



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE UNITED
CONVENTIONS TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION
REGARDING
THE JOINT WORK PLAN 2011-2012

1. The present Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as “MoU”, is entered into and executed between:

The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, hereinafter referred to as “CBD”, represented by its Executive Secretary, and

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, hereinafter referred to as “UNCCD”, represented by its Executive Secretary.

INTRODUCTION

2. Parties from both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have repeatedly recognized the need for enhanced collaboration between the two secretariats.
3. In an effort to enhance synergies at the national level and to support implementation of the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework for the UNCCD, the following joint work plan for implementation by the secretariats (“Joint Work Plan”), in collaboration with other relevant partners has been drafted.

ACTIVITIES

4. Collaborate with relevant international organizations to collect scientific knowledge and case-studies and identify knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration, and make the results available to Parties through the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM);
5. Collaborate with relevant international organizations to expand and refine analyses identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks, as well as of ecosystem management measures that make best use of related climate change mitigation opportunities, and make this information openly available, such as to assist with integrated land-use planning;
6. Disseminate current and additional views and case-studies from Parties on the integration of terrestrial biodiversity into climate-change-related activities for submission to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to report thereon to the Conferences of the Parties to the CBD, the UNFCCC and the UNCCD;

7. Develop proposals on actions to address the terrestrial biodiversity related obstacles listed in section IV of the compilation of views submitted by Parties on ways to integrate biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/22) for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the CBD;
8. Bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the three Rio conventions and the different composition of their Parties, and the need to avoid duplication and promote resource efficiency and, based upon this, for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, to implement the decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to biodiversity, climate change and desertification / land degradation and to promote cooperation, noting the actions in decision IX/16 of the CBD and the current serious knowledge and information gap in evaluating biological vulnerability as a result of climate change, prepare a proposal to develop joint activities at the national level between the three Rio conventions;
9. Collaborate, through the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the three Rio conventions, as appropriate, to explore:
 - 9.1 The development joint activities at the national level in the agenda of the next meeting of the JLG of the three Rio conventions, and consider, as appropriate, the proposed elements on joint activities regarding climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, contained in decision IX/16 of the CBD.
 - 9.2 Consulting with the Bureau of the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio +20) and, explore, together with the Bureau, on the possibilities for profiling the activities of the Rio Conventions, including success stories at the national level.
 - 9.3 Options and resource requirements for proposed joint meetings to promote synergies among the Rio Conventions.
10. Collaborate to explore, develop and implement joint actions at the national level to increase cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity and sustainable land management and ecological restoration considerations in disaster reduction and risk management;
11. Collaborate to publish, a special CBD/UNCCD Technical Series report on the value of dry and sub-humid lands taking into account the role of pastoralists and other indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and their associated traditional knowledge with a view to making the report available in time for the second Scientific Conference of the Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD.
12. Collaborate to develop guidance on: the use of water and land-use management, including adapted agricultural practices and the control of soil erosion, and on identifying threats that have the greatest impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;
13. Noting, inter alia, decision 17/COP.9, paragraph 4 (c) of UNCCD, which requests the Secretariat under the guidance of the CST Bureau and using an iterative process to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies, taking account of possible synergies with relevant programmes, projects and institutions, including those associated with other

Rio conventions, and collaborate to identify common indicators between the ten-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the 2020 biodiversity target and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to transmit the results to the relevant body within the UNCCD;

14. Collaborate to take into consideration the need for building and developing the capacity of civil society in implementing measures for the sustainable management of dry and sub-humid lands and for identifying best practices in particular in Africa;
15. Collaborate to link the existing CBD database of good practices and lessons learned to the Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD efforts to set up a knowledge management system;
16. Endeavour to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization (“FAO”) to identify best practices to address conflicts between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and pastoralism and agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands, including conflicts related to integrated water management and water shortages specifically where those conflicts impact on the water needs of biodiversity, in order to fill identified gaps in information with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities.
17. Endeavour to collaborate with FAO to identify good-practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups, defined based on national circumstances, in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, especially nomadic pastoralists and transhumant indigenous peoples;
18. Organize a workshop on gender towards the development of a synergy plan of action on gender at national level, in connection with the JLG work-programme and Millennium Development Goals 1,3 and 7;
19. Bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the three Rio conventions and the different composition of their Parties, and the need to avoid duplication and promote resource efficiency and, based upon this, to implement the decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to biodiversity and desertification / land degradation and to promote cooperation, noting the actions in decision 4/COP.8 of the UNCCD and implement at least one pilot project for NAP and NBSAP alignment;
20. Explore joint communication opportunities to promote the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020) and the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity (2011-2020), through means such as joint press statements and joint events/exhibitions at major occasions.
21. Support the convening of the Rio Conventions Pavilion at the Conferences of the Parties to the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD as well as the Rio+20 Earth Summit;
22. Bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of the three Rio conventions and the different composition of their Parties, and the need to avoid duplication and promote resource efficiency and, based upon this, to implement the decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to biodiversity, climate change and desertification / land degradation and to promote cooperation, noting the actions in decision 8/COP.9 of UNCCD to continue coordinating with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the CBD through the Joint Liaison Group to facilitate exchanges of information and joint approaches to harmonizing and facilitating the reporting requirements of Parties; and continue the consideration of joint approaches to harmonization of national reporting.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

23. The CBD and UNCCD secretariats shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct consultations and negotiations any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to the MoU or any breach thereof.

