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REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The present note has been prepared to facilitate the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (decision V/23, annex I) at the eleventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in preparation for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. The note contains an introduction to the in-depth review process (section I); an in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work (section II); an overview of the status of the joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (section III); a summary of the implementation of the programme of work as it relates to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2010 biodiversity target (section IV); and a review of findings and lessons learned (section V).
3. For the purpose of the in-depth review of the work programme activities, all second and available third national reports submitted under Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity were considered in addition to all second and third UNCCD national reports and national communications from the 50 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the highest proportion of dry and sub-humid lands.
4. The components of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands have been implemented to varying degrees. Overall, however, of the 55 Parties that placed a high or medium priority on the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands in the second national reports, only 14 reported good or adequate availability of resources for implementation.
5. At the national level, activity 1 (assessment of status and trends) is the most commonly implemented activity with 29 countries reporting ongoing work and/or achievements. Conversely activities 5 and 6 (compilation of benefits derived from biological diversity and best management

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/1.

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practices) have been very poorly implemented with fewer than 4 countries reporting implementation. Activities 2, 3 and 4 fall between these two levels of implementation.

6. Among the activities with multiple components (i.e. activities 7, 8 and 9), 15 or more countries implemented the following components:

- 7 (a) (Establishment and management of protected areas)
- 7 (b) (Rehabilitation and/or restoration of degraded lands)
- 7 (d) (Sustainable management of production systems)
- 7 (i) (Implementation of training, education, and public awareness programmes)
- 7 (k) (Promotion of research and development programmes)
- 7 (m) (Cooperation with relevant conventions)
- 8 (d) (Addressing transboundary issues)
- 8 (e) (Establishment and strengthening of policies and instruments)

7. Very limited national level implementation, with less than 5 Parties reporting, is noted for activities:

- 7 (h) (Sustainable use of plant and animal biomass)
- 7 (c) (Management of invasive alien species)
- 7 (j) (Improvement of availability of information on sustainable use)
- 7 (l) (Cooperation for integrated catchment management and endangered species)
- 8 (c) (Strengthening of institutions for land tenure and conflict resolution)
- 9 (a) (Income diversification)
- 9 (e) (Fair and equitable sharing of benefits).

8. All other components of activities 7 through 9 were implemented by between five and fourteen countries.

9. At the regional level, all activities are being addressed by six or more regional and/or global agencies out of 53 agencies examined, including 11 that responded to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretariat in April and May 2005. The level of coordination among agencies and between regional and global agencies and national-level implementers does, however, vary quite significantly. Further review would be required to detail these linkages.

10. Decision VII/30, on the Strategic Plan of the Convention, mandates the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target within each of the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When measuring the implementation of the dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity programme of work against the 2010 biodiversity target, there is insufficient data for a full analysis. Available data does, however, reveal that good progress is being made towards the achievement of adequate coverage of protected areas with the exception of the temperate grasslands biome. Implementation is weak when considering trends in the abundance and distribution of selected species and the status and trends of linguistic diversity, including the numbers of speakers of indigenous languages in dry and sub-humid lands.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties:

(a) *Note* the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, as reported in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4) and the information document on review of implementation of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7);

(b) *Recognize* that a major shortcoming in the current review has been the limited availability of recent information on each of the activities of the programme of work, including the insufficient number of third national reports submitted until the time of this review; and *recognize* the usefulness of the national reports submitted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) *Further recognize*, for a global status of implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the usefulness of the national reports submitted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as relevant reports submitted in the framework of other programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity-related agreements and conventions, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the World Heritage Convention;

(d) *Note* relevant recommendations by the Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and other initiatives on the streamlining and harmonization of national reporting and on ways and means for making reviews of implementation of the Convention and its programmes of work more comprehensive;

(e) *Further note* the progress made in the implementation of the joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, *encourage* in particular the synergy being strengthened between the two conventions in implementing the joint programme of work and harmonizing national reporting, and, accordingly, *request* the Executive Secretary to fully promote the implementation of the programme of work and the joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the context of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, in 2006;

(f) *Request* the Executive Secretary to continue developing and strengthening collaboration, in the framework of the annex to decision VII/2, with other organizations, institutions and conventions as a way to streamline many of the activities contained in the programme of work, promote synergies and avoid unnecessary duplications;

(g) *Recognizing* that the review of the implementation of the programme of work identified constraints at national, regional and global levels that need to be addressed to meet the objectives of the Convention, *encourage* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop or implement strategies, such as subregional, regional and global partnerships, that will facilitate and streamline implementation of the programme of work, and overcome the identified obstacles, and accordingly *request* the Executive Secretary to support these initiatives including by compiling and disseminating through the clearing-house mechanism and other means success stories on ongoing partnerships in the implementation of programmes and projects on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity;

(h) *Note* the importance of activities 8 (b) (on decentralization of management) and 8 (e) (on policies and instruments), which are identified as facilitating conditions for the implementation of many

other activities, and, accordingly *invite* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to give particular attention to supporting the scaled-up implementation of these two activities;

(i) *Request* the Executive Secretary to find, in the framework of the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ways and means to enhance the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the implementation of the programme of work and reporting.

