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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Addendum

**Report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary
activities in the biennium 2004-2005**

Note by the secretariat*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By its decision 23/COP.6, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its seventh session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the COP. The present document contains information on the activities supported under the Supplementary Fund in the biennium 2004-2005. It provides a brief description of the actual activities and the resources utilized, as well as an assessment of the results achieved, as at 30 June 2005.

* The submission of this document was delayed in order to include the most recent information possible.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION	1 – 4	3
A. Mandate	1 – 2	3
B. Scope of the report	3 – 4	3
II. PERFORMANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUND	5 – 71	3
A. Executive management and policy	5 – 6	4
B. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues	7 – 23	5
C. Science and technology	24 – 26	9
D. Facilitation of implementation	27 – 66	9
E. External relations and public information	67 – 72	19
III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	73	20

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the COP (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1) provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the COP shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

2. By its decision 23/COP.6, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its seventh session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the COP. The present document contains information on the activities supported under the Supplementary Fund in the biennium 2004-2005. It should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.3 which contains an overview of the performance of all trust funds of the Convention.

B. Scope of the report

3. The present document follows the structure of documents ICCD/COP(7)/2/Add.1 and Add.2 on the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2006-2007. It provides a brief description of the actual activities, as well as an assessment of the results achieved, as at 30 June 2005. This information is accompanied by the statement of expenditures for the period under review. The document is organized in accordance with the main programmes as follows:

- (a) Executive management and policy;
- (b) Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues;
- (c) Science and technology;
- (d) Facilitation of implementation;
- (e) External relations and public information.

4. It should be noted that most activities were undertaken jointly with partners, in order to achieve optimum results.

II. PERFORMANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

Table 1. Status of the Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2005

Income	US\$
Balance brought forward	649,300
Contributions received	8,210,900
Prior year savings on obligations and interest income	66,200
Total income	8,926,400
Total expenditures (inclusive of programme support costs)	6,880,200
Balance	2,046,200

Table 2. Expenditures of the Supplementary Fund by programme as at 30 June 2005

Programme	US\$
Executive management and policy	47,800
Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues	1,199,700
Science and technology	29,900
Facilitation of implementation	4,083,900
External relations and public information	420,900
Subtotal	5,782,200
Programme support costs	751,700
Total	6,533,900
Operating capital reserve	346,300
Grand total	6,880,200

Table 3. Expenditures of the Supplementary Fund by object of expenditure as at 30 June 2005

Object of expenditure	US\$
Staff costs	1,629,700
Consultants and experts	697,400
Travel of participants and representatives	445,400
Staff travel	463,700
Contractual services	122,900
General operating expenses	22,300
Grants	2,400,800
Subtotal	5,782,200
Programme support costs	751,700
Total	6,533,900
Operating reserve	346,300
Grand total	6,880,200

A. Executive management and policy

5. In order to foster political and financial commitment to the implementation of the Convention, the secretariat presented the case for combating desertification at various high-level meetings at the national and regional levels. These meetings included consultations with bilateral and multilateral partners, subregional and regional high-level conferences and participation in international scientific symposia.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	30,900
Consultancy costs	<u>6,100</u>
	<u>37,000</u>

Representation at meetings of the other Rio conventions

6. The secretariat has continued to participate actively in the relevant meetings of the other two Rio conventions, including the sessions of their COPs and the meetings of the scientific and technical advisory bodies.

Staff travel	<u>US\$</u> <u>10,800</u>
Total cost of Executive management and policy as at 30 June 2005	<u>47,800</u>

B. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues

1. *Third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention*

7. By its decision 9/COP.6, the COP decided that the third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 3) would review the implementation of the Convention in Africa. By the same decision, the COP requested, inter alia, a review of selected global agenda items deriving from the implementation process and the process of communication of information to the COP, and from the implementation of decision 8/COP.4.

8. CRIC 3 was held from 2-11 May 2005 in Bonn, Germany. It started with open-ended consultations, during which the country Parties under the five implementation annexes of the Convention discussed and coordinated their views on the matters on the agenda of the CRIC, particularly the global agenda items. In order to facilitate these consultations, region-specific background documents were prepared and distributed prior to the CRIC.

