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UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)
Mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

Compilation of regional proposals

Note by the secretariat

Summary

Decision 3/COP.8 calls upon each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Global Mechanism (GM), on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention and to provide these prior to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) for consideration in the context of the budget and the programme of work. The same decision requests the Executive Secretary to compile regional proposals and to submit these to COP 9 for consideration. The compilation of the four regional proposals is contained in the present document.

The regional proposals have been prepared by four of the five Regional Implementation Annexes with the assistance of the secretariat and the GM to the regional task forces which were established for this purpose. The views expressed and the suggestions made in these proposals may not represent those of the secretariat or the GM.

Decision 3 /COP.8 also requests the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM on its regional arrangements, to review the current regional coordination arrangements within the secretariat and within the GM with a view to improving them, to develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements and to submit these to COP 9 for consideration. The evidence-based options are contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/3.

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I. Introduction

1. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), through decision 3/COP.8, recognized that limiting factors had prevented an optimal deployment of the Convention. In response, the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) was adopted.

2. Decision 3/COP.8 also instigated a review and a strengthening of regional coordination mechanisms. Specifically, Parties recognized that “regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy”, and requested “each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Global Mechanism (GM), on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention”.

3. In accordance with that decision, Parties should have developed five proposals, one per Regional Implementation Annex, and should have provided these proposals prior to the ninth session of the COP (COP 9). To this effect, indications as to how to develop the proposals were provided in decision 3/COP.8 and in The Strategy¹ and they relate to functions, outputs, reporting, housing, staffing and resources required for regional coordination mechanisms.

¹ Relevant provisions are contained in paragraph 30 of decision 3/COP.8, and in paragraph 22 (b) of The Strategy.

4. Following the mandate received with decision 3/COP.8, and along an agreed-upon joint work programme, the secretariat and the GM have provided assistance to Parties in the development of these proposals. The secretariat and the GM facilitated the work of the task forces: (a) preparing background documentation, (b) convening two meetings of the regional task forces established to prepare the proposals, (c) facilitating consultations among Parties throughout the whole process including through a questionnaire, and (d) making external expertise available to the task forces.

II. Compilation of regional proposals on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention²

5. As a result of this process, the Regional Implementation Annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe have finalized their respective proposals³ and transmitted them to the secretariat by 15 May 2009.

6. These regional proposals have been compiled in the present document for consideration by the COP⁴. The proposals, as well as the relevant documentation which was prepared during this process, is also posted on the UNCCD Website at <www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php>.

7. The proposals, as contained in the annexes to this document, were reviewed and discussed at the regional meetings, in preparation for the ninth session of the COP, which took place in Montevideo (29 June to 3 July), Bangkok (13–17 July), Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina (22–24 July) and Tunis (27 – 31 July).

8. Country Parties of Northern Mediterranean, and other affected country Parties clarified during the Regional Meeting in Rome (8–10 July) that Annex IV does not require the establishment of a regional office and that the usual coordination mechanism will continue to meet the need of concerted action of affected country Parties of the region. Accordingly, a proposal on new mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination was not submitted.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

9. The regional proposals are annexed to this document for consideration by the COP, while the evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements, on which the Conference of the Parties is expected to take action at its ninth session, is contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/3.

² The proposals from Africa and Latin America and Caribbean are also available in French and Spanish, respectively. The non-official translations were produced with the aim of facilitating wide consultations with the country Parties of the two regions and are attached for reference only.

³ Annex IV did not submit a regional proposal on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention.

⁴ Regional proposals have been prepared by the Regional Implementation Annexes with the assistance of consultants made available by the secretariat and the GM to the regional task forces. The views expressed and suggestions made in these proposals may not represent those of the secretariat nor the GM.

Annex I**Regional proposal: Africa****I. Introduction**

1. During the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in particular in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, States recognized that environmental issues and development were intrinsically linked and they proposed a new participatory approach in respect to desertification. The UNCED also recommended the elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in countries that experience serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

2. After an intergovernmental negotiation process, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted on 17 June 1994 in Paris and came into force on 26 December 1996 after the ratification of 57 countries. With today 193 country Parties, it is the only international legal instrument focusing attention specifically on the protection of land and soil, on arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and desertification-affected communities around the world.

3. To ensure an effective implementation of the Convention, affected developing country Parties to the UNCCD have the obligation to elaborate national action programmes (NAPs), subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs) to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought. This is carried out with the participation of affected populations and local communities and the support of bilateral and multilateral development partners, including relevant intergovernmental organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community and nongovernmental organizations (articles 9 and 10). All country Parties are required to submit reports to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on the measures they have taken to implement the UNCCD (Article 26).

4. In conformity with relevant Articles of the Convention, including articles 11 and 15, Parties shall develop operational mechanisms at all levels as well as regional approaches and cooperation and coordination in the implementation of action programmes. To achieve the Convention's objectives, five regional implementation annexes, starting with the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa, are integrated to the provisions of the Convention.

5. Given the structure of the Convention, cooperation within regions will continue to be an important vehicle with which to address desertification/land degradation and the effects of drought. A regional structure attached to the UNCCD secretariat should pave the way for effective implementation at all levels in every region.

6. The present document is a draft of the process of the development of proposals on mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Convention in Africa. It is the outcome of the consultancy launched in the context of the implementation of decision 3/COP.8, notably operative paragraphs 30 to 33.

7. The document contains an introduction followed by the background, the mission statement, the institutional arrangements, the hosting arrangements, the short/medium-term result-based management framework, the staffing requirements, the financial resources required and ending with the conclusion and summary of recommendations.

II. Background

A. Legal background

8. In order to translate the often-expressed political will into action, the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) for Africa was established, at the request of African Governments which have adopted a decision in this sense at the sixth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). This decision was endorsed by the Assembly/Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Heads of State and Government in July 1996.

9. The Africa-RCU became operational in the framework of the Resolution on Urgent Action for Africa adopted on 17 June 1994 in Paris, France, by the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (INCD) and the entry into force of the Convention on 26 December 1996, with a view to facilitating the process of elaborating and monitoring the African Regional Action Programme.

10. Before the entry into force of the Convention, “a need for a mechanism at Africa Regional level to elaborate and coordinate an African regional action programme (RAP) in the context of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa” was underlined in paragraph 3 (i) of the Report of the Meeting of African Subregional Organizations (IGAD, CILSS, SADC and UMA) held from 17 to 19 June 1996 in Nairobi, Kenya.

B. History of the whole regional coordination process in Africa

11. In Africa, the principle of an RCU was raised for the first time at the preparatory meeting for the sixth session of AMCEN which took place in 1995. Subsequently, the sixth session of AMCEN took the decision for its establishment in 1996. Furthermore, during preparations for the first session of the COP in Rome, Italy, the Pan-African Conference held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in 1997 adopted the resolution No. 2 on the process of elaboration and implementation of the African regional action programme to Combat Desertification and/or mitigate the effects of Drought.

12. In this resolution, the Pan-African Conference in operative paragraph 5: “Urges all the concerned Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure that the RCU, established by a decision of the sixth AMCEN session and endorsed by the Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government in July 1996, becomes operational as soon as possible...” and in the operative paragraph 7: “...recommends that all the concerned Parties organize as early as possible a consultation with a view of making the RCU operational and working out practical ways and means to enhance its effectiveness...”

13. The rationale for establishing the RCU, especially for Africa, includes:

(a) The diversity of African Region in term of geography (five sub-regions), culture and language barriers, communication barriers, populations affected;

(b) Emphasis given to Africa by the Convention itself in article 7;

(c) A mandate to perform activities that are better done at regional level than at national, subregional and international levels;

(d) Africa has the largest number of Parties to the Convention severely hit by desertification, land degradation, effects of drought, and the largest affected areas.

14. It is clear that the Africa RCU was established to bring about the institutional linkages necessary better to address the various aspects of UNCCD implementation. At the request of all the affected country Parties in Africa, the secretariat assisted the establishment of this facility by negotiating and concluding the institutional arrangements with the host organization and with the host country, including the Memorandum of Understanding that govern the functioning of the Africa RCU.

15. The Africa RCU is at present hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund, signed on 22 May 1999 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The RCU for Africa became operational in December 1999. The agreement between the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the secretariat of the UNCCD for the establishment of the Regional Coordination Unit for Africa, based in Abidjan, was signed on 17 July 2000.

16. From 1999 to 2003 the RCU was physically based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, within the AfDB. In view of the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire, and taking into account the decision of the African Development Bank Board to transfer, on a provisional basis, the headquarters to Tunis, Tunisia, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat requested the Government of Benin by letter on 23 May 2003 to host the RCU, in Cotonou for some months. It took place from

May to August 2003. The RCU moved the interim headquarters of the Host organization from Cotonou to Tunis just before the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Havana, Cuba, in September 2003.

17. In conformity with the provisions of Annex I of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretariat and the AfDB, the functions of the RCU for Africa are:

(a) Promoting exchange of experiences in the implementation of subregional action programmes, in facilitating regular consultative processes and in developing cooperation between relevant subregional organizations (CILSS/ECOWAS, UMA, IGAD, SADC, UDEAC/CEMAC);

(b) Contributing to the organization of consultative processes bringing together concerned regional and international organizations (AfDB, IDB, World Bank, UNCCD, ECA, FAO, IFAD, WMO, OAU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO) etc.;

(c) Implementing, follow-up and monitor capacity-building activities at a regional level;

(d) Contributing to the collection and dissemination of relevant information to be used by different partners in order to formulate projects of activities linked to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought;

(e) Helping in the promotion of education and public awareness activities related to the UNCCD and prepare documentation material for the various target groups who are intervening in the field of combating desertification in Africa and more generally on economic policies and poverty eradication;

(f) Promoting technical and scientific cooperation in the fields related to the rehabilitation of degraded land, the improvement of water resources and renewable energy sources;

(g) Supporting of subregional and regional research activities;

(h) Contributing to exchange of information and appropriate techniques, technical know-how and relevant experiences between African affected countries and sub-regions as well as with other regions affected by desertification;

(i) Setting up a cooperation framework with the African regional representation of the international non-governmental organization networks working in the field of combating desertification;

(j) Participating, at the request of the UNCCD secretariat, in subregional and international forums dedicated to combating desertification;

(k) Assisting African partners to promote innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources earmarked for supporting the implementation of the UNCCD;

(l) Evaluating and disseminating, on a regular basis, reports on the status of activities linked to the implementation of the regional action programme (RAP/UNCCD).

18. The Africa RCU, in accordance with the above functions, contributes, inter alia, to the following:

(a) Support of the formulation of the African regional action programme in close cooperation with the relevant subregional and regional institutions;

(b) Design and launching of activities related to the establishment of the six thematic programme networks (TPNs) which involved a variety of specialized institutions and organizations;

(c) Substantial promotion of the exchange of information, data, experience and know-how between the networks and among various specialized African institutions;

(d) Effective dissemination of information concerning activities under the networks to benefit national and local level activities in African affected country Parties;

(e) Coordination and harmonization of the policies and rationalization of the strategies concerning the priority areas defined by African experts;

(f) Support of the implementation and appropriate follow-up of the Convention at the regional level through efforts to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Convention are reflected in the programmes of the main regional initiatives;

(g) Contribution to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), by facilitating the formulation of desertification control projects under the Action Plan for the NEPAD environmental initiative;

(h) The strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation, notably with a view to achieving greater synergy in the implementation process of the three Rio conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD) as well as the relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);

(i) Day-to-day liaison with countries, cooperating institutions and organizations in African region, as well as the Convention secretariat;

(j) Participation in subregional and regional Convention-related events on behalf of the secretariat and as required;

(k) Design and implementation of a joint work programme with the host institution, the African Development Bank;

(l) The drafting of progress reports on the African Regional Action Programme and submission to the Secretariat.

19. Despite very scant resources, the Africa RCU has succeeded in asserting itself as central link for facilitating the regional action programme in Africa, in order to perform the very specific functions it has been assigned. According to the African country Parties, the RCU has played a key role in helping to incorporate the regional UNCCD process into decision makers' priorities. This has led to effective exchanges of information as well as effective coordination with the various subregional and regional activities. The African country Parties and representative of subregional and regional organizations emphasize that such an operation would have been more difficult to imagine if the connection always had to be made directly with the Convention secretariat in Bonn.

20. At the request of affected African country Parties, and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the secretariat facilitated the preparations of the RAP. Furthermore, they recommended that the RCU should address the major issues taken up in the RAP by networking

with all the subregional and regional institutions with expertise in areas relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

21. The formulation, implementation and follow up of the RAP are facilitated mainly by the RCU for Africa. However, the development and implementations of the five subregional action programmes were supported through the subregional organizations in Africa. The African country Parties identified six (6) thematic programme networks around which the RAP for Africa has been developed:

- (a) Integrated management of international river, lake and hydro-geological basins;
- (b) Promotion of agroforestry and soil conservation;
- (c) Rational use of rangelands and promotion of fodder crops development;
- (d) Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems;
- (e) Promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies;
- (f) Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems.

22. Other activities for the better facilitation of the implementation of the Convention at regional and subregional levels in Africa have been the facilitation of consultative processes among African country Parties, leading to region-wide, common positions on matters relevant to the Convention, the follow-up to specific UNCCD initiatives in Africa and policy advocacy and the raising of awareness. Liaisons between the African Development Bank and African country Parties have been maintained in order to ensure that the bank duly invests in sustainable land-management activities in the African continent.

C. Relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties

23. The question of Regional Coordination Units has been on the agenda of the Conference of the Party sessions since the third session held in Recife, Brazil, in 1999. In decision 3/COP.3 on Programme and Budget for the biennium 2000–2001, the Conference of the Parties, in operative paragraph 10 “...requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session on the need for, the feasibility of, and the modalities for regional coordination units and the costs involved with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision”.

24. In accordance to the above mentioned decision 3/COP.3 the Convention secretariat prepared and submitted to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties the Report ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.1 on Regional Coordination Units. In Decision 4/COP.4 on programme and budget for the biennium 2000–2001, the Conference of the Parties, in operative paragraph 17: “Notes that there has been insufficient time at the fourth session to consider the report ICCD/COP (4)/2/Add.1 on regional coordination units and in this context, requests the Executive Secretary to submit a new report providing a more detailed and thorough evaluation of the need for, the feasibility of, the modalities for and the costs involved in the

regional coordination units as well as an evaluation to address the approach to regional level activities within the United Nations system, taking into account the need to avoid duplication of the mandates of existing organizations, with a view to enabling the Conference of the Parties to take a decision at its fifth session”.

25. As follow-up to the Decision 4/COP.4, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1 to 12 October 2001, adopted an entire decision on Regional Coordination Units. It was the decision 6/COP.5 on “Consideration of the regional coordination units initiative”.

26. The content of this decision is a major step because for the first time since COP.3 in 1999, the COP recognized the importance of regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention and the value of efforts at the regional level identified as the “regional coordination units” initiative. In addition, it decided to include the subject as an agenda item to be considered by the sixth session of the COP. Also, it decided that, until this item is considered by the COP, funding shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund.

27. At its sixth session, held in Havana, Cuba, in 2003, the COP recognized the need of affected developing country Parties and other country Parties for consistent and cost-effective support in promoting regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention. In decision 11/COP.6, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on the possible functions, institutional arrangements, modalities and collaborative arrangements of options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing RCUs and other relevant regional and subregional entities.

28. At its seventh session, the COP, inter alia, decided, in operative paragraph 4 of its decision 11/COP.7 “ to establish an open-ended group to review available reports and information received from Parties and other entities and make recommendations to COP 8 on options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing RCUs and other relevant regional and subregional entities and take a decision at COP 8 on the role of, and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to, the RCUs”.

29. At the COP 8, by adopting decision 3/COP.8, the key decision is in the operative paragraph 30 mentioned above in paragraph 6 of this draft document.

30. Unfortunately, from the third to the eighth sessions, the Conference of the Parties did not take any concrete action to move forward on the effective functioning of those units for the implementation of the Convention at regional level. The feeling of the African country Parties and other actors and stakeholders is that after having considered the item on RCUs for ten years from 1999 to 2009, the time has come to take a concrete and effective action at COP 9.

D. Mandate of the secretariat and of the Global Mechanism at subregional and regional levels

31. The secretariat and the GM should, within their respective mandates, ensure consistency and complementarities in the delivery of services, and strengthen their coordination and

cooperation from headquarters to country, subregional and regional levels and to develop a proposal in collaboration, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention.

32. In general, coordination at a supranational level, i.e. subregional, regional and interregional levels, is required when issues can be addressed better through the concerted action of country Parties. Coordination is essential to ensure the fulfillment of a series of obligations under the Convention and Parties – with the assistance of the secretariat and the GM where required – have established a number of ad hoc and standing mechanisms to ensure the required level of cooperation.

33. The following matters need coordination between the secretariat and the GM:

- (a) Elaboration and/or alignment and implementation of national action programmes;
- (b) Preparation and adoption of new reporting guidelines under The Strategy;
- (c) Preparation and/or alignment and implementation of subregional and Regional Action Programmes;
- (d) Preparation of the COP and its subsidiary bodies for the official sessions;
- (e) Specific policy issues relevant to the process such as ad hoc consultative meetings and thematic workshops at subregional, regional and global levels;
- (f) Regional and interregional platforms for cooperation, establishment of partnerships with relevant partner institutions and resources mobilization.

34. The new mechanism, as appropriate, will contribute to the implementation of the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM through advice, technical and financial support to the elaboration of project proposals, dissemination of information, provision of technical backstopping and assistance in the organization of workshops in the Africa region.

E. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention

35. At its eight session held in Madrid, Spain, in September 2007, the Conference of the Parties adopted The Strategy. The vision of The Strategy is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty eradication and sustainable development.

36. The Strategy contains four strategic objectives to guide the actions of all UNCCD Parties, actors, stakeholders and partners and constitute the overall orientation for the period 2008–2018, including raising political will, accompanied by five operational objectives and their description. The four strategic objectives are:

- Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations
- Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems

- Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
- Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

37. Moreover, the mission of The Strategy is to provide a framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and/or mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty eradication.

38. On this base, the following five operational objectives will guide the actions of all UNCCD Parties, actors, partners and stakeholders with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives:

- Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education
- Operational objective 2: Policy framework
- Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge
- Operational objective 4: Capacity building
- Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

39. It is worth noting that the strategic and operational objectives target the improvement of the living conditions of affected populations, ecosystems conditions and the generation of global benefits and mobilization of national and international support. Clearly, progress on these fronts would go a long way to contributing to the eradication of poverty and to gradually reaching sustainable development in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas of affected country Parties worldwide, particularly in Africa.

40. All activities of the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa will directly be derived from and aligned to The Strategy. In doing so, country Parties will move from the original concept and functions of the regional coordination unit for Africa to the new one as contained in the provisions of decision 3/COP 8.

III. The mission statement

A. Generalities

41. The COP through its decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 29 “recognizes that regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy” and also “ recognizes that the coordination mechanisms must be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and the specific issues of regions”.

42. The functions and activities of the current RCU for Africa, as mentioned in paragraphs 17 and 18, show that the focus is not only on the elaboration, follow up and monitoring of the RAP for Africa, but it covers all issues related to the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa. In the beginning, the initiative to establish the Regional Coordination Unit was to elaborate and coordinate an African RAP in the context of the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa

and to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress made on subregional action programmes preparation and implementation. Today, after ten years' experience and taking into account the reform of the secretariat, a new structure should be set up to achieve the objectives of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa.

B. Need for a new name

43. The new momentum generated by The Strategy since its adoption at the eight session of the Conference of the Parties together with the focus on the Regional Implementation Annex for each region by the decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 30, and the necessity for the secretariat to fully assume its functions under article 23 of the Convention, in order to better reflect the results of consultations, comments, proposals, contributions and suggestions by country Parties, actors, partners and stakeholders, has created the need for a new name for the RCU should be agreed on by consensus.

44. After proposals of several names such as: Regional Implementation Office for Africa (RIO/Africa), Regional Liaison Office for Africa (RLO/Africa), Regional Coordination Office for Africa (RCO/Africa), and Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Africa, there is a general consensus that the new name should be: Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

C. Purpose

45. The Regional Office of the Convention will serve all beneficiaries at all levels in the African region. Its main purpose should be to /serve beneficiaries in the following classification:

- **Regional level:** African Union Commission (AUC), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs), International Organizations and Institutions (IOs)
- **Subregional level:** Regional Economic Community (REC) Secretariats (such as: ECOWAS, CILSS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, COMESA, CEMAC, CEN-SAD), IOs (OSS), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Transboundary Programmes, etc.
- **National level:** Ministries, departments, IOs, NGOs related to sustainable land management (SLM) or desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)
- **Local level:** Local authorities (mayors, etc), community-based organizations (CBOs), people living in poverty, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, etc.

46. The benefits will take the form of gains in environmental sustainability, sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security, mobilization and channeling of financial resources and technology transfer, raising awareness to mitigate environmental threats, such climate change, etc.

D. Definition of the mandate

47. Due to the weakness of the RCU caused by a lack of financial resources and transfer of technology as well as by lack of human resources, some programmes and activities are dying. The lack of political will and support of the RCU by many non-affected country Parties has meant that a focus on Africa by the Convention has been tremendously reduced. Taking into account all other reasons and arguments, the overall mandate of the Regional Office of the

Convention will be better to respond to the new challenges and the needs of the African affected country Parties at all levels, with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the UNCCD in Africa, a continent which is the focus of the Convention.

48. In other words, the Regional Office of the Convention should be the main organ to facilitate coordination among country Parties of the region and assist them in the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy at national, subregional and regional levels. Therefore, the specific mandates of the Regional Office of the Convention should be effectively to demonstrate that:

(a) It will be at the centre of the implementation of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa;

(b) The functions that were in the defunct facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Africa region unit in the secretariat are taken up by the Regional Office of the Convention to support and advise, as appropriate, African Parties;

(c) In terms of global affairs, interregional cooperation and exchange of experiences, including best practices and success stories will be maintained;

(d) The role of the GM in mobilizing and channeling financial resources and technology transfer for the African Region will be enhanced and therefore should have foothold in the Regional Office of the Convention;

(e) Its cooperation with competent subregional organizations such as CILSS, IGAD, SADC, ECOWAS, UMA, CEMAC, CEN-SAD, COMESA, OSS and regional institutions such as African Union and African Development Bank will be maintained, strengthened and extended, as appropriate;

(f) It will offer advice and technical assistance to the affected country Parties at national, subregional and regional levels;

(g) It will cooperate with the regional focal points or chefs de file responsible for coordinating the TPNs and strengthening their cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders in the private sector and university and research establishments;

(h) It will develop or strengthen the cooperative links established with subregional and regional institutions, as well as the regional offices of the United Nations agencies.

E. Functions and tasks

49. The functions and tasks of the Regional Office of the Convention shall be fulfilled under the authority, guidance and supervision of the Executive Secretary and could include the following:

(a) Coordination and support, in conjunction with the secretariat and the GM, for the formulation and alignment of national, subregional and regional action programmes to cope with the strategy objectives, including:

- (i) Facilitation of workshops, seminars, colloquiums and expert meetings for, in particular, advocacy, awareness raising, education, capacity building as well as institutional structures and mechanisms for coordination, facilitation and implementation;
- (ii) Facilitation, design, formulation and/or alignment of project activities at national, subregional and regional levels;
- (iii) Assistance in establishing priorities for implementation and financial assistance;
- (iv) Establishment and/or alignment of indicators for the monitoring, assessment and evaluation of implementation of national, subregional and regional action programmes;

(b) Advice, technical assistance and financial support, together with the secretariat and the GM, for the establishment and/or alignment of thematic programme networks (TPNs) for the collection and exchange of scientific and technical information at subregional and regional level, and ensure that TPNs are closely linked and receive adequate guidance from the CST and the necessary financing from the international community to create an impact in the African country Parties;

(c) Fostering the setting up of networks to mobilize African regional and subregional institutions with competences to engage with and contribute to the work of the CST and equally to ensure regional integration of information exchange and facilitating integration at a global level;

(d) Facilitation of the establishment of subregional and regional intergovernmental consultative processes, in accordance with article 18 (1) to (6) of the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa, and coordination of substantive and financial support to them in conjunction with the Secretariat and the GM;

(e) Promotion and facilitation, in conjunction with the secretariat and the GM, of participation of intergovernmental organizations, agencies and NGOs in consultative processes as well as assistance in the organization and coordination of substantive and financial support to interregional consultative meetings on interregional cooperation;

(f) Advise on and assist the development of policy approaches to the implementation of the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa and related resource allocation. Also seek opportunities for South – South cooperation relating to the Convention implementation for the African Region, including the organization of activities of South – South platforms and be responsible for the follow up and evaluation of the agreed actions;

(g) Advise national, subregional and regional institutions on databases to facilitate the systematic collection and dissemination of information related to all aspects of the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties as well as actions and measures under the Convention;

(h) Advice and facilitation assistance to African country Parties on compiling and communicating information on the implementation of the Convention in Africa, and reviewing and analyzing progress;

(i) Assistance in the compilation of summaries of implementation reports and in the preparation of the syntheses of them;

(j) Assistance in the preparation of reports summarizing the conclusions of the review process by the CRIC;

(k) Liaison with the knowledge, management, science and technology unit in the support of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) on substantive documentation relating to networks for collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information in the African Region and the way to use the roster of African experts on Convention related issues;

(l) Performing other duties and responsibilities at the request of the Executive Secretary.

50. The above-mentioned functions and tasks of the Regional Office of the Convention can be re-classified into four functions that reflect four (4) products and services:

(a) Coordination of the various guidelines on differing activities, including aligning national, subregional and regional action programmes;

(b) Facilitating services (e.g.):

(i) Mainstreaming;

(ii) Resource mobilization and channeling;

(iii) Exchange of experiences and networking negotiations;

(c) Monitoring, evaluation and follow up, e.g. TPNs;

(d) Reporting.