2. The Subsidiary Body may also wish to request the Executive Secretary, recalling in particular decision VII/5, paragraph 13, of the Conference of the Parties, to develop a proposal, taking into account comments/suggestions made at its eleventh meeting, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, on the incorporation of climate-change considerations into the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, in particular in activities 1 and 2 (on climate change as a threat to dry and sub-humid land biodiversity), activity 4 (particularly on potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity, the role of biodiversity in maintaining the resilience of dry and sub-humid lands to climatic extremes, and other natural disasters, and the use of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity in mitigation and adaptation measures), 7 (i) (on integration of climate change considerations in training and education programmes) and 7 (m) (on consideration of dry and sub-humid lands by the Joint Liaison Group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity).

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in 2000, the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands was adopted through decision V/23. In paragraph 1 and table 1 of its decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties adopted a process for the periodic review of the status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands. In paragraph 2 and annex I of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also established processes for the refinement of the programme of work and, in paragraph 4, welcomed the joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

2. In its decision VII/31, on the multi-year programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Conference of the Parties adopted a schedule for the review of implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention. This schedule provides for the in-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands to be conducted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary has prepared the present note to facilitate the review, by SBSTTA, of the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

3. The present note takes into account paragraph 5 of decision VII/31 of the Conference of the Parties, in which the Conference of the Parties agreed that in its reviews of the programmes of work, it would focus on:

- (a) Assessing the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity;
- (b) Updating the programme of work, as necessary, by retiring or replacing activities and making adjustments to reflect changes in the international context; and
- (c) Providing practical support for national and regional implementation.

4. The main sources of information for the note are:

- (a) National reports submitted in accordance with Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including those third national reports received prior to the completion of this document, 1/ and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);
- (b) National reports and communications submitted under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- (c) Information provided by partner agencies through the completion of a questionnaire distributed by the Executive Secretary on 28 April and 4 May, 2005. The questionnaire was sent to 46 subregional and regional organizations of which eleven 2/ submitted responses;
- (d) Documents provided by, or available from, partner agencies and country Parties; and
- (e) The information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the status and trends of, and threats to the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, which is being circulated as an addendum to the present note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.1).

5. An expanded version of the present note is being made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7).

1/ As of 20 June, third national reports were submitted by: Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Niue, Senegal, Sweden

2/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (RIDES), Ecoagriculture Partners, Sahara and the Sahel Observatory (OSS), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNISO), and African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

II. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

6. The programme of works on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, as contained in annex I to decision V/23 of the Conference of the Parties, is divided into two parts: part A, "Assessments"; and part B, "Targeted activities". It comprises nine main activities, with a number of actions describing ways in which they should be implemented. The annex to decision VII/2 of the Conference of the Parties provides, by activity, expected outcomes, timeframes, key actors, and indicators of progress in implementation of the programme of work.

A. Assessments

7. In adopting the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties identified ways and means for the implementation of part A, including:

- (a) The consolidation of information from various ongoing sources;
- (b) Targeted research;
- (c) Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary case-studies on management practices; and
- (d) The dissemination of information and capacity-building.

8. The review of implementation of the activities in part A revealed that:

The consolidation of information from various ongoing sources has largely been left to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Few Parties or agencies have implemented concerted efforts to build on past experiences with the exception of the environment conventions, which have continued to the build synergies;

There are examples, amongst agencies such as the CGIAR centres, of successful targeted research programmes. Nevertheless, serious gaps remain particularly when considering the assessment of status and trends, the valuation of areas of particular value, and the identification and dissemination of case-studies including the consideration of traditional knowledge;

Many of the actions in support of activities 5 (on benefits from biodiversity) and 6 (on best-management practices), in particular, approach biodiversity conservation from a multidisciplinary and cross-sector angle. However, with the exception of actions by three Parties in the implementation of activity 4 (on knowledge on processes affecting biodiversity), there has been little indication that this multidisciplinary approach is being mainstreamed into multi-sector national planning;

The dissemination of information in support of the implementation of part A has taken place through: (i) the publication of reports; and (ii) participation in workshops. Capacity-building has been sporadic with most successes revealed through participation in regional and global collaborative partnerships such as, *inter alia*, the Mediterranean Action Plan, and the Millennium Ecosystem subregional assessment for southern Africa.

9. In table 1 of its decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties proposes a four-phase process for the periodic assessment of status and trends in dry and sub-humid lands. Phase I and II were proposed for completion prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Progress is summarized in the following table:

	Proposed process	Progress
Phase I: 2002-2004	Invite LADA and MA to investigate how the needs of the dry and sub-humid lands could be integrated into the ongoing assessments, emphasizing proposals and ways to strengthen national efforts to conduct assessments.	MA produced a biodiversity synthesis report. LADA has submitted two reports on progress to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
	Develop proposals for mechanisms linking national assessments to regional/global assessment/report processes.	Proposed mechanisms have not yet been developed.
	Participatory development of draft guidelines for national assessments, including indicators initiated.	2010 biodiversity targets and related indicators under consideration for dry and sub-humid lands.
Phase II: 2004-2006	Agree to final guidelines for national assessments and adoption for implementation.	2010 biodiversity targets and related indicators under consideration for dry and sub-humid lands.
	Implementation mechanisms agreed upon and functional.	2010 targets and some related indicators were adopted in COP decision VII/30. For dry and sub-humid lands the targets and indicators will be considered by COP 8 in 2006.