9. The consideration of thematic and global topics on the agenda of the CRIC was supported by presentations as well as four panel discussions and two interactive dialogues. For the interactive dialogue on mainstreaming of national action programmes (NAPs) and their contribution to overall poverty eradication, a background document highlighting the relationship between, and proposing options for, mainstreaming NAPs and the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), was provided.

	<u>US\$</u>
Consultancy costs	8,300
Temporary assistance	5,300
Contractual services for document preparation	37,000
Travel of staff located outside of Bonn	15,200
Travel of panel members and moderators	<u>7,300</u>
	<u>73,100</u>

2. *Preparations for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties*

10. The seventh session of the COP (COP 7) will be held from 17-28 October 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya.

11. By its decision 23/COP.6, the COP decided, inter alia, that the comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat would be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations. The JIU normally finances its activities with resources from the regular budgets of its participating organizations. However, as the UNCCD is an independent budgetary entity and does not contribute to the budget of the Unit, financial support for travel and related expenses of the JIU team was requested from the secretariat. The report of the JIU was submitted to COP 7 in document ICCD/COP(7)/4.

	<u>US\$</u>
Travel costs for the JIU review team	<u>16,700</u>

3. Cooperation with the secretariats of other conventions and promotion of the development of synergies

12. Joint Liaison Group: As a framework for collaboration between the three Rio convention secretariats, a Joint Liaison Group (JLG) at the management level has been established to assist in promoting synergies and developing common approaches and strategies.

13. Among the activities agreed by the JLG was the workshop on “Forests and forest ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio conventions” organized in April 2004 in Viterbo, Italy, by the UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) secretariats, in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat. The meeting convened focal points of the selected country Parties of the three Rio conventions (please refer to document ICCD/COP(7)/5 for a report on this activity).

14. The workshop was organized under a memorandum of understanding signed by the secretariat and the Italian Ministry of the Environment on the strengthening of synergies among the three Rio conventions. The University of Viterbo cooperated in the organization of the meeting and provided logistical support and facilities.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant to the University of Viterbo for organization of the workshop	160,000
Travel of participants	31,700
Consultancy costs	12,000
Staff travel	<u>12,700</u>
	<u>216,400</u>

15. Joint CBD-UNCCD work programme: Pursuant to the decisions by the COPs to the UNCCD and to the CBD, a joint work programme between the two conventions was developed. During 2005 the two secretariats have collaborated on work programme elements relating to the status and trends of biodiversity in dry and sub-humid lands and the development of criteria and indicators for specific areas of value.

16. Training courses for selected affected country Parties representatives were facilitated, with the aim of supporting the countries in attaining the necessary methodological tools for project preparation for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the context of

the GEF Operational Programmes relevant to the joint work programme, and also recently the Operational Programme on sustainable land management. Three training courses involving representatives from African and Asian countries Parties took place in the course of 2002 and 2003. The fourth course was organized in January-February 2004, involving ten participants from Latin American and Caribbean country Parties. All courses were arranged in collaboration with the Instituto Agronomico per l'Oltramare (IAO) in Florence, Italy. Experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/GEF, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the GEF (STAP/GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also cooperated in providing training.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants to IAO for the organization of the training course	16,300
Travel of participants	9,800
Consultancy costs	24,400
Staff travel	<u>1,300</u>
	<u>51,800</u>

17. The secretariat continued to follow closely the activities of the Land Degradation Assessment in the Drylands (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), including participation in meetings of the Technical Advisory Group of LADA, and the Executive Committee and Board of the MA.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	<u>7,000</u>

18. The programme supported the Executive management and policy programme in cooperation with the GEF. It was represented at the meeting of the GEF Council in November 2004 which considered several agenda items of importance to the Convention, including the memorandum of understanding between the GEF and the UNCCD and the scope and coherence of GEF activities in the field of land degradation.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel costs	<u>10,800</u>

19. The activities relating to the joint work programme with the CBD and the strengthening of synergies with the other conventions have been supported by the temporary assistance of staff based in Bonn, Rome and New York. Financial support for these activities is provided by donor countries, as well as by the CBD secretariat.

