



SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

SECRETARÍA DE LA CONVENCION DE LUCHA CONTRA LA DESERTIFICACION



Final Report

VIII Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting, preparatory to the first session of the Committee for Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD- CRIC 1)

*Bridgetown (Barbados)
July 29 – August 1st 2002*



**VIII LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING, PREPARATORY
TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD- CRIC 1)**

Bridgetown (Barbados), July 29 – August 1st 2002

FINAL REPORT

I. Background

1. Annex III of the text of the UNCCD, which is the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean region, establishes the need to carry out regional meetings in order to strengthen the co-operation and exchange of information among country Parties to implement the Annex.
2. In this context, the Latin America and Caribbean country Parties have held seven regional meetings, in Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Peru, El Salvador and Chile respectively, with the aim to identify priority actions as well as establish and develop sub-regional and regional co-operation through a Regional Action Programme to combat desertification and drought (RAP).
3. According to decision 1/COP 5 that establishes a Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the COP with the aim to help in the regular analysis of the implementation of the Convention, the Executive Secretary was requested *“to facilitate the preparation of regional inputs for the review process, in co-operation with interested Parties, international, regional and subregional organisations and co-ordinating mechanisms and representatives of the civil society”*.
4. To this end, the VIII Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, preparatory to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), was convened, in collaboration with the Government of Barbados, in Bridgetown (Barbados) from July 29 to August 1, 2002.

II. Objectives of the Meeting

5. The objectives of the VIII LAC Regional Meeting were as follows:
 - 5.1 Presenting and analysing national reports from country Parties of the region, reports from international organisations and agencies, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
 - 5.2 Exchanging experiences on the different main thematic areas to be examined during the first session of the CRIC, which are:
 - Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations;
 - Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements;
 - Resource mobilisation and co-ordination, both domestic and international, including conclusion of partnership agreements;

- Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies;
 - Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land and for early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought;
 - Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment;
 - Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.
- 5.3 Adoption of conclusions and recommendations for presentation to the CRIC
- 5.4 Sharing of information on the concrete experiences of the host country in the area of mitigating the effects of drought and combating land degradation;
- 5.5 Sharing of information on the achievements in the implementation of the Convention in the region;
- 5.6 Review of the work carried out by the Regional Executive Committee (CRIC).

III. Participation

6. All LAC country Parties, as well as regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organisations, donor countries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations, were invited to the meeting. Thirty-four government representatives of the countries of the region, 2 representatives of governments of developed countries, 8 representatives of international, regional and sub-regional organisations, 19 non-governmental organisations, representatives of the UNCCD Secretariat and of the Global Mechanism attended the meeting. The list of participants is part of the present report, (Annex IV).

Item 1 of the Agenda: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Opening Ceremony took place on July 29, 2002 in the Savannah Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados delivered addresses. The representative of the Government of Barbados, Mr. Leonard Nurse, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Physical Development and Environment, Ambassador Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Honourable Ms. Elisabeth Thompson, Minister of Physical Development and Environment of Barbados, who officially opened the VIII LAC Regional Meeting.
8. During the opening ceremony, the UNCCD Secretariat and the CARICOM Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at fostering co-operation in activities to combat land degradation and promote sustainable development in the Caribbean.
9. After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the UNCCD Executive Secretary and the Secretary General of CARICOM, H.E. Dr. Edwin Carrington, delivered brief addresses.



a) Organisation of work

i) Election of the Bureau officers of the meeting

10. The meeting decided that the Bureau be composed of the following countries:

President:	Barbados	Ms. Karen Smith
Vice-presidents:	Chile	Mr. Wilfredo Alfaro
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Mr. Reynold Murray
Rapporteur:	Colombia	Ms. Zoraida Fajardo

ii) Approval of the provisional agenda

11. Participants approved the provisional Agenda of the meeting. The final agenda is attached as Annex IV of this report.

Item 2 of the Agenda: Considerations of the outcomes of the COP 5, especially concerning the CRIC process

12. The UNCCD Secretariat made 2 presentations summarising the outcomes of COP 5 held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 1 to 12 October 2001, and informing of the CRIC process, as defined in decision 1/COP 5.

Item 3 of the Agenda: Presentations by countries of the Southern Cone

13. Delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, made the presentations of national reports submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat in accordance with decision 1/COP 5.

14. An official of the UNCCD Secretariat, the delegates from Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Jamaica, the representative of the Brazilian NGOs, Instituto Desert, delegates from Honduras, St. Lucia, Paraguay, the UNEP representative and the delegate from Uruguay made interventions, in that order.

15. The comparative advantages that the sub-region possesses in areas such as in development of indicators, watershed management, techniques to increase biomass production, and participation processes were underlined. It was pointed out however, that investments in projects directly linked to the combat of desertification and drought were scarce. These investments were in fact addressed towards other projects for example, forest management, hydrology and natural resources management and sustainable development in general. Countries stressed the need of elaborating programmes in accordance with the principles and criteria established by the Convention and using the existing synergies among the different environmental aspects and sustainable development (*cross-cutting issues*). To this end, a call was made for regional banks and international agencies to provide sustainable funding for these projects.

Item 4 of the Agenda: Presentations made by countries of Mesoamerican countries

16. Delegates from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras and Panama and made presentations on their national reports.
17. Delegates from Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Granada, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the representatives of the Global Mechanism and of the NGO EarthAction, as well as the delegate from Panama, the representative of the WMO and the delegate from Honduras made interventions in that order.
18. The countries recommended the strengthening of the Regional Co-ordination Unit (RCU), anticipating its effective funding. Additionally, they highlighted the important role that the private sector could play as a source of funding for identified projects. In this regard, some countries gave examples of successful co-operation with the private sector. They also mentioned the comparative advantages of some countries of the region as regards innovative financial mechanisms, such as the payment for environmental services and the recovery of traditional knowledge and practices for the sustainable management of natural resources as in the case of the increase in biomass.
19. Both the importance of the strengthening of early warning systems and the relevance of the principles established by the Committee on Science and Technology, were underlined during the discussion. In this context, the need for information sharing in the region, including in the area of traditional knowledge and issues for mitigating the effects of drought was underlined.

Item 5 of the Agenda: Presentations by countries of the Caribbean

20. Delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, made their presentations.
21. The CPACC representative, the delegates from Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Colombia, the representatives of the WMO, of the NGO CNIRD of Trinidad and Tobago and of the Global Mechanism, the delegates from Uruguay, Dominica, Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago as well as an official of the UNCCD made interventions in that order.
22. Most of the presenters highlighted the need both to maximise functional synergies existing in the sub-region, especially due to the countries' small size, and to build co-operation with those countries of the region that have comparative advantages in certain sectors (e.g. in the design and management early warning systems, NAP formulation, rehabilitation of degraded land, watershed management, etc.). The urgency of establishing strategic technical and financial alliances to implement programmes and projects aimed at reducing the extreme vulnerability of the countries of the sub-region, including water and drought issues was also underlined. In this regard, mention was made of the Convention being an effective link between natural resources conservation and sustainable development, in particular if predictable financial resources could be guaranteed with the GEF as the UNCCD financial mechanism.
23. The fundamental role that must be played by local communities and civil society in general, as concern participation in the planning and implementation of programmes and initiatives related to combating desertification, drought and land degradation was emphasised. Special mention was made of the need to develop reliable indicators, so as to measure the level of involvement and participation of civil society in accordance with the bottom-up approach.

**Item 6 of the Agenda: Presentations by the Andean countries**

24. Delegates from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela made presentations of their national reports.
25. The delegate from Germany, the representative of the Global Mechanism, the delegate from El Salvador and an official of the Secretariat made interventions in that order.
26. The relevance of the bottom-up approach was emphasized as well as the importance of sharing valuable experiences based on concrete, monitored and well-documented data emphasised. As regards access to financial sources, the need to strengthen national focal points' negotiating capacities and thereby enhancing their abilities to function in the international arena was underlined. The urgency to have a National Action Programme in each country was also underscored.

Item 7 of the Agenda: Presentation by the representative of the Committee of Science and Technology

27. The delegate from Jamaica, in his capacity as President of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) made a presentation on the role of the Committee and on the observations made on the national reports submitted by the countries of the region. He also made recommendations as to how greater emphasis can be placed on the scientific and technical aspects.
28. Delegates from Honduras, Germany, Paraguay, the representative of UNEP, the delegate from Peru and the representative of the NGO IADIZA of Argentina, made interventions in that order.
29. Argentina, Honduras y Paraguay presented a joint declaration proposing that the subject of the recovery of sustainable traditional technology from local communities and of the indigenous peoples be given priority and be promoted through effective CST projects with the aim of strengthening this aspect in the context of the NAPs in the region. The text of the declaration is attached as Annex III of this report.
30. The importance of the role that the CST plays in identifying traditional knowledge and promoting methodologies for early warning systems was emphasised. The advantages that can be derived from possible co-operation with the Advisory Panel on Science and Technology of the GEF were also emphasised, as it was felt that this would increase the effectiveness of initiatives undertaken in this area. DESELAC was considered as a vital and essential instrument for promoting the exchange of technical and scientific information among the countries of the region. The need to create scientific and technical working groups operative for more than one year (three or four) so as to achieve more effective results was also identified. As regard the National Action Programmes, the need to clearly show the efforts made by the countries in ensuring that scientific information, including in particular benchmarks and indicators are taken into consideration was underscored.

**Item 8 of the Agenda: Presentation by the non-governmental organisations**

31. The representatives of RIOD and CNIRD informed the meeting about the activities undertaken by that network for the period 2001-2002 and on the effectiveness of civil society participation in the process in the context of the Convention. Additionally, the conclusions of the Caribbean NGOs meeting, held as a parallel event from 28 to 30 July were presented.

Item 9 of the Agenda: Presentations by donor countries, international organisations and agencies

32. The delegates from Germany and Italy, the representatives of the WMO, the Global Mechanism, the Inter-American Development Bank and the UNFCCC Secretariat made their presentations.
33. The delegates from Germany, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Argentina, the representatives of the IDB, Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat, the delegates from Brazil, Uruguay and Dominica, the representatives of the NGOs Instituto Desert, CNIRD, and EarthAction, the representative of the WMO, the delegates from Jamaica, Cuba as well as the representative of UNEP made interventions in that order.
34. The need for more technical and financial resources to be channelled to the Caribbean, through initiatives by donor countries as well as international, regional and sub-regional banks was underlined. Similarly, it was highlighted that it is imperative that the information available in the different countries of the region be shared in such a manner that civil society in general, and RIOD-LAC in particular are effectively involved, so that they can work in association with governments, contributing the experiences gained in various areas related to the implementation of the Convention. A request was made for the elaboration of a sub-regional strategy permitting the unification of projects necessary for the implementation of the Convention in the sub-region.
35. It was pointed that some countries have a comparative advantage in the elaboration of socio-economic and biophysical indicators and benchmarks that this experience could be shared both within and outside the region.
36. In this context, the representative of the Argentinean Research Institute of Arid Zones made a presentation on the activities that being carried out in the framework of the Argentinean co-operation for strengthening the regional action programme of the Mediterranean countries (MEDRAP). The representative also informed of the organisation of an international workshop on indicators of desertification in LAC, with the aim of making available a regional sub-programme on the issue.

Item 10 of the Agenda: Presentation on the status of the Convention in the agenda of the GEF

37. An official of the Secretariat made this presentation.
38. The delegate from Argentina, the representative of the Ramsar Convention, the delegates from Germany, Brazil, Cuba, the representatives of the UNFCCC Secretariat and a representative of the UNCCD Secretariat, the delegates from Dominica, Chile, Antigua and Barbuda, the representatives of the Global Mechanism and RIOD, the delegates from Trinidad and Tobago as well as Peru made interventions in that order.
39. The importance of the meeting as regards the region's position in relation to the next Session of COP to be held in 2003 was underlined. In this regard a request was made for a decision to be

included in the final report of the meeting seeking to have the GEF declared a financial mechanism of the UNCCD during the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development. The need to strengthen the Regional Co-ordination Unit as an instrument to facilitate, among other things, the implementation of regional and sub-regional action programmes was underlined.

40. As regard the GEF, the Caribbean countries in particular pointed out the need for easy access to its financial resources and the simplification of the existing administrative procedures for requesting the same. They also highlighted the disadvantages they face due to their size and peculiarities. In this context, they invited the countries of the region to elaborate a strategy and a programme in conformity with the document that will be discussed in Johannesburg relating to the development of the Small Island States.
41. Participants also accepted Uruguay's offer of organising a workshop on water resources and desertification to prepare a regional programme on water, in accordance with the resolution approved during the workshop on integrated watershed management, held in Caracas (Venezuela) in 2001.
42. At the end of this session, a decision was taken to create open-ended drafting committee for elaborating the conclusions and recommendations to be submitted to the first session of the CRIC. This Committee consisted of the following countries:

Antigua and Barbuda.	Chile	Peru
Argentina	Colombia	Trinidad and Tobago
Barbados	Cuba	Venezuela

The conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Committee were further discussed in the plenary of the 8th Regional Meeting and approved as decision 1 of the meeting entitled "*Regional input to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)*".

Item 11 of the Agenda: Presentation of the UNCCD Secretariat report and of the report Regional Executive Committee

43. An official of the UNCCD Secretariat and the delegate from Chile, in his capacity as the president of the REC, presented the reports on their respective activities. On the request of the UNCCD Secretariat official the representatives of RIOD and the Instituto para el Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (IDIH), informed of the implementation of decisions 19 and 24 respectively, which were approved at the VII LAC regional meeting held in La Serena (Chile) in 2001.
44. The UNCCD Executive Secretary, the delegates from Argentina and Cuba as well as the representative of UNEP made interventions in that order.
45. The scarce attendance of co-operation partners to the conference was lamented. The meeting underlined the importance of the Regional Co-ordination Unit becoming operational in the shortest possible time on the completion of negotiations with a regional institution located in Mexico, country with which the Secretariat has signed a host agreement. The Executive Secretary took the opportunity to inform the participants about the recent changes in the secretariat, particularly of the appointment of Mr. Sergio Alejandro Zelaya Bonilla as the new Co-ordinator of the LAC Regional Facilitation Unit, replacing Mr. Oscar Oramas Oliva. The Executive Secretary highlighted the work done by Mr. Oramas and thanked him for the

achievements and successes. The plenary welcomed the new appointee and acknowledged Mr. Oscar Oramas. As regard the Regional Co-ordination Unit, the Executive Secretary announced that Mr. Heitor Matallo has been designated the new Co-ordinator.

Item 12 of the Agenda: Election of the new Regional Executive Committee

46. The president of the meeting presented a proposal concerning the composition of the new Regional Executive Committee. The meeting approved the proposal by acclamation. The next REC (2002-2003) will be composed as follow:

President:	<i>Barbados</i>
Vice-president:	<i>Chile</i>
Representative of the Caribbean countries:	<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>
Representative of the Mesoamerican countries:	<i>Honduras</i>
Representative of the Andean countries:	<i>Ecuador</i>
Observer: a Representative of	<i>RIOD</i>

Item 13 of the Agenda: Presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat on methodological issues of the CRIC

47. An official of the UNCCD informed of the methodological aspects related to the first session of the CRIC. Participants, then, nominated the 9 countries that will present case studies on the 7 key topics identified during the COP 5. The CCD Secretariat will adopt a final decision regarding the 9 nominees countries to present case studies. The table for presentations, was configured as follows:

Themes	Countries
1: Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations	<i>Bolivia</i>
2: Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements	<i>Panama</i>
3: Resource mobilisation and co-ordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements	<i>Barbados, Costa Rica, Chile</i>
4: Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies	<i>Antigua and Barbuda, Uruguay</i>
5: Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land	<i>Paraguay</i>
6: Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment; early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought	<i>Argentina</i>
7: Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how	<i>Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>

Delegates agreed to request to the CCD Secretariat to take a final decision regarding the 11 countries and to select from them, 9 countries to present case studies.



Item 14 of the Agenda: Adoption of the final report of the VIII LAC Regional Meeting

48. The participants of the meeting adopted by acclamation the final report of the meeting, including its annexes.

Item 15 of the Agenda: Closing of the VIII CCD Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean country Parties

49. The delegate from Ecuador, the UNCCD Executive Secretary and the delegate from Barbados, as the president of meeting, made interventions in that order to thank the People and the Government of Barbados and the participants for the success of the meeting, officially closed at 1:45 p.m. on August 1st, 2002.