Activity 1: Assessment of status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the effectiveness of conservation measures ^{3/}

10. In the annex to its decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties outlined plans to compile, by 2010, a draft full assessment of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands such that it can produce a comprehensive review and assessment report by 2012. For this purpose, a preliminary assessment report is to be prepared in 2006. The addendum to the present document, on the status and trends of, and threats to, the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.1) could be used as a starting point for the drafting of the preliminary assessment report.

Progress

National level

11. Activity 1 of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands is one of the most widely nationally implemented activities within the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands with 29 Parties reporting on implementation. ^{4/} Seven national assessments focus on the extent of habitat and/or threats to biodiversity while 20 reports focus on extent of habitat and species abundance and distribution within specific dry and sub-humid lands ecoregions. Two reports contain assessment information on protected areas.

12. Despite the high level of reported implementation of activity 1, only four Parties reported comprehensive assessments that address all of the following: habitat extent, abundance and distribution of selected species, coverage of protected areas, and threats to biodiversity.

13. The analysis of the national reports submitted by Parties reveals that the successful implementation of activity 1 is facilitated by: collaboration with academic institutions and research agencies; participation in global, regional, and subregional assessment programmes; the development of appropriate policy frameworks including, *inter alia*, the establishment of national monitoring programmes; and the provision of adequate financial and technical support, including international support to developing countries.

^{3/} The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 1 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

^{4/} No relevant information was available from third national reports received to date.

Regional and global level

14. Eight organizations have carried out assessments of the status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands. Of particular relevance are the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment biodiversity and desertification syntheses, ^{5/} the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment subregional assessments and the LADA stocktaking of dryland biodiversity issues. ^{6/}

Obstacles

National level

15. Reported obstacles to the further implementation of activity 1 include lack of attention to the sustainability of project-based funding for assessments and weak technical and institutional capacity in many countries. Targeted efforts to address the above obstacles will require, *inter alia*, collaboration between regional and global agencies and national-level implementers.

Regional and global level

16. A review of the current regional and global assessments of status and trends highlights a number of information gaps. For example, LADA reveals that a lack of data means that it is currently not possible to draw an accurate correlation between the rate of dryland degradation and the rate of species extinction. Likewise, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment synthesis report on desertification expresses concern that current desertification evaluations are conducted over time periods that are too short and cover a scale that is either too large to include local phenomenon, or too small to be useful for scaling.

17. Responses to the questionnaire revealed a number of additional barriers to the implementation of activity 1: insufficient bio-geographical data; the requirement for studies to be conducted over several years; the complexity of dry and sub-humid ecosystems as a result of high climatic variation; a weak framework for the coordination of assessment activities; and a lack of guidelines to facilitate the engagement of regional and global agencies in the assessment processes.

Activity 2: Identification of areas of particular value for biodiversity and/or under particular threat ^{7/}

18. As stated in the annex to decision VII/2 of the Conference of the Parties, the expected outcome of this activity is the completion of a review and assessment of areas of value and/or under threat by 2012 with a draft map and assessment report delivered in 2008.

Progress

National level

19. Twenty-four countries have reported that they have identified areas of particular value in dry and sub-humid lands, ^{8/} with 19 of them identifying specific, targeted activities to conserve biodiversity and support the sustainable management of identified areas.

^{5/} Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Biodiversity Synthesis Report.

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Products.aspx>

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Desertification Synthesis Report.

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/Products.aspx>

^{6/} FAO. 2003. Stocktaking of Dryland Biodiversity Issues in the context of the Land Degradation Assessment of Drylands (LADA): Selection and Use of Indicators and Methods for Assessing Biodiversity and Land Condition. <http://lada.virtualcentre.org/pagedisplay/display.asp?section=ladahome>

^{7/} The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 2 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

^{8/} No relevant information was available from third national reports received to date.

Regional and global level

20. Available information indicates that six regional and global agencies were involved in the identification of areas of particular value and/or under threat. The World Heritage Centre, in particular, has supported the delineation of 154 natural and 23 mixed (natural and cultural) sites of particular value worldwide of which approximately 25 per cent are in dry and sub-humid areas. ^{9/}

21. In May 2001, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification organized an expert meeting that defined seven broad priority areas ^{10/} (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/2).

Obstacles*National level*

22. Reporting countries identified areas of particular value and/or under threat in general terms including forests, wetlands, and national parks. None of the Parties, however, specified the boundaries of identified areas. This is a constraint when considering the mandate to map such areas in decision V/23.

23. National reporting mechanisms reveal, as obstacles to further implementation: weak technical and financial capacity (including weak institutions, a lack of trained personnel, and poor access to planning and management technologies); lack of institutional capacity among local/national partners; and a lack of well defined criteria to identify areas of value and/or under threat and weak supporting data to evaluate those criteria.

Regional and global level

24. Barriers to the further identification of areas of particular value and/or under threat include insufficient information on the local importance of biodiversity; weak linkages between regional and global and national and local level institutions; and poor coordination of efforts between and among agencies.

Activity 3: Further development of indicators of biological diversity ^{11/}

25. As stated in the annex to its decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties intends to have indicators for the assessment of status and trends fully operational by 2012 with a draft set of indicators prepared for 2004. It is intended that these indicators incorporate the 2010 biodiversity targets and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in line with the guidelines set out in decision VII/30, paragraph 3 of the Conference of the Parties. Annex I of the same decision proposes eight indicators for immediate testing and suggests 13 possible indicators for development. Suggested indicators for the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands are presented in an addendum to the present document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.2).