	<u>US\$</u>
Temporary staff costs for UNCCD programme officer in Bonn	91,800
Temporary staff costs for UNCCD liaison officer in Rome	84,300
Temporary staff costs of UNCCD/CBD liaison officer in New York	<u>255,300</u>
	<u>431,400</u>

4. Assistance to Parties in implementing COP decisions

20. The Desertification Information System for the Mediterranean (DISMED) seeks to improve the capacity of national administrations of Mediterranean countries to put in place effectively measures and policies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. It was launched in 2000 with the support of the Government of Italy and other Annex IV country Parties. The substantive report and the request for funding of third period of activities of the project was submitted to the donor. A medium-term evaluation of the project was proposed, in order to assist in the reorientation of the activities and the consolidation of the results achieved so far.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant	<u>51,000</u>

5. Policy advocacy

21. On the basis of the results achieved in the implementation of a project on Youth and Environment in Lesotho, Argentina, Benin, Cape Verde, China and Mozambique developed similar projects. Several other country Parties, including Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe are developing similar projects. Project proposals are being formulated with the support of various partners.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants for the preparation and development of “Youth and Environment” projects	20,000
Staff costs – Temporary assistance	43,400
Consultancy costs and contractual services	113,400
Travel of participants	14,300
Staff travel	<u>11,800</u>
Total	<u>202,900</u>

22. With a view to securing an enhanced international profile for the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) and ensuring the public and media visibility required for its successful promotion worldwide, the programme assisted the External relations and public information programme in exploring the possibility of associating internationally recognized figures with the celebration of the year. Staff participated in the Dubai Festival of World Deserts, organized jointly by the World Desert Foundation and the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, which served, inter alia, as a unique platform for the launching of the IYDD.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	<u>6,700</u>

23. The programme assisted the Executive management and policy programme in consultations with donors and relevant organizations, with the aim of supporting the strengthening of partnership building. Meetings were held with the Governments of Italy, Japan and the Netherlands, as well as with the Common Fund for Commodities, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank.

	<u>US\$</u>
Consultancy costs	29,800
Staff travel	<u>102,100</u>
	<u>131,900</u>
Total cost of Substantive support to the COP, its subsidiary bodies, legal advice and global issues as at 30 June 2005	<u>1,199,700</u>

C. Science and technology

24. Since the sixth session of the COP, the secretariat has continued to facilitate activities of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) follow-up on related decisions taken by the COP. Various activities have been undertaken by the secretariat in supporting the CST programme of work and the activities of the Group of Experts (GoE).

25. In accordance with decision 17/COP.5, the GoE was established and is composed of 25 members. Following decision 15/COP.6, the GoE was requested to prioritize its work programme, as well as focus on issues emerging from the review of national reports and other relevant reports and to advise the CRIC through the CST of the efficacy and adequacy of these programmes for implementing the Convention. The framework of the two-year work plan for the GoE includes the evaluation of the state of the art of common benchmarks and indicators systems for monitoring and assessment of desertification, as well as the evaluation and recommendation of guidelines for both short- and long-term early warning systems.

26. In order to discuss further the implementation of its work programme, the GoE held its third meeting in Beijing, China in October 2004. During the meeting seven project proposals were prepared seeking to operationalize the priority areas of the GoE work plan approved at COP 6. In September 2005 the fourth meeting of the GoE took place in Ispra, Italy.

	<u>US\$</u>
Third meeting of the GoE	27,200
Participation of the GoE Chairperson in CRIC 3	<u>2,700</u>
Total costs of Science and technology as at 30 June 2005	<u>29,900</u>

D. Facilitation of implementation

1. Support to reporting on implementation of the Convention in Africa

27. Following decision 9/COP.6, CRIC 3 reviewed reports on implementation of the Convention in Africa. Forty-eight African country Parties requested financial support for this purpose. A major part of the funds was secured through a medium-size GEF project "Supporting Capacity Building for the Elaboration of National Reports and Country Profiles by African Parties to the UNCCD" which was approved in June 2004. The objective of the project was to assist African country Parties to enhance their capacity to prepare and/or formulate their national reports so as to fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD, whilst building country capacity and strengthening a multi-stakeholder consultation process for implementing the UNCCD.

Additional support to four African country Parties not included in the medium-size GEF project was received from individual donor countries.

