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PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Synthesis of reports submitted by Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach

Note by the secretariat*

SUMMARY

Different aspects of land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation are discussed in order to have a better view on the necessity to find new ways and means for application of an integrated approach. The status of desertification and the importance of research work are analyzed. Due to the high degree of vulnerability of the drylands and the effect of human interventions on the equilibrium of ecosystems, there is an urgent need to improve land and water management. Monitoring and assessment of land degradation require a lot of interdisciplinary work, thereby integrating biophysical and socio-economic parameters. The same goes for the work on benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems and measures for rehabilitation of degraded land.

The role of national, subregional and regional action programmes, the importance of thematic programme networks and the need for developing synergies with other environmental conventions are highlighted.

• The submission of this document was delayed in order to include consideration of as many submissions by Parties as possible.

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. By its decision 16/COP.5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its sixth session shall be: “Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach”.
2. By the same decision, the COP requested the Parties to submit reports on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to the above theme, which should not exceed ten pages in length, and which should be transmitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) no later than four months before the next session. The COP also requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of such reports for consideration at the sixth session of the CST.
3. The secretariat has received four submissions from the Parties (Belarus, Brazil, Oman, Qatar) on this theme. Due to directives concerning the length of documents generated in the secretariat, submissions by Parties are not incorporated in this note. They are, however, reproduced in their entirety, as submitted to the secretariat, on the UNCCD Internet web site at <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop6/CSTsubmissions.php>. The secretariat has prepared a background paper on “Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach” in order to facilitate the discussion by the CST at its sixth session, which is contained herein.

II. LAND DEGRADATION

A. Definitions to be used in the UNCCD

4. In this background paper all “desertification” terms will be used in accordance with the definitions given in Part I of the Convention.

B. Status of land degradation

5. Drylands occupy almost half of the land surface and are home to about 1 billion people, deserving full attention for all the cross-cutting issues involved in land degradation: biodiversity, natural resources, food security, health, sustainable development and poverty eradication. Increased population expansion in the drylands, in particular during long wet periods, puts a high number of people in serious difficulty during the dry periods, especially because of the breakdown of their production systems by water shortage.
6. Wind and water erosion have severely affected large areas of agricultural land and rangeland. Inefficient use of irrigation water and poor management lead to water-logging and salinization. Nutrient depletion is affecting nutrient balances and degrading land fertility. Chemical pollution is caused by agricultural mismanagement. All these various causes negatively affect the soil and water equilibrium and they reduce soil resilience, thus aggravating land degradation.

7. Desertification is a tremendous threat to the environment, flora and fauna, the ecosystems and the people's livelihood. Drought, wind and water erosion, lack of soil management, overgrazing, erroneous rangeland management, deforestation and logging, slash and burn, monocropping, water-logging and salinization are but a few examples of continuously exacerbating land degradation. Desertification can be characterized by a multitude of natural, biophysical (including the chemical) and socio-economic causes and effects on ecosystems and human beings.

8. Diversity of living organisms and ecosystems and a wealth of cultural heritage should be preserved for future generations. Therefore, combating desertification and mitigating drought impacts by promoting sustainable development is an important global challenge.

9. The very high number of country Parties to the UNCCD shows the global nature of land degradation and the urgent need for concerted counter-actions and partnership building at the global level. Many of the affected Parties have prepared their national action programmes (NAPs). They are aiming at a sustainable improvement of the welfare of the people.

10. Land degradation should not be considered as a static process within well-defined limits. On the contrary, it is a very dynamic, evolving process with a lot of interaction between different actors and factors. Degradation can temporarily lead to a relatively stable situation in some drylands. Other degraded lands continue to deteriorate or are recovering as a result of land management applied.

11. Continuous removal of the vegetation cover, sometimes under the pretext of reducing competition for water and nutrients, and/or other disastrous practices, like deforestation and overgrazing, are strongly enhancing wind and water erosion. Topsoil is removed. Dust and sandstorms are devastating agricultural land and infrastructures.

12. In all arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas groundwater supplies are becoming more and more exhausted and many soils become saline as a result of land degradation by drought and mismanagement.