Progress*National level*

26. Sixteen Parties ^{12/} have developed and measured indicators of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid areas. ^{13/} Of these, six have developed biodiversity indicators to monitor the implementation and outcomes of a specific project or programme. Eight Parties have defined institutional responsibilities and

^{9/} Complete list available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

^{10/} Rangelands, desert margins, key areas of species richness, protected areas and buffer zones, parkland and cropping land, dryland forests, wetlands and oases.

^{11/} The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 3 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

^{12/} It should be noted that while only 16 Parties reported on the development of indicators it can be assumed that those Parties which carried out assessments of status and trends of biological diversity also developed indicators. If these Parties are included, the number of Parties reporting on the implementation of activity 3 increases to 34.

^{13/} Only Botswana reported through a third national report.

assigned specific agency roles in the development and monitoring of biodiversity indicators. The remaining two Parties have not supplied additional information and only make mention of the importance of, and need for, biodiversity targets.

27. Although information is not available from all Parties, current national-level indicators include many biophysical indicators that are in common with the indicators proposed in annex I of decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties. However, no national indicators were mentioned to measure linguistic diversity or the extent of development assistance provided in support of the Convention.

28. Where implemented, activity 3 has been facilitated, at the national level, by: the mainstreaming of indicators into national strategies and assessment processes; and the definition of associated benchmarks and/or targets.

Regional and global level

29. Implementation of activity 3 at the regional and global level is under way within eight agencies. As with activity 1 (assessment of status and trends), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and LADA are significant contributors to the implementation of activity 3 through, *inter alia*, the LADA Stocktaking of Dryland Biodiversity Issues ^{14/} and Millennium Ecosystem Assessment indicators, such as the biodiversity intactness index. ^{15/}

30. Indicators for a number of work programmes ^{16/} were compiled by the Executive Secretary in a note prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/10). Although no specific indicators were compiled for dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, 53 general indicators applicable to dry and sub-humid lands were identified.

Obstacles

National level

31. Although each of the biophysical indicators suggested in decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties are being implemented at the national level, only three Parties reported that they are implementing indicators on the abundance and distribution of selected species.

32. Reported barriers to the scaled-up implementation of activity 3 at the national level include: a lack of technical and financial capacity; and the limited availability of comprehensive biodiversity data.

Regional and global level

33. Both LADA and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reports reveal that current indicators do not address all of the needs of biodiversity assessments. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment biodiversity synthesis, in particular, provides a list of seven criteria for the development of improved and effective ecological indicators. ^{17/}

^{14/} FAO. 2003. Stocktaking of Dryland Biodiversity Issues in the context of the Land Degradation Assessment of Drylands (LADA): Selection and Use of Indicators and Methods for Assessing Biodiversity and Land Condition.

<http://lada.virtualcentre.org/pagedisplay/display.asp?section=ladahome>

^{15/} R. Biggs, R.J. Scholes and B. Reyers. 2004. Assessing biodiversity intactness at multiple scales. <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/bridging/papers/biggs.oonsie.pdf>

^{16/} Forest biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, and marine and coastal biodiversity.

^{17/} These indicators are listed in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

Activity 4: Building knowledge on ecological, physical and social processes that affect biodiversity 18/

34. In the annex to decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties committed itself to the development and dissemination of reports and publications on the structure and functioning of dry and sub-humid lands ecosystems, including the potential impact of climate change and poverty on dry and sub-humid lands. A draft summary publication is scheduled for 2006.

Progress

National level

35. Ten Parties reported that they are collecting and mainstreaming information on processes that affect biodiversity. 19/ Three of those Parties with good existing knowledge reported on the integration of process information within national policies and decision making processes.

36. An additional three countries are building knowledge through the implementation of specific projects and programmes. The remaining four Parties provided general descriptions of key processes but did not discuss how the knowledge of processes affecting biodiversity are being integrated within planning.

37. An analysis of reports on the implementation of activity 4 reveals three facilitating conditions: the use of technology such as modelling software; government commitment to identify threats to biodiversity; and international partnerships and collaborative frameworks.

Regional and global level

38. Six agencies are engaging in activities in support of this activity. Of particular interest, the Global Dryland Initiative published a report on climate change in drylands 20/ and a review of drylands biodiversity 21/, while the World Resources Institute (WRI) prepared the report *Drylands, People and Ecosystem Goods and Services*. 22/

39. Through the implementation of the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, knowledge is being built on the relationship between land degradation and biodiversity loss. In addition, in response to a request by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 18 of its decision V/4, the Executive Secretary convened an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting that described the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.

Obstacles

National level

40. Implementation of activity 4 continues to be hampered by: limited technical and financial capacity; and weak and inconsistent collection of baseline information.

18/ The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 3 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

19/ No relevant information was available from the third national reports received to date.