ANNEX I

DECISIONS OF THE VIII CCD REGIONAL MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRY PARTIES, PREPARATORY TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD- CRIC 1)

The representatives of Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the VIII LAC Regional Conference preparatory to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD- CRIC1), held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from July 29 to August 1, 2002, decide as follow:

Decision 1	Regional inputs to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC): conclusions and recommendations
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Recalling Decision 1/COP 5 in which the Conference of Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the preparation of regional inputs for the review process, in cooperation with interested Parties, international and regional organizations and coordinating mechanisms, as well as representatives of civil society;

Having considered the national reports by affected LAC country Parties as the basis for the regional review, as well as reports from developed country Parties, UN agencies, and the governmental and non-governmental organisations, as they relate to activities in support of the LAC Regional Annex;

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the debate among the various stakeholders participating in this VIII LAC Regional Meeting preparatory to the first session of the CRIC on issues pertaining to the implementation of the Convention along the 7 thematic topics identified at COP 5;

Aware that those outcomes will enhance the process of partnership building and feed into the overall review exercise of the CRIC,

DECIDE

1. **To adopt** the conclusions and recommendations of the VIII LAC Regional Meeting, which are integral component of this decision as Annex II to this document;
2. **To request** the Executive Secretary of the CCD to forward these conclusions and recommendations to the first session of the CRIC to be convened in November 2002.

Decision 2	Nomination of the Latin America and the Caribbean representative, as Vice-Chairperson of the CRIC
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Considering article 4 of the Terms of Reference of the CRIC, as well as decision 1/COP 5, on the composition of its Bureau,

DECIDE

- To nominate** the representative of Cuba as the Vice-Chairperson of the CRIC

Decision 3	List of countries presenting case studies at the first session of the CRIC
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Bearing in mind decision 1/COP 5 concerning the nature of the review and methodology used by the CRIC, according to which the review, conceived as an experienced-sharing and lessons-learning exercise, shall be conducted thematically with due regard to geographic regions and subregion,

DECIDE

- To nominate** the following countries to present case studies at the first session of the CRIC:

<u>Thematic topic</u>	<u>Country</u>
1: Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations	<i>Bolivia</i>
2: Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements	<i>Panama</i>
3: Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements	<i>Barbados, Costa Rica, Chile</i>
4: Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies	<i>Antigua & Barbuda, Uruguay</i>
5: Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land	<i>Paraguay</i>
6: Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment; early warning systems for mitigating the effects of drought	<i>Argentina</i>
7: Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how	<i>Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>

- Delegates agreed to request to the CCD Secretariat to take a final decision regarding the 11 countries and to select from them, 9 countries to present case studies.

Decision 4	Composition of the Regional Executive Committee
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Recalling Decision 9 adopted in La Serena (Chile), in August 2001, on the Regional Executive Committee;

Recognising the work carried out by the outgoing Regional Executive Committee; and

Aware of the important role that this organ plays in the implementation process of the decisions adopted in the regional meetings,

DECIDE

1. **To establish** the new Regional Executive Committee with the following composition:

President:	<i>Barbados</i>
Vice-president:	<i>Chile</i>
Representative of the Caribbean countries:	<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>
Representative of the Mesoamerican countries:	<i>Honduras</i>
Representative of the Andean countries:	<i>Ecuador</i>
Observer: a Representative of	<i>RIOD</i>

Decision 5	Support to the International Network of NGOs on Desertification in Latin America and the Caribbean (RIOD-LAC)
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Considering Article 10, paragraph 2(f) of the text of the Convention, and Article 3, paragraph 2 of its Regional Annex III, for Latin America and the Caribbean that refer to the full participation of NGOs and local communities at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels in policy planning, decision-making and implementation and review of national action programmes;

Having in mind the fundamental role that NGOs and community based organisations (CBOs) play in the countries of the region throughout the International Network of NGOs on Desertification of Latin America and the Caribbean (RIOD-LAC), particularly in awareness raising activities;

Recognising the value of the NGOs and CBOs achievements in co-ordinating their activities at the regional level, particularly through the RIOD-LAC Action Plan 2001-2003 approved in The Havana third regional meeting of RIOD-LAC as well as through the on-going RIOD-LAC Institutional Strengthening Programme from June 2002 to May 2003;

Acknowledging the Caribbean Sub-Regional NGO Forum held during this VIII LAC Regional Meeting, which resulted in the establishment of the Caribbean RIOD Sub-Regional Network;

Noting the commitment made by the 14 RIOD National Focal Points, who participated in the meeting, to foster partnerships with government National Focal Points in facilitating interactive participatory processes in the implementation of the Convention,

DECIDE

1. **To reaffirm** the commitment of the countries of the region to ensure a broad participation of NGOs and CBOs in the UNCCD implementation process, particularly in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national, sub-regional and regional action programmes;
2. **To welcome** the successful realisation of the Caribbean Sub-Regional NGO Forum, that resulted in the establishment of the Caribbean RIOD Sub-Regional Network, within the implementation process of the RIOD-LAC Institutional Strengthening Programme;
3. **To express** support to the RIOD-LAC Action Plan 2001-2003 and the RIOD-LAC Institutional Strengthening Programme and request the effective co-operation of international organisations and donor countries to implement the goals established in those frameworks;
4. **To express gratitude** to the UNCCD Secretariat for the financial support provided to RIOD-LAC for participating in a number of events related to the UNCCD implementation process;
5. **To express gratitude** to the Global Mechanism of the Convention for the financial support provided to RIOD-LAC in the context of its Institutional Strengthening Programme.

Decision 6	Hosting of the IX CCD Regional Meeting for Latin America and Caribbean country Parties
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Taking into consideration the results of previous regional meetings held in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Mexico City (Mexico), Havana (Cuba), St. John's (Antigua and Barbuda), Lima (Peru), San Salvador (El Salvador), La Serena (Chile) and Bridgetown (Barbados);

Considering the importance to continue holding the rotation process among the different regions of Latin America and the Caribbean to host regional meetings;

Considering that Colombia shows interest to host the IX Regional Meeting,

DECIDE

1. **To accept** with gratitude the offer of the delegation of Colombia to host the IX CCD Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean country Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought.
2. **To request** the CCD Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements with the Government of Colombia and to guarantee the success of the same.

Decision 7	Acknowledgement to the Peoples and Government of the donor countries
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Aware of the support granted by Finland, Italy and Norway for the organisation of the VIII LAC regional meeting;

Recognising the commitment of the Government of Finland, Italy and Norway in supporting Latin American and Caribbean countries efforts towards achieving sustainable development particularly in combating desertification and mitigation of the effects of the drought,

DECIDE

1. **To express** their gratitude, on behalf of the people and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the people and Governments of Finland, Italy and Norway for the support provided to the implementation process of the Convention in the region;
2. **To request** the CCD Secretariat to convey, through the appropriate diplomatic channels, the gratitude of the peoples and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to the people and Governments of Finland, Italy and Norway for the efforts carried out in promoting the implementation of the Convention in the region;
3. **To invite** the Governments of Finland, Italy and Norway as well as other countries to continue supporting the region in the efforts for achieving sustainable development, particularly through combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Decision 8	Acknowledgement to the People and Government of Barbados
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Taking into account the deliberations of this meeting, the governments, the international organisations and the NGOs present at the VIII CCD Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean country Parties, held in Bridgetown (Barbados), from 29 July to 1st. August 2002,

DECIDE

1. **To express** their profound gratitude to the People and Government of Barbados for the excellent organisation of the meeting and the kind hospitality extended to all participants.
2. To express gratitude to the participants at this meeting for the efforts made and achieve the expected results of this, VIII CCD Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean country Parties.