28. Forty-nine African country Parties submitted their draft and/or validated national reports. In accordance with requests from the COP, the secretariat, with the assistance of external experts, prepared a synthesis and preliminary analysis of the 48 reports received in time, setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention. Among the main observations were that while most of the African countries have had NAPs for several years, meaningful progress has not been made in their operational implementation. Difficulties were perceived, particularly in mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of their NAPs, and in integrating the UNCCD into macroeconomic planning. The need to strengthen the capacity of local communities was highlighted.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants to 48 African country Parties for the preparation of the national reports	980,900
Consultancy costs and contractual services	<u>37,800</u>
	<u>1,018,700</u>

29. Within the framework of the medium-size project, three subregional workshops were held with the aim of further considering the lessons learned and good practices in combating desertification. The workshops were organized from February 2005 by relevant subregional organizations in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Douala (Cameroon) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). While most of the costs of the workshops were covered under the project, additional support for travel costs of a few participants as well as for the travel of staff was received from individual donor countries.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant to the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) for subregional meetings	87,900
Travel of participants to subregional workshops	120,100
Logistical costs and contractual services	67,300
Consultancy costs	34,300
Staff travel	<u>17,000</u>
	<u>326,600</u>

2. *Provision of assistance to Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention*

30. Support to the preparation of NAPs: Affected country Parties in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean were supported in the preparation of their NAPs. The support provided assisted these country Parties in the collection of data on the status of desertification, in the organization of national awareness raising and NAP validation meetings and preparing for the integration of the NAP into overall national development processes. In many countries, support was provided in cooperation with the Global Mechanism (GM).

31. Depending on the availability of resources, the secretariat supported the accession process and the awareness raising and NAP validation meetings.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants to the Bahamas, Belize, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Serbia and Montenegro, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela	174,700
Consultancy costs and contractual services	35,600
Staff travel	<u>8,400</u>
	<u>218,700</u>

3. Promotion of coordination and cooperation at the subregional level

32. A technical workshop on drought preparedness in the Balkans within the context of the UNCCD was organized in October 2004 in Romania in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization. The main objective of the workshop was to bring together the NAP implementation process and the process of scientific research and meteorological monitoring at national and subregional levels.

33. The meeting agreed on the need for the establishment of a Balkan subregional drought management centre and requested that a second workshop be organized in 2005 on the terms of reference of the centre. The secretariat prepared a CD-ROM on the meeting. The need for wider involvement of national scientists and experts on drought and of meteorologists in the process of preparation and implementation of the NAPs and/or national strategies was also stressed during the workshop.

	<u>US\$</u>
Travel of participants	4,600
Preparation of the CD-ROM	<u>2,700</u>
	<u>7,300</u>

4. Promotion of cooperation and networking at the regional level

34. Through regional action programmes (RAPs), the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean affected country Parties identify the priority thematic areas for coordination and cooperation at the regional level. These priority areas are operationalized through regional thematic programme networks (TPNs) which promote capacity building, cooperation in activities that benefit from a regional approach, and exchange of information and technical know-how.

35. A regional meeting to strengthen the cooperation among Northern Mediterranean countries in the field of land resources management was organized from 17-18 May 2004 in Bonn, Germany. The general objectives of the meeting were to strengthen regional cooperation in the management of land resources and to support the implementation of the UNCCD in the region. The meeting agreed on priority areas for developing regional scientific cooperation, on establishing regional thematic networks, and on organizing regional technical workshops on

promoting the exchange of technologies and know-how, by using existing regional training and reference centres.

36. Central and Eastern European affected country Parties have identified priority areas for regional cooperation aiming to develop scientific networking, strengthen the regional exchange of information and documentation, support capacity-building and promote exchange of techniques and know-how.

37. In Africa, the fifth regional TPN for the development and promotion of new and renewable energy source was launched in May 2004 in Kenya by the country Parties of the region. It was agreed that the substantive focus of the network would include the following issues:

- Capacity building for strengthening the production and delivery of renewable energy in developing countries affected by desertification;
- Promotion of the development and application of appropriate technologies for the production and use of renewable energy;
- Promotion of information exchange and distribution on the linkages between desertification and energy production; and
- Mobilization of financial resources for the promotion of renewable energy as a part of efforts to control desertification.

