

ICCD/COP(5)/CRP.1  
5 September 2001

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Fifth session  
Geneva, 1-12 October 2001

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH REPRESENTATIVES AT  
THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION  
BONN, 14 DECEMBER 2000**

Note by the secretariat

Attached herewith, at the request of the Commonwealth Secretariat, is the report on the above-mentioned subject, which is reproduced in the language in which it was received by the Convention secretariat.

**COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT**

**Report of the Meeting of Commonwealth Representatives at the Fourth Conference  
of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,  
Bonn, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000**

**Objectives**

- To exchange ideas and experiences on the implementation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the regional and national levels in Commonwealth countries.
- To examine the role that the Commonwealth can play in building consensus and assisting countries to better implement the UNCCD.

**Background**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Philbert Brown the UNCCD focal point for Jamaica and a Vice President of the Bureau for the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Convention. It was attended by representatives from 21 countries and the Global Environment Facility. (A list of participants is provided in Annex 1).

S. Malomo gave a presentation describing Commonwealth Secretariat involvement in the Convention to Combat Desertification to date which is largely participating as observers in the Conference of Parties but more actively in the work of the Committee on Science and Technology (a subsidiary body of the Conference of Parties).

The development of the new mission statement of the Commonwealth Secretariat which, focuses *inter alia* on the Secretariat serving 'as a platform for global consensus building and a source of practical help for sustainable development', it is important that delegates be aware of the direction and the wind of change in the Secretariat's work and how their countries can benefit.

The development of Commonwealth Secretariat work areas by the internal task force on environment provides a new opportunity to build on the partnership, with the UNCCD Secretariat and other bilateral and multilateral donors to assist member states on the issues related to the Convention.

Two of the focal areas developed by the Environmental Task force are pertinent to the work of the CCD. These are:

*Focal area 1. Building the capacity of Commonwealth developing member governments to participate more effectively in the negotiation of international agreements on sustainable development.*

*Focal area 2. Building the capacity of Commonwealth developing member governments to implement the international agreements on sustainable development to which they are parties.*

**Discussion**

The discussion following the presentation by delegates was on the following issues:

- Commonwealth small states feel marginalised in the negotiations as well as in the planning and implementation of the work of the Convention?
- What can the Commonwealth Secretariat do to help small states implement the Convention, especially in the development of National Action Plans (NAPS)?
- What types of capacity building does the Commonwealth Secretariat plan to carry out, at what level and which area of the work of the convention?
- Can the Commonwealth Secretariat support the development of national action plans for small states?
- Since the UN Convention to Combat Desertification focuses largely on poverty, what links exist between the Commonwealth Secretariat responses to the Convention and other wider poverty issues?
- How can the Commonwealth Secretariat help build capacities with local communities and non-governmental organisations to implement the NAPS?

**Conclusion**

It was agreed that the meeting served a useful purpose towards consensus building among Commonwealth countries and that further efforts be made to organise such meetings in the wings of the Conference of Parties.

The primary need of countries is in the area of capacity building in the development of national action plans and the implementation of the thematic areas of those that have been developed.

The Commonwealth Secretariat should explore the possibility of seeking funding for the development of National Action Plans (especially with respect to small states) and their implementation through partnership with donors and more-endowed states of the Commonwealth.

Report of the Meeting of Commonwealth Representatives at the  
Fourth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention  
to Combat Desertification, Bonn, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000