20/ UNDP. 2001. Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the drylands.
<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/cpapers/Vulnerability%20and%20Adaptation%20to%20Climate%20Change%20in%20the%20Drylands.doc>

21/ UNDP. 2001. Biodiversity in the Drylands, Challenges and Opportunities for Conservation and Sustainable Use. <http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/cpapers/Biodiversity%20in%20the%20Drylands.doc>

22/ WRI. 2002. Drylands People and Ecosystem Goods and Services: A Web-Based Geospatial Analysis. <http://pdf.wri.org/drylands.pdf>

Regional and global level

41. The Global Dryland Initiative identified the following challenges to building knowledge on the impact of climate change on biodiversity: greater knowledge is needed in many areas; available knowledge is not being used effectively; a gap exists between top-down investments and bottom-up needs; and desertification, climate change, biodiversity and natural disaster policies are fragmented and disconnected. The same challenges affect the regional and global understanding of other process.

Activity 5: Identification of local and global benefits, including soil and water conservation, derived from biological diversity ^{23/}

42. The Conference of the Parties in the annex to its decision VII/2 sought the completion by 2006 of a draft compilation of information on local and global benefits; economic valuation of priority specific sites; assessment of the socio-economic impact of biodiversity loss and linkage to poverty; and case-studies on inter-linkages between biodiversity loss and poverty with a final publication produced by 2012.

Progress

National level

43. Only one Party reported on the local and global benefits derived from dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity. ^{24/} None of the other aspects of activity 5 has been implemented at the national level.

Regional and global level

44. Nine regional and global agencies have completed publications, reports, or projects in support of activity 5 as follows:

(a) *Information on local and global benefits* – FAO, IIED, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP-WCMC, Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands;

(b) *Economic valuation of priority specific sites* – World Bank;

(c) *Assessment of the socio-economic impact of biodiversity loss and linkages to poverty* – ADB/IUCN, UNDP/EC, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

(d) *Case-studies on inter-linkages between biodiversity loss and poverty* – FAO (LinKS), World Bank.

Obstacles

National level

45. An analysis of the implementation of activity 5 revealed the following obstacles: a lack of technical and financial capacity (including difficulties quantifying benefits, weak understanding of complex upstream–downstream relationships, and poor access to planning and management technologies); limited mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations across multiple sectors; a weak scientific base; and difficulties in assigning monetary values to certain benefits.

Regional and global level

46. Difficulties have been identified in quantifying the complex benefits derived from biodiversity. Furthermore, as mentioned in the report of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) on the subject, ^{25/} it is often difficult to establish how much biodiversity returns the highest overall benefits.

^{23/} The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 5 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

^{24/} No relevant information was available from the third national reports.

^{25/} IIED. 2002. Integrating global and local values: a review of biodiversity assessment.

<http://www.iied.org/docs/blg/issuepap5.pdf>

Activity 6: Identification and dissemination of best-management practices 26/

47. Annex I to decision VII/2 refers to the compilation and distribution of case-studies including: (i) consideration of traditional knowledge; (ii) guidelines for assessment of good practices; and (iii) case-studies on the applied ecosystem management approach. Guidelines for the assessment of good practices were requested by the Conference of the Parties in draft form by 2003 with final guidelines to be submitted in 2004. Parties were requested to submit case-studies in 2005 to facilitate the publication of final case-studies in 2006.

Progress*National level*

48. Only three Parties reported on the implementation of activity 6. 27/ Two of these mentioned case-studies concerning the ecosystem management approach with the third considering traditional knowledge.

49. The examination of the reports submitted by the three Parties revealed that the implementation of activity 6 has been facilitated by a strong institutional structure in support of both monitoring and evaluation and research and extension.

Regional and global level

50. At the regional and global level, the identification and dissemination of best practices has been implemented by six agencies including:

- (a) Case-studies considering traditional knowledge – none;
- (b) Guidelines for the assessment of good practices – UNESCO;
- (c) Case-studies on the applied ecosystem management approach – GEF, Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNISO), UNDP, World Bank, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Obstacles*National level*

51. The analysis of submitted national reports reveal barriers to further implementation including: a lack of prioritization at the national level of best-practice identification and dissemination given limited resources; and the need to develop local specific solutions to biodiversity loss.

Regional and global level

52. Identified barriers to further identification and dissemination of best-management practices include: lack of agreement on the criteria for defining best practices; the need to institute a long-term approach to the review and collection of best-practice case-studies; and weak reporting processes for the collection and dissemination of local and small scale best practices.

B. Targeted actions in response to identified needs

53. The ways and means for the implementation of part B (Targeted actions) of the programme of work identified by the Conference of the Parties include:

- (a) Capacity-building and investments in the development and promotion of sustainable livelihoods;
- (b) Establishment of an international network of demonstration sites;

26/ The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 6 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

27/ No relevant information was available from 3rd national reports.

- (c) Case-studies on the successful management of dry and sub-humid lands;
- (d) Improved consultation, coordination, and information sharing;
- (e) Enhanced interactions between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNCCD;
- (f) Partnerships between all relevant stakeholders.

54. The review of implementation of part B of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands indicates that:

- (a) There appears to be a disconnect between local sustainable livelihood investment needs and the funding provided by regional and global agencies;
- (b) No demonstration sites have been mentioned except for those piloted by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme;
- (c) Many case-studies have been developed however, it is unclear the extent to which the lessons learned from these case-studies are being used during project and programme planning;
- (d) There are still a number of gaps in terms of consultation, coordination, and information sharing;
- (e) The joint work programme between the UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity and workshops such as the workshops held in Viterbo, Italy, and Gaborone have enhanced interactions between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNCCD;
- (f) While some strong partnerships do exist, such as in the Mediterranean basin, and between country Parties and the CGIAR centres, there is still a great deal of scope for improvement and expansion.

