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COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
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**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND OF
ITS INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2 (a) AND (b), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION,
AS WELL AS DECISION 1/COP.5, PARAGRAPH 10**

**REVIEW OF THE REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AFFECTED COUNTRY
PARTIES OF REGIONS OTHER THAN AFRICA, INCLUDING ON THE
PARTICIPATORY PROCESS, AND ON EXPERIENCE GAINED
AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES**

**Review of reports on implementation by affected Asian country Parties, including
on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved
in the preparation and implementation of action programmes**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document sets the background to the review of reports on implementation by affected Asian country Parties, and gives an overview of the reporting process. The synthesis and preliminary analysis of the reports is given in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.1; progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II) is described in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.2; and a compilation of summaries of the reports is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC.1 and Add.1. A report on the regional meeting of affected Asian country Parties preparatory to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.3.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), and article 26 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall review the implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements. By its decision 1/COP.5, the COP decided to establish the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

2. Following decision 11/COP.1 on communication of information, and in accordance with decision 9/COP.7 on the programme of work of CRIC 5, the Committee at its fifth session will review the reports on implementation by affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including Asia and the Pacific.

3. In accordance with provisions of decisions 11/COP.1 and 1/COP.5, the secretariat prepared the following documentation for review at CRIC 5:

(a) A synthesis and preliminary analysis of reports submitted by affected country Parties of Asia, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.1);

(b) A document on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.2);

(c) A compilation of summaries of national reports from affected country Parties of Asia (ICCD/CRIC(5)/MISC.1 and Add.1).

4. In the terms of reference of the CRIC annexed to decision 1/COP.5, the secretariat is requested to take advantage of its ongoing activities at the regional and/or subregional levels to disseminate information stemming from its preliminary analysis and to obtain regional feedback with a view to enriching the Committee's work base. The outcome of the regional meeting of country Parties of Asia and the Pacific in preparation for CRIC 5, convened from 7 to 11 August 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, is presented in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.3.

5. Aware of the observation expressed in the past by affected developing country Parties that the quality of national reports could be improved if funding for reporting activities were more consistent, and in order to respond to the requests by those Parties, the secretariat has sought and obtained funds to assist eligible Parties of regions other than Africa in the preparation of national and regional reports to be submitted to CRIC 5 through two medium-sized projects (MSPs) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

6. The objective of these MSPs, named "Global (Asia/Pacific and Caribbean) Supporting Capacity Building for the Third National Reporting to CRIC 5/COP 8" of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and "Global (Asia/Pacific Latin America and Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia) Supporting Capacity Building for the Third National Reporting to CRIC 5/COP 8" of the World Bank, which were approved in March 2006, is to support the eligible affected non-African country Parties in their efforts to enhance their capacity to prepare and/or formulate their national reports so as to fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD, and at

the same time to build country capacity and strengthen a multi-stakeholder consultation process for UNCCD implementation.

7. The implementing agencies of the MSPs are UNDP, which has directly allocated funds to eligible countries, and the World Bank, which transferred the funds through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) acting as executing agency. In this respect, a letter of agreement between the World Bank and IFAD and a memorandum of understanding between IFAD and the UNCCD secretariat were signed in May 2006. Cofunding from IFAD and the GEF contribution were transferred to the secretariat in March and May 2006, respectively. Grants were transferred to affected eligible country Parties immediately upon receipt from IFAD.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE REPORTING PROCESS

8. In accordance with article 26 of the UNCCD and decision 11/COP.1, each Party shall communicate to the COP for consideration at its ordinary sessions reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention.

9. To assist affected country Parties in the preparation of the third national reports, the secretariat adapted the existing Help Guide and issued a revised version.¹ In accordance with the pertinent decisions of the COP, the secretariat has prepared a synthesis and preliminary analysis of the national reports submitted by affected Asian and Pacific country Parties, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.1).

10. Responding to frequent requests from affected developing country Parties for enhanced support to the national reporting process, funding was made available, including for Asian and Pacific countries, through two separate MSPs implemented by the World Bank/IFAD and UNDP/GEF. Although a uniform approach for implementation of the two projects was desired, de facto delays were experienced in both projects at different times. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the deliberations of the COP Bureau on the date and venue of CRIC 5, the deadline for submission of the national reports was set as 31 May 2006.

11. The synthesis and preliminary analysis presented in document ICCD/CRIC(5)/2/Add.1 covers 39 national reports² (23 from the 25 countries funded by the World Bank/IFAD, 14 from the 20 countries funded by the UNDP/GEF, and 2 from unfunded countries) submitted to the secretariat as of 17 November 2006 (see annex).

12. The synthesis and preliminary analysis document does not follow the usual format of such reports. Instead, three of the strategic areas for action referred to in the annex to decision 8/COP.4 – sustainable land-use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas; development of sustainable agriculture and ranching production systems; and development of new and renewable energy sources – and the seven key thematic topics referred to in decision 1/COP.5, are discussed to reflect information contained in the national reports on “Consideration of necessary adjustments to the elaboration process and the implementation of action programmes, including review of the enhanced implementation of the obligations of the Convention”.

¹ The Explanatory Note and Help Guide (ICCD/CRIC(5)/INF.3) is available at <<http://www.unccd.int/>>.

² In addition, one country with observer status to the UNCCD also submitted a national report.

Annex

**LIST OF AFFECTED ASIAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRY PARTIES
THAT HAVE REPORTED TO CRIC 5**
(as at 17 November 2006)

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
China
Cook Islands
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Malaysia
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Niue
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Sri Lanka
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam
Yemen