ANNEX II

REGIONAL INPUTS TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION (CRIC 1): CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

PREAMBLE

***Recognizing** that the main issues addressed by the UNCCD particularly poverty eradication, food security, socio-economic development in vulnerable drylands, and their linkages with environmental protection in the Latin America and the Caribbean countries are inherently linked to the sustainable livelihood of affected populations,*

***Reiterating** that, in a context of accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss, increased cooperation should target the critical issues of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to achieve short and long-term positive results,*

***Convinced** that the current implementation phase of the UNCCD needs, at this crucial stage of the national level process, a set of policies and measures which must be fully implemented and financed, to prevent and reverse the degradation process of affected drylands in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean,*

***Having reviewed** the national reports submitted to the secretariat by the affected LAC country Parties, developed country Parties, UN organizations, other international organizations and sub-regional and regional Institutions,*

***Recalling** decision 1 of the COP 5 regarding the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to be held in November 2002 in Catagna, (Italy), that structured the review process along 7 key issues,*

Participants to the 8th LAC regional Conference preparatory to the first session of the CRIC held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 29 July to 1st August 2002, agreed upon the following conclusions and recommendations towards the forthcoming first session of the CRIC:

I. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

1.1. National reports for the UNCCD Assessment Process

1. The selective review of the Implementation of the Convention based on the seven topics designated in Decision 1/COP 5 has enabled the governments and stakeholders to undertake a more focused second cycle of national reports on the UNCCD implementation. However, the insufficient compliance by some countries with the Help Guide and a lack of analytical consideration of progress made under the Convention, in the period under review, could, at times, limit the comprehension of the present status of the UNCCD implementation in the LAC countries. Furthermore, limited use of scientific and technical information in the reports has made it difficult to assess progress in these areas.
2. Nevertheless, the LAC country Parties completed, elaborated and timely submitted their National Reports for review by the first session of the Committee for the Review of the

Implementation of the Convention. (CRIC). The strong involvement of the civil society in this exercise, as advocated by the Help Guide, deserves to be further strengthened and pursued.

3. National reports should concentrate even more on an analytical review of the progress of the process. At the same time, national country profiles within the National Reports are needed to provide more up to date and substantive data covering comprehensive biophysical and socio economic information related to causes and consequences of desertification.
4. In this context the limited financial support rendered by the UNCCD Secretariat to country Parties for the elaboration of the national reports is acknowledged. The level of financial resources provided for reporting should be increased to meet the need of the LAC country Parties for involving stakeholders, managing information as well as collecting and processing data.

1.2. Regional and sub-regional reports

5. While a regional overview in the LAC region is to be provided on a regular basis, it was noted that the current reporting under the Regional Action Programme (RAP) for LAC did not sufficiently highlight existing linkages with the CST priority areas of thematic focus on national and sub-regional levels. The SRAPs should be submitted for the consideration of the CST, as regards matters relating to CST priorities areas at the regional level.

1.3 Reports by developed country Parties, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations and agencies

6. Participation of developed country Parties in the reporting exercise of the UNCCD in LAC, was rather limited. The input of the few countries present was appreciated as a useful contribution to conduct the review of Parties required before the CRIC. Indeed, the review process at the regional level is necessary to maximize the results of efforts made by affected LAC country Parties.
7. The Conference appreciates the useful reports submitted by developed country Parties, regional, international and intergovernmental institutions on the support provided to LAC country Parties as they carry out their obligations under the UNCCD. However, specific information on the UNCCD process itself was not adequately provided.

Recommendations

8. *National Reporting on the progress of the implementation process should be supported by predictable and appropriate financial support, notably to secure the participation of stakeholders at all levels, particularly at local level.*
9. *The UNCCD Secretariat, in collaboration with partner agencies, is invited to assist countries to complete the information provided to the CRIC through the preparation of country profiles within the National Reports that would be more oriented towards quantitative data and analysis relating to the biophysical and socio economic parameters of combating land degradation, desertification and mitigating the impact of drought.*
10. *The UNCCD Secretariat should facilitate a joint assessment of the implementation process of the Convention in the LAC region by developed country parties and developing country. The results of such evaluation should be submitted to COP 7.*

11. *The UNCCD Secretariat is further invited to review the Help Guide on a regular basis according to new circumstances and update it, as appropriate. A revised format should put emphasis on NAP integration in the national planning system and the development of synergies. Further modalities to assure the most effective exchange of the lessons learned should also be explored.*

II. PARTICIPATORY PROCESS INVOLVING THE CIVIL SOCIETY, NGOS AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs)

12. The creation of an enabling environment to foster decentralization and the involvement of civil society at all levels as well as the promotion of related methodologies, while pursued within the NAP framework, can contribute to the implementation of sustainable development policies much beyond that specific framework.
13. Awareness raising and improved communication, especially among the NGOs, CBOs, concerned civil servants, the private sector and representatives from the academic, scientific and research community must be further encouraged. Some countries reported positive results in associating the private sector to the combat against desertification. Such cases, incentive systems and related best practices deserve to be more widely known.
14. The role of NGOs and CBOs in catalyzing public support has been increasingly recognized at the national level, still further efforts to associate civil society are necessary. Some NGOs have been instrumental in bridging the international policy dialogue on the UNCCD implementation at the national and regional levels. Some of the national reports were produced with the strong support of national NGOs, which are otherwise involved in the implementation process, particularly at the community level.
15. The level of participation of local and indigenous communities in NAP implementation as well as in the formulation of such programmes is still low in many countries of the region.
16. The Conference welcomes the initiative of the Secretariat and partner agencies such as IFAD and the GM of the UNCCD to foster NGO participation in the UNCCD process in the LAC region, as particularly witnessed at this meeting where more than 25 organizations from the Caribbean, Mesoamerica and the South American Continent were present and participated in the elaboration of these conclusions and recommendations.

Recommendation

17. *The commitment of a wide range of stakeholders must be encouraged, notably through the participation in the work of the National Coordinating Body (NCB) and in such areas as local level organization, capacity building, awareness campaigns, research and education.*
18. *A strengthened commitment for public /private partnership should provide an incentive framework for enlarging stakeholders involvement.*
19. *To encourage and promote more effective participation of women and youth in the CCD implementation.*
20. *Country parties are encouraged to effectively include local and indigenous communities in NAP formulation and implementation while drawing on their knowledge systems and appropriate traditional practices.*

III. LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS OR ARRANGEMENTS

21. Institutional, legislative and regulatory arrangements with regard to the sustainable management of land-based natural resources including land degradation, desertification and forestry are rarely coherent and updated. Their proper enforcement is often a cause for concern.
22. The crucial role of the national coordinating body to work with the national focal points was recognized. In particular, participants emphasized the need for a more representative and fully funded institution, backed by high-level political support that may assist in harmonizing potentially diverging strategic frameworks.

Recommendations

23. *Country Parties are encouraged to strengthen National Coordinating Bodies, as appropriate, to enable them to effectively carry out their responsibilities in the implementation of the UNCCD and in contributing to the harmonization of land management policies.*
24. *The harmonization, adjustment and/or updating of existing legislative frameworks should assist in establishing, at the national level, linkages between the new legal frameworks on forests and ecosystem land management, as well as linkages with food security, poverty reduction strategies, and policies to facilitate the holistic mainstreaming of the issues of the UNCCD.*
25. *The Regional Coordinating Unit of the UNCCD Secretariat, together with all involved partners, is called upon to provide support to the countries of the region in achieving greater legal and institutional coherence aimed at implementing the Convention and facilitating the delivery of effective land management policies.*

IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND COORDINATION, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, INCLUDING CONCLUSION OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

26. The wide ranging developmental and environmental objectives of the UNCCD cannot be achieved in the region without a substantial and predictable level of financial resources to LAC country Parties, aimed at securing enabling activities, strengthening their capacity for the implementation of the UNCCD and covering the costs of priority activities of NAPs, SRAPs and RAP as well as the activities of the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Secretariat.
27. The inadequate level of external funding in the period under review is a matter of grave concern since the LAC country Parties have faced severe challenges, such as chronic and deteriorating economic conditions, recurrent drought and increased vulnerability to natural disasters in a context of climate change, biodiversity loss and the further shrinking of natural resources linked to chronic rural poverty.
28. Some LAC country Parties have been facing the dilemma resulting on one side, from increasing land degradation, and on the other side, the shrinking trend of official development assistance by earmarking provisions in the national budget, by using new cost-effective approaches and by applying strategies for the mainstreaming of the convention issues.