**List of participants**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	Mr Ato Lewis	Environment Division Ministry of Tourism and Environment Queens Elizabeth Highway St Johns Tel: Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:mintourenv@cand.lw">mintourenv@cand.lw</a>
Antigua and Barbuda	Ms Daniella Selt	Government of Antigua and Barbuda 610 Fifth Avenue, Suite 311 New York, N.Y. 10020 USA Tel: Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:dselt@un.int">dselt@un.int</a>
Barbados	Ms Karen Smith	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Frank Walcott Building Culloden Road St Michael Tel: 246 431 7683 Fax: 246 437 8859 Email: <a href="mailto:envdivn@caribsurf.com">envdivn@caribsurf.com</a>
Ghana	Mr K Tetteh	Deputy Director Environmental Protection Agency P.O. Box M.326 Accra Tel: 233 21 664697/8 Fax: 233 21 662690 Email: <a href="mailto:ktetteh@epa.gov.gh">ktetteh@epa.gov.gh</a>
Ghana	Ms Zenabu Wasai	Deputy Director/ UNCCD Focal Point Environmental Protection Agency P O Box M.326 Accra Tel: 233 21 664697/8 Fax: 233 21 662690 Email: <a href="mailto:jallaotey@epa.gov.gh">jallaotey@epa.gov.gh</a>
Ghana	Mr Godson Cudjoe Voado	Programme Officer Environmental Protection Agency P O Box M.326 Accra Tel: 233 21 664697/8 Fax: 233 21 662690 Email: <a href="mailto:gvoado@epa.gov.gh">gvoado@epa.gov.gh</a>
Grenada	Augustus Thomas	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry Department Mt Wheldale Street St. George's Tel: 1 473 440 2640/3036 Fax: 1 473 440 4184 Email: <a href="mailto:FNPD@caribsurf.com">FNPD@caribsurf.com</a>

Guyana	Dilip Jaigopaul	Hydromet Service 18 Brickdam Georgetown Tel: Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:dkjhym@guyana.net.gy">dkjhym@guyana.net.gy</a>
India	Dr T Chandini	Additional Director Ministry of Environment and Forests Government of India CGO Complex 1027 Paryaravan Bhavan New Delhi 110003 Tel: 91 11 4363963 Fax: 91 11 4360894 Email: <a href="mailto:cthavaraj@yahoo.com">cthavaraj@yahoo.com</a>
Jamaica	Mr Philbert Brown	UNCCD national focal point Director weather and Emergency Services Ministry of Water 6 St Lucia Avenue Kingston 5 Tel: 876 754 0973 Fax: 876 754 0975 Email: <a href="mailto:sdemow@cwjamaica.com">sdemow@cwjamaica.com</a>
Nigeria	Prof. O A Folorunso	Faculty of Agriculture University of Maiduguri Maiduguri Tel: 234 76 236289 Fax: 234 76 236307 Email: <a href="mailto:oafolor@unimaid.edu.ng">oafolor@unimaid.edu.ng</a>
Nigeria	Dr B Hassan	UNCCD national focal point Federal Ministry of the Environment P M B 265 Garki Abuja, Nigeria Tel: 234 9 4139857 Fax: 234 9 5234119 Email:
St Kitts and Nevis	Randolph Edmead	Harris Village St Kitts Tel: Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:raedmead@hotmail.com">raedmead@hotmail.com</a>
St Lucia	Michael Andrew	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Forestry Department Waterfront Building Castries Tel: 758 450 2078 Fax: 758 450 2287 Email: <a href="mailto:mauby@hotmail.com">mauby@hotmail.com</a>
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Reynold Murray	Ministry of Health and Environment St Vincent Tel: 784 485 6992 Fax: Email: <a href="mailto:svgenv@caribsurf.com">svgenv@caribsurf.com</a>
Trinidad and Tobago	Anthony Batholomew	UNCCD national focal point Ministry of the Environment Level 16 Finance Building Independent Square Port of Spain Tel: 868 623 4853 Fax: 868 625 1585 Email:

Swaziland	Bongani Masuku	UNCCD national focal point P O Box 162 Mbabane Tel:268 4043858 Fax:268 4043858/4044700 Email: <a href="mailto:lups@realnet.co.sz">lups@realnet.co.sz</a>
United Kingdom	Richard Ellis	DFID, 94 Victoria Street, London SW1 Tel: Fax: 44 20 7917 0019 Email: <a href="mailto:richard-ellis@dfid.gov.uk">richard-ellis@dfid.gov.uk</a>

- - - - -