Activity 7: Promotion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity ^{28/}

55. According to the programme of work, activity 7 is to be implemented through the implementation of, *inter alia*, 13 components.

Progress

National level

56. Overall, 70 countries have reported some activities in support of activity 7. Four Parties reported through the third national reports, ^{29/} with the rest of the information being collected from second national reports, the national reports under the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

57. Fifteen or more countries have implemented the following elements of activity 7:

- (a) Activity 7 (a): the management, funding, establishment, and description of extent and coverage of protected areas (16 countries);
- (b) Activity 7 (b): the implementation of projects in support of the rehabilitation and/or restoration of degraded habitat and the identification of priority areas for rehabilitation (16 countries);
- (c) Activity 7 (d): the sustainable management of production systems including agriculture, forestry, and the harvesting of wild flora or fauna (19 countries);
- (d) Activity 7 (i): training, education and public awareness with regards to biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands (15 countries);

^{28/} The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 7 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

^{29/} Algeria, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Senegal.

(e) Activity 7 (k): the promotion of research and development programmes focusing on habitat restoration, sustainable management, and alternative livelihoods (17 countries);

(f) Activity 7 (m): cooperation with relevant conventions with a particular emphasis on the Convention to Combat Desertification (21 countries).

58. Less than five Parties reported on activities 7 (c) (on prevention and control of invasive alien species); 7 (h) (on case-studies on plant and animal biomass); 7 (j) (on information and knowledge sharing on sustainable use); and 7 (l) (on integrated catchment management and the conservation of endangered species).

59. Activity 7 (f) (on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation) reveals a high level of implementation for *in situ* conservation (11 countries) but extremely limited information on implementation for *ex situ* conservation (two countries). This may be due to the lack of reporting of national contributions to regional efforts such as those implemented through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources by ICRISAT, ILRI, and ICARDA.

60. The analysis of national reporting mechanisms reveals that the successful implementation of activity 7 has largely been facilitated by: strong institutional capacity; the availability of adequate information and technologies; the adoption of appropriate incentive frameworks; the availability of project-based funding (in particular with regards to 7 – on protected-areas management); and participation in partnerships and collaborative relationships.

Regional and global level

61. At the regional and global level, 33 different agencies were noted for specific contributions as identified in table 7 of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/INF/7. Five or more agencies have implemented activities in support of 7 (d) (on sustainable management of production systems); 7 (e) (on sustainable water resources management); 7 (f) (on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation); 7 (g) (on economic valuation and the identification and adoption of adaptive technologies); 7 (i) (on training, education and public awareness raising on biodiversity); and 7 (l) (on integrated catchment management and the conservation of endangered species).

62. Implementation of activity 7, particularly 7 (m) (on cooperation with relevant conventions) was facilitated, in part, by the:

(a) The Gaborone Regional Workshop for Africa on the Synergy Among the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions in implementing the Programmes of Work on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands and Agricultural Biodiversity, held from 13 to 17 September 2004; [30/](#)

(b) The UNCCD Viterbo Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio conventions, held from 5 to 7 April 2004 in Viterbo, Italy; [31/](#)

(c) The consultation workshop for national focal points on synergy between Rio conventions, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 27 to 31 January 2003; [32/](#)

(d) The eleventh meeting of the Science and Technical Review Panel (STRP-11) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held from 8 to 11 April 2003 in Gland, Switzerland; [33/](#)

(e) The Norway workshop on technology transfer, held from 23 to 27 June 2003;

[30/](#) <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WSAGDL-01>.

[31/](#) <http://www.unccd.int/workshop/menu.php>.

[32/](#) http://www.iepf.org/docs_prog03/pol_envir03/0103_Synerg_marr/Sommaire.htm.

[33/](#) http://www.ramsar.org/key_strp_workplan_2003.htm.

(f) The inter-regional meeting of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) on Ecosystem Approach to Dryland Management: Integrating Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Security, held in Havana on 30-31 August 2003.

Obstacles

National level

63. As mentioned in paragraph 58 above, four or fewer Parties have implemented four of the components of activity 7. Obstacles to the implementation of these components include *inter alia*, insufficient financial resources; lack of scientific and technical information; weak institutions; continued conflicts over resource use and access; and the perpetuation of perverse incentive frameworks.

64. For activity 7 (e) (on sustainable water resource management), no information is available through national reports of the Convention on Biological Diversity although national reports under the Convention to Combat Desertification contained information on projects and programmes on sustainable water use from 13 Parties.

Regional and global level

65. Obstacles to the scaled-up implementation of activity 7 at the regional and global level can be characterized by: (i) a disconnect between global and regional efforts and national-level implementation; and (ii) limited activity at the regional and global level.

66. Implementation of activity 7 at the regional and global levels would benefit from: greater coordination amongst agencies and between agencies and national- and local-level implementers; improved reporting and access to information exchange mechanisms; clearer prioritization of gaps and needs; and increased mainstreaming of the conservation of biodiversity by country Parties within their national development strategies.