13. Generally, at the global level, drylands are more vulnerable to degradation, due to various factors, in particular the considerable population increase. It leads to food insecurity, sometimes to famine. Consequently, people of rural areas are often migrating to urban areas, where serious socio-economic problems are showing up.

14. The overall population growth is a driving force for measures to be taken for a radical land use change, aiming at an effective increase of food production, provision of food security and alleviation of poverty.

15. Taking into account the actual status of land degradation, the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) are following an integrated approach, collecting and processing data, sharing of information and networking at the global level. Both assessments will contribute to the necessary reverse of the adverse living conditions in the drylands.

16. All trends of land degradation should be identified to understand the driving forces behind it and to prepare tools for future decisions.

C. Desertification research

17. For decades a high number of scientific studies on desertification have been carried out or are still ongoing. Subjects of these studies are extremely diverse and sectoral. Without any doubt, there is a tremendous amount of scientific knowledge on all land degradation aspects. However, it seems to be very difficult to have access to these valuable data, as almost all countries do not dispose of a complete national survey of the results of their projects and programmes related to desertification.

18. Therefore, there is a clear need for reviewing and prioritizing the current research activities on land degradation and rehabilitation. This is one of the main tasks of the Group of Experts (GoE) of the CST. On the basis of such a review, the GoE will be able to identify and prioritize new research needs, in particular those oriented towards “an integrated approach” of land degradation.

D. Drought

19. Drylands have low and variable rainfall with considerable fluctuations from year to year and major fluctuations over decades. Drought impacts, such as the ones triggered by El Niño, have been very severe during the last decade. They have caused high economic damages and human suffering. High numbers of people and animals did not survive these calamities because of malnutrition and disease. In many cases they forced the rural population, who depends on shallow wells, to migrate to cities. Drought, leading to severe land degradation, has also generated sand storms and dustbowls. Livestock is a crucial source for the livelihood of rural people. In many cases, it has to be conceded because of extreme droughts. Chronic water shortages endanger sustainable development of rural areas.

E. Ecosystems and vulnerability

20. An ecosystem (biotope) is characterized by a series of interdependencies between their different constituents: the atmosphere, the lithosphere and its upper layers (pedosphere), the hydrosphere and the biomass (flora and fauna). Each ecosystem is also determined by qualitative parameters, related to the climate (e.g. humid or dry) and to the influence of human activities on its stability. One can recognize a number of dry ecosystem types, resulting from the effect of different factors. Spatial and temporal factors create heterogeneity in the dryland ecosystems, which are continuously oscillating around an average, rather stable, natural situation.

21. A landscape is the result of interactions between an ecosystem and human activities.

22. In the United Nations classification, drylands are “critical environmental zones” because of their spatial and temporal vulnerability (ecologically degradable and subject to degradation by human activities).

23. Due to the high vulnerability (fragility) of drylands, a number of negative effects of human interventions have been registered, in particular during the last decades:

- Loss of organic matter (fertile soil) in the pedosphere
- Wind and water erosion

- Mobility of sand and dust
- Quantitative and qualitative degradation of flora and fauna
- Reduction of biodiversity
- Introduction of alien species (flora and fauna)
- Domestication of allochthonous species.

24. Dryland ecosystems have been adapted to the extreme climatic conditions during thousands of years. Thereby, their biota (the living organisms) show a high resilience to drought. This characteristic capacity for acclimatization (by relevant adaptation to climatic variations) and for rehabilitation contributes to their stability, as long as human interventions are not destroying one or more basic components (e.g. the soil). Without negative interventions an appropriate equilibrium between the ecosystems and the external factors is always installed for a certain period.

25. Depending upon different parameters, different types of resilience can be recognized, (e.g. for soil texture, organic content of soil, water retention capacity of the soil, pH, etc.).

26. More long-term research work seems to be needed on the definition of thresholds in order to better understand the vulnerability or stability of dryland ecosystems. Because the temporal factor plays an important role, these ecosystems are showing a very slow evolution.

F. Land and water management

27. Water and land are inherently linked. An integrated approach is needed when looking for solving the problems for both.

