

**Decision 12/COP.7**

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

*The Conference the Parties,*

*Having reviewed* documents ICCD/COP(7)/5 and Add.1,

*Recalling* decisions 7/COP.5 and 12/COP.6 on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies,

*Noting* the output of the Joint Liaison Group meetings on fostering synergies,

*Reaffirming* decision 12/COP.6, which called on the secretariat to contribute with other partners to strengthening the capacity of low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation,

*Noting* the report of the Viterbo workshop “Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions”,

*Noting also* the efforts to develop synergies at national level, including through the national synergy workshop programme and the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), the GEF Training Workshop and other initiatives,

*Noting further* the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to foster cooperative initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests,

*Recognizing* that the operationalization of funds for climate change adaptation offers additional opportunities to strengthen synergies among the Rio conventions,

1. *Invites* Parties to review the paper prepared jointly by the secretariats of the UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.19 entitled “Options for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions”, and *further invites* Parties to submit comments to the secretariat prior to the eighth session of the COP;
2. *Invites* the governing bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD to take into consideration UNCCD COP decisions relating to synergies in their deliberations;
3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the secretariats of the CBD and the UNCCD for the work undertaken in developing their Joint Work Programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, and *encourages* Parties to take the necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Invites* the Executive Secretaries of the UNCCD and the CBD to strengthen the Joint Work Programme, including their efforts to achieve the relevant 2010 biodiversity targets, and *welcomes* the attention to be given to this matter by the COP to the CBD at its eighth session to be held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006;
5. *Encourages* country Parties to strive for coordinated implementation of relevant conventions;
6. *Invites* further efforts in capacity-building and in developing operational synergies through national synergy workshops and GEF training workshops;
7. *Encourages* affected Parties to integrate sustainable land management issues within the UNFCCC national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs);
8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pursue consultations and closer collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other interested organizations with a view to fostering joint initiatives related to sustainable forest management, and *invites* Parties and interested organizations to provide financial and technical support to such joint initiatives;
9. *Invites* Parties and civil society, NGOs and research institutions to submit success stories of field activities on synergies to the secretariat, and *also requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation of the submissions received and submit it to the COP at its eighth session as an information document;
10. *Further requests* the secretariat to establish a web page on cooperation and synergies among Rio conventions under the secretariat's website, similar to those available for the UNFCCC and the CBD<sup>1</sup>, upon availability of voluntary funding;
11. *Also encourages* Parties and relevant institutions to explore opportunities to promote sustainable forest management, including forest conservation and sustainable use of forests, as an effective additional means of addressing relevant objectives of the three conventions;
12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

*13<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*28 October 2005*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/cooperation\\_with\\_international\\_organisations/items/2970.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/cooperation_with_international_organisations/items/2970.php)  
<http://www.biodiv.org/cooperation/default.shtml>