

## **CONCLUSIONS**

### **Second regional meeting to strengthen the cooperation among Northern Mediterranean (NM) countries in the field of land resources management**

*21 October 2005, Nairobi, Kenya*

On the occasion of the first regional meeting to strengthen the cooperation among Northern Mediterranean countries in the field of land resources management held in Bonn, Germany in May 2004, participants agreed to undertake regional cooperation through four pillars: networking/scientific cooperation, exchange of technology/expertise/know how, training/capacity building and documentation/materials/publications. In particular, NM countries provided a significant contribution to the identification of a portfolio of initiatives for regional cooperation by proposing some activities under the four mentioned pillars.

As a result of the Bonn meeting, focal points and/or representatives of NM country Parties made more clarification on their proposals and it was agreed that countries which made proposal would further advance their proposals in coordination with the Secretariat.

The objective of this second regional meeting was to discuss the current status of these proposals in order to prepare a calendar of regional activities for 2006-2007 for NM country Parties.

As agreed procedure, following the order of accession/ ratification date at the UNCCD of the NM countries and taking into account the participating countries at the meeting, Turkey was elected Chair of the meeting.

Representatives of the UNCCD Europe Coordination Unit, focal points from the NM countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey and from Israel and France, as observers, as well as a number of experts from those countries participated in the meeting (See Annex II).

The staff of the Europe Coordination Unit of UNCCD has kindly ensured that room allocation as well other facilities be provided for the meeting at UN premises in Nairobi.

#### **Pillar 1. Scientific cooperation/networking among NM countries in the field of land resources management**

After the presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat of the list of activities proposed made by NM countries under this first pillar, participating countries provided information on the current status of their proposals. Countries which confirmed their readiness to provide a host institution for the establishment of NM Regional Thematic Network(s) (RTNs) in the biennium 2006-2007, are as follows:

- **Bosnia& Herzegovina** on "Promotion and use of Mediterranean plant/tree species";
- **France** on "Sustainable agricultural policies";
- **Spain** on "Rehabilitation techniques for degraded soils";
- **Malta** on "Slope terracing, reconstruction, protection, promotion" (confirmed by email sent to the UNCCD Secretariat).

The meeting also took note of the working document prepared by the UNCCD Secretariat containing proposed steps to be undertaken in relation to the establishment of a Regional Thematic Network.

→ *In line with these steps, the above-mentioned countries were invited to send as soon as possible to the Secretariat a one-page maximum note on major objectives/activities of their RTN as well as its exact title.*

Countries, which made other proposals to host a RTN (such as Portugal- “Forest fire monitoring and control”), but which cannot do it immediately for various reasons, were invited to inform the CCD secretariat as well as other Annex IV countries at any future regional meetings as soon as they are ready to do so.

## **Pillar 2. Exchange of technology/expertise/know how among NM countries in the field of land resources management**

After the presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat of the list of proposals made by NM countries under this second pillar, participating countries provided information on the current status of their proposals. Countries which confirmed their readiness to organize technical workshops for NM to discuss/ promote exchange of technology, methodology and/or savoir-faire during the biennium 2006-2007, are as follows:

- **Portugal** on “Formulation of pilot projects for integrated sustainable rural development”;
- **Turkey** on “Control of overgrazing/stock levels/rangeland management” AND on “Formulation of pilot projects for integrated sustainable rural development”.

→ *The above-mentioned countries were invited to send as soon as possible to the Secretariat the planned date of their workshop to be integrated within a calendar of Annex IV activities to avoid major overlapping with other activities at national, regional or international levels to be held in 2006.*

Countries from Annex IV, which made other proposals (such as Portugal- “Forest fire monitoring and control”) to organize regional technical workshops for Annex IV countries, but which cannot do so immediately for various reasons, were invited to inform the CCD secretariat as well as other Annex IV countries at any future regional meetings as soon as they are ready to do so.

The meeting invited countries to consider the possibility of using any future relevant workshop that they may organize to invite other NM countries to participate, as was the case for three technical workshops organized by Italy in 2005.

## **Pillar 3. Training/capacity building among NM countries in the field of land resources management**

After the presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat of the list of proposals made by NM countries under this third pillar, participating countries provided information on the current status of their proposals. The countries which confirmed their readiness to use one of their existing national training centers as an NM Regional Training Centre (RTC) to organize regional training for NM on some thematic priority areas during the biennium 2006-2007, are as follows:

- **France** on “Sustainable agricultural policies”;

- **Spain** on “Rehabilitation techniques for degraded soils - Reforestation/Afforestation/tree plantation in affected areas”;
- **Turkey** on “Soil conservation strategies/ planning” and on “Reforestation/afforestation/ tree plantation in affected areas”;

➔ *The above-mentioned countries were invited to send as soon as possible to the Secretariat a one-page maximum note on major objectives/activities of their RTC as well as its exact title.*

Countries which made other proposals (such as Portugal- “Modeling of changes and trends in land degradation”, “Biodiversity management in dryland”) to organize regional training for NM but which cannot do so immediately for various reasons were invited to inform the CCD secretariat as well as Annex IV countries at any of future regional meetings as soon as they are ready to do so.