28. Dryland agriculture and pastoralism suffer from low and variable rainfall, generally insufficient to meet local needs for food or fodder production. Arid or semi-arid conditions hamper rural productivity and cause land degradation. Many drought affected countries face constant water shortage and even some areas with relatively high annual rainfall can be affected by uneven distribution of precipitation over the year, thus suffering from water stress in certain periods.

29. Unfavourable soil conditions prevent infiltration of rain, leading to considerable run-off and high evaporation rates, leaving long dry periods during the growing season. Therefore, water harvesting and improvement of water supply remain priority issues for those countries. However, construction of a multitude of wells and boreholes also creates an excessive water extraction. It limits the recharge of groundwater or aquifers.

30. Run-off water flows often into swamps (sinks), where it evaporates quickly and creates salinization. Inefficiency and mismanagement have caused a lot of problems, in particular through falling water tables, salinization of soils and saline intrusion or water-logging. This results in reduction in fertility and productivity, which leads inevitably to land degradation. Therefore, one should make optimal use of rainfall by storing it in the soil, preferably for a larger part in the rooting zone, by avoiding runoff or by providing, where available, supplemental irrigation.

31. As in many areas a deficit in food production persists, over-exploitation of the scarce water resources seems to be inevitable. However, for an effective rehabilitation of degraded water resources one should manage land and rainwater properly and apply a multi-disciplinary approach. Water harvesting is undoubtedly the key to improve agriculture and reforestation more successfully. It provides a significant enhancement in available water quantity, limits the losses by run-off and evaporation and reduces the overall impact of drought.

32. Recently, the construction of dams has been seriously questioned in several countries. On the contrary, a number of relatively modern technologies, such as drip irrigation and soil conditioning with water and fertilizer stocking materials, or biodegradable mulching sprays, are more and more considered as successful water saving methods. It is common knowledge that methods and technologies to enhance water retention in the soil have to be adapted to the different types of soil and the average amount of annual rainfall. It should be recommended to set up a comparative test in all Convention annexes, using efficient indigenous methods and adapted modern technologies, in order to draw conclusions on the possible universal applicability of the best practices, which should of course be cost-effective.

33. Priority should be given to water harvesting methods without mining the groundwater and all affected countries should be invited to adapt their water supply policies to achieve an optimal national water use.

G. Sand and dust storms

34. Sand and dust storms are symptoms and causes of land degradation at the same time. Sometimes they can be seen as a sort of early warning for degradation and desertification through destruction of crops and habitats. They degrade all kinds of ecosystems and cause health-related, respiratory and ophthalmic problems. They are hindering ground and air transportation. They also cause a lot of income loss for affected populations.

35. Recent climatic trends have been studied to learn more about the causal factors and overall mechanisms of storm occurrence, their nature and extent. There is growing interest in the experience gained with forecast, control, mitigation and prevention of storms. Long-range transport of sand and dust to other countries and regions created the need for international cooperation, but this seems to involve natural, biological, social, economic, educational and political approaches. Therefore, sustainable land use practices should be developed and maintained, taking into account all lessons learned, to avoid mismanagement from the past.

36. Some countries introduced different methods to stabilize mobile sands and sand dunes and to restore the vegetation cover: straw check boards, oil mulching, biodegradable synthetic mulching spray, hydro-absorbent soil conditioner to conserve the scarce water resources and enhance plant growth, drip irrigation, hydro-seeding, etc.

37. Participatory and integrated approaches may be seen as an outcome and solution for this global problem. Experts should provide decision-makers with all necessary elements to respond in a sustainable way to these threats. More research seems to be needed on forecasting, prediction, monitoring and assessment of sand and dust storms.

H. Monitoring and assessment of land degradation

38. It was recognized that still not enough is known about the nature, severity, extent, root causes and impacts of land degradation in the drylands. Remedial solutions should be found. Monitoring and assessment of land degradation, drought impacts and land use should form the basis for developing sustainable land use.

39. Both the MA and the LADA are focusing on land degradation. LADA was initiated by the UNCCD secretariat. It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and different partners, like United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Mechanism (GM). FAO is hosting the LADA secretariat. LADA is a project to develop and test an effective assessment methodology for land degradation, in which biophysical parameters and socio-economic driving forces will be integrated. LADA is expected to provide ecological, technical, social and economic information about land degradation assessment to take decisions on integrated planning and management in the drylands.