F. Identification of the added value

51. A number of factors or elements are important and need to be taken into account in identifying the added value of the Regional Office of the Convention. These include, among others:

(a) Political added value:

- (i) Strong and sustained political commitment of all African country Parties, as well as other Parties, actors, partners, stakeholders, including NGOs and private sector to the activities of the Convention in Africa;
 - (ii) Commitment to a new departure by aligning action programmes and projects based on The Strategy;
 - (iii) Commitment of African country Parties, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa, to create conditions which enable support of the Regional Office of the Convention actions at national, subregional and regional levels;
- (b) Practical added value:
- (i) Effective representation of the Convention (through its main structures, the secretariat and the GM) in the region;
 - (ii) Ensuring accessibility of information in order to facilitate the task of collecting data and analyzing the implementation progress of action programmes, and the effectiveness of mobilization and channeling of financial resources and technology transfer to African country Parties, NGOs and other stakeholders;
 - (iii) Allowing African country Parties to work closely with the Regional Office of the Convention;
- (c) Operational added value:
- (i) Direct linkage with, and assistance to, the African focal point of the UNCCD;
 - (ii) Establishment of an effective regional consultative partnership mechanism (RCPM) to launch, monitor, follow up, assess and evaluate appropriate policies, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks to facilitate and support actions and measures at subregional and regional levels;
 - (iii) Provide on a regular basis to the Executive Secretary, comprehensive status reports on the implementation of the Convention in Africa, including on financial resources mobilized to implement it;
- (d) Economic added value:
- (i) Office space, furniture, equipment (computers and printers) and access to means of communication, except for international telephone calls are covered by African Development Bank;
 - (ii) Lower travel costs for the missions and meetings and communication costs within the region;
 - (iii) Substantial reduction of travel time (“time is money”);
 - (iv) Logistical costs of conferences would be almost irrelevant (bearing in mind that the African Development Bank offer excellent conference facilities, so that technical meetings falling under the Convention work programme can be organized locally) and the costs of participation by eligible experts very low, since the latter come essentially from within the region;

- (e) Coordination added value:
- (i) The proximity to the African country Parties and other actors, partners and stakeholders concerned with the implementation of the Convention in Africa constitutes a greater comparative advantage;
 - (ii) Easy liaison with international organizations and institutions located in the region;
 - (iii) Opportunity for the secretariat and the GM for more coordination and implementation of their joint work programme;
 - (iv) Influencing activities related to action programmes launched by the host organization and linking the activities in question to another one. This is the case in Africa, where scope may be found for increasing the support granted to the objectives of the Convention in the African Development Bank portfolio devoted to rural development, as well as in the activities launched by the World Bank in this sector in cooperation with African Development Bank.

52. The set of factors and elements outlined above merit the attention of the COP 9 and have an influence on the establishment of the Regional Office of the Convention in the context of the new structure of the secretariat and The Strategy.

G. Regional consultative coordination and partnership mechanism

53. Pursuant to Article 18 of the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa, the African country Parties should establish an advisory and guiding body at regional level to watch over and follow up the Regional Office of the Convention functions, tasks and activities and, as appropriate, make proposals and suggestions for consideration by the Regional Office of the Convention coordinator, the Executive Secretary and/or the COP.

54. The composition of this advisory and guiding body which should be called, Regional Consultative Coordination and Partnership Mechanism (RCCPM) includes forty members as follow:

- (a) Five representatives of national focal point of the UNCCD;
- (b) Six focal points of the thematic programme networks (TPNs);
- (c) Nine representatives of relevant subregional institutions (CILSS, ECOWAS, CEMAC, IGAD, SADC, UMA, CEN-SAD, COMESA and OSS);
- (d) Five representatives of relevant regional organizations (African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), IsDB, FADES and BADEA);
- (e) Five representatives of relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations (UNEP, UNDP, FAO, GEF and World Bank);

(f) Five representatives of interested groups and donors (European Union Commission, OECD, WEOG, JUSCANZ);

(g) Five representatives of relevant NGOs (ENDA-Tiers Monde, TerrAfrica, CAADP, etc.).

IV. Institutional arrangements

A. Structure and management of the regional offices of the Convention

55. In the UNCCD secretariat's new organigram, the Regional Offices of the Convention are not clearly mentioned. After COP 9, the Regional Offices of the Convention will appear in the place appropriate to the decision to be taken. Whilst awaiting this decision, the Regional Offices of the Convention should be regarded, from the organizational standpoint, as delocalized offices of the secretariat which are under the authority, guidance and supervision of the Executive Secretary and receive their guidelines from him.

56. In the day-to-day management of their activities, each Regional Office of the Convention, in the framework of the functions assigned to it, should work under the authority of the Deputy Executive Secretary and the guidance of the Coordinator of the Unit of Facilitation, Coordination and Monitoring of Implementation (FCMI). Under the supervision of the Executive Secretary, the direct authority of the Deputy Executive Secretary and the guidance of the Coordinator of the Unit of FCMI, each Regional Office of the Convention has to play a specific role in its region regarding the benefit of the affected country Parties.

57. The Regional Offices of the Convention should be instruments of the implementation of the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM in every region. In another words, in order to facilitate the implementation of the joint work programme, the secretariat and the GM will call on the services of the Regional Offices of the Convention as needed. The aim remains to set in place the most effective Regional Offices of the Convention to Combat Desertification (Regional Offices of the Convention) to help affected country Parties to move forward in the effective implementation of national, subregional, and regional action programmes. They will use a set of necessary regional measures which have a direct positive impact on efforts regarding DLDD.

B. Reporting arrangements

58. Each Regional Office of the Convention should report on its activities to the Executive Secretary in the main progress report by the Secretariat submitted to the COP at each ordinary session. But it is important to underline that the two-year workplan for each Regional Office of the Convention will derive from the four-year workplan of the secretariat and the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM.

59. The Regional Office of the Convention, as an integrated part of the secretariat's structure, will not have a workplan different from that of the secretariat. Thus, without the secretariat workplan, it is not possible to elaborate the Regional Office of the Convention workplan.

C. Liaison, synergy and coordination with other international, regional, subregional or national organizations in the region

60. In the framework of the functions to be assigned to them and in conformity with the provisions of the Convention as well as the orientation of The Strategy, the Regional Offices of the Convention should develop significant working links with other regional and regional organizations. The actions to be targeted should relate chiefly to the promotion of the Convention, including the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa. The following tools should be used: various communication media, organization of coordination meetings on priority action areas of the UNCCD focus on Africa, synergy with multilateral agreements on environment and sustainable development particularly UNFCCC and CBD - substantial contributions to the major events connected with efforts to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought and the management of shared natural resources which are organized in Africa.

61. Analysis of the activities of some organizations working in the field of environment and sustainable development, in particular the institutions of the United Nations system and international organizations, confirms that decentralized or delocalized offices and regional representative offices allow for enhancement of cooperation with the beneficiary countries. As the international community, notably the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, has acknowledged that UNCCD is an important tool which contribute to efforts to eliminate poverty, the Regional Offices of the Convention also have a specific role to play in liaising, synergizing and coordinating at each region level to the benefit of affected populations and countries.

62. The Regional Office of the Convention should offer technical assistance to African countries, cooperating with the regional focal points responsible for coordinating the TPNs and strengthening their cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, stake holders in the private sector and university and research establishments.

63. The Regional Offices of the Convention can certainly develop or strengthen existing cooperative links established with subregional and regional institutions, as well as with the regional offices of the United Nations agencies. In this respect, however, the functions of the Regional Offices of the Convention should remain under the supervision of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat . None of the subregional or regional partner organizations has, by virtue of its terms of reference and its geographical coverage, a coordination mechanism enabling it to provide the technical assistance needed for the smooth running of a programme of regional scope such as the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa. On the other hand, it is clear that after their formal establishment, the Regional Offices of the Convention will manage to create their own identity and become genuine partners by the other regional institutions and be recognized as such.

V. Hosting arrangements

A. General criteria for hosting arrangements

64. Ideally, the organization/institution hosting the Regional Office of the Convention should be characterized among other things by:

- (a) Established and recognized experience and capacity in desertification/land degradation control and/or drought mitigation activities;
- (b) A strong capacity and/or network to access information on development needs in general and for DLDD and poverty eradication in particular;
- (c) An effective network of connections to a variety of funding sources, as well as to affected African country Parties, to facilitate partnership building role of the Regional Office of the Convention for financial resource mobilization and transfer of technology;
- (d) An operational capacity to enhance the functions and tasks of the Regional Office of the Convention;
- (e) A continental/regional focus of its mandate and activities;
- (f) Easy travel connections;
- (g) Easy means of communication and access to them.

B. Identification of the host country/organization/institution

65. At the request of African country Parties, the UNCCD secretariat facilitated the hosting of the RCU by negotiating and concluding with the host institution, the AfDB, and with the host country, Côte d'Ivoire, memoranda of agreement to govern the operation of the unit. In this regard, the decision to place the RCU in AfDB offered benefits that went beyond mere physical hosting. In this way, the institutional arrangements evolved over time and were transformed into a platform for cooperation between the RCU and the departments of AfDB responsible for sustainable development and poverty eradication issues.

66. The presence of RCU in the AfDB contributes real added value by influencing the activities relating to action programmes launched by this regional development bank and linking the activities in question to one another. Scope may be found for increasing the support granted to the objectives of the Convention in the AfDB portfolio devoted to rural development, as well as in the activities launched by the World Bank in this sector in cooperation with AfDB.

67. Against this background, the existing hosting arrangements with the AfDB should continue not only because the relation between UNCCD secretariat/RCU and AfDB, since 1999, has been excellent, but also the Bank fulfilled the above-mentioned general criteria in paragraph 64. However, it will be necessary to conclude and sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the AfDB taking into account the new functions and tasks of the Regional Office of

the Convention, and also with Tunisia as hosting country of the AfDB since the location was changed.

VI. A short to medium-term, results-based management framework

A. Method of approach

68. The work programmes of Regional Offices of the Convention should be aligned with The Strategy and embedded into the secretariat and the GM work programmes, and the joint work programme of the two institutions, as relevant. This means that the two-year workplan for the Regional Office of the Convention will derive from the four-year workplan of the secretariat. In other terms, the work to do is to elaborate a potential two-year plan for the Africa – Regional Office of the Convention, with a view to facilitate its functioning.

69. Existing activities of the RCU at all levels, including advice and technical assistance and capacity building for the implementation of action programmes, as well as facilitation of TPNs activities, participation in technical and policy workshops and forums, partnerships with other organizations, institutions and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and information outreach should be maintained, strengthened and/or expanded, as needed, in the context of the Regional Office of the Convention.

B. Priority actions and the content of the potential two-year workplan for the Africa Regional Office of the Convention

70. The potential two-year workplan for the Africa Regional Office of the Convention is attached as appendix I to this draft proposal document.

VII. Staffing requirements

A. Professional and administrative staff

71. The staffing requirements of the Regional Office of the Convention in Africa will derive from the functions and tasks assigned to it. These functions and tasks are reflecting strategic and operational objectives of the four-year strategic workplan of the secretariat, the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM and the needs of African country Parties.

72. The Regional Office of the Convention should have at least the following professional and administrative staff:

(a) Professional staff

- One regional coordinator (D1/P5)
- Two programme officers (P5/P4)
- Three programme officers (P4/P3)
- Three junior professional officers

(b) Administrative staff

- One administrator/financial (GS)
- One secretary (GS)

73. The regional coordinator will facilitate the implementation of the Regional Implementation Annex (RIA) by African country Parties through consultation on, coordination of, and financial and substantive support to activities relating to elaboration or alignment of national, subregional and regional action programmes and their implementation at appropriate level, coordination of TPNs activities and review of the RIA implementation by the COP. The overall coordination and supervision of the Regional Office of the Convention shall be done by the regional coordinator who shall report directly to the Executive. In regard to the focus of the Convention on Africa and the role he will have to play the regional coordinator should be D1/P5 level.

74. Details on the two programme officers (P5/P4 level):

(a) One will be responsible for communication, legal affairs and NGOs;

(b) The second will be responsible for mobilization and channeling of financial resources and technology transfer, including follow up of GM and GEF issue.

75. Concerning the three programme officers at P4/P3 level

(a) One will be responsible for Western Africa (country Parties, subregional organizations/institutions, and all other actors, partners and stakeholders);

(b) The second will be responsible for Northern and Central Africa (country Parties, etc);

(c) The third will be responsible for Eastern and Southern Africa (country Parties, etc).

76. The three junior professional officers (JPOs) will provide support to the three programme officers in charge of country Parties, subregional organizations/institutions and their action programmes. The three JPOs will be funded by donor countries.

77. Secondment of professional staff from the United Nations system and other international organizations/institutions may be an option to strengthen the Regional Office of the Convention. Interns, as appropriate, can be used.

78. It will not be possible to fill the Regional Office of the Convention posts by transferring posts from the headquarters in Bonn. The staff of the former facilitation unit for Africa is already absorbed by the new structure of the secretariat. The incorporation of the wages of Regional Office of the Convention staff in the Convention's core budget would ensure the institutional continuity needed for long-term planning of UNCCD activities in Africa.

B. Proposed organigramme/chart/structure of the Regional Office of the Convention

79. The proposed organigramme/structure/chart of the Regional Office of the Convention-
AFRICA is attached to this draft proposal document as appendix II.

VIII. Financial resources required

A. Current expenses

80. The RCU for Africa staff costs per year are US\$ 192,000 (one coordinator: US\$ 175,000, one secretary: US\$17,000), bearing in mind, the United Nations salary scale in Tunis, the RCU duty station since August 2003. The indicative RCU-Africa operating costs are US\$ 35,425, taking into account that the host institution, AfDB, has agreed to share in meeting certain operating costs.

B. Proposal funding

81. The financial resources required for the functioning of the Regional Office of the Convention in Africa should be covered from the core budget and from voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund, bearing in mind that the UNCCD secretariat should maintain, and strengthen, if possible, the arrangements with the host institution, African Development Bank, which have agreed to share certain Regional Office of the Convention operating costs (office space, furniture, equipment (computers and printers), and access to means of communication, except for international telephone calls).

82. In this context, to respond to the new challenges and needs and to correctly fulfill its functions, estimated costs of US\$ 1,332,200 per year will be required for the operation of the Regional Office of the Convention in Africa. (See attached Annex n° 4)

83. The financial resources required will be funded by the core budget of the Convention, the supplementary fund, special contributions from the host institution, the host country, African countries and organizations/institutions, other sources of funds, such as private sector, NGOs, foundations and sponsors.