Activity 8: Promotion of responsible resource management, at appropriate levels, applying the ecosystem approach, through an enabling policy environment ^{34/}

67. Through this activity, the Conference of the Parties called for case-studies, the exchange of views and visits, the organization of workshops and publications on a number of topics, in particular the establishment of mechanisms for collaboration between respective national focal points (with the organization of synergy workshops from 2004) and presentation of case-studies and guidelines for cross-sectoral integration of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national action programmes at meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (from 2002).

Progress

National level

68. Forty-four countries reported on the implementation of activity 8. More than 15 Parties reported on the implementation of activities 8 (d) (16 reports on transboundary issues and collaboration) and 8 (e) (27 reports on policies and instruments for collaboration and cross-sectoral integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national action programmes). While 10 or fewer Parties reported on: activity 8 (a) (on capacity-building for local institutional structures and the identification and adoption of local and indigenous techniques); activity 8 (b) (on decentralization of natural resource management, and community-based management of resources); and activity 8 (c) (on establishment and strengthening of institutions for land tenure and conflict resolution).

69. An analysis of the reports submitted for the above activities shows that the success achieved can be attributed to: the implementation of relevant partnerships; the availability of project-based funding; a

^{34/} The implementation of activity 8 is summarized in table 8 in document INEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

strong commitment to biodiversity conservation at the national level; and the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation within national and sector planning.

Regional and global level

70. Fourteen regional and global agencies have reported on the implementation of activity 8. Implementation is strongest with regards to activities 8 (a) (four contributing agencies) and 8 (d) (five contributing agencies). These agencies have identified and disseminated case-studies on responsible resource management and have developed guidelines and collaborative partnerships for transboundary biodiversity conservation.

71. Less than three agencies reported on the regional and global implementation of activities 8 (b) (on decentralization of natural-resource management), 8 (c) and 8 (e).

Obstacles

National level

72. Three components of activity 8 have been implemented by fewer than 10 Parties, as discussed in paragraph 68 above. The weak implementation of components 8 (b) and 8 (c) is particularly relevant, since the lack of decentralization, poorly defined land tenure, and ongoing conflict regarding resource use rights are all cited as barriers to the implementation of other activities within the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

73. Possible reasons for the weak implementation of activities 8 (b) and 8 (c) include: the lack of appropriate enabling environments to facilitate the decentralization processes; and weak political commitment regarding the resolution of resource-use conflicts.

Regional and global level

74. The poor implementation of the three activities as identified in paragraph 68 above implies a disconnect between the extent to which the assistance being provided to Parties is adequately and appropriately addressing needs. A more detailed analysis is required to determine the extent of this disconnect.

Activity 9: Support for sustainable livelihoods 35/

75. Activity 9 is designed for Parties to provide support to sustainable livelihoods in dry and sub-humid lands including *inter alia* an initial compilation of case-studies on (in 2006), and development of draft guidelines for (in 2008), income diversification; development of draft guidelines on best practices for sustainable harvesting for integration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action programmes and other relevant policies (2004); organization of workshops on innovations for local income generation (2006); collection of case-studies and development of draft guidelines for market development with the assistance from the Secretariat (in 2006).

Progress

National level

76. Twenty-two countries reported on the implementation of activity 9. Only one activity, 9 (d), was reported on by 10 or more countries. Parties implementing this activity achieved improved market access, new market opportunities for sustainable produced goods, and market research for eco-tourism in dry and sub-humid lands.

77. Key contributing factors to the success of activity 9 include: awareness-raising to enlist support of stakeholders; capacity-building to facilitate stakeholder participation; the provision of incentives, and access to technical assistance.

35/ The implementation of this activity is summarized in table 9 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/7.

Regional and global level

78. The Conference of the Parties adopted in 2004, in its decision VII/12 the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, which contain guidelines on sustainable harvesting (particularly in practical principle 5). In its decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties adopted a goal on sustainable use and related indicators to assess progress towards this goal.

79. Eleven agencies reported activities in support of the implementation of activity 9. Five or more agencies reported on activities 9 (d) (on market development in support of sustainable livelihoods); and 9 (e) (on fair and equitable benefit-sharing concerning the use of the genetic resources of dry and sub-humid lands).

80. Less than five agencies were identified as contributing to activities 9 (a) (on income diversification); 9 (b) (on sustainable harvesting); and 9 (c) (on innovations for local income generation).

Obstacles

National level

81. An analysis of country reports indicated the following obstacles to support for sustainable livelihoods in dry and sub-humid lands: the weak integration of economic-development objectives within biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use objectives, policies and activities; insufficient financial and technical capacity; weak economic incentives for local populations to alter their livelihoods, and the absence of legal and institutional frameworks conducive to the integration of biodiversity conservation within sustainable livelihood programmes.

82. Integration of economic-development strategies within biodiversity conservation and sustainable use strategies is central to the success of each respective strategy. While numerous local projects have been carried out, lessons learned from the former should be developed into guidelines in order to mainstream best practices at national levels.

Regional and global level

83. The implementation of the three poorly implemented components of activity 9, i.e. 9 (a), (b) and (c) could benefit from the enhanced exchange of investment information and experiences.

**III. STATUS OF THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME BETWEEN THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION**

84. The joint work programme on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands was developed in response to paragraph 8 of decision V/23. A liaison group consisting of selected national focal points of both conventions and the two Secretariats drafted the joint work programme at a workshop in Bonn in May 2001.^{36/} Subsequently, the programme was finalized and agreed to by the two secretariats in September 2002, during the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands, in Montreal.

