that have already been undertaken and actions that need to be carried out, (...) for further consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;”

- *Dec. IX/17 (10)*. “Further *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to develop proposals for the integration of climate change considerations within the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, for consideration by the SBSTTA prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, building on the elements of the guidance contained in decision IX/16 on climate change and biodiversity already addressed in the existing programme of work, an assessment of the state of implementation, as well as the identification of gaps in implementation including a review of barriers and suggestions to overcome them and considering the importance of sustainable forest management and sustainable land management in dry and sub-humid lands and the need to enhance the understanding of the role of dryland forests with relation to climate change;”
- *Dec. IX/17 (11)*: “*Recognizing* the importance of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands for improved livelihood and food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation, *welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in support of the implementation of the current climate-change components of the programme of work and the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to further strengthen this work;”
- *Dec. IX/17 (12)* “(...) *requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation and synergies concerning biodiversity, land degradation/desertification and climate change as called for in decision IX/16 and to continue discussions within the Joint Liaison Group on the issues as identified in decision IX/16;”
- *Dec. VIII/30 (9)* “*Requests* the Executive Secretary, through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio conventions, to consider the options in the note by the Executive Secretary on options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio conventions prepared for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/1/7/Add.1). In considering these options, the Group may identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations, taking into account the findings of the two reports on biodiversity and climate change (CBD Technical Series No. 10 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/5) for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;”

Annex III

PROPOSED SEQUENCE OF MEETINGS TOWARDS CONSIDERATION OF THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND DEGRADATION BY THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS BY OCTOBER 2012

Meeting	Purpose
CBD SBSTTA 14 (May 2010)	For consideration at CBD COP 10, develop a proposal to UNFCCC regarding the process to jointly develop a draft joint work programme to enhance Rio conventions' synergies at national level; develop a similar proposal to UNCCD under the CST 2010-2013 work programme
CBD COP 10 (October 2010)	Consideration of proposal with a view to transmittal to UNFCCC and to UNCCD
UNFCCC COP 16 (December 2010)	Consideration of CBD COP 10 proposal to jointly develop a draft joint work programme to enhance Rio Conventions' synergies at national level
Joint Liaison Group workshop (January/February 2011)	To discuss scope of joint work programme and plans for joint expert meeting to be held in March 2011
Convening and meeting of joint expert group (March 2011)	Development of draft joint work programme for consideration by joint meeting of CBD SBSTTA, UNFCCC SBSTA and UNCCD CST in June 2011
Joint meeting of CBD SBSTTA, UNFCCC SBSTA and UNCCD CST (June 2011)	Consideration of draft joint work programme to finalise for consideration by each convention's COP
UNCCD COP 10 (autumn 2011)	Consideration of final joint work programme
UNFCCC COP 17 (December 2011)	Consideration of final joint work programme
CBD COP 11 ¹⁰ (October 2012)	Consideration of final joint work programme

¹⁰ At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties would consider the joint work programme if it has not already done so as part of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in June 2012.