38. The network launch meeting was closely linked with preparations for the International Conference on Renewable Energies held in June 2004. The African Energy Ministers' group for preparations of the Conference met immediately after the network launch. The Chairperson of the ministerial group attended the network meeting and officially launched the network. Also, the recommendations of the launch meeting were delivered to, and unanimously adopted by, the ministerial preparatory meeting. The substantive focus of the UNCCD input to the Conference on Renewable Energies derived largely from the deliberations in the network launch meeting and the ministerial meeting.

	<u>US\$</u>
Logistical services	26,300
Grant	3,000
Travel of participants	61,900
Consultancy costs and contractual services	9,200
Travel of staff	<u>4,700</u>
	<u>105,100</u>

39. The launch meeting for the sixth African TPN on sustainable agricultural farming systems was held in Tunisia in November 2004, back to back with the interregional Africa – Latin America meeting on agroforestry. The launch meeting considered priorities for sustainable agriculture, the work plan 2004-2007, mechanisms for identification, selection and funding of relevant regional pilot projects, and communication and exchange mechanisms for information dissemination among stakeholders. A consultant was recruited to prepare a background document that was used as the basis for a subsequent workshop. Among the priority areas of action identified by the meeting were the following:

- Creating a sustainable agricultural farming systems network;
- Facilitating the reorientation of national and regional agricultural research programming to take desertification-affected livelihoods better into account;
- Facilitating collaboration and cooperation between ongoing strategies and initiatives; and
- Promoting measures for revitalizing drylands agricultural sectors based on good local governance for sustainable agricultural farming systems.

40. The costs relating to the organization of and participation in this TPN meeting are presented below under the section presenting the Africa – Latin America and the Caribbean interregional meeting.

41. In Asia, cooperation under TPN 2 on agroforestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas continued through a workshop that was organized in January 2005 in India. The workshop considered a regional study on agroforestry practices, and a draft manual on agroforestry in drylands and related techniques that had been prepared by a team of experts. The manual is a practical tool for promoting agroforestry farming systems and the domestication, processing and marketing of agroforestry products of socio-economic interest, particularly at the local level. After the workshop, the manual was completed and will be distributed within the region.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant to India for the organization of the meeting	18,700
Consultancy costs	7,200
Staff travel	5,900
Travel of participants	<u>6,400</u>
	<u>38,200</u>

42. The Asian TPN 3 on rangeland management in arid areas, including the fixation of shifting sand dunes, was launched in 2001. Among the priority activities of the network members are the selection of representative sample areas and, by using rangeland management systems and/or practices that are bio-physically and socio-economically appropriate for those areas, the designing, planning and implementation of pilot projects.

43. In 2002 a pilot project design meeting for TPN 3 approved the systematic design for testing on pilot project plots the application of mulching, soil conditioning and windbreaks for sand fixation and rangeland protection. Belgian and Chinese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed themselves to donating materials necessary for the tests. The first pilot project was launched in 2002 in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In 2004, a similar test was carried out in Kyrgyzstan.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant to Kyrgyzstan for launching the pilot project	<u>10,200</u>

44. In Latin America and the Caribbean, TPN 4 on promotion of agroforestry and combating poverty was launched in November 2004 in Guatemala. Prior to the launch meeting, subregional workshops on agroforestry had been held in the Gran Chaco, Puna and Hispaniola subregions.

Based on the subregional initiatives, a preliminary proposal for the objectives, structure and functioning of TPN 4 was discussed at the launch meeting.

45. Participants at the launch meeting defined the main strategic lines for carrying out the TPN 4 work programme as follows:

- **Prevention:** Preventive management measures to be implemented on selected ecosystems in the presence of information gaps (precautionary principle);
- **Attention:** Actions to be undertaken to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems where there is no evidence of resilience;
- **Mitigation:** Actions to be undertaken to ensure the sustainability of ecosystems that have recently been extensively exploited (evidence of low resilience);
- **Recovery/rehabilitation** actions to be undertaken to recover the structure and functions of ecosystems when a severe degradation has occurred and there is evidence of high levels of resilience;
- **Restoration:** Restoring the ecosystem's original structure and functions.

	<u>US\$</u>
Travel of participants to the launch meeting	31,800
Grant	4,000
Consultancy costs and contractual services	14,300
Staff travel	<u>3,400</u>
	<u>53,500</u>

5. The regional coordination units

46. The regional coordination units (RCUs) for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are hosted by the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively. Their tasks included support to the TPNs, facilitation of inter-agency coordination, the formulation and implementation of joint work programmes with various regional institutions, and representation of the UNCCD secretariat at national, subregional and regional meetings.

47. The UNCCD participated in a meeting on forests in Guadalajara, Mexico, in the preparation of a CD-ROM on rainwater catchment with the International Centre for Demonstration and Training in Utilising Rainwater (CIDECALL), within the activities of TPN 3 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the preparation for publication, in cooperation with UNEP and the government of Guatemala, of a manual on agroforestry for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which will be published shortly. Each activity costed approximately US\$ 1,000 and was supported by funds from the Norwegian contribution.

	<u>US\$</u>
Costs of the African RCU	467,100
Costs of the Asian RCU	340,200
Costs of the Latin American and Caribbean RCU	203,600
RCU staff travel	<u>48,500</u>
	<u>1,059,400</u>

6. *Promotion of cooperation at the interregional level*

48. The fourth interregional Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum was held in Tunisia in November 2004, back to back with the launch meeting of the African TPN 6. The Forum focused on the promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems in the context of UNCCD implementation. Its objectives were to design and adopt a joint operational work programme based on the existing potentials in the area of sustainable agriculture, aiming at combating desertification and poverty at the level of small-scale farmers, and to build partnerships for the effective implementation of selected activities coherent with the respective national, subregional and regional action programmes.

49. The key areas of action for the biennium 2005-2006 selected by countries of the two regions were decided as follows:

- Credit and financing mechanisms (bilateral, regional, internal)
- Information and experience exchange strategy at the local, national, regional and global levels
- Capacity building, with emphasis on the participation of producers and producer associations and organizations, and market aspects
- Integration with markets (agro-processing and market chains)
- Integrated natural resource management
- Rehabilitation of degraded areas
- Soil conservation.

50. The comparative advantages of the two regions were identified, and potential areas for developing interregional projects were considered to include the dissemination of lessons learned from pilot projects, the promotion of agreements between farmers' cooperatives with a special focus on access to markets, the elaboration of synthesis reports on sustainable agriculture systems, monitoring, required institutional assistance and material and financial needs, and the exchange of information with, and awareness raising of, decision makers.

	<u>US\$</u>
Logistical and contractual services	27,000
Travel of participants	<u>113,500</u>
	<u>140,500</u>

7. *Promotion of synergies*

51. National synergy workshops: In 2004, a national level synergy workshop was organized in Kyrgyzstan to identify areas for the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions, to seek strategies for integrating the priorities of the conventions into the national development processes, and to elaborate future projects and activities reflecting synergies among the conventions. The workshop brought together key stakeholders working on the conventions at the national level, including relevant ministries, NGOs and local experts.

52. The participants noted the lack of inter-ministerial and intersectoral cooperation, and insufficient legislation basis and governmental support for successful implementation of the Rio conventions. They agreed that it was necessary to establish an institutional mechanism for

ensuring such synergies. In this regard, the workshop recommended the three ministries in charge of the Rio conventions to prepare and sign a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of these conventions, to include also provisions on the participation of other ministries and institutions in this process.

53. The participants also noted the low level of awareness raising, education and exchange of information on issues relating to the global environmental conventions, and highlighted the need to prepare a national action plan on capacity-building for implementing the conventions. They recommended that the GEF project on national capacity self-assessment consider any recommendations of this workshop when preparing a national strategic plan of action on capacity-building.

54. The Kyrgyzstan workshop was one of several national synergy forums organized in recent years. In general, for most country Parties the synergy workshop was the first national level opportunity to discuss the conventions jointly among a large group of relevant stakeholders. In this regard, the workshops helped launch the process of establishing synergies between the conventions at the national level, and identify the next steps in moving this process forward.

55. In assessing the outcomes of the national workshops, the need to further strengthen collaboration and coordination among the main actors at the national level, particularly the national coordinating bodies and focal points for the conventions, remains one of the main challenges to synergies. Furthermore, the establishment of linkages between various national development plans and programmes, including strategies for poverty reduction, is necessary for creating an operational and financial framework that allows for effective synergistic implementation of the conventions.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grant to Kyrgyzstan for logistical costs and preparation of the report	14,700
Travel of participants	<u>6,700</u>
	<u>21,400</u>

56. Local level synergy workshops: Two synergy workshops with a particular focus on the development of methodologies for the involvement of local-level stakeholders in the creation of synergies were organized during the biennium 2004-2005, in Kazakhstan and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

57. The workshops considered strategies for better involving local communities in the preparation of synergistic projects, and on the other hand possibilities and hindrances in integrating the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions into local-level planning processes. Among the matters discussed were the identification of strategies for enhancing collaboration and coordination between local communities and national-level actors and scientists, the preparation and implementation of local-level synergistic projects, capacity-building needs, and the provision of incentives for synergistic implementation at the local level.

58. The workshops strengthened communication between various actors at the national and local levels. They supported the identification of local-level capacity building needs for

synergistic implementation, and highlighted the importance of strengthening linkages between scientific research and local-level synergistic implementation, so that the results of research could profit local activities and in order to facilitate the generation of success stories. The development of synergistic projects at the local level, as well as the identification of modalities for participatory project preparation, was moved forward.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants to Kazakhstan and St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the organization of the local-level synergy workshop	33,000
Staff travel	<u>20,900</u>
	<u>53,900</u>

8. Facilitation of partnership building

59. Organization of consultative processes: On the basis of the outcomes of the previous sessions of the CRIC, the main challenges in implementing the NAPs include the mainstreaming of the NAPs into national strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and the mobilization of adequate and predictable funding. In order to respond to these challenges, several affected developing countries launched consultative processes. These processes are aimed at bringing together all the main stakeholders involved in NAP implementation at the national level (i.e. governmental and regional/local authorities, civil society, scientists and the private sector), as well as bilateral and multilateral partners.

60. In 2004 and 2005, Armenia, Belize, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, the Republic of Moldova, Niger, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Viet Nam brought forward the consultative process, through workshops and background studies among other means, for linking the NAP with national development strategies, operationalization of the NAP through the preparation of concrete projects on the priority areas of the NAP, and identification of potential domestic and external funding sources for NAP implementation. In some countries, the purpose of these activities was to produce a 'NAP component' for the overall national development plan and related donor round table, while in other countries the activities aimed to prepare for a consultative donor meeting focusing on NAP implementation.

61. For most of the country Parties, support was provided in close collaboration with the GM. The secretariat provided substantive assistance and financial support for logistical and consultancy costs and policy advocacy, and participated in joint missions with the GM.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants	109,900
Consultancy costs	25,300
Staff travel, including joint missions with the GM	71,400
Travel of participants	<u>27,200</u>
	<u>233,800</u>

62. Assistance in project formulation: In 1997, Lesotho, in cooperation with UNDP, launched the Environmental Youth Corps, a project to rehabilitate degraded environments in rural and urban areas and to create income-generating activities for unemployed youth. The

project was a success story, training more than five thousand young people in appropriate environmental management, creating employment, and building capacity at the community level.

63. On the basis of the results achieved in Lesotho, Argentina, Benin, Cape Verde, China, Mozambique and Niger formulated project proposals and launched Youth and Environment projects with the support of UNDP, the United Nations Volunteers, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Italy, the African Union and various partners. Several other country Parties, including Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Niger, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Caribbean countries are preparing similar projects.

	<u>US\$</u>
Grants for the preparation and development of Youth and Environment projects	378,100
Consultancy costs	18,200
Staff travel	<u>4,400</u>
	<u>400,700</u>

9. Special programme for Africa

64. In December 2003, the Government of Italy announced the launching of a special programme to combat land degradation and poverty in Africa in the framework of NEPAD. The secretariat assisted in the establishment of a programme support unit for the implementation of this initiative.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	<u>5,800</u>

10. GEF training workshop

65. The programme supported the organization of the training course to provide methodological tools for project preparation for submission to the GEF. More information on this course is provided in paragraph 16.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	7,800
Grant to Italian National Research Council for logistics	<u>20,000</u>
	<u>27,800</u>