40. Monitoring and assessment requires a considerable amount of interdisciplinary work: not only biophysical parameters, like climatic factors, soil conditions, availability of water resources and vegetation cover have to be monitored and assessed, but also a series of socio-economic drives should be integrated, especially when assessing impact of measures taken. Meteorological data, hydrological data, terrestrial data, oceanographic data and inter-woven socio-economic variables need to be taken into account and combined with one another. Nowadays, there is wide acceptance of the need to incorporate “participatory assessment” for developing a more reliable assessment methodology, not only integrating biophysical and socio-economic parameters, but also traditional knowledge with modern scientific knowledge. This would lead to many win-win scenario for combating desertification.

41. Drought forecast and early warning systems should mainly be based on scientific research work, but many affected countries are still facing serious constraints to contribute to a worldwide observation network. Moreover, scientific and technical cooperation of UNCCD with relevant international organizations, like the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP, is a *conditio sine qua non* for effective monitoring and assessment of land degradation.

I. Benchmarks and indicators

42. In 1998, the CST established an Ad Hoc Panel (AHP) on benchmarks and indicators. This panel developed an element of methodology and described the system of information and feedback. The COP encouraged the country Parties to test and implement benchmarks and indicators, taking into account the suggestions and recommendations of the AHP.

43. Monitoring requires scientifically sound and reliable indicators to cover ongoing ecological processes and the status of land degradation, particularly at small scale, to enable analysis of land use impact. Indicators show the status of plant cover reduction, forage loss, sand dune cover loss, topsoil removal, crop yield reduction, salt accumulation, depth of fresh ground water and some other desertification characteristics.

44. Monitoring of desertification and land use change has also been undertaken with a particular focus on a given community in some countries. Such a data set has been used to properly plan the land use and revegetation/reforestation activities. However, the micro-level monitoring and assessment on land use is still limited in its coverage and application for which more institutional collaboration and human resource development are needed.

45. Although a lot of work has already been carried out on vegetation cover degradation, wind erosion, water erosion, salinization and water-logging, a lot more remains to be performed, especially concerning “impact indicators”. Accessibility and accuracy are pending issues to be tackled at the national, subregional and regional levels.

J. Early warning systems

46. In article 10, paragraph 3, the UNCCD identifies the need to include in the NAPs a number of measures to prepare for and to mitigate the effects of drought. The secretariat, at the request of the COP 2, produced a synthesis report on early warning systems (EWS) in the broadest sense. This was the priority issue of the CST discussed at COP 3. At its third session, the COP established an Ad Hoc Panel on EWS (decision 14/COP.3). The Panel presented its report to the CST at COP 4 (ICCD/COP(4)/CST/4) and the COP endorsed the suggestions and recommendations contained in that report. By decision 14/COP.4, the COP 4 reappointed an Ad Hoc Panel on EWS to examine a number of pending issues.

47. The Panel presented its report to the CST at COP 5 and the COP endorsed its suggestions and recommendations. By decision 14/COP.5, the COP requested the secretariat to seek the necessary resources to publish and distribute the Panel’s report together with the background papers submitted. The COP 5 also invited the Parties to carry out pilot studies on EWS, utilizing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Panel and to report on progress to the CST at an appropriate session.

48. The secretariat published this report in March 2003, which will be presented to the CST at COP 6. It contains the reports of panel meetings held in Königswinter, Bonn, Germany (2000) and in Fuji Yoshida, Yamanashi, Japan (2001), together with numerous presentations made by country Parties and various institutions.

K. Deforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation

49. Deforestation of semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, especially by fire, leads to soil sterilization by reduction of microbiological activities and by destruction of organic matter. Vulnerability of soils is significantly enhanced: less pedogenesis, less infiltration of water, more run-off and more erosion. Large-scale clearance of forested land has caused dramatic soil erosion, a serious decline in vegetation cover soil fertility and a strong invasion of alien species. Fire incidents, due to human interference, is a main factor for the forest degradation.