IX. Conclusions and recommendations

84. This study shows that in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and those of the Decision 3/COP.8, in order to focus on, to strengthen, to follow up and evaluate the implementation of the RIA for Africa, after ten years of consideration by the COP, the time has come to take action by establishing during the COP 9, a Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification, building on the existing RCU for Africa, with expanded functions and tasks and more staff, particularly professional staff.

85. Pursuant to Article 18 of the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa, it will be necessary to set up a Regional Consultative Coordination and Partnership Mechanism (RCCPM) as advisory and guiding body of the Regional Office of the Convention composed of forty members representing Parties and all stakeholders, including NGOs.

86. The financial resources required for the functioning of the Regional Office of the Convention (operational costs) should come from the core budget of the Convention. Estimated operational costs of US\$ 1, 332, 200, 00 per year will be required to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa.

87. A new Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with hosting organization and another MOU with the hosting country should be concluded and signed to include new elements of the Decision to be taken at COP 9.

88. The two-year work programme of the Regional Office of the Convention should derive from The Strategy, the four-year workplan of the secretariat, the operational strategic objectives and the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM.

Appendix I

Two-year work programme for the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification for the period 2010–2011 (Regional Office of the Convention-Africa)

I. Results-based management framework for the Regional Office of the Convention, including expected accomplishments, outputs and relating indicators

1. The short to medium-term, results-based management (RBM) framework of the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification (Regional Office of the Convention-AFRICA) for two years period (2010–2011) is based on its functions, The Strategy and the four-year workplan of the secretariat as well as the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM. The following recommendations, possible approaches, key actions/activities and relating indicators are proposed, taking into account six identified operational objectives:

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

2. To actively influence or impact on relevant African regional, subregional, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing DLDD related issues.

Recommendations

3. Adopt a strategy to ensure that the main topics of the Convention, particularly those under the regional implementation annex, are adequately addressed by African country Parties and other actors, partners and stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector.

Possible Approach

4. Encourage African country Parties and all other interested groups or persons to engage in the implementation of the Convention at all levels in Africa.

Key Actions/Activities

- 5.
- (a) Involve Parties, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs and the private sector in advocacy, awareness raising and education programmes,
 - (b) Design a training module and relevant curricula for each category targeted

Expected Results

6. The Regional Office of the Convention will assume its lead mandate, at African level, in advocacy and information, agenda setting and representation functions in relevant African

forums at all levels (regional, subregional and national) in order to support the secretariat, the GM, the COP, the CST and the CRIC in facilitating their respective roles.

Relating Indicators

7.
 - (a) Level of satisfaction of African country Parties,
 - (b) Number of workshops and events organized;
 - (c) Number of participants of each category invited.

Operational objective 2: Policy Framework

8. To support the creation of environments in Africa to enable the promotion of solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Recommendation

9. Improve the existing policy framework in response to negative impact of desertification/land degradation and/or the effects of drought on affected populations.

Possible approach

10. Develop and share with Parties, subregional and regional organizations, as well as NGOs and other actors and partners, the benefits of the new policy framework.

Key actions/activities

11. A clear and comprehensive communication programme and materials to be developed and disseminated.

Expected results

12.
 - (a) The Regional Office of the Convention will be considered as driving force in Africa in the delivery of specific outcomes of operational objective 2 in order to strengthen cooperation among African countries in the implementation process and to translate them into specific actions relevant to the Africa region, the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM
 - (b) The Regional Office of the Convention will facilitate the establishment of the RCCPM as advisory and guiding instrument to boost the RIA for Africa into concrete and effective actions/activities.

Related indicators

- 13.
- (a) The RIA is more known and accepted than before;
 - (b) African country Parties have reaffirmed their commitments under the UNCCD;
 - (c) Increased support to African country Parties;
 - (d) Number of cooperation and partnership agreements signed.

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

14. To become an African regional authority on scientific and technical knowledge, particularly knowledge and know-how of a traditional nature, pertaining to desertification / land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Recommendations

- 15.
- (a) Increase support to African institutions and mechanisms to articulate science and technology and traditional knowledge strategies and policies;
 - (b) Encourage the CST to more involve African scientists and experts on the roster on research and case studies related to the implementation of the Convention.

Possible approaches

- 16.
- (a) Investigate and advise on the challenges of financing strategies at national, subregional and regional levels;
 - (b) Develop action-oriented research.

Key actions/activities

- 17.
- (a) Align the terms of reference of thematic programme networks;
 - (b) Coordinate with GM, international development agencies, the African Development Bank and the World Bank in order to involve them in substantially increasing their support to scientific, technological and traditional knowledge/know how aspects of the implementation of the RIA for Africa.

Expected results

18.

(a) The Regional Office of the Convention will assume the lead role to achieve this goal, while developing its capacity to service the TPNs and the African scientists and experts of the CST effectively through advice and technical support;

(b) The Regional Office of the Convention will contribute to the update of the roster of African scientists and experts;

(c) The Regional Office of the Convention will promote better scientific dialogue and regional studies could investigate concrete needs and activities which create real an advantage by addressing them at regional rather than the global or national level;

(d) The Regional Office of the Convention will contribute to a better division of labour for analytical work and application research, management of trans-boundary ecosystems, such as joint management of watershed.

Related indicators

19.

(a) Increased number of new funding partners on science, technology and knowledge;

(b) Increased number of African scientists and experts used for key research and case studies;

(c) Number of advocating publications on science, technology and knowledge related to DLDD.

Operational objective 4: Capacity-building

20. To identify and address African country Parties' capacity-building needs at regional, subregional and national levels with a view to preventing and reversing desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought.

Recommendations

21.

(a) Focus on alignment of national, subregional and regional action programmes and projects

(b) Promote effective intellectual property rights regimes in conjunction with the African Intellectual Property Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization

Possible approaches

- 22.
- (a) Review the existing national, subregional and regional action programmes and projects related to DLDD;
 - (b) Encourage African Governments to promote the training of young generations of African scientists and experts and to improve the conditions of service for current/existing scientists.

Key actions/activities

- 23.
- (a) Coordinate commitments through regional or subregional workshops;
 - (b) Identify at least three to five African focused-training programmes on issues related to improve the implementation of the Convention in Africa;
 - (c) Investigate and advise on how to conclude partnership agreements between existing virtual universities in developed country Parties and relevant African universities.

Expected results

- 24.
- (a) The Regional Office of the Convention will focus on its function to facilitate the alignment, compilation and communication of information required under the Convention as well as to prioritize the needs expressed by African country Parties in the field of capacity-building;
 - (b) African Intellectual Property Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization will be approached in order to ascertain their availability to contribute to effective institution of intellectual-property rights regimes on science, technology, traditional knowledge and know related to DLDD, with a view to involving the private sector and promote public-private partnerships.

Related indicators

- 25.
- (a) Number of national, subregional and regional action programmes aligned in Africa;
 - (b) Number of affected African country Parties using the new reporting guidelines;
 - (c) Number of African country Parties assessing their capacity-building needs for the implementation of the Convention, including RIA for Africa;
 - (d) Elaboration and publication of a document on intellectual-property-rights regimes on science, technology, knowledge and know how related to DLDD.

Operational Objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

26. To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination in Africa of regional, subregional and national financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness and for more benefit from new and additional external financial resources and opportunities for transfer of technology.

Recommendations

27.

(a) Mobilize additional and supplementary financial resources for the implementation of the Convention in Africa;

(b) Develop capacity to access existing resources.

Possible Approaches

28.

(a) Maintain the call for more resources;

(b) Improve the level of awareness about existing resources;

(c) Support and strengthen existing initiatives.

Key actions/activities

29.

(a) Exploit every opportunity to engage with Parties in the developed countries and their relevant institutions on the effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Facilitate and coordinate increase investment in rural development and poverty eradication in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas of affected African country Parties;

(c) Mobilizing targeted resources for scientific research, specialized training, activities generating resources and poverty eradication;

(d) Promote the development of public-private partnership to address DLDD challenges;

(e) Elaborate a discussion document or concept paper to serve as a basis to build the bridge of partnership agreements.

Expected results

30.

(a) The Regional Office of the Convention in the framework of the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM will provide high-level advocacy, information and

related policy advice, to African country Parties and will network with various African institutions and organizations, including the GEF office in Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) The Regional Office of the Convention will contribute to develop suitable partnership agreements/arrangements to support the Regional Implementation Annex I for Africa;

(c) The Regional Office of the Convention will stimulate interest of private sector and identify additional resources that are need beyond the existing initiatives.

Related indicators

31.

(a) Number of cooperation and partnership agreements/arrangements concluded to support the action programmes after the alignment;

(b) Number of African domestic initiatives of the private sector, including public-private partnership initiatives;

(c) Number of projects financed by the GEF and other financial institutions in Africa.

Operational objective 6: Management support for strategy implementation

32. To strengthen the core servicing of the Regional-Implementation-Annex I process through management support initiatives geared towards effective and efficient implementation of The Strategy.

Recommendations

33.

(a) Recruitment of competent staff;

(b) Adopt action-oriented work programme.

Possible approaches

34.

(a) Translate into concrete actions/activities provisions of the RIA for Africa, The Strategy and the COP decisions, including those of its subsidiary bodies (CST and CRIC), as well as the joint work programme of the secretariat and the GM;

(b) Identify priorities and focus on the above;

(c) Show interest in fulfilling functions and tasks.

Key actions/activities

35.

- (a) Mobilize financial resources;
- (b) Share the two-year work programme with all Parties and actors;
- (c) Assess the gaps in the work programme.

Expected results

36.

- (a) The Regional Office of the Convention related business processes will be in line with relevant COP decisions, including those relating to the CST and the CRIC, and will emphasize results-based management, budgeting and accountability;
- (b) African country Parties will be satisfied with improved conditions and easy access to the Regional Office of the Convention and its staff.
- (c) The Regional Office of the Convention will enhance responsiveness to the needs expressed by African country Parties.

Relating Indicators

37.

- (a) More than 50 per cent of African country Parties express their satisfaction with the Regional Office of the Convention performance;
- (b) Majority of Regional Office of the Convention staff express their satisfaction;
- (c) Increased extra-budgetary funds from divers number of partners, including African States.

II. Activities and related costs**A. At national level**

38. In 2010–2011, activities of the Regional Office of the Convention, at national level should be focused on:

- (a) The alignment of national action programmes to The Strategy;
- (b) The formulation and/or updating of national reports, bearing in mind the new reporting guidelines, and in preparation for COP 10 to be held in 2011;
- (c) The follow up of the implementation of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9);

(d) Enable the convocation of consultative processes among all relevant actors, aimed at the negotiation and conclusion of partnership agreements/arrangements for the implementation of national action programmes;

(e) The organization of synergy workshops to foster effective implementation of transversal or cross-sectoral issues of the United Nations conventions on environment and sustainable development (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD);

(f) Supporting African country Parties to elaborate and launch projects in the context of the GEF Land Degradation Fund;

(g) The capacity-building through training workshops or institutional support, as requested;

39. The related costs of those activities of the Regional Office of the Convention at national level in African country Parties, for the period 2010–2011 are estimated US\$ 1,200,000.

B. At subregional level

40. For the period 2010–2011, subregional activities of the Regional Office of the Convention-AFRICA should be related to:

(a) The alignment of the five subregional action programmes to The Strategy;

(b) The use of the new reporting guidelines;

(c) The alignment and follow up of the implementation of trans-boundary projects;

(d) The organization of training workshops;

(e) Launching the establishment of NGOs subregional networks dealing with DLDD issues;

(f) The mobilization of financial resources and technology transfer in the framework of the effective implementation of subregional action programmes.

41. The costs of subregional activities are estimated US\$ 400,000.

C. At the regional level

42. At regional level, the Regional Office of the Convention will perform the following activities for the biennium 2010–2011:

(a) Launch the establishment of the regional coordination and partnership mechanism, as a consultative and advisory body;

(b) Facilitate the alignment of six TPNs in Africa;

- (c) Promote capacity-building in activities under the Regional Action Programme for Africa;
- (d) Strengthen the exchange of information and appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge, technical know-how and relevant experience, best practices and success stories;
- (e) Coordinate the Regional Meeting preparatory to CRIC 9 and African ministerial Conference preparatory to COP 10;
- (f) Participate in the AMCEN, subregional institutions (CILSS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, UMA, CEMAC, CEN-SAD, COMESA, OSS), and African-Union meetings related to environment, sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- (g) Monitor and assess the cooperation in the context of the environment initiative of NEPAD;
- (h) Launch consultative process for the formulation of intellectual property rights regimes on DLDD;
- (i) Report to the secretariat on the implementation of Annex I for Africa.

43. The costs of activities at regional level are estimated to US\$ 1,200,000.

D. Interregional level

44. The Regional Office of the Convention activities at interregional level should be:

- (a) Evaluation of Africa-Asia forums, and Africa-Latin America & Caribbean forums with a view to strengthen existing South-South cooperation between Africa and the two other regions;
- (b) Organization of one forum in 2010 and another in 2011 in order to initiate conclusion of partnership agreements/arrangement.