85. At the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, the joint work programme on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands was presented.^{37/} The Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity also welcomed the joint work programme in paragraph 9 of its decision VII/2. An agreement was reached that the first phase of the implementation of the joint work programme would focus on:

^{36/} <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-07/official/sbstta-07-04-en.pdf>

^{37/} [http://www.unccd.int/php/document.php?ref=ICCD/COP\(6\)/4](http://www.unccd.int/php/document.php?ref=ICCD/COP(6)/4)

- (a) Assessment of status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and the effectiveness of conservation measures;
- (b) Identification of specific areas of value and/or under threat; and
- (c) Further development of indicators of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and its loss, for the use in the assessment of status and trends.

86. Terms of reference to guide actions by the two secretariats over the short term have been developed and activated, designed in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification specifically to guide the further implementation of priority activities 1 (assessment of status and trends) and 2 (areas of value and/or under threat).

87. During its third meeting of the Committee on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, efforts were also made to improve synergies between national reporting processes and mechanisms. ^{38/}

VI. CONTRIBUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION TO THE 2010 TARGETS AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A. Millennium Development Goals

88. *Millennium Development Goal 1:* The programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands has a great deal of potential to contribute positively to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1 (Combating extreme poverty and hunger). In particular, the focus of the programme of work on sustainable production, alternative livelihoods, income generation, and the preservation of ecosystem functions is directly relevant to the goal.

89. Despite the obvious linkages between Millennium Development Goal 1 and the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, only three country Parties have to date linked biodiversity conservation in dry and sub-humid lands to poverty alleviation in their national reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the national reports under the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. ^{39/} Further efforts should, therefore, be undertaken to elaborate the linkages between biodiversity conservation and Millennium Development Goal 1.

90. *Millennium Development Goal 7:* Millennium Development Goal 7 calls for environmental sustainability which is directly addressed by the conservation, protection, and sustainable use activities of the dry and sub-humid lands programme of work. The review of implementation of these activities has revealed some positive progress; however efforts should continue to be targeted towards the on-the-ground implementation of the activities of the convention. This requires considerable efforts including the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability considerations within national sector and economic planning with support from regional and global initiatives, partnerships, and funding agencies.

B. Progress towards the 2010 targets

91. Annex I to decision VII/30 of the Conference of the Parties identifies eight indicators for immediate testing in support of assessing progress towards the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity targets. The review of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands has indicated that relatively complete information is available for coverage of protected areas. There is limited or incomplete information for trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats; trends in abundance and distribution of selected species; water quality in aquatic systems; status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages; official development assistance

^{38/} <http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric3/pdf/9eng.pdf>

^{39/} Mozambique - activities 7 (g) and 8 (e); Nigeria – activity 7 (m); Uganda - activity 7 (i)

provided in support of the Convention; and nitrogen deposition. The final indicator “for immediate testing”, marine trophic index, is not relevant to the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

V. CONCLUSIONS

92. The present note provides some elements on the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. It mainly drew on the second national reports submitted by Parties in 2001 and responses of a few international organizations to a questionnaire sent out by the Executive Secretary. The note contains also some recommendations that SBSTTA may wish to consider, also taking into account suggested recommendations in the addenda to the present document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/4/Add.1 and 2).

93. The note highlights some barriers to the full implementation of the programme of work. They include:

- (a) Resource constraints in terms of access to financial and technical resources;
- (b) Weak institutional frameworks;
- (c) A lack of effective partnerships;
- (d) The presence of perverse incentive frameworks;
- (e) Knowledge gaps regarding biodiversity linkages with affecting processes;
- (f) Limited political support at all levels;
- (g) On-going conflicts related to resource access and use rights.

94. In order to improve implementation it is critical that successful practices are scaled up and that concerted efforts are undertaken to alleviate the above barriers. This can largely be accomplished within the framework of the current dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity work programme although modifications have been proposed in the suggested recommendation section of this document.

Lessons learned from the in-depth review process

95. A number of challenges were encountered during the review process regarding the poor availability of data and a lack of in-depth data reporting on the effectiveness and outcomes of actions to implement the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

96. Particular challenges encountered during the review process include:

- (a) Very few country Parties had submitted their third national reports prior to the drafting of this document. As a result, much of the information used for the review may be outdated;
- (b) “Local knowledge systems” were identified as key actors for activities 4 and 5 however the availability of information on such systems is very limited. There is no formal reporting process for such actors and, as a result, their contributions could not be properly included in the in-depth review;
- (c) Response rates to requests for information were very low (less than 24 per cent) amongst partner agencies which may have led to the under-reporting of regional and global level implementation;
- (d) The 2010 targets baseline has not yet been established for the dry and sub-humid lands programme of work and, data is still incomplete and progress cannot always be measured adequately.

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
BUWAL	Bundesamt für Umwelt Wald and Landschaft Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CI	Conservation International
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COP	Conference of the Parties
DDPA	Desertification, Drought, Poverty, Agriculture Research Consortium
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment
MA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAS	Organization of American States
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
RIDES	Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo Sustentable
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
TWNSO	Third World Network of Scientific Organizations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WB	The World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Center
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund