

Decision 12/COP.6

Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision 7/COP.5 on Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies,

Recalling further paragraph 41(c) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which encourages the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to continue exploring and enhancing synergies, with due regard to their respective mandates, in the elaboration and implementation of plans and strategies under the respective conventions,

Recognizing that strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions is essential for the effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements,

Bearing in mind that the UNCCD is a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

Bearing in mind also that integrated and sustainable ecosystem approaches promote and build synergies among the conventions,

Noting with appreciation document ICCD/COP(6)/4, which highlights four areas of the secretariat's activities to foster collaboration with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);
2. *Also welcomes* the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCCD on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and invites Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation, particularly at the local level;
3. *Encourages* the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) to identify possible areas for developing joint activities, including facilitation of local-level initiatives;
4. *Further encourages* the other relevant conventions, international organizations, agencies and institutions, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to explore appropriate opportunities to promote synergistic approaches and initiatives, with a view to fostering their collaboration with the UNCCD;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the CBD to promote activities with Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs), for a joint approach on forests and, *inter alia*, to cooperate with the Teheran process and its secretariat in order to strengthen the capacity of LFCCs to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation; and, to this end, invites the GEF, and calls upon the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Global Mechanism (GM) to give, in accordance with their respective mandates, due consideration to the special needs and requirements of LFCCs;
6. *Encourages* Parties to focus their implementation of the UNCCD on integrated, sustainable ecosystem-based activities in order to benefit fully from synergies;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue its efforts to promote and strengthen relationships with other relevant conventions and to report on its activities at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, including on ways to prioritize follow-up actions;
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the follow-up to this decision to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session.

*11th plenary meeting
5 September 2003*