29. There are opportunities to be emphasized in promoting the design and use of innovative economic instruments such as payment for environmental services that allow the channeling of domestic sources to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought at all levels and placing investments in the rural areas on the political agendas.
30. The LAC country Parties have noted that many developed country Parties, international organizations and multilateral financial institutions have not yet adjusted their procedures for the delivery of program resources in line with their commitments as Parties to the Convention.
31. The Conference urges strongly the WSSD and the GEF Assembly to designate the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, so as to provide the Convention with adequate and predictable funding to achieve its objectives in a timely and efficient manner, while recognizing the complementary role of the GM.
32. The Conference acknowledges the collaboration between the UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat and underline the necessity for the Executive Secretary of the Convention, the Chairman of the Conference and the Chairman of the GRULAC in conjunction with the developed country Parties to the Convention, to take all necessary measures and arrangements to follow up the decisions adopted by the last GEF Council in May 2002 as well as the second GEF Assembly related to the financing of the UNCCD in the LAC countries.
33. The GM and its Facilitation Committee shall focus their activities on mobilization and channeling of financial resources in accordance with their mandate in order to accelerate the implementation process of the Convention in LAC.

Recommendations

34. *A decision at COP 6 should invite affected country Parties and developed country Parties to set up, on a voluntary basis, a country driven consultative mechanism in countries that have finalized their NAP. Interested multilateral organizations in these affected countries should actively participate in this dialogue between parties that should be facilitated by the GEF, the Global Mechanism and the secretariat in the light of their respective mandates. The purpose of this mechanism is consensus building with regard to best strategic options and concrete resources mobilization for NAP implementation.*
35. *Development partners are called upon to reconsider their policies and procedures with a view to participate in a structured manner in the proposed dialogue and to simplify application requirements and access to their respective bilateral development funding for the implementation of the UNCCD programmes .*
36. *The COP 6, in the framework of the review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM required by the Convention, should assess the performance of the GM in mobilizing and channeling financial resources including financial support for transfer of technology to affected country Parties in accordance with its mandate.*
37. *Adequate financial resources for the implementation of the UNCCD should be secured in the aftermath of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) so as to contribute to the eradication of rural poverty, particularly in the vulnerable arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems and an indicative magnitude of the necessary financial requirements to this effect should be identified to project a clear planning before COP7.*



38. *The UNCCD Secretariat, together with interested Agencies and institutions, is invited to facilitate studies and sharing experiences on options for sustainable economic activities at community level in affected areas with a view to present opportunities for employment and increased income generation.*
39. *This Conference urges developed countries to fulfill their financial commitments with UNCCD, considering that the affected developing countries have been allocating resources although marginally, for the implementation of the CCD and have been raising systematically pertinent NAP programming as well as funding issues in their regular negotiations with developed country Parties.*
40. *The UNCCD Secretariat is called upon to provide, in collaboration with interested partner agencies, the needed support to strengthen the negotiating capabilities of affected Parties at the international level, in order to finalize arrangements for the formulation and implementation of the NAP.*
41. *The GEF is called upon, at its Second Assembly meeting in Beijing in October 2002 to adopt the recommendations of the GEF Council concerning the designation of Land Degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area so as to effectively increase GEF support to the successful implementation of the UNCCD, and to identify the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD taking into account the role of the GM.*
42. *The Interamerican Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the Andean Development Corporation and other multilateral funding agencies are called upon to provide financial resources and facilitate pre-feasibility studies for investment projects with the view to enable LAC country Parties to undertake larger investment programs in the context of the implementation of the Convention.*
43. *The UNCCD Secretariat is called upon to provide information to individual country Parties indicating the financial obligations to cover the period including the year 2003.*

V. LINKAGES AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

44. The process of strengthening synergies in the region must be understood in the context of the integration of the process of implementation of the Convention into national strategies for sustainable development. The support of the CCD Secretariat in the organization of targeted national synergies workshops helped countries of the region to assess options for linking in a more sustained manner the activities regarding desertification, biological diversity and climate change.
45. The definition of a process of synergies among the sustainable development conventions in LAC has been centered on the improvement of procedures and operative integration at the country level, in order to respond to the need for the establishment of sound procedures and reliable mechanisms and to harness the existing initiatives that satisfy the objectives of the conventions.
46. This process contributed to the identification of possible strategic approaches in the development and launching of joint activities, in avoiding the duplication of efforts and increasing cost-efficiency but follow up activities could not be secured without financial support.

Recommendations

47. *The achievement of synergies with UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar Convention and other relevant international environmental instruments should be coordinated with initiatives and actions directed to the implementation of the conventions at the national level in such a way that it can contribute directly to the harmonization of national sustainable development policies and implement integrated, cost-effective programs and activities to this end.*
48. *The LAC countries request the Secretariat, in cooperation with other Convention secretariats and interested agencies, to expand the number of national synergy workshops and to continue facilitating this process at the country level so as to further enhance the decision-makers capacity to fully implement the convention in a synergistic manner and invite developed country parties to provide the Secretariat with voluntary funding to this effect.*

VI. MEASURES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED LAND AND FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

49. Water scarcity, water and wind erosion, loss of soil fertility, forest decline, catastrophes due to extreme weather events and prolonged drought are some of the issues that affect LAC eco systems, particularly the Andean mountain eco system.
50. There is a wide range of measures taken in terms of land rehabilitation and mitigation of the effects of drought in the LAC region. In this context the Convention has yet to make its impact felt as it must now move from the programming to the operational phase.
51. At present, most of the measures taken seem to respond to short term imperatives and are not linked to the sustainable rehabilitation of degraded lands nor do they constitute a sustained response to disaster mitigation, prevention and risk management.
52. LAC country Parties need support in training, exchanges and demonstration programmes to communicate knowledge of best practices to manage lands in a sustainable manner and to increase the use of science and technology for the mitigation of the impacts of natural disasters, including recurrent drought.

Recommendations

53. *Participants stressed the need to strengthen interaction among countries of the region so as to increase the information flow, to promote South-South research ventures, to stimulate the dissemination of appropriate technology and know-how.*
54. *The UNCCD Secretariat, with other relevant international organizations, is invited to support the efforts to share experiences and capacities among countries in the field of forestation, reforestation and watershed management. The countries recommend that the Secretariat should make efforts to mobilize financial resources in order to organize a regional seminar and arrange a task group on watershed management.*

VII. DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

55. Some LAC country Parties have a comparative advantage in the development of several sets of benchmarks and indicators on desertification and drought, ranging from diagnosis to monitoring as well as assessment indicators. They are developing several initiatives to identify benchmarks and indicators to diagnose situations and monitor, assess and help implementing concrete activities.
56. Other LAC country Parties suffer from the lack of sound systems for early warning and drought preparedness.

Recommendations

57. *The LAC country parties exhort each other to make the best use of the DESELAC network in the field of early warning systems, providing and exchanging valuable technical information and sharing best practices and experiences.*
58. *The LAC country parties call upon the UNCCD Secretariat and interested international agencies to support joint initiatives, experiences, activities related to development of indicators and benchmarks; interaction with programs in other regions (MEDRAP), the holding of a seminar on indicators and benchmarks for LAC in Argentina, as a mechanism to strengthen the RAP.*
59. *The LAC country Parties request the UNCCD Secretariat, the WMO and interested partner agencies to extend full support for the further development and implementation of a comprehensive program on early warning systems for the Caribbean and Mesoamerican country Parties, including the strengthening of their technical capabilities and community-based organizational activities to make the program operational.*
60. *Initiatives on early warning systems should draw strong partnerships between the UNCCD Secretariat and other agencies, like the World Meteorological Organization and the GEF.*

VIII. ACCESS BY AFFECTED COUNTRY PARTIES, PARTICULARLY AFFECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES, TO APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW HOW

61. Several best practices, including biomass generation (like *quezungual* model) and zero tillage, have been already successfully applied in a number of countries of the region representing valuable alternatives for land users also regarding their competitive economic advantage.