#### **Pillar 4. Documentation/ materials/ publications in the field of land resources management**

After the presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat of the list of proposals made by NM countries under this fourth pillar, participating countries provided information on the current status of their proposals. Countries which confirmed their readiness to use an existing national relevant institution to function as an NM Regional Reference Centre (RRC) on a specific thematic area, are as follows:

- **France** on “Sustainable agricultural policies”;
- **Portugal** on “Forest fire monitoring and control”;
- **Italy** on “Traditional knowledge” - Italy will confirm later on the type of the regional centre to be hosted RRC or RTN.

Israel, as observer, expressed interest to use one of their centres as an RRC on a specific area for NM and proposed to send detailed information to the UNCCD Secretariat for distribution among NM countries.

The meeting also took note of the working document prepared by the UNCCD Secretariat containing proposed steps to be undertaken in relation to using an existing national institution to function as a Regional Training Center.

Spain stated the possibility of contributing documentation on an “Inventory of the Technologies Operational in Spain to combat Desertification” that it may be developed within the next biennium.

➔ *In line with these steps, the above-mentioned countries were invited to send as soon as possible to the Secretariat a one-page maximum note on major objectives/activities of their RRC as well as its exact title.*

Countries which made other proposals (such as Portugal- “Modeling of changes and trends in land degradation”) to host a RRC, but which cannot do so immediately for various reasons, were invited to inform the CCD secretariat as well as other Annex IV countries at any future regional meetings as soon as they are ready to do so.

The current status of the proposals made by the NM countries as mentioned above, under the four pillars, have been reviewed and agreed as the Work Program of Regional Cooperation for the period of 2006-2007 were listed in the Annex I.

## **Further steps and other points**

- Regional NM cooperation

- ⇒ The meeting acknowledged the fact that all proposed activities for regional cooperation shall not be launched at the same time, but once it is launched it should be commitment for all interested partners;
- ⇒ Each NM country is welcome anytime to reactivate a former proposal or to introduce a new proposal for activities under the four pillars of regional cooperation as this should be a dynamic and evolving process;
- ⇒ All activities proposed until now by NM countries (including those which could not be launched) may form a portfolio of activities (platform) for NM regional cooperation.

- IYYD

- ⇒ Annex IV countries are invited to send information (in particular on date of the event) on a continuous basis to the UNCCD secretariat on the activities that they plan to undertake for the celebration of the IYDD as this information will be posted on a special IYDD website (with calendar of activities) which should be available soon (more guiding information can be provided from the Secretariat documents such as; “UN General Assembly Resolution 58/112”; “Report of the Secretary-General on “Status of preparation for IYDD” dated 27 July 2005; “Secretariat letter of 27 November 2005 Ref No:NM/RB/IYD2”; “Decision of 28/COP(7) - Celebration of the IYDD”).
- ⇒ The focal point of Israel introduced a conference on “Deserts and Desertification – Challenges and opportunities” to be held in November 2006 in Israel and proposed that the conference be included among the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) related regional activities of the Annex IV; The focal points of Annex IV who attended the meeting agreed on this proposal.

- Ministerial environmental conference for Europe

The UNCCD Secretariat informed the participants about the preparatory process of this important Conference to be held in Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro in 2007. It also highlighted the fact that, as observer to the first preparatory meeting, the Secretariat expressed its interest in having “environmental and economic consequences of land degradation in Europe” as a topic on the agenda of the Conference.

### **Annexes:**

- I. Draft calendar of regional NM activities (2006-2007)
- II. List of participants

**Annex I**

**Draft Calendar of regional NM activities (2006-2007)**

<b>Regional cooperation pillar</b>	<b>Country name</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>Regional Thematic Networks (RTN)</b>	<b>Bosnia&amp; Herzegovina, in cooperation with Serbia &amp; Montenegro</b>	Promotion and use of Mediterranean plant/tree species
	<b>France</b>	Sustainable agricultural policies
	<b>Malta</b>	Slope terracing
	<b>Spain</b>	Rehabilitation techniques for degraded soils
<b>Technical workshops</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	Formulation of pilot projects for integrated sustainable rural development
	<b>Turkey</b>	Control of overgrazing/stock levels/range management
		Formulation of pilot projects for integrated sustainable rural development
<b>Regional Training Centers (RTC)</b>	<b>France</b>	Sustainable agricultural policies
	<b>Spain</b>	Rehabilitation techniques for degraded soils- Reforestation/Aforestation/ tree plantation on affected areas
		Soil conservation strategies/planning
	<b>Turkey</b>	Reforestation/afforestation/tree plantation in affected areas
<b>Regional Reference Centers (RRC)</b>	<b>France</b>	Sustainable agricultural policies
	<b>Portugal</b>	Forest fire monitoring and control
	<b>Italy</b>	Traditional knowledge (to be confirmed as RRC or RTN)

**Annex II**  
**LIST of PARTICIPANTS**

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