AMENDMENT

24. The MoU may be modified by written agreement of the CBD and UNCCD secretariats. The amendment will become effective on the date when the accepting secretariat communicates its written consent to the other secretariat.

TERMINATION

25. Any applicable provisions of the MoU shall survive termination or expiration of the present MoU to the extent necessary in order to conclude any outstanding obligations with respect to the MoU.

ANNEX

26. Annex I on the Joint Work Plan of the CBD and UNCCD Secretariats for 2011-2012 is an integral part of the MoU. Annex II contains a list of acronyms and their meaning for ease of reference.

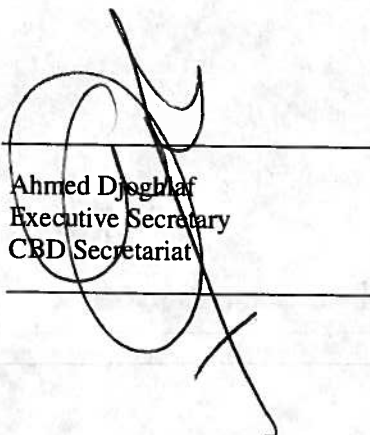
ENTRY INTO FORCE

27. The MoU shall enter into force upon signature by the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and UNCCD secretariats and will continue in full force and effect until it is terminated.

28. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed the MoU in two originals in English. Done in Geneva, Switzerland on 3 September 2011.



Luc Gnacadja
Executive Secretary
UNCCD Secretariat



Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary
CBD Secretariat

Annex I

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan			
Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
<p><i>Science and technology issues</i></p> <p>Collaborate with relevant international organizations to collect scientific knowledge and case-studies and identify knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration, and make the results available to Parties through the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify organizations working on soil carbon (CBD) - identify existing work under the UNCCD that can be built upon (CBD and UNCCD) - compile information and case studies and best practices (CBD) - identify remaining knowledge gaps (CBD and UNCCD) - publish findings through the CHM (CBD) - establish linkages between the agenda of the CST and the agenda of the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and CBD 	
<p>Collaborate with relevant international organizations to expand and refine analyses identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks, as well as of ecosystem management measures that make best use of related climate change mitigation opportunities, and make this information openly available, such as to assist with integrated land-use planning</p> <p>Explore, develop and implement joint actions to increase cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity and sustainable land management and ecological restoration considerations in disaster reduction and risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify existing tools for assessing carbon stocks and potentials (CBD) - expand / refine existing tools (CBD); - consideration of progress made by other conventions (UNCCD) - identify options for ecosystem based approaches to mitigation in different ecosystems (CBD and UNCCD) - disseminate information through the CHM and other means (CBD) 	<p>WRI, UNEP</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review the outcomes and calls for action from the World Climate Congress (CBD) - identify areas for collaboration between the CBD and UNCCD (CBD and UNCCD) - identify critical information to be shared (CBD and UNCCD) 	<p>WMO Academia</p>

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan			
Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
management		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - convene social and natural science partners virtually or in person to exchange information (CBD and UNCCD) - implement collaborative work on drought mitigation measures including effects on the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity 	
Identify common indicators between the ten-year strategic plan of the UNCCD and the 2020 biodiversity target and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 - Decision 3/COP.8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review the indicators (CBD) - CBD participation in the global UNCCD Indicator Task Force/Partnership (pending UNCCD COP decision) 	
Link the existing CBD database of good practices and lessons learned to the Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD efforts to set up a knowledge management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 - Decision 3/COP.8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expand the current database (CBD) - explore interoperability issues (CBD and UNCCD) - link databases to the extent feasible (CBD and UNCCD) - CBD participation in the Science component of external module of the UNCCD KMS 	
Coordination among the Rio Conventions			
Disseminate current and additional views and case-studies from Parties on the integration of terrestrial biodiversity into climate – change – related activities for submission to the UNFCCC for publication on its website as appropriate and to report thereon to the COPs to the CBD, the UNFCCC and the UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/33 - Decision 13/COP.1 - Decision 8/COP.2 - Decision 17/COP.3 - Decision 8/COP.9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to be determined 	UNFCCC
Develop proposals on actions to address the obstacles listed in section IV of the compilation of views submitted by Parties on ways to integrate terrestrial biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/33 - Decision 13/COP.1 - Decision 8/COP.2 - Decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engage Parties in the development of country-driven proposals to fill gaps (including through meetings at the margins of relevant meetings of the UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD) (CBD and UNCCD) 	UNFCCC