Recommendations

62. *It is necessary to disseminate and apply, where appropriate, the findings derived from traditional knowledge and best practices, also when in combination with modern technologies, and adapted to local conditions.*
63. *The CST and its group of experts should propose ways and means to strengthen the capacity of scientific and academic institutions in LAC to develop synergistic programmes based on sound land use practices.*

IX. PRIORITIES AT NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

1. National level

64. According to art 10 of the Convention, country Parties have to elaborate and implement in a participatory manner their NAP so as to guarantee the coherence of the UNCCD process and its integration in the respective national sustainable development strategies. Progress in this matter is still too slow when considering the deadline for NAP preparation contained in the Recife Initiative.
65. Furthermore, the rationalization of the enabling national macro policy and legal frameworks must represent a priority so as to avoid any conflict among provisions and allow the effective implementation of the Convention, promoting, *inter alia*, synergies among the existing sustainable development instruments.
66. Combating poverty requires the adoption of effective measures to operationalize participatory policies and launch concrete measures engineered with the aim to create an enabling framework for the promotion and development of sustainable and competitive economic alternatives directed towards income generation for affected communities.
67. Participants recognize the need to maximize the multiplier effect of resource allocation to affected areas through an enhanced framework for investment coordination conceived with the aim to ensure an increased overall coherence for domestic and international operational interventions at the field level.

2. Regional and sub-regional levels

68. Considering integrated watershed management as the key issue for combating land degradation in the region, LAC country Parties should identify those common transboundary ecosystems that can foster horizontal cooperation, with the aim to analyze problems, assess existing and required capacities and promote suitable as well replicable solutions.

69. There are several positive examples of international cooperation among countries of the region, like the Central American Committee on Desertification that brings about economies of scale and coherent negotiations of the participant country Parties.
70. The LAC country Parties emphasize the need to build upon the experiences and successes of El Gran Chaco Americano and la Puna Americana Sub-regional Action Programmes to define guidelines and methodologies for future sustainable initiatives at the sub-regional level.
71. RAP and SRAP implementation are hindered by chronic lack of funding as well as weak partnerships. Participants welcome the initiative of the Secretariat to reactivate its Regional Coordinating Unit in Mexico City, which will help enhancing priority actions such as DESELAC and RAP/SRAP implementation through capacity building at national and sub-regional levels.

Recommendations

72. *LAC country Parties that have not yet completed their National Action Programs (NAPs) are urged to continue taking all necessary measures and accelerate the process for their elaboration and adoption not later than the end of 2005, as recommended by decision 8/COP 4.*
73. *The successful experiences of regional or sub-regional integration in the negotiations of the UNCCD, such as the Central American Committee on Desertification and Drought, should be replicated also in the Caribbean and the South American countries.*
74. *The UNCCD Secretariat is urged to reactivate and strengthen the work of the Regional Coordinating Unit, with a view to enhance priority actions at national, sub-regional and regional levels such as RAP/SRAP and DESELAC implementation as well as the coordination of GEF integrated initiatives. Particular emphasis should be placed on ensuring adequate and predictable financial resources through budgetary funds and voluntary contributions.*
75. *LAC countries should make necessary efforts, in coordination with parties from other regions, for the formal establishment of the RCU during COP 6, considering the need for the allocation of adequate funds for its operation.*
76. *Regional and sub-regional institutions are encouraged to continue their integration efforts, particularly regarding the preparation and implementation of sub-regional action programs and transboundary activities.*
77. *The Secretariat of the UNCCD, with the support of the GEF, the Global Mechanism and partner Agencies, is urged to support LAC Country Parties in the development of a regional program on watershed management.*
78. *The LAC country parties request the support of the UNCCD Secretariat, in collaboration with interested partners, in the development of a comprehensive regional project on benchmarks and indicators that strengthen the implementation of the Regional Action Programme and its sub-regional components, particularly through the instruments already in place in its Regional Coordinating Unit, such as DESELAC.*
79. *The UNCCD Secretariat, in collaboration with relevant international agencies and organizations, such as UNDP, UNEP, WMO, FAO, IFAD, IDB and UN/ECLAC, and*

bilateral donors, is invited to continue providing support for the implementation of the UNCCD at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

X. GLOBAL POLICY MATTERS

80. LAC Parties commend the initiatives facilitated by the UNCCD Secretariat in preparation of WSSD through the Preparatory Conference to the WSSD held in Praia (Cape Verde), and the Africa-LAC Forum held in Caracas (Venezuela).
81. The effects of desertification and drought must be clearly perceived. Forced migration from affected rural areas to the agricultural frontier, the urban dwellings contribute to social marginalisation, political instability and conflicts. Desertification and drought is an increasingly dominant cause for such forced migratory patterns. The Convention contributes to securing a better long-term balance between urban and rural communities, particularly by recognizing the right of the people of the drylands to sustainable livelihood in their habitat. Special emphasis should be placed on land tenure issues.
82. As some of the economic, financial and trade imperatives driving the process of globalization seem, at times, to contribute to growing income discrepancies and to the deterioration of the terms of trade between rich and poor countries, one must recall that a full implementation of UNCCD programs would contribute to restore some global equity, while alleviating increasing concerns that globalization will lead to the irreversible marginalisation of people living in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid eco systems

Recommendations

83. *The Plenary of this Regional Meeting recommends actions to ensure that the Regional Representatives of High Level Delegations to the WSSD in Johannesburg and to the GEF General Assembly include in their presentations the subject of desertification and the elements of global policy discussed in the present Regional Meeting.*
84. *At the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, LAC country Parties should emphasize the need for investments in rural development in the affected areas and highlight in this respect the role that the implementation of UNCCD may play in achieving greater policy coherence for the management of natural resources.*
85. *All Parties are invited to review budgetary allocations for promoting participatory and integrated local rural development. While LAC country Parties should earmark a higher portion of their national budget to this effect, developed country Parties are invited to integrate this priority in the provision of new and additional resources under the forthcoming allocation of Official Development Assistance (ODA).*
86. *The WSSD is invited to declare the UNCCD as a global instrument for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development in most vulnerable areas and to ensure adequate and predictable financial resources and capacity building at national and local levels*
87. *Improved access of drylands products on the international markets should be granted as it would contribute to sustainable livelihood in affected areas and stimulate the involvement of the private sector in combating desertification.*



88. *The development partners together with the GEF secretariat and GEF focal points in LAC countries are urged to fully recognize the potential of the UNCCD for promoting integrated programs with genuine local ownership and for eradicating poverty.*

ANNEX III

DECLARATION ON TRADITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

1. **Considering** that combating desertification requires of practical actions in relation to the adequate use of the natural resources specially land and water;
2. **Taking into account** that the farmer's participation and other land workers, in reversal of the desertification process is an unavoidable condition to attack the root of this problem;
3. **Recognising** that the rescue of sustainable systems, traditional technologies of local communities and indigenous peoples (i.e. zero tillage, Quezungual model and others), is an opportunity not, as yet, profitably been used according to its potentialities;
4. **Recalling** that countries rescuing these technological packages are experimenting success at a participatory level, through the acceptance of the occupants of the degraded zones, and obtaining positive results with the improvement of natural resources, specially land and water;
5. **Taking into account** the above, representatives of Argentina, Honduras and Paraguay, participating at this VIII CCD Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean country Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD),

DECLARE THAT

The rescue of traditional sustainable systems and technologies of local communities and indigenous people, be treated with adequate relevant priority by the Committee of Science and Technology (CST), with the intention to get it be included vigorously, as an option when formulating/implementing National Action Programmes.

Done in Bridgetown (Barbados) on the 30th day of the month of July 2002

ANNEX IV

PROGRAM OF WORK

<u>Monday, 29th July</u>	
08:00 - 09:30	Arrival and registration of participants
09:30 - 10:00	Opening ceremony: Welcome and opening remarks by the representative of the Government of Barbados Speech by the UNCCD Executive Secretary Speech by the Minister of Physical Planning and the Environment of Barbados
10:00 - 10:15	Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD Secretariat and CARICOM Brief remarks by the UNCCD Executive Secretary Brief remarks by the CARICOM Secretary-General
10:15 - 10:30	Election of the Bureau of the Meeting Adoption of the Agenda of the Meeting
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 - 11:15	Consideration of the outcomes of COP 5, especially concerning the CRIC process: Presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat
11:15- 12:15	Presentation of national reports by: 1) Argentina; 2) Bolivia; 3) Brazil; 4) Chile; 5) Paraguay; 6) Uruguay
12:15 - 13:05	Discussion
13:05 - 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 - 15:30	Presentation of national reports by: 1) Costa Rica; 2) El Salvador; 3) Honduras; 4) Panama; 5) Mexico
15:30 - 16:20	Discussion
16:20 - 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 - 17:40	Presentation of national reports by: 1) Antigua and Barbuda; 2) The Bahamas; 3) Barbados; 4) Cuba; 5) Dominica; 6) Grenada
<u>Tuesday, 30th July</u>	
09:00 - 10:10	Presentation of national reports by: 1) Haiti; 2) Jamaica; 3) St. Lucia; 4) St. Vincent and The Grenadines; 5) Suriname; 6) Trinidad and Tobago
10:10 - 11:00	Discussion
11:00 - 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:15 - 11:55	Presentation of national reports by: 1) Colombia; 2) Ecuador; 3) Peru; 4) Venezuela
11:55 - 12:40	Discussion
12:40 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 14:15	Presentation on Science and Technology issues
14:15 - 14:25	Presentation of the RIOD Report
14:25 - 14:35	Presentation by the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development: " <i>Civil society and effective participatory process</i> "
14:35 - 14:45	Report on the outcomes of the Workshop of the Caribbean NGOs
16:00 - 16:20	General discussion, wrap-up and conclusions
16:15 - 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 - 16:40	Presentation by Germany
16:40 - 16:50	Presentation by the Global Mechanism
16:50 - 17:00	Presentations by other donor countries present at the meeting

Wednesday, 31st July

09:00 - 09:10	Presentation by the Interamerican Development Bank
09:10 - 09:20	Presentation by the UNFCCC Secretariat
09:20 - 09:30	Presentation by Argentina on ongoing activities in the framework of the MEDRAP project
09:30 - 10:30	Discussion
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 - 11:00	Presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat on the status of the Convention in the agenda of GEF
11:00 - 13:00	General discussion and recommendations
13:00 - 14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 - 17:00	(Drafting committee on conclusions and recommendations)
19.00	<i>Cultural events offered by the Government of Barbados</i>

Thursday, 1st August

09:00 - 09:15	Preliminary report of the Rapporteur
09:15 - 09:45	Presentations: of the report of the UNCCD Secretariat and of the Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee (including UCR discussion)
09:45 - 10:00	Election of the new Regional Executive Committee
10:00 - 11:00	Presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat on methodological issues of the CRIC Nomination of representatives from the LAC region in the CRIC Bureau Election of nine (9) countries for the thematic presentations to the first session of the CRIC
11:00 - 11:30	Adoption of the final report of the VIII LAC Regional Meeting
11.45 - 12:00	Closure of the meeting
12:00 - 18:00	<i>Field trip organised by the Government of Barbados</i>



ANNEX V

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Antigua & Barbuda	Mr. Ato Lewis	Environmental Officer Ministry of Environment	(1-268) 462 4625	(1-268) 462 6398	environment@antiguabarbuda.net or atojam@hotmail.com
Argentina	Mr. Octavio Pérez Pardo	Director National Directorate for Sustainable Development and Environment – Ministry of Social Development and Environment	(54-11) 4348 8512 /8621	(54-11) 4348 8628	opardo@medioambiente.gov.ar
Argentina	Mr. Daniel Tomasini	Director Land Conservation Dept. – Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development	(54-11) 4348 8567	(54-11) 4348 8532	dtomasin@medioambiente.gov.ar or desersuelo@medioambiente.gov.ar
Argentina	Ms. Eleana Marie Abraham	Scientific Research on Desertification - Argentinean Institut for Arid Zones (IADIZA)	(54-261) 428 7995	(54-261) 428 0080	abraham@lab.cricyt.edu.ar
Barbados	Ms. Karen Smith	Environment Officer Ministry of Physical Development & Environment	(1-246) 431 7682	(1-246) 437 8859	technical@meenr.gov.bb
Barbados	Mr. Leonard Fields	Senior Meteorologist Barbados Meteorological Services	(1-246) 428 9834	(1-246) 428 1676	leonardofields@yahoo.com
Barbados	Ms. Shelly Bend	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(1-246) 431 2254	(1-246) 429 6652	sbend@foreign.gov.bb
Barbados	Ms. S. Natalie Burke	Foreign Service Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(1-246) 431 2200/61	(1-246) 429 6652	nburke@foreign.gov.bb
Bahamas	Mrs. Nakira Gaskin-Wilchcombe	Supervisor of Computer Operations The Bahamas Environment, Science & Technology Commission	(1-242) 327 4691	(1-242) 327 4626	bestnbs@hotmail.com



Bolivia	Mr. David Rada Riveros	Consultant Vice-Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Forest Development	(591-22) 312 475 / 311 057	(591-22) 312 475	drada@coord.rds.org.bo
Brazil	Ms. Nadima de Mascedo Paiva Nascimento	Advisor Secretariat for Water Resources - Ministry of Environment	(55-61) 317 1456 / -8246		nnascimento@snirh.gov.br or nadima@hotmail.com
Brazil	Ms. Glauca Silveira Gauch	Embassy of Brazil in Barbados Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(246) 427 1735	(246) 427 1444	gauch@mre.gov.br
Chile	Mr. Wilfred Alfaro Catalan	UNCCD Focal Point National Committee on Forest (CONAF)	(562) 390 0247	(562) 390 0250	walfaro@conaf.cl
Colombia	Dr. Zoraida Fajardo Rodriguez	Advisor Ministry of Environment	(571) 340 6206	(571) 340 6206	zfajardo@minambiente.gov.co
Costa Rica	Mr. Mariano Espinoza Camacho	UNCCD Focal Point Ministry of Environment	(506) 283 8004	(506) 283 7343	marianoe@minae.go.cr
Cuba	Ms. Maria Nery Urquiza Rodriguez	Environmental Specialist Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	(53-7) 202-9351	(53-7) 204 9031	nery@ama.cu
Cuba	Mr. Hector Conde Almeida	Environmental Specialist Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	(53-7) 867 0606	(53-7) 338 054	conde@citma.cu
Dominica	Mr. Mark John	Environmental Coordinating Unit - Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	(1-767) 448 4577	(1-767) 448 4577	agriext@cwdom.dm
Ecuador	Mr. José Eduardo Gonzalez Estrella	UNDP/UNSO/UNV Technical Focal Point Ministry of Environment	(593) 758 5421	(593) 7 58 5421	Eduardo.Gonzalez@undp or podocam@impsat.net.ec or forestal@ambiente.gov.ec
El Salvador	Mr. Carlos Salazar	UNCCD Focal Point Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	(503) 260 3114	(503) 260 3114	desertificacion@marn.gob.sv
Grenada	Mr. Augustus Thomas	Forest Conservation Officer Forestry and National Parks Dept	(1-473) 440 2934	(1-473) 440 6197	fnpd@caribsurf.com



Haiti	Mr. Joseph Vernet	UNCCD Focal Point Ministry of Environment	(509) 405 3440 / 245 0504	(509) 245 7360	josephvernet@yahoo.fr
Honduras	Mr. Carlos H. Pineda Hejia	Vice Minister of Environment Secretariat for Natural Resources and Environment	(504) 235 3356	(504) 235 4154	ssamb@sdnhon.org.hn
Jamaica	Mr. Philbert Brown	Senior Director Ministry of Water & Housing	(1-876) 754 4543	(1-876) 926 0081	sdemow@cwjamaica.com
Mexico	Mr. Victor Manuel Huitron	UNCCD Focal Point Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources	(548) 43511	(548) 43511	dgforestal@semarnat.gov.mx
Panama	Ms. Abril Méndez	Chief of the National Service for Water Resources Management - National Authority for the Environment	(507) 232 7227 / 232 7229	(507) 232 6884 / -7226	abrilmendez@hotmail.com
Paraguay	Mr. Luis E. Molinas	UNCCD Focal Point Secretariat for Environment	(595-21) 611 764	(595-21) 611 764	lmolinas@telesurf.com.py or ccdparag@rieder.net.py
Peru	Mr. Jorge Millones Olano	General Director for Environmental Affairs – National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA)	(511) 225 1112	(511) 225 1112 / 224 3298 / -3218	inrena-ambiental@dgas.gob.pe or jmillones@dgas.gob.pe
St. Lucia	Mr. Cornelius Isaac	Assistant Chief Forestry Officer Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	(1-758) 450 2078	(1-758) 450-2287	cornelius@slucia.com
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	Dr. Reynold Murray	Environmental Coordinator Ministry of Health and the Environment	(1-784) 485 6992	(1-784) 457 2684	svgenv@vincysurf.com
Suriname	Mr. Gordon Babel	Lecturer at the University of Suriname - MINOS	(597) 465 558 ext 329	(597) 495 005	g_babel@yahoo.com or gbabel@lycos.nl or gbabel@hotmail.com
Trinidad & Tobago	Mrs. Vidiah Ramkhelawan	Senior Planning Officer Ministry of Public Utilities & the Environment	(1-868) 625 6658	(1-868) 625 7003	environment@tstt.net.tt