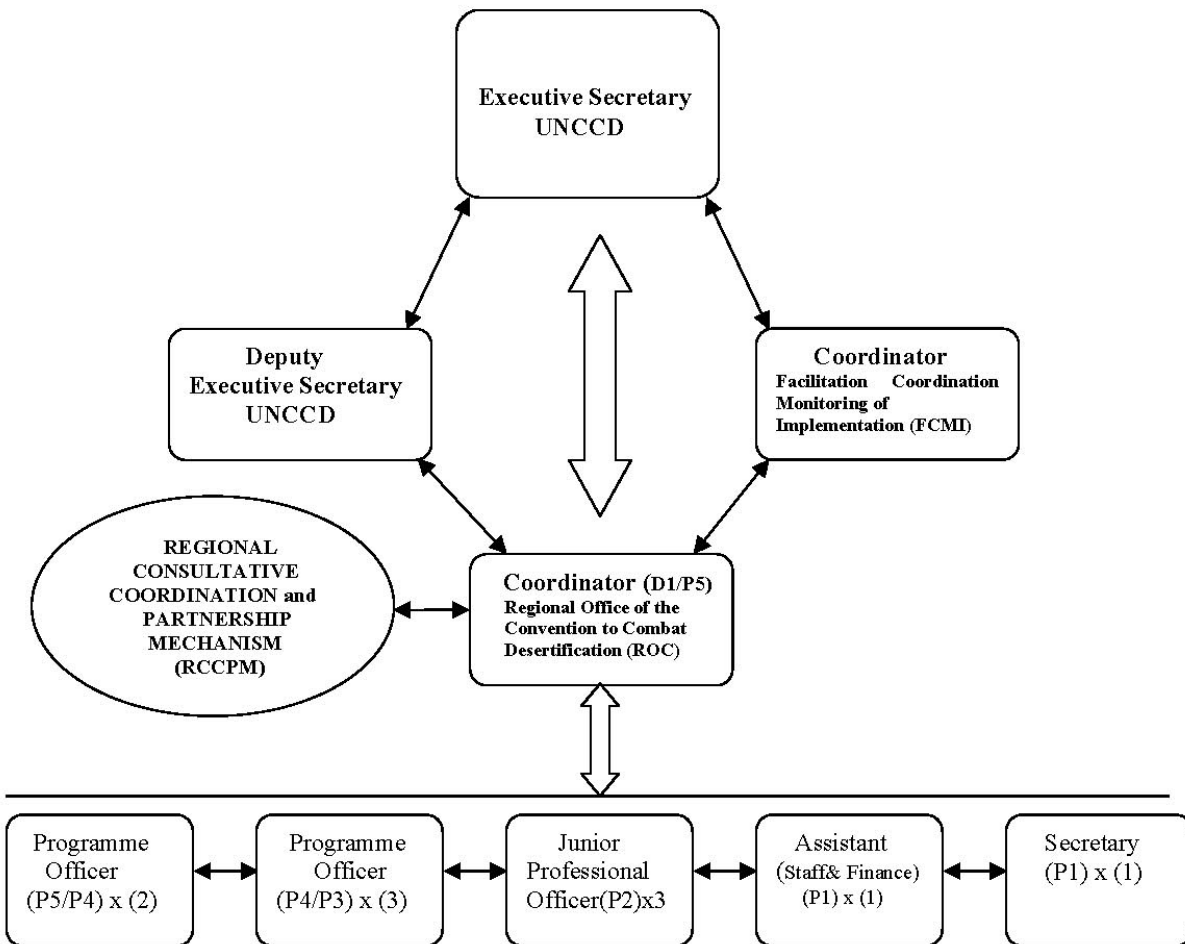
45. The activities costs at interregional level are estimated to US\$ 400,000.

46. The total of the estimated activities for the biennium 2010–2011 should be US\$ 3,200,000 $(1,200,000 + 400,000 + 1,200,000 + 400,000) \times 2 = \text{US\$ } 6,400,000$.

47. The secretariat should check and correct activities costs and integrate them in the final version to be submitted to COP 9.

Appendix II

Structure of the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification (Regional Office of the Convention-Africa)



Appendix III

**Estimated operational costs of the
Regional Office of the Convention for Africa**

	2010	2011	TOTAL
Operational costs of the Regional Office of the Convention-Africa	US\$	US\$	US\$
Regional coordinator for Regional Office of the Convention- AFRICA (D1/P5) x (1)	190,000	190,000	380,000
Programme officer (P5/P4) x (2) = 175,000 x 2	350,000	350,000	700,000
Programme officer (P4/P3) x (3) = 160,000 x 3	480,000	480,000	960,000
Junior professional officer (P2) x (3) (funded by donors)	FR	FR	FR
Administrative and financial assistant (P1) x (1)	60,000	60,000	120,000
Secretary (GS) x (1)	50,000	50,000	100,000
Interns (as appropriate)	FR	FR	FR
Staff travel	200,000	200,000	400,000
Office supplies and equipment	2,200	2,200	4,400
TOTAL	1,332,200	1,332,200	2,664,400

FR = for record

Annex II**Regional proposal: Asia****I. Introduction****A. Background**

1. The importance of regional approaches and coordination in the implementation of the Convention, as reflected by the regional implementation annex for various regions, including Asia, and the value of efforts at the regional level currently identified as the “regional coordination units” initiative has been well recognized by the Conference of the Parties (COP).
2. Building on earlier decisions, especially decision 6/COP.5¹ and decision 11/COP.6², the Parties recognized in decision 1/COP.8 the importance of strengthening the implementation of the Convention in all regions.
3. The Parties also recognized in decision 3/COP.8 (The Strategy) that “regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy. It further recognizes that coordination mechanisms must be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and the specific issues of regions”.
4. Paragraph 30 of Decision 3/COP.8 also “calls upon each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the GM, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia, existing regional coordination activities, tools and donor and regional funding arrangements and

¹ Decision 6/COP.5 (Consideration of the regional coordination units initiative), which “decides to include on the agenda of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties an item on the need for, modalities for, costs involved, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the regional coordination units”; and “decides also that until this item is considered by the Conference of the Parties, funding for this initiative shall continue to be drawn from the Supplementary Fund”; and “Invites developed countries and multilateral agencies to contribute on a voluntary basis to the Supplementary Fund for the regional coordination units initiative”.

² Decision 11/COP.6 on the “Need for, modalities for, costs involved in, and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the Regional Coordination Units, “Invites the Parties, the existing regional coordination units, the Global Mechanism and any other relevant regional and subregional entities to submit their views in writing, no later than 1 January 2004, on the best arrangements for strengthening regional coordination. In particular, the submissions should include views on the rationale for, modalities for, costs involved in, feasibility of, possible terms of reference of, and institutional and collaborative arrangements for the regional coordination units”; and “Requests the secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on the possible functions, institutional arrangements, modalities and collaborative arrangements of options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing regional coordination units and other relevant regional and subregional entities. The study should take into consideration the submissions...” and “should be implemented in close consultation with other relevant regional coordination mechanisms.” The secretariat was requested to circulate the study to the Parties by 1 August 2004.

providing details of staffing, hosting possibilities and other financial resources required and to define their functions and output and reporting arrangements in terms of implementing the Convention and delivering The Strategy and to provide these prior to COP 9 for consideration in the context of the budget and the programme of work.”.

5. Paragraph 31 of the decision “Requests the Executive Secretary to compile regional proposals and the means for putting them into operation, and to submit these to COP 9 for consideration”, while paragraph 32 “also requests the Executive Secretary, taking into account the views of the GM on its regional arrangements: (a) To review the current regional coordination arrangements within the secretariat and within the GM with a view to improving them, (b) To develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements based on the above-mentioned review and the proposals received from regions...”, (c) To submit these to COP 9 for considerations”, and paragraph 33 “Decides, while the review process in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 is taking place and without pre-judging its outcome, to continue through the Supplementary Fund to support, and where possible strengthen, the existing Regional Coordination Units, and encourages donors and, in accordance with national capacities and where appropriate, the Parties in the regions concerned to provide funds to this end.”

6. Based on the mandate as provided by decision 3/COP.8, an Asian Task Force was established and entrusted to prepare this proposal on behalf of the affected country Parties under the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia. The proposal is linked to The Strategy as contained in the Annex to Decision 3/COP.8.

B. Mission statement

7. The overall objective of this proposal is to strengthen the existing Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia and the Pacific (RCM-AP), with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the Convention in the region more efficiently, based on The Strategy as contained in the Annex to decision 3/COP.8.

8. The added value of this strengthened RCM-AP and its elements will be further elaborated below.

II. Methodology

9. This proposal is prepared according to the guidelines that exist to assist Parties in the development of regional proposals on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention³ as provided by the UNCCD secretariat. It began with a review of the relevant literature, including: (a) a review of all relevant background documentation, with particular reference to the relevant provisions of the Convention and The Strategy on regional coordination mechanisms⁴, (b) the submissions by Parties concerning

³ Guidelines to assist Parties in the development of regional proposals on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention (as contained in Annex I of ICCD/CRIC(7)/INF.6 1 November 2008).

⁴ These include: (i) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes. Part One: Synthesis of information contained in national reports from affected Asian country Parties; (Part Two: Progress made in the

the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and related COP decisions, (c) past reports on Asian regional meetings of focal points and on Asian-Africa forums, (d) Regional action plans for the periods 1998–2002 and 2003–2008, (e) subregional action plans for West Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, and (f) available reports of all workshops held in the Asia-Pacific region.

10. Based on the literature review and the past consultations with the affected country Parties in the Asia-Pacific region at various conferences, meetings, workshops and forums, this proposal presents the major elements for strengthening the existing Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia and the Pacific (RCM-AP). The first draft of the proposal was thoroughly discussed during the Asian Task Force Consultation Meeting held on 16–17 March 2009 in Bonn, Germany. Delegates from Myanmar (Chair), China, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand, representing Regional Implementation Annex for Asia, participated in the meeting.

11. Extensive consultations with the national focal points (NFPs) of the affected country Parties in the Asia-Pacific region have been undertaken and this final proposal incorporates all comments and input received from them. This was carried out with a view to assessing their specific needs for coordination of action at the subregional and regional levels.

III. Review of regional activities in Asia

A. Regional implementation Annex for Asia

12. The UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex for Asia highlights the particular conditions which apply in varying degrees to the countries in the region, such as “(a) the high proportion of areas in their territories affected by, or vulnerable to, desertification and drought and the broad diversity of these areas with regard to climate, topography, land use and socio-economic systems, (b) the heavy pressure on natural resources for livelihoods, (c) the existence of production systems, that are directly related to widespread poverty and lead to land degradation and to pressure on scarce water resources, (d) the significant impact of conditions in the world economy and social problems such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, lack of food security, migration, displaced persons and demographic dynamics, (e) their expanding, but still insufficient, capacity and institutional frameworks to deal with national desertification and drought problem, and (f) their need for international cooperation to pursue sustainable development objectives relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of

formulation and implementation of the subregional and regional action programmes in Asia; ICCD/COP(4)/3/Add.1 (D), 11 October 2000; (ii) Synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in reports submitted by affected Asian country Parties, and progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Asia ICCD/CRIC(1)/3/Add.1, 10 June 2002; ; (iii) Comprehensive review of activities of the secretariat. Note by the secretariat; ICCD/CRIC(6)/2, 18 July 2007; (iv) Mechanism to facilitate the regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat; ICCD/CRIC(7)/INF.6, 1 November 2008; (v) Minutes of the Meeting of the Chairs of Regional Implementation Annexes on Mechanisms to facilitate Regional Coordination of the Implementation of the Convention; (vi) Report of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 November 2008; ICCD/CRIC(7)/5; 15 January 2009.

drought (article 2). Thus, it provides the modality, guidance and basis for regional cooperation, including the development of subregional and joint-action programmes (article 5), regional activities (article 6), financial resources and mechanisms (article 7) and cooperation and coordination mechanisms (article 8). These programmes and activities support the implementation of the NAPs, and hence are essential elements for the effective implementation of the Convention.

13. The Asia-Pacific region is very rich in diverse biological resources, with many biodiversity hot spots that are vulnerable to deforestation, land degradation and desertification. It is also a region that is most vulnerable to climate change, which exacerbates land degradation and desertification, and vice versa.

B. Regional action programme and thematic programme networks

14. The country Parties in Asia and the Pacific have been active in promoting regional and subregional programmes and activities. So far two regional conferences have been held back-to-back with the ministerial conferences⁵. The first regional conference initiated the process for the development of the Regional Action Programme (1998–2002)⁶, while the second regional conference had discussed the Regional Action Programme (2003–2008), which was adopted at the second ministerial conference.

15. The RAP (1998–2002) basically comprises a number of thematic programme areas, each of which is implemented through a network that links the relevant national institutes of the participating countries, as well as subregional, regional and international organizations that are interested in participating and contributing to the thematic area.

16. The RAP (2003–2008) called for accelerated implementation of the national, subregional and regional action programmes, resulting in the declaration of the Abu Dhabi Initiative, which has provided a number of priority projects. The first regional consultation meeting on the Abu Dhabi Initiative for the Implementation of Priority Activities for the RAP (2003–2008) was held on 21–23 March 2005 in Abu Dhabi. This meeting reviewed 11 national, four subregional and one regional project concepts.

⁵ The First Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to Implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Asia was held on 13–15 May 1997 in Beijing, China; and the Second Asian Ministerial Conference was held on 7–11 June 2003 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

⁶ The International Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of the Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification and Drought in Asia held on 10–13 November 1998 in Bangkok proposed the formation of a Regional Support Group (RSG) to strengthen and support the implementation of the RAP. Experienced persons from countries or representatives of international agencies would be invited to serve on this board. The RSG in cooperation with the Interagency Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development of ESCAP and in liaison with IFAD and the Global Mechanism, would provide evaluations and advice to the RAP and assist in the mobilization of financial resources. They could serve as an independent body to evaluate progress of the RAPs and make recommendations for consideration (see Conclusions of the International Experts Group Meeting on the Preparation of the Regional Action Program (RAP) for Combating Desertification and Drought in Asia, Bangkok, November 1998.

<<http://www.unccd.int/regional/asia/meetings/regional/RAPBangkok98/conclusions.pdf>>.

17. Since 1999, a total of six TPNs have been established, as follows:

- TPN 1 on desertification monitoring and assessment (hosted by China and launched on 26–27 July 1999 in Beijing) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn1/menu.php>);
- TPN 2 on agroforestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas (hosted by India and launched on 14–18 March 2000 in New Delhi) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn2/menu.php>);
- TPN 3 on rangeland management in arid areas including the fixation of sand dunes (hosted by Iran and launched on 7–9 May 2001 in Yazd) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn3/menu.php>);
- TPN 4 on water resources management for agriculture in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid lands (hosted by Syria and launched on 4–7 July 2002 in Damascus) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn4/menu.php>);
- TPN 5 on strengthening capacities for drought impact management and desertification control (hosted by Mongolia and launched on 14–16 July 2003 in Ulaanbaatar) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn5/menu.php>);
- TPN 6 on assistance for the implementation of integrated local area development programmes initiatives (hosted by Pakistan and launched on 7–9 June 2004 in Islamabad) (<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/regional/tpn6/menu.php>).

18. The overall and specific objectives of the six TPNs and their activities have been provided in their respective webpages on the UNCCD website <http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/asia.php>. These TPNs provide both the platforms and opportunities for the affected country Parties in the Asia-Pacific region to share information and lessons learned, as well as joint field studies, training programmes and the transfer of appropriate technology.

19. However, not all TPNs have been active and effective due to the lack of funding support and the need to have the broad based participation of centres of excellence from the region and elsewhere. Thus, there is a need to re-vitalize the role and functions of the TPNs under a strengthened Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) so that the TPNs will become more active and interactive in the future.

C. Subregional action programmes

20. Based on article 11 of the Convention⁷, five subregional action programmes, namely: West Asia SRAP (2000), Central Asia SRAP (2003), South Asia SRAP (2004), Southeast Asia

⁷ Article 11 of the UNCCD provides that “Affected country Parties shall consult and cooperate to prepare, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant regional implementation annexes, subregional and/or regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes. The provisions of article 10 shall apply mutatis mutandis to subregional and regional programmes. Such cooperation may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation, and strengthening of relevant institutions.”

SRAP (2005) and Northeast Asia SRAP (2008) have been initiated and developed. These SRAPs aim to provide further support for the implementation of the NAPs of the country Parties in the respective subregions. However, due to funding constraints, these SRAPs have not been as active as they would wish to be.

D. Regional meetings of Asian focal points

21. Regional meetings of Asian focal points provide useful forums for sharing information and lessons learned on the implementation of the Convention. So far, 11 such meetings have been held. They are: (i) 26–28 May 1998, Ohtsu, Shiga, Japan, (ii) 24–25 July 1999, Beijing, China, (iii) 7–8 November 2000, Bangkok, Thailand, (iv) 26–27 June 2001, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, (v) 8–11 July 2002, Damascus, Syria, (vi) 7–9 June 2003, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), (vii) 21–23 March, Abu Dhabi, UAE, (viii) 17–19 October 2005, Nairobi, Kenya, (ix) 7–11 August 2006, Bangkok, Thailand, (x) 31 August–1 September 2007, Madrid, Spain and (xi) 1–3 November 2008, Istanbul, Turkey. Some of these meetings were held back-to-back with the Asian ministerial conferences (1999, Beijing, 2003, Abu Dhabi), COP 7 (Nairobi, 2005) and CRIC 7 (Istanbul, 2008). (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/asia/meetings/meetings.php#regional>).

E. Asia-Africa forums

22. In addition, five Asia-Africa forums have been held: (i) 21–23 August 1996, Beijing, China, (ii) 2–5 September 1997, Niamey, Niger, (iii) 22–23 July, 1999, Beijing, China⁸, (iv) 21–25 June 2001, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and (v) 24–27 June 2003, Cotonou, Benin. These meetings have been very useful for the Asian and African affected country Parties which have different regional features, but common problems related to desertification, land degradation and drought. It has enabled them to share experiences and lessons learned. Further collaboration may be extended to the field levels in the future.

IV. Review of the role, functions and activities of Regional Coordination Unit for Asia

A. Mandate of Regional Coordination Unit for Asia

23. Many United Nations agencies, such as UNDP, UNEP, UN/ISDR, and FAO have seen the great need for decentralization, and hence they have strong regional representation, including the establishment of their respective substantive offices in Bangkok, an important strategic location in Asia and the Pacific.

24. The need for the Regional Coordination Unit for Asia (Asia-RCU) has been highlighted and justified in various UNCCD meetings⁹ and documents¹⁰. The mandates may be summarized as follows:

⁸ This was a technical workshop on early-warning systems.

⁹ For example, CRIC 1 recommended several steps to further strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD, including the role of the RCUs, which include: (i) Assistance to the country Parties in updating the information provided to the CRIC through the preparation of country profiles within the national reports, (ii) Support to disseminating at grass-roots level appropriate technologies for soil

(a) To represent the UNCCD secretariat in the region and assist in following up the COP and subsidiary bodies decisions, including reporting obligations of the country Parties in the region;

(b) To provide consistent and cost-effective technical, legal, and policy support and advocacy for innovative measures in the affected country Parties in the region for the effective implementation of the Convention;

(c) To assist in the process for the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia and to facilitate the development or updating and implementation of NAPs, SRAPs, RAPs and TPNs;

(d) To facilitate consultation, cooperation, coordination and communication at national, subregional and regional levels, including development of partnerships with various UN and relevant international, regional and national agencies, financial institutions, private sector, NGOs and civil societies;

(e) To facilitate, organize and participate in various relevant workshops and forums, including sharing and dissemination of information and good practices, promotion of science, appropriate technologies and traditional knowledge for combating desertification and land degradation

(f) To promote, facilitate and strengthen regional coordination and synergies between UNCCD and other relevant conventions, frameworks and international organizations, institutions and agencies in the region.

25. The above mandates are consistent with the recommendations of the first meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 1) regarding the role of the RCUs¹¹.

and water resource management, (iii) Support to a comprehensive work programme on best practices and to compilation of an inventory of traditional knowledge under the regional implementation annexes and (iv) Linking of regional and subregional centres of excellence more closely with the UNCCD process (subregional action programmes (SRAPs) and regional action programmes (RAPs)) in the promotion of synergies between MEAs.

¹⁰ See Mechanism to facilitate the regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat, document ICCD/CRIC(7)/INF.6, 1 November 2008.

¹¹ See Footnote 12.

B. Establishment of regional coordination unit for Asia

26. The need for a regional backup facility (RBF)¹² in the Asian region was first recognized in the Beijing Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to implement the Convention in Asia held in May 1997. The international expert-group meeting on the preparation of the Regional Action Programme for combating desertification and drought in Asia held on 10–13 November 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand, welcomed the offer of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), based in Bangkok, to host the RBF¹³. However, the Regional Coordination Unit for Asia was established instead of a RBF and became operational in January 2001 following the signing of a MOU between UNCCD secretariat and ESCAP in September 2000. It has been hosted by ESCAP, which has been referred as UNESCAP since then.

27. The Asia-RCU and its operation have been supported by supplementary funds contributed by the Governments of the People's Republic of China (from 2001 to 2006), Republic of Korea and Italy (from 2006). It has been headed by a regional coordinator (until April 2005) and an acting coordinator (since May 2005) and supported by a programme officer. Interns also visited the Asia-RCU from time to time.

28. Until the new organization structure instituted by the new Executive Secretary in 2008, the Asia-RCU was under the supervision of the coordinator of the Asia Facilitation Unit based at the UNCCD headquarters. All past activities of the Asia-RCU were coordinated and approved by the coordinator of the Asia Facilitation Unit under the leadership of the Executive Secretary. The new organization structure has placed regional annexes under the coordination of Facilitation, Coordination, Monitoring of Implementation (FCMI)¹⁴.

29. Given its very limited human and financial resources, the achievements of the Asia-RCU in the past eight years have been most remarkable. The major activities of the Asia-RCU have been described in a report by Asia-RCU (2008)¹⁵, and they are briefly summarized below.

¹² A regional backup facility (RBF), which could be composed of a project preparation unit, capacity building unit and monitoring and evaluation unit, was originally proposed in the first RAP to provide the operational support for the various TPNs in enhancing the linkage mechanism and other perceived needs among the participating countries, as well as to service the regional institutional mechanism. In addition, a steering committee was to be established to oversee the overall implementation of the programme and to be responsible for providing general guidance on technical matters for addressing the desertification issue in the region in consonance with the provision of the Convention and the Asian Annex (see Final Report of the Beijing Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to Implement the CCD in Asia, 13–15 May 1997).

<http://www.unccd.int/regional/asia/meetings/regional/2ndregionalconf/final_report.pdf>.

¹³ See Footnote 9.

¹⁴ See <<http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/sns/docs/orgchart.pdf>>.

¹⁵ See Activities of Regional Coordination Unit for Asia (Asia-RCU) prepared by Asia-RCU, Bangkok, Thailand, 2008.

C. Past and current activities of Asia-RCU

1. National level

30. At the national level, the Asia-RCU has facilitated the development of NAPs and provided support for the organization of awareness-raising workshops on the Convention and technical assistance for the development and implementation of NAPs in many countries (e.g., Bangladesh, Cambodia, DPRep. of Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Vietnam). It has also facilitated (i) the preparation of national reports for CRICs in the region (e.g., the third set of national reports for CRIC 5), and (ii) the participation of country Parties in the region in CRICs and COPs.,

31. The Asia-RCU has participated in national activities, especially those in Thailand where there are no cost implications, such as (i) the Thai National Campaign on Rehabilitation of Land Degradation in Arid Areas held on 27–28 February, 2005 in Kanchanaburi Province, (ii) the preparation of Thai International Year of Desert and Desertification (IYDD) Campaign in Korat Province held on 15–16 May 2006 and (iii) the launching of IYDD Campaign held on 16–17 June 2006.

2. Subregional level

32. At the subregional level, the Asia-RCU has facilitated and participated in workshops in the Pacific countries¹⁶. It has also facilitated the preparation of project proposals by 15 Pacific country Parties (including Timor-Leste) on community-based, UNCCD-related activities funded by the donation from the Government of Venezuela¹⁷.

33. In addition, the Asia-RCU has also facilitated and supported the development of South-East Asia SRAP (2005), and North-East Asia SRAP (2006–2008), and it is facilitating the initiative to develop the Pacific SRAP¹⁸. However, due to the division of responsibility, the UNCCD secretariat headquarters was responsible for assisting the country Parties in West Asia and South Asia in the development of West Asia SRAP (2000)¹⁹ and South Asia SRAP (2004), respectively.

¹⁶ These include: (i) South Pacific Subregional Workshop on Mitigating Drought and Combating Land Degradation (21–23 May 2001, Apia, Samoa), (ii) South Pacific Subregional Workshop on Integration of Priority Activities related to Mitigating Drought and Combating Land Degradation in the context of the Implementation of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (24–25 May 2001, Apia, Samoa); and (iii) Pacific Regional Workshop on Sustainable Land Management and Preparation of Third National Report (26–29 June 2006, Apia, Samoa) and (iv) Pacific Regional Consultation Meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held on 16–17 April 2007, SPREP Headquarters, Vailima.

¹⁷ So far seven countries have signed the MOU with the UNCCD Secretariat and funds are being transferred to these countries.

¹⁸ The island countries are supported by UNDP/GEF LDC/SIDS Portfolio Project, under which national reporting, the preparation of NAPs and SRAP are financed.

¹⁹ Subregional Action Programme (SRAP) to Combat Desertification and Drought in West Asia (see <<http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia/subregional/2000/westernasia-eng.pdf>>).

3. Regional level

34. At the regional level, the Asia-RCU represented the UNCCD secretariat in all United Nations-related meetings in the region whenever invited, such as the heads of agencies meetings chaired by UNESCAP, the RCM meetings co-chaired by UNESCAP and the regional office of other United Nations Agencies, depending on the issues discussed, and the resident coordinator meetings chaired by UNDP-Thailand, annual UN Day observation and relevant regional meetings, conferences and workshops²⁰, including UNESCAP's annual Committee on Managing Globalization and the Commission Session held in Bangkok and elsewhere²¹. It has frequently received visiting delegations and technical teams from various countries and international and regional agencies for consultations.

35. The Asia-RCU provided support for the Second Asian Ministerial Conference²², including the preparation of the RAP (2003–2008) that was adopted by the Ministerial Conference. It has also provided support to the TPNs' activities. For example, it facilitated the contribution of mulching materials by Chinese private sector for controlling moving sands for TPN3 project in Iran in 2003.

36. The Asia-RCU has also reviewed and contributed to the activities of other United Nations agencies based in Bangkok on issues relating to land degradation and desertification, such as UNESCAP's North-East Asian subregional programme on environmental cooperation (NEASPEC)²³. Indeed, it has actively developed partnerships with other international and regional agencies and collaborated with their regional activities. For example, it served as the project secretariat for the ADB-GEF funded project (GEF grant: US\$0.5 million, co-financing: US\$0.715 million) on the "Prevention and control of dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia" (the RETA 6068 project) in 2002–2005²⁴. The project produced a regional master plan²⁵ that

²⁰ For example, (i) the Regional Review of Poverty Reduction Strategy held on 14 March, 2006 at UNESCAP, Bangkok, (ii) Regional Coordination Mechanism to meet member of UNSG's High-level panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development of Human Assessment and the Environment held on 7 May 2006, Bangkok, (iii) Regional Workshop on Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Tsunami Affected Areas: One and Half Year Later held on 29–30 June 2006 at FAO ROAP; (iv) Regional workshop on Information and Communication Technology, UNESCAP-ITU held on 26–28 June 2006, Bangkok, (v) Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Follow-up to WSIS and ICT4D, and Tenth Meeting of Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies held on 30 November–1 December 2006, UNESCAP, Bangkok and (vi) Asia Regional Workshop on Sustainable Land Management and National Capacity Self-Assessment jointly organized by UNDP/GEF, UNEP/GEF and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and held on 20–23 November 2006 AIT, Bangkok.