66. Capacity building support to Niger: The secretariat, with the assistance of the Government of Italy and in close collaboration with UNDP, has facilitated the provision of support to the National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) of Niger since the end of 2002. The support is targeted at building the capacity of CNEDD and other governmental and non-governmental organizations on various themes in the context of implementing Niger's National Plan on Environment and Sustainable Development (PNEDD). Subsequently, it is expected that the issues of environment management should receive increased attention, and all actors concerned in the process will be better able to carry out their respective roles in environmental management. In addition, a contribution was provided to Niger for the

implementation of pilot activities in the context of the Land and Water Initiative led by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP.

	<u>US\$</u>
Niger institutional support	
Grant to Niger for pilot activities in the context of the Land and Water Initiative	268,300
Consultancy services	50,000
Staff travel	22,500
	<u>21,500</u>
	<u>362,300</u>

Total costs of Facilitation of implementation as at 30 June 2005 4,083,900

E. External relations and public information

1. *Support to the coordination and organization of activities relating to the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD)*

67. Consultations with the Ministry of Environment of Algeria: To secure an enhanced international profile for the IYDD, and to ensure the indispensable public and media visibility required for its successful promotion worldwide, the secretariat explored the possibility of associating internationally recognized figures with activities of the year. In this context, and after consultations with the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Cherif Rahmani, Minister of Environment of Algeria and President of the World Desert Foundation, has been appointed Honorary Spokesperson for the IYDD, a function which he shares with Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for 2004.

68. Furthermore, and acknowledging the role that the Government of Algeria intends to play in the IYDD process as one of its *chefs de file*, an invitation was extended to one of its representatives to join the inter-agency committee on the IYDD. On this basis, several coordination meetings in Algiers and Bonn have been scheduled.

69. The Dubai Festival of World Deserts: The second Festival of the Cultures and Civilizations of World Deserts was jointly organized by the World Desert Foundation and the Zayed International Prize for the Environment and was conceived to serve, among other things, as a unique platform for the launch of the IYDD. It gathered Heads of States, ministers and experts from all over the world over a diverse and innovative agenda encompassing scientific, cultural and economic issues. This event, at which the Executive Secretary was requested to represent the Secretary-General of the United Nations, allowed for enhanced coordination with a diverse range of partners and provided a useful forum for promoting the IYDD. Contractual services were also incurred in the development and organization of the international contest for the IYDD logo, and additional costs were incurred in the development of this logo.

	<u>US\$</u>
Staff travel	17,000
Contractual services	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>22,000</u>

2. Consultations and collaboration with key agencies

70. With the assistance of a senior consultant, high-level consultations were engaged with selected countries of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), the OPEC Fund for International Cooperation and other parties in order to define viable means for developing an enhanced framework of cooperation and identifying possible options in that regard, including on issues pertaining to institutional and financial matters.

71. Senior expert advice was also sought to follow up on different recommendations adopted by the UNCCD interregional platforms of cooperation and the COP 6 Round Table of Heads of States and Governments on matters relating to the strengthening of interregional cooperation in the framework of the implementation of the UNCCD, including the promotion of new partnerships.

	<u>US\$</u>
Consultancy costs	<u>291,000</u>

3. Development, production and distribution of public information

72. The year 2004 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention; special events with a high political profile and press conferences were organized worldwide to commemorate this important date. The secretariat used this special occasion to launch a public information campaign including new promotional tools to increase the outreach capabilities of the Convention by exposing to decision makers and to the public at large both the work already accomplished since its entry into force and the challenges that still lay ahead for this unique legally binding instrument that specifically addresses the promotion of sustainable development in fragile ecosystems. On that occasion, with the generous assistance of the Governments of France and Switzerland, the secretariat launched the UNCCD Anniversary Brochure: Ten Years On and the 2004 poster edition, Skin Erosion.

	<u>US\$</u>
Contractual services	90,600
Consultancy costs	<u>17,300</u>
	<u>107,900</u>
Total costs of External relations and public information as at 30 June 2005	<u>420,900</u>

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

73. In the light of the information provided in this document, the Parties may wish to take note of the report on the performance of the trust fund for supplementary activities.