Uruguay	Ms. Giselle Beja Valent	Adviser Ministry of Housing, Land and Environment	(598-2) 917 0615 /-16	(598-2) 917 0614	gbeja@comercialnet.com.uy or gbeja@hotmail.com
Venezuela	Mr. Rodolfo Roa	UNCCD Technical Focal Point Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)	(58-212) 408 2176/-75	(58-212) 408 2177	rroa@marn.gov.ve
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS					
CNIRD (Trinidad y Tobago)	Ms. Zakiya Uzoma Wadada	Director	(1-868) 662 6473	(1-868) 662 2612	cnird@carib-link-net/zwadada@hotmail.com
	Ms. Melina Eustace	Administrative Officer	(1-868) 662 6473	(1-868) 662 2612	cnird@carib-link.net
RIOD Fundacion del Sur (Argentina)	Juan Luis Merega	Director	(54-11) 4361 8549	(54-11) 4307 0545	jlmerega@fundasur.org.ar
IDIH (Honduras)	Mrs. Ana Sierra Andeno	Executive Director	(504) 231 1548	(504) 239 3050	zelayas@aduhon.org.hn
Earth Action (Chile)	Mrs. Viviane Castro Salinas	Regional Coordinator, LAC Earth Action Network (RIOD Subregional Focal Point, Southern Zone)	(562) 735 7559	(562) 737 2897	Santiago@earthaction.tie.cl or vivianec@vtr.net
Instituto Desert (Brazil)	Mr. Valdemar Rodrigues	Director	(55-86) 233 5123	(55-86) 233 5123	desertpi@uol.com.br
Gilbert Agricult. & Rural Develop. Centre (Antigua)	Mrs. Roberta Williams	Director	(1-268) 463-4121	(1-268) 562 0084	robinlw@yahoo.com
Caribbean Youth Envir. Network (Barbados)	Mr. Osmond Harewood,		(1-246) 423 3980 (Home) (1-246) 422 4108 (Work)		osmondh@yahoo.com
Belize Audubon Society (Belize)	Mrs. Diane Wade-Moore	Director Advocacy & Policy	(501-2) 235 004		base@btl.net



The Dominica Youth Environment Organization (Dominica)	Mr. Terry Raymond		(1-767) 449 8012	(1-767) 449 2160	tor70@cwdom.dm
PRONATURA (Dominican Republic)	Mr. Cesar Vargas	Assistant Director	(1-809) 687-5609	(1-809) 687 5766	pronatura@codetel.net.do
GRENCODA (Granada)	Ms. Judy Williams		(1-473) 444 9490	(1-473) 444 8777	grenco@caribsurf.com
GuyberNet (Guyana)	Mr. Trevor Benn,	Director	(59-22) 262 804	(59-22) 262 135	gybernet@networksgy.com
COHPEDA (Haiti)	Mr. Calixte Aldrin		(509) 245 2080	(509) 245 7043	cohpeda@haitelonline.com
St. Elizabeth Envir. Protection Association (Jamaica)	Mr. Anthony Freckleton		(1-876) 961 4142	(1-876) 961 0119	mandweekly@cwjamaica.com
St. Lucia National Trust (St. Lucia)	Mr. Augustine Dominique		(1-758) 452 5005	(1-758) 453 2791	natrust@candw.lc
Windward Islands Farmers' Assoc. (WINFA) (St. Vincent & The Grenadines)	Mr. Wilberforce Emanuel		(1-784) 456 2704	(1-784) 456 1383	winfa@caribsurf.com
Forum NGOs (Suriname)	Soetjipto Verkuijl		(597) 422 610/475 992	(597) 477 696	forumngo@sr.net
Environment Tobago (Tobago)	Mr. Kamau Akili	Vice President,	(1-868) 660 7462	(1-868) 660 7467	kakili@tstt.net.tt



Protectors of the Environment (Trinidad)	Mr. Peter Rampersad		(1-868)646 1524		poe-1990@hotmail.com
DONOR COUNTRIES					
Germany	Ms. Ingrid Prem	Technical Advisor GTZ	(49-6196) 791 457	(49-6196) 797 153	Ingrid.Premm@gtz.de
Italy	Mr. Giorgio Trabattoni	Counsellor – Foreign Ministry Directorate for the Development Cooperation	(39-06) 3691 3148	(39-06) 3691 5424	giorgio.trabattoni@esteri.it
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS					
Interamerican Development Bank	Mr. Carlos López Ocaña	Senior Ecologist Environmental Division	(1-202) 623 1847	(1-202) 623 1786	carlosl@iadb.org
Caribbean Development Bank	Ms. Cheryl Dixon	Project Officer (Environment)	(1-246) 431 1600	(1-246) 426 7269	dixonc@caribank.org
European Commission	Mr. Bonifa Cilis De Jonge	European Commission Delegation in Barbados	(1-246) 427 4362		bonifacius.dejonge@delbrb.cec.eu.int
CPACC (Barbados)	Mr. Rawleston Moore	Project officer Regional Project Implementation Unit	(1-246) 417 4580	(1-246) 417 0461	moorecpacc@sunbeach.net
CPACC (Barbados)	Dr. Neville Trotz	Project Manager Regional Project Implementation Unit	(1-246) 417 4581	(1-246) 417 0461	trotzcpacc@sunbeach.net
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Ms. Martha Perdomo	Manager Non-Annex 1 Implementation Programme	(49-228) 815 1409	(49-228) 815 1999	mperdomo@unfccc.int
Ramsar Convention	Ms. Nadra Nathai-Gyan	Head Wildlife Section (T&T)	(1-868) 645 4288	(1-868) 645 4288	wildlife@trinidad.net
Global Mechanism (GM)	Ms. Anna Saez	Program Manager for LAC Global Mechanism of UNCCD	(39-06) 5459 2150 / -2149	(39-06) 5459 2135	a.saez@ifad.org
Global Mechanism (GM)	Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick	Associate Programme Manager Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean	(39-06) 5459 2524	(39-06) 5459 2135	a.kilpatrick@ifad.org



Global Mechanism (GM)	Mr. Michael Johnson	Associate Programme Manager Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean	(39-06) 5459 2558	(39-06) 5459 3135	mjohnson@ifad.org
UNEP/ROLAC	Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa	Director	(52-55) 5520 4000	(52-55) 5202 0950	ricardo.sanchez@rolac.unep.mx
World Meteorologic Organisation (WMO)	Mr. Momadou Saho	Scientific Officer	(41-22) 730 8205	(41-22) 7308181	saho_m@gateway.cwm.ch
UNCCD	Amb. Hama Arba Diallo	Executive Secretary	(49-228) 815 2802	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	srastetter-roumat@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mr. Gregoire de Kalbermatten	Principal Coordinator	(49-228) 815 2824	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	gdkalbermatten@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mr. Sergio Zelaya	Co-ordinator Latin America and the Caribbean Facilitation Unit	(49-228) 815 2825	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	szelaya@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mr. Rajeb Boulharouf	Co-ordinator External relations and Public Information Unit UNCCD Spokesperson	(49-228) 815 2814	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	rboulharouf@unccd.int
UNCCD	Ms. Loredana Profeta	Associate Programme Officer Latin America and the Caribbean Facilitation Unit	(49-228) 815 28 31	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	lprofeta@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mr. Marcos Montoiro	Associate Officer External relations and Public Information Unit	(49) 228 815 2806	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	mmontoiro@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mrs. Celia Nabeta	Administrative Assistant	(49) 228 815 2837	(49-228) 815 2898 / 99	cnabeta@unccd.int
UNCCD	Mr. Heitor Matallo	Coordinator UNCCD/Regional Coordination Unit	(55) 61 468 7903 349 5370		heitor@mens.com.br