²¹ For example, UNESCAP's 62nd Commission Session held on 6–12 April 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia and 63rd Commission Session held on 17–23 May 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

²² Second Asian Ministerial Conference on UNCCD Implementation in Preparation for the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties held on 7–11 June 2003 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

²³ The NEASPEC, comprising six North-East Asian countries, was launched in 1993 as a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation mechanism for environmental cooperation. It serves as a forum for sharing experience on policy matters, information exchange, consultation and stocktaking on environmental activities in the subregion; (<<http://www.neaspec.org/index.asp>>).

²⁴ The project had established an initial cooperation mechanism that includes a steering committee of four countries (China, Mongolia, Japan and Republic of Korea) and four international institutions (the

maps out strategies, including an investment strategy through demonstration projects in various affected areas in China and Mongolia, to address the DSS issues in North-East Asia (ADB, 2005). As part of the project secretariat activities, Asia-RCU has established a website and published newsletters on issues related to dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia.

4. International level

37. At the international level, the Asia-RCU was invited to participate in international workshops or forums on issues relating to land degradation, desertification and the effects of drought, as well as synergies between UNCCD and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These included: (i) International Symposium on Desertification Combating and Land Degradation Rehabilitation in North-East Asia (13–15 June 2006, Seoul, Republic of Korea), (ii) Active exchange of experience on indicators and development of perspectives in the context of the UNCCD (AIDCCD); Seminar on the role of information circulation systems in the scientific and practical approach to combat desertification (2–7 April 2006, Namibia) and (iii) International extension course on technology and sciences in combating desertification and land degradation (20–24 August 2006, Wuwei, China).

D. Resources mobilization

38. The Asia-RCU was able to mobilize contributions from the private sector for UNCCD activities. For example, it facilitated the donation of 20 computers from the Chinese private sector to the COP 6 held on 25 August–5 September 2003 in Havana, Cuba. It also mobilized the Korean private sector and NGO to finance the participation of some Asian and African countries in COP 7 held on 17–28 October 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya.

E. Publications

39. The list of publications initiated, facilitated, contributed towards or co-edited by the Asia-RCU since 2002 has been very impressive. It includes the following: (a) Global Alarm-Dust and Sand Storms in World's Drylands edited by Yang et al²⁶ published in 2002 with funding from the Netherlands, (b) China's initiatives for combating desertification and rehabilitating land degradation in past five decades published in 2004, (c) Regional review of

ADB, UNEP, UNESCAP, and the UNCCD secretariat) to facilitate the cooperation and coordination of the interventions by the major stakeholders in the subregion to address the environmental and socio-economic issues related to the transboundary DSS, thus complementing and maximizing the efforts undertaken by the governments of China and Mongolia under their respective national action programmes to combat desertification under the Convention. The regional master plan has been endorsed by the steering committee. The "four + four" (i.e., "four countries plus four international institutions") subregional cooperative mechanism proved to be very effective in ensuring the successful implementation of the project.

²⁵ See Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in Northeast Asia; Volume 1; Asian Development Bank, Manila, the Philippines, 2005.

²⁶ See Yang Youlin, Squires, V.R. and Lu Qi (2002) (Ed.) Global Alarm: Dust and Sandstorms from the World's Drylands, United Nations; Printed in Beijing, February 2002.

UNCCD implementation and best practice in Asia and the Pacific published in October 2005 with funding from Chinese partners and distributed to participants at COP 7, (d) Degradation and recovery in China's arid rangelands: Lessons from history, centre for agriculture and bioscience international (CABI) publisher, UK (in press), and (e) Priority issues and challenges in the implementation of UNCCD in Asia and the Pacific (in press).

E. Information outreach

40. The Asia-RCU has disseminated a large volume of UNCCD literature to various countries in the region, as well as at various meetings that the UNCCD secretariat organized or participated in.

V. Strengthening the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia and the Pacific

41. A strengthened RCM-AP is proposed within the context of The Strategy, to enable a better response to the needs of affected developing country Parties in the region and to better assist these Parties in their implementation of the Convention.

42. This strengthened RCM-AP would consist of the following key elements and functions:

A. Regional Office of the Convention for Asia and the Pacific

43. At the core of this strengthened RCM-AP, the existing Asia-RCU will be expanded, strengthened and transformed into a new Regional Office of the Convention for Asia and the Pacific (Regional Office of the Convention-AP). This name, which is consistent with the practice of other United Nations agencies, such as UNEP-ROAP, FAO-ROAP, and UN/ISDR-Asia and Pacific, should be conveyed to COP 9.

44. The proposed mandates, functions and the activities of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP are further elaborated in section VII.

B. Hosting arrangement

45. The UNCCD secretariat and UNESCAP, based in Bangkok, have signed a MOU regarding the hosting arrangement for the current Asia-RCU. This arrangement should continue. As Bangkok hosts a total of twenty-seven United Nations agencies, it is the best strategic location in the region for the Regional Office of the Convention-AP. Collaboration with other relevant partner agencies, especially UNESCAP, UNEP-ROAP, UNDP-Regional Centre Bangkok (UNDP-RCB), FAO-ROAP, can be facilitated efficiently and cost-effectively from this location. In addition, past relations between UNESCAP and the UNCCD Secretariat/Asia-RCU have been excellent. With the new Regional Office of the Convention-AP, it would be possible for more interaction and collaborations with UNESCAP on issues of common interest.

C. Staffing requirements

46. In order to more efficiently and effectively serve the country Parties in the region, the new Regional Office of the Convention-AP will aim to have at least the following professional staff:

(a) A regional coordinator (P5), who will be coordinating all the Regional Office of the Convention-AP activities and also responsible for activities in North-east Asia (NEA);

(b) A deputy coordinator (P4), who will be responsible for activities in South-east Asia (SEA) and South Asia (SA);

(c) One programme officer (P3), who will be responsible for activities in Central Asia (CA) and West Asia (WA);

(d) One programme officer (P3), who will be responsible for the activities in the Pacific and also those related to the TPNs;

(e) Two junior professional officers (JPOs) (P2), one from developed country and one from developing country (both funded by donor countries), who will be providing support to the programme officers as appropriate;

(f) A team assistant (P1), who will be providing operational support in the office;

(g) Interns (as appropriate).

47. Apart from the two JPOs who will be funded by donor countries, the other five professional staff should be funded from core budget.

48. If it is not possible to have all five professional staff funded by the core budget at the beginning, then supplementary funds may be solicited, so that all five professional positions can be filled at the same time.

49. Secondment of NFPs by country Parties, to fill the professional positions on a two-year rotational basis, may be an option that should be explored to meet the minimum requirement of professional staff in the Regional Office of the Convention-AP.

50. Another possible option is for one or two professional staff from the UNCCD secretariat headquarters in Bonn to be transferred to the Regional Office of the Convention-AP either on a permanent or two-year rotational basis.

51. The regional coordinator should be at least at P5 level. This is fully justifiable in view of the fact that the regional coordinators or directors of other United Nations agencies are at a P5 level or higher. As the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will be the regional presence of the UNCCD secretariat and the regional coordinator will represent the Executive Secretary, his/her professional level must be comparable to those of regional coordinators and directors of other United Nations agencies.

D. Reporting arrangements

52. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP may be under the coordination and the supervision of the regional implementation annexes (RIAs) coordinator based in the UNCCD secretariat headquarters²⁷, who may report to the Deputy Executive Secretary, who, in turn, will report to the Executive Secretary.

53. The coordinator of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will report directly to the RIAs coordinator, while the programme officers of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will directly report to the coordinator.

54. The standard annual United Nations electronic performance assessment system (e-PAS) will be used to evaluate the performance of all staff members at the Regional Office of the Convention-AP.

E. Advisory committee

55. An advisory committee will be established to provide guidance on the implementation of the RCM-AP and the operation of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP. This committee will be composed of one representative from each subregion (i.e., North-East Asia, South-East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and the Pacific) to ensure equal representation in the decision-making process. The UNCCD secretariat, GM, CST, and CRIC will also be represented. The chair and vice chair will be nominated by the representatives of the subregions and all representatives of the subregions may serve for a maximum term of three years in rotation. The regional coordinator of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP may serve as the secretary of the committee.

56. The advisory committee, through its respective representative from various partner agencies, will be the conduit between the Regional Office of the Convention-AP and the various partner agencies participating in the committee, so as to facilitate communications and dialogues between the Regional Office of the Convention-AP and its partner agencies. This committee would also ensure the effective participation of GM, CST and CRIC in the activities in the region.

57. The advisory committee may meet whenever opportunity arises, but at least once every six months, preferably back-to-back with COP or CRIC or the regional consultation meetings of the NFPs or any other relevant meetings as appropriate, and via video, telephone or e-conference if necessary and where possible, or so as to reduce travel cost and other expenses.

F. Cooperation with the Global Mechanism

58. Paragraph 4 of Article 21 (Financial Mechanisms) of the Convention provides that “In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, a Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on

²⁷ In UNEP headquarters based in Nairobi, a division of regional cooperation coordination oversees all six regional offices, including the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).

concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties, is hereby established. This Global Mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and be accountable to it”.

59. The GM is housed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which is also an executing agency of the GEF.

60. Although the GM does not have any regional coordination arrangements except a number of specific projects in the region, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will proactively liaise and coordinate with the GM in terms of resources mobilization in the region through its representative in the advisory committee.

G. Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility²⁸ implementing and executing agencies in the Region

61. The GEF is an important financial resource for eligible country Parties as it provides funding on projects that are eligible under operational programme (OP) 15: sustainable land management. While the UNCCD secretariat headquarters has assumed the responsibility of participating in the GEF council meetings, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP could liaise with the regional offices of the GEF implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank) and the executing agencies (ADB, FAO) in Bangkok, with a view to facilitating the development of projects related to OP 15 and other relevant GEF focal areas (e.g., OP 12 on integrated ecosystem management²⁹ and other operational programmes relating to climate change and biodiversity) that have implications for land degradation and desertification, for eligible member countries in the region.

62. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will work closely with the representatives of the GEF implementing and executing agencies in the region to assist eligible country Parties in accessing the GEF funds for projects relating to sustainable land management, integrated ecosystem management, afforestation and reforestation, as well as adaptation to drought induced by climate change, among others (see paragraphs 73 and 92).

H. Cooperation with the United Nations, international and regional agencies in the region

63. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will liaise and interact with relevant United Nations, international and regional agencies in the region for possible joint activities, as appropriate. These include UNESCAP, UNEP-ROAP, UNDP-RCB, FAO-ROAP, UN/ISDR-AP, ADB and the World Bank-AP, among others.

²⁸ In 2002, the GEF Assembly expanded the GEF’s mandate by adding sustainable land management to the GEF portfolio. In 2003, the GEF was designated a financial mechanism of the UNCCD (<<http://www.thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=240>>). These new developments have increased the availability of financial resources for eligible countries to address issues relating to land degradation.

²⁹ OP 12 encompasses cross-sectoral projects that address ecosystem management in a way that optimizes ecosystem goods and services in at least two focal areas within the context of sustainable development.

I. Implementation of the RCM-AP

64. The elements of the RCM-AP and their interactions are shown in Figure 1. These include the institutional arrangement for the Regional Office of the Convention-AP and its relation with the UNCCD secretariat headquarters, the subsidiary bodies of the Convention (GM, CST and CRIC), the advisory committee, the GEF (secretariat, and implementing and executing agencies) and other financial institutions, relevant UN, international and regional partner agencies, including civil society, NGOs and the private sector and other stakeholders.

65. This strengthened RCM-AP will only be functioning effectively if it has the full support and cooperation of the UNCCD secretariat headquarters and other stakeholders, including the NFPs of the country Parties in the region.

66. An integrated and coordinated strategy within the UNCCD secretariat is required to implement this strengthened RCM-AP, as well as the RCMs of other regions.

VI. Proposed mandates, functions and activities of the Regional Office of the Convention for Asia and the Pacific

67. All existing mandates and activities of the Asia-RCU at national, subregional and regional levels as highlighted in section IV, including technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of NAPs, SRAPs and RAP, facilitation of TPNs activities, participation in technical and policy workshops and forums, partnerships with other United Nations and relevant international and regional agencies and information outreach will be maintained and strengthened in the new Regional Office of the Convention-AP for continuity.

68. However, under the proposed regional coordination mechanism, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP that replaces the Asia-RCU will have a much strengthened institutional and human capacity with expanded scope of activities. In particular, a total of 12 proposed activities that meet the mandates of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP are highlighted below and summarized in Table 1.

Proposed activity 1: Regional representation of the UNCCD secretariat

69. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will represent the UNCCD secretariat in Asia and the Pacific and participated in all UNCCD activities and those related to it in the region.

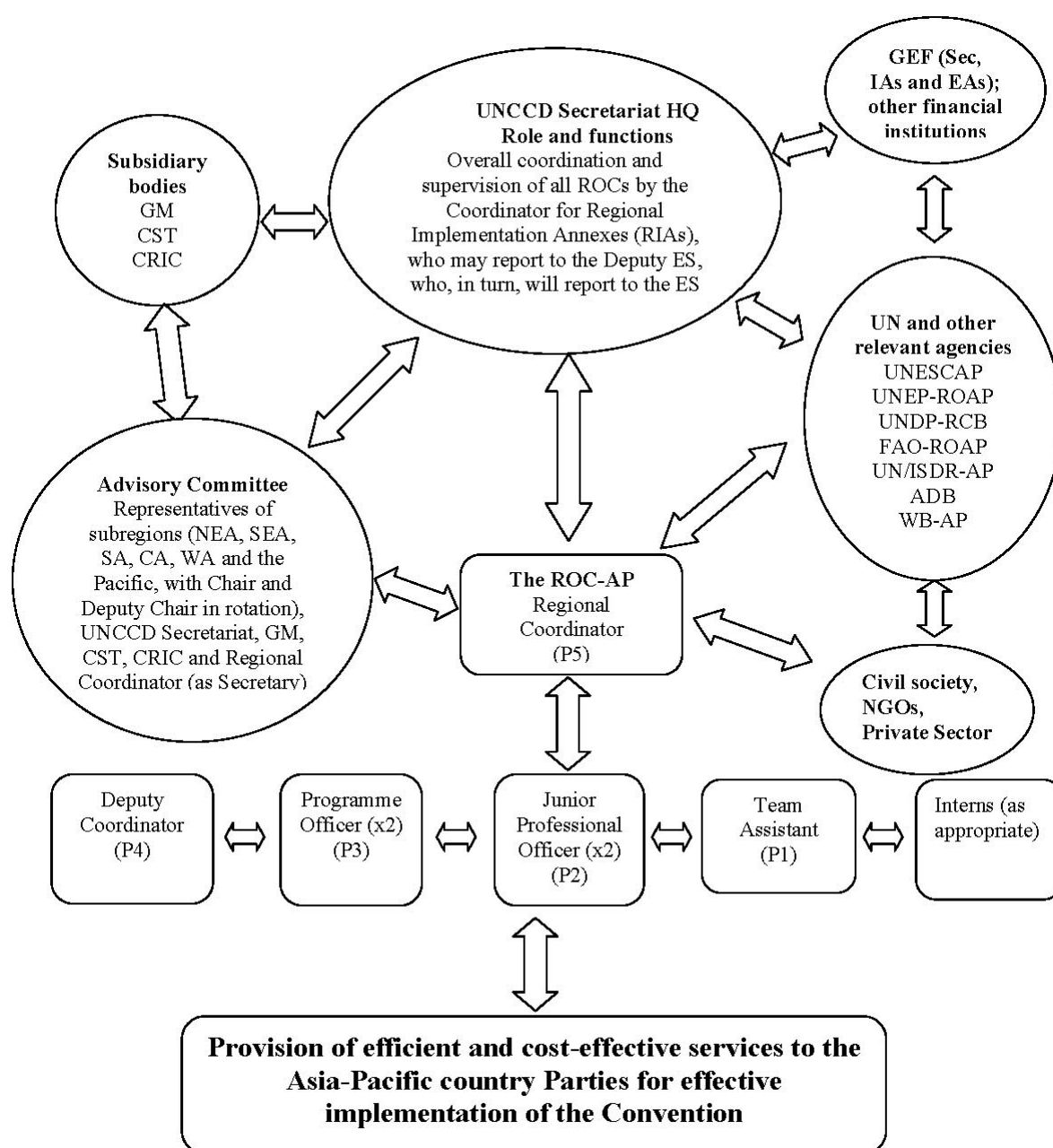
Proposed activity 2: Follow up on COP decisions and those of subsidiary bodies and facilitate country Parties' reporting obligations

70. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will follow up relevant decisions adopted by the COPs and its subsidiary bodies, as well as of the outcomes of the regional meetings on the implementation of the Convention, so as to ensure that the adopted decisions are effectively implemented in the region. It will also facilitate the country Parties in the region to meet all reporting obligations as required by the COPs and subsidiary bodies.

Proposed activity 3: contribution to the work programme of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, including their joint work programme

71. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will contribute to the development of the work programme of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, including their joint work programme with regional input, as well as through the preparation of national, subregional and regional project proposals, dissemination of information, provision of technical backstopping and assistance in the organization of workshops in the region.

Figure 1. The elements of the RCM-AP and their interactions between each other, which have been described in Section V.



Proposed activity 4: Technical assistance and regional advisory service (including capacity-building)

72. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will provide technical assistance, including capacity-building activities, to the developing and least-developed country Parties in the region for the further development and/or implementation of the NAPs, SRAPs and RAP. In particular, within the context of NAPs, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will assist country Parties in strengthening national strategies for sustainable development, including strategies for poverty eradication in relation to the implementation of the Convention. A clear and detailed mechanism will be developed to coordinate SRAPs and RAP and support their activities.

73. One of the new initiatives of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will be the provision of regional advisory services if requested by the country Parties. These may include country missions to provide hands-on technical assistance and capacity-building on issues relating to the effective implementation of the Convention, including in-country training for the development of project proposals for bilateral and multilateral funding (e.g., GEF project proposals based on OP 15: sustainable land management, OP 12: integrated ecosystem management, and other operational programmes relating to biodiversity and climate change that are linked to, or have synergies with, land degradation, desertification and mitigating the effects of drought (see also paragraphs 61 and 62).

74. The regional advisory service may also include in-country training on how to access the Adaptation Fund³⁰ under the Kyoto Protocol, especially on adaptation to mitigate the effects of drought, which is an important element for the implementation of the UNCCD. In-country training on the development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects on afforestation and reforestation may also be provided for eligible country Parties upon request.

75. In the past, the regional advisor on environment and sustainable development of UNESCAP³¹ had been used by the Asia-RCU as a resource person for a number of public awareness and technical workshops, as part of the free advisory service provided by UNESCAP. This is an innovative way of tapping the technical resource of partner agencies for the UNCCD activities. Similar partnership activities should be explored with other relevant United Nations, international and regional agencies in the future.

Proposed activity 5: coordination of TPNs

76. Due to lack of resources, the activities of TPNs have been limited in the past few years. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will coordinate the activities of TPNs and their

³⁰ The Adaptation Fund, established by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties, is financed with 2 per cent of the Certified Emission Reduction (CERs) issued for CDM projects and with funds from other sources. Decision 1/CMP.3 has established the Adaptation Fund Board as the operating entity of the Adaptation Fund and invited the GEF to provide secretariat services and the World Bank to serve as the trustee of the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis. These interim institutional arrangements will be reviewed after 3 years. The Adaptation Fund Board is composed of 16 members and 16 alternates and its meeting will take place at least twice a year in Bonn, Germany, which hosts the UNFCCC secretariat.

³¹ Unfortunately, this regional advisor post was abolished by UNESCAP after December 2007.

contribution to interregional cooperation in order to enhance the coherence of the policy framework relating to the sustainable management of natural resources.

77. It is proposed that under TPN3, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will take immediate action in 2010 to facilitate and assist West Asia in developing a subregional action programme on the prevention and control of dust storms that are affecting Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

Proposed activity 6: Preparation of RAP (2010–2014)

78. The RAP (2003–2008) has already expired, and there is a need to prepare the next RAP (2010–2014) to be adopted by the Third Asian Ministerial Conference that may be organized in 2010. The new Regional Office of the Convention-AP will facilitate the preparation of the RAP (2010–2014) within the context of The Strategy as contained in decision 3/COP.8.

79. It may be noted that the implementation of the past two RAPs have been mostly unsatisfactory due to the lack of financial resources. This affects effective coordination. Thus, the new RAP (2010–2014) needs to be better coordinated and be supported by adequate financial resources.

Proposed activity 7: Visiting fellowship programme

80. A visiting fellowship programme (VFP) will be established to facilitate the short-term visit of the national focal points (NFPs) of the UNCCD and the visiting scientists and experts to the Regional Office of the Convention-AP. The VFP could be of one to three months duration depending on the needs and circumstances. This programme could enhance the mutual understanding of the operation of the UNCCD secretariat, in particular, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP and the visiting fellows.

81. The above VFP is complementary to the UNCCD fellowship programme as proposed by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology³² and established by Decision 16/COP.8.³³

Proposed activity 8: Partnerships strengthening and development

82. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP will maintain and strengthen its existing partnerships with relevant United Nations, international and regional agencies based in Bangkok, Thailand, while developing new partnerships, including those with civil society, NGOs and the private sector in the region, as appropriate. The scientific and technical expertise of relevant research institutes and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

³² See Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology; Committee on Science and Technology Eighth session, Madrid, 4–6 September 2007; Report on a UNCCD fellowship programme; Note by the secretariat; ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5, 12 July 2007.

³³ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme; (doc. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, 23 October 2007).

centres³⁴ will be solicited to support the Regional Office of the Convention-AP's technical assistance activities.

83. The aim is to forge a regional partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in the region in order to support poverty reduction and social, economic and environmental sustainability. This is consistent with the mission of The Strategy as contained in decision 3/COP.8.

Proposed activity 9: Synergies with CBD, UNFCCC and other relevant MEAs and Frameworks

84. The new Regional Office of the Convention-AP will seek synergies between the activities in the implementation of the UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC, as well as other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and frameworks (e.g., Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters) at the national and regional levels. These may include the establishment of joint national and regional forums under the common objective of sustainable development, including implementation of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the establishment of national and regional communication and networking strategies to share information between relevant conventions and frameworks, so as to make their joint activities more cost-effective.

85. A few country Parties, including Saudi Arabia, have shared their ideas in their submissions to COP 8 on the “Options for enhanced cooperation among the Rio conventions, and the success stories of field activities on synergies”³⁵.

Proposed activity 10: promotion of science and environmentally sound technologies and development of regional roster of experts

86. With the support of the CST, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP will actively and proactively promote cost-effective science and environmentally sound technologies that are affordable to the member countries for the implementation of the Convention in the region, including good practices from traditional and endogenous knowledge.

87. A roster of independent experts with relevant expertise and experience in the region will be established, maintained and regularly updated, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation. This regional roster will be complementary to that established by the CST, which will be fully consulted on the selection of each expert for the roster. It will be posted at the home page of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP (see paragraph 88) after it is approved by the Advisory Committee.

³⁴ The CGIAR Centres in the region include Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Bogor, Indonesia, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo, Syria, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, India and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, the Philippines.

³⁵ See ICCD/COP(8)/MISC.1, 11 July 2007

Proposed activity 11: publications, information outreach and networking

88. A home page specifically for the RCM-AP will be developed to report on all UNCCD and related activities in the region, including those related to NAPs, SRAPs, RAP and TPNs, as well as joint activities with partners. Specific published or unpublished research articles that have been undertaken within the framework of the Convention may be posted on the website, which will be linked to the UNCCD secretariat home page.

89. A quarterly electronic newsletter will be published to share the most up-to-date information and experiences, as well as good practices on the implementation of the Convention in the region.

90. Thematic research work such as those resulted from the visiting fellowship programme will also be published as appropriate.

Proposed activity 12: resources mobilization

91. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP should be empowered and assisted by the UNCCD headquarters to mobilize resources to support, develop and sustain its activities through its extensive network, as well as to support the activities of the country Parties in the region as appropriate.

92. For example, the Regional Office of the Convention-AP may assist eligible country Parties in accessing the GEF trust fund (see paragraphs 61, 62 and 73), as well as the Special Climate Change Fund, LDC Fund, and Adaptation Fund under the UNFCCC for projects on coping with drought, conservancy adaptation and mainstreaming adaptation into integrated water resource management, as well as afforestation and reforestation, which are also eligible under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol. All these project activities would have significant implications for the implementation of the Convention.

93. A resource-mobilization strategy will be developed by the new Regional Office of the Convention-AP. Potential new and innovative sources of funding from donors, international foundations, the private sector, civil society and NGOs will be identified. Innovative financing, such as land degradation and desertification funds, public-private partnerships, micro-financing³⁶ and others³⁷ will be explored. All resource mobilization activities will be liaised and coordinated with the GM through the Advisory Committee in full consultation with the UNCCD secretariat headquarters.

³⁶ Microfinance has been promoted as an innovative option to help address climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as encouraging reforestation and afforestation. The Executive Board to the CDM has also launched the idea to explore the possibilities for combining CDM development with microfinance mechanisms in the least developed countries (LDCs).

³⁷ For example, JAL Mileage Bank members worldwide was able to participate in "JAL Miles for Eco" from 5 to 30 June 2006 by making donations of 10,000 miles or in units of 10,000 miles. Counting one mile as one yen, the JAL Group donated the equivalent amount in cash to the project entitled 'Inner Mongolia Greening Project Against Desertification' managed by Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA), a Tokyo-based non-profit-organization founded in 1961 which focuses on environmentally sustainable development in countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

VII. Two-year (2010–2011) results-based management workplan

94. A two-year workplan (2010–2011) that is based on results-based management (RBM) approach, with proposed activities, indicative costs, expected outcomes and success indicators, linkages to the strategic and operational objectives of The Strategy, and possible funding sources, is developed after extensive consultations among the Asian Task Force members and presented in Table 1.

95. This workplan will be complementary to the work programme of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, including their joint work programme.

Financial resources required

96. Decision 3/COP.8 recognizes the need for the Convention and its institutions to have adequate resources to allocate, according to their new results-based management approach, a work programme based on The Strategy in order to respond to the new challenges and needs at all levels.

97. As indicated in Table 1, an estimated US\$ 900,000 per year will be required for the operation and the additional activities of the new RCU-AP. This amount includes (i) the salaries for professional staff (excluding the JPOs who will be funded by donors) and the operational cost (i.e., office space, stationery and communication, missions and DSA) and (ii) the cost for additional activities, including preparation of RAP (2010–2014), technical assistance activities for NAPs, SRAPs and RAP, regional advisory services, coordination of TPNs, visiting fellowship programme, partnership strