

## Decision 4/COP.8

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 7/COP.5 and 12/COP.6, which called on the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to contribute with other partners to strengthening the capacity of low forest cover countries (LFCCs) to combat desertification, land degradation and deforestation,

*Further recalling* decision 12/COP.7 and *reiterating* its call for capacity-building and the development of operational synergies at the national level,

*Conscious* of the importance of the conclusions of the Desertification Synthesis of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen transdisciplinary scientific understanding of linkages between biodiversity, climate change and land degradation in order to improve the scientific basis for enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Rio conventions and actions to implement them at the national level,

*Noting* that national level market-based approaches, in accordance with international law, to combating desertification and land degradation represent an important new potential source of financing but require a supportive policy environment and associated financial and technical assistance,

1. *Encourages* affected country Parties to establish linkages between national action programmes (NAPs) and areas driving international support such as food security and the reduction of rural poverty, adaptation to climate change and connected issues, territorial planning and the prevention of natural catastrophes, in order to make the NAPs a more versatile and iterative tool that engages the sustainable land management policy formulation process;
2. *Also encourages* affected country Parties to promote transdisciplinary research in affected ecosystems, in rural areas and in coastal areas of small island developing States, in accordance with the NAPs, where appropriate, as a contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
3. *Further encourages* developed country Parties and *invites* multilateral institutions to assist developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and other eligible countries, where appropriate, to access new and additional financial resources through, inter alia, relevant complementarities with other multilateral environmental agreements in order successfully to address and reverse desertification and land degradation;

4. *Invites* all Parties to strengthen sustainable forest management and integrated water management in critical watershed areas in order to maintain ecosystem services in affected mountain areas, to prevent soil erosion and flooding, to increase the size of atmospheric carbon sinks, and to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity;
5. *Urges* developed country Parties, and *invites* multilateral institutions, to respond to the needs of small island developing States, which are threatened by extreme weather patterns and coastal erosion, and which favour regional coordination and integrated management strategies for coastal areas and watersheds;
6. *Invites* the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNCCD to pursue their work under the Joint Work Programme on biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands, and *encourages* developed country Parties to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund to enable the secretariat to take the necessary measures to ensure effective implementation of the Joint Work Programme;
7. *Encourages* affected country Parties, where applicable, to develop a framework to promote synergies in the implementation of the national adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CBD national biodiversity strategies and action Plans (NBSAPs) and UNCCD NAPs, including in their financial schemes;
8. *Also invites* the Joint Liaison Group of the Executive Secretaries of these conventions to advise on ways and means to strengthen the links between the NAPs, the NBSAPs and the NAPAs;
9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its ninth session on the implementation of this decision.

*9th plenary meeting  
14 September 2007*