50. The overall effect of deforestation is loss of biodiversity. New types of ecosystems are installed (savannah, steppe, etc.) and these make rehabilitation by reforestation very difficult, because grazing livestock destroys many saplings (natural revegetation or artificial plantation).

51. Productivity of forests has continuously declined, despite reforestation activities, as only a small part of the reforested areas remains productive forest. Unauthorized logging and forest fires have undermined the positive impacts of reforestation. Forest cover change remains quite negative.

52. Therefore, many country Parties have established new national policies for management of remaining forests and for reforestation, applying traditional methods and modern technologies. In many countries, these new policies are trying to associate the rural population with reforestation and rehabilitation programmes: village nurseries, village plantations, agroforestry, creation of living hedges for limiting wind and water erosion, etc. Local people were not familiar with most of these “top-down” measures and did not fully understand their purpose, but slowly they are recognizing a lot of benefits of the rehabilitation policies.

L. Agroforestry

53. During periods of drought, farmers have to minimize their losses, while pastoralists are generally moving their herds over smaller or larger distances. Agriculture and pastoralism often use integrated systems, which are normally more resilient against those fluctuations. Natural ecosystems in the drylands have this great resilience. If not mismanaged, they bounce back after every dry period, even after severe droughts.

54. It is generally accepted that creation of diversity, also in production systems, yields better results. The combination of tree plantation and cultivation of crops and vegetables has shown to be one of the best methods to combat desertification and to rehabilitate degraded land. Agroforestry contributes in a very effective way to the restoration of the vegetation cover in all dryland areas of the world. It is a successful method to generate food and supplementary income for the rural people. Through agroforestry, non-wood forest products, including aromatic and medicinal plants, flowers and fruits, honey, oils, gum, mushrooms, fodder products, etc. can be marketed.

55. It goes without saying that capacity strengthening of the rural people in the drylands to participate effectively in these commercial activities is a priority issue.

M. Rangeland degradation and management

56. Rangelands are vulnerable biomes and non-equilibrium ecosystems, whose sustainability has been exploited in ingenious ways, elaborated by various user groups over the millennia, especially by nomadic pastoralists. Unfortunately, due to some causes, such as overgrazing, untimely grazing, conversion of rangelands into other uses, collecting fuel wood, human activities, etc., these areas are continuously degrading. There is historical evidence that native plants have once covered vast areas of the world. These were highly resistant to extreme climatic conditions. They formed remarkably rich rangelands, but due to some devastating effects, these rangelands became poorer and poorer. Some of the contributing factors in degrading the rangelands are:

- Overgrazing
- Untimely grazing (early or late grazing)
- Conversion of rangelands into other uses
- Fire and drought
- Human activities

- Collecting fuel wood (range plants and shrubs)
- Overpopulation
- Overexploitation of groundwater reserves

57. Affected country Parties have already undertaken various measures to protect rangelands from further degradation and for conserving their pasture cover. Some progress is registered. However, a lot has still to be done to restore degraded rangelands. This could be initiated with pilot demonstration projects in different countries of the same region, in which various restoration methods are monitored and assessed in a comparative way. Such a comparative study can result in the establishment of a priority order for methods and policies to restore degraded rangelands. The best traditional well-known practices should certainly be maintained and, as appropriate, be combined with modern pastoral and farming practices. Some of the anthropological and socio-economic aspects concerning the social and legal framework of rangeland management should also be taken into account, such as the support for and promotion of collective actions among pastoralists to enhance effectiveness of measures taken.

N. Socio-economic aspects

58. These aspects are complex and difficult to circumscribe in an integrated way. Data on socio-economic parameters are also difficult to collect.

59. There is a need to develop a methodology to assess the vulnerability of the drylands, where land degradation and poverty are intimately related. One has to compile information from successful experiences and projects about sustainable development at community level. A set of indicators should then be applied to make a synthesis. Thereby, tools for decision-making can be provided, aiming at prevention and mitigation of land degradation and poverty. On the basis of four approaches (knowledge, mitigation, impact and policies) a core set of indicators has to be developed. This is one of the important tasks of the Group of Experts (GoE) of the CST.

60. Recently, the links between desertification (land degradation) and poverty became more and more evident. Drylands are subject to severe land degradation. Food security and malnutrition are undeniable linked to the degraded ecosystems and farmlands, which are permanently deteriorating under drought stress. All this is resulting in poverty.

61. Moreover, it has been shown repeatedly that the equal participation of women and men in combating land degradation is essential for sustainable development of the drylands. All women and men should have access and equal rights to the natural resources of their livelihood systems: land, soil, water, flora and fauna. Their relationships to natural resources, their respective rights and the gender-differentiated impacts of dryland degradation are to be taken in account when planning new integrated methods for sustainable land management. Therefore, assessment of land degradation and participatory resources cannot be realized without an integration of biophysical and the socio-economic factors. Dryland management should not only be built on local (traditional, indigenous) knowledge and methods, but also on the social and cultural values of the rural people, who are the legitimate resource users.

62. In most of the UNCCD initiatives and programmes of work a lot of different stakeholders are involved. Starting from a bottom-up and participatory approach, these initiatives involve a large number of people: the rural population, non-governmental organizations, scientific experts, aid agency experts, the private sector, national officers, government representatives and policy makers. Successful combating desertification depends largely on involvement and partnership of all these actors.

63. Such an integrated approach about land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation should form the cornerstone for planning and decision-making.

O. Desertification control (action programmes)

64. The implementation of the UNCCD cannot be achieved without adequate national, subregional and regional action programmes (NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs).

65. Many countries have already elaborated their NAPs and national workshops and awareness-raising seminars have contributed to mainstream national activities to promote sustainable development in their policies to combat desertification. NAPs have been reviewed at two meetings of an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) and at the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The outcomes of these reviews are contained in ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6 and ICCD/CRIC(1)/10.

66. Many country Parties have established national coordinating bodies (NCBs) for addressing cross cutting issues of the UNCCD implementation. It was shown that many country Parties are integrating the UNCCD into the implementation of their policy measures to combat land degradation and to achieve sustainable development. These policy measures contain a variety of elements to take care of soil conservation and land reclamation, water harvesting and irrigation scheme improvement, reduction of vegetation cover, rangeland and animal husbandry management, limiting sand and dust movement, and the improvement of agricultural production, etc. A lot of attention is paid to socio-economic aspects: capacity building, awareness raising, education, involvement of youngsters, partnership building, financial and technical assistance, etc.

67. SRAPs and RAPs have been adopted and are currently being implemented. In accordance with these programmes, thematic programme networks (TPNs) are being developed.

P. Thematic programme networks

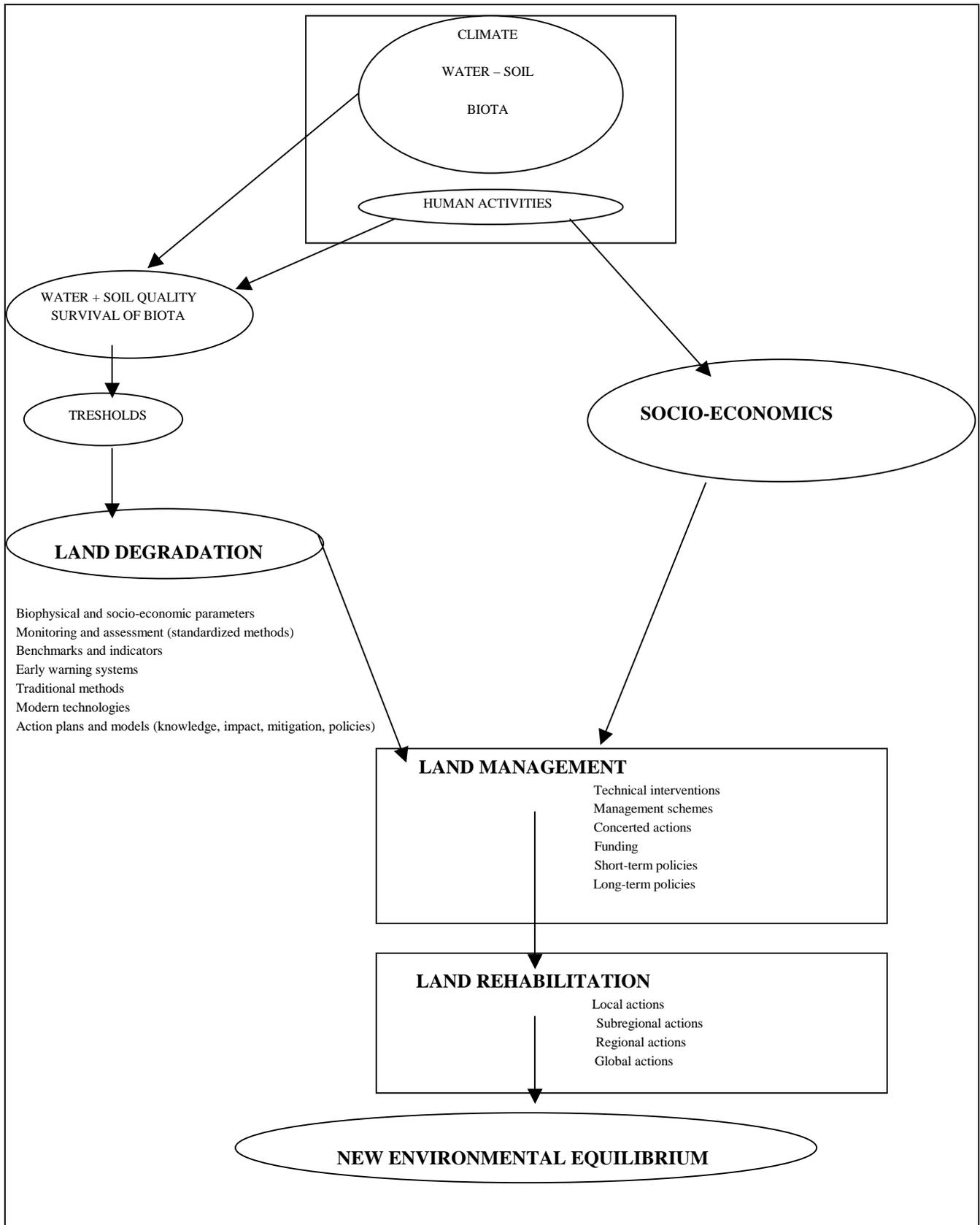
68. Different thematic programme areas have been recognized within the UNCCD framework: management of natural resources (soil, water, vegetation), dryland agriculture, agroforestry, monitoring and assessment, capacity building, partnership building, etc.

69. Time has come to determine cross-cutting issues and to interconnect all these areas in order to improve the effect of measures taken. A stronger in-depth linkage of all TPNs seems to be necessary, as it would certainly contribute to a better exchange of information between the country Parties involved.

Q. Synergies with other environmental conventions

70. Many programmes and projects exist under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UNCCD. It is recognized that there is a strong need for coordination and cooperation between these three conventions to obtain a constructive synergy, particularly at the national level.
71. At the national level, each country should coordinate all local activities to combat desertification and incorporate a description of their impacts in its national reports.
72. Transboundary land rehabilitation activities should involve a number of cross-cutting issues and aim at concerted actions in the field, leading to mutual support of the countries involved.
73. At the subregional and regional levels, country Parties may wish to exchange views on prioritizing fields of action. Meetings at these levels may put this discussion on concerted priority actions on their agenda.
74. At the global level, one may wish to assess all these concerted actions and translate the conclusions into recommendations for multi-layered interventions to rehabilitate the land and to eradicate poverty.

R. Elements for an integrated approach: an example



III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

75. Many lessons could be learned in the near future on how the land degradation problems are brought under control when using an integrated approach for searching solutions.
76. Many integrated measures can be taken to implement the Convention and these can lead to various new interventions and remediation at the biophysical, socio-economic, political and legislative levels.
77. The COP may wish to invite and encourage country Parties to set up a pilot demonstration project with all the main elements of an integrated approach.
78. The COP may also wish, in a first phase, to have the same pilot demonstration project organized simultaneously in a limited number of country Parties from different annexes of the UNCCD.
79. It should be assured that the output of this project is directly profitable for the country Parties involved.
80. It is suggested that the lessons learned from this first phase pilot project will serve as a platform for designing other similar integrated projects in many other country Parties.