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan			
Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
for the consideration of SBSTTA to the CBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17/COP.3 Decision 8/COP.9 		
Inter-institutional collaboration Collaborate with FAO to identify best practices to address conflicts between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and pastoralism and agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands, including conflicts related to integrated water management and water shortages specifically where those conflicts impact on the water needs of biodiversity, in order to fill identified gaps in information with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 Decision 3 /CFOP.8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify existing best practices, especially within FAO and the UNCCD (CBD and UNCCD) - identify gaps in existing best practice studies (CBD) - engage partners to fill identified gaps (CBD and UNCCD) - publish and disseminate results (CBD and UNCCD) 	FAO
Collaborate with FAO to identify good-practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups, defined based on national circumstances, in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, especially nomadic pastoralists and transhumant indigenous peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify existing best practices, especially with FAO and the UNCCD (CBD and UNCCD) - identify gaps in existing best practice studies (CBD) - engage partners to fill identified gaps (CBD and UNCCD) - publish and disseminate results (CBD and UNCCD) 	FAO
Joint publications and outreach Publish, a special CBD Technical Series report on the value of dry and sub-humid lands taking into account the role of pastoralists and other indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conduct a literature review of available studies (CBD) - develop a first draft (CBD and UNCCD) - present first draft to partners (CBD and UNCCD) - finalize and publish guidance (CBD and UNCCD) 	GM WRI

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan			
Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
<p>their associated traditional knowledge with a view to making the report available in time for the second Scientific Conference of the Committee on Science and Technology of the UNCCD;</p> <p>Develop guidance on: the use of water and land-use management, including adapted agricultural practices and the control of soil erosion, and on identifying threats that have the greatest impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 - Decision 8 / COP.9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conduct a rough portfolio review (CBD) - develop a first draft (CBD) - present first draft to partners (CBD) - finalize and publish guidance (CBD and UNCCD) - implement collaborative scientific programmes addressing linkages between biodiversity and DLDD on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Integrated water resources management o sustainable land management in dry and sub-humid land agricultural and pastoral systems (including soil erosion control) 	
<p>Take into consideration the need for building and developing the capacity of civil society in implementing measures for the sustainable management of dry and sub-humid lands and for identifying best practices in particular in Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBD X/35 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify capacity building needs through a capacity analysis (CBD) - identify those needs that can be met through current means (CBD and UNCCD) - examine the feasibility of addressing additional needs (CBD and UNCCD) - implement capacity building activities identified through the above (CBD and UNCCD) 	<p>NGO Alliance</p>
<p>Thematic issues: Gender, NAPs-NBSAP, reporting and others</p> <p>Organize a workshop on gender towards the development of a synergy plan of action on gender, in attention to JLG work-programme and MDGs 1,3 and 7.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A/RES/64/289 - CBD X/19 - Decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify and use commonalities in the approaches of gender policies of CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC as well as other UN agencies, with the aim of identifying synergies; 	<p>UNFCCC and other partners</p>

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan			
Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
	8/COP.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize a workshop for inputs and feedback on a common gender strategy for the Rio conventions; - draft of a document to use in the Rio processes towards Rio+20; - develop a draft recommendation for action at Rio+20; - analysis of Rio Conventions work on gender last 20 years and the way forward to be published for Rio+20 - SATOYAMA special on gender to be published for Rio+20 	(IUCN)
Explore joint communication opportunities to promote the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020) and the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity (2011-2020), through means such as joint press statements and joint events/exhibitions at major occasions.	A/RES/62/195 A/RES/64/201	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint meetings/events to observe UNDDDD/UNDB - Joint media announcements - Joint awareness raising activities 	IATF
Implement at least one pilot project for NAPA-NAP and NBSAP alignment	- CBD X/33 and X/35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify possible pilot countries - explore resources required to implement pilot project - engage and implementing agency in the development of a pilot project - launch pilot project 	UNFCCC GEF
Support the convening of the Ecosystems Pavilion at the COPs to the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD as well as the Rio+20 Earth Summit	Convention Article 23(2) Coordination with other secretariats; Dec.3/COP8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify partners - raise funds - develop the programme for each event - draft documents and outreach material 	UNFCCC GEF and other partners
Continued consideration to joint action on	- CDB X/35	- coordinate to increase opportunities at the national level	

2011-2012 CBD – UNCCD work plan

Request	COP decisions	Actions	Relevant Partners
harmonization of national reporting.		for synergy in reporting processes, including data collection and joint capacity building - develop a common glossary CBD-UNCCD for reporting - establish mechanisms at global level to link networks for database use in reporting.	

Annex II

List of Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing-House Mechanism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	(UNCCD) National Action Programmes
NAPA	(UNFCCC) National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NBSAP	(CBD) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the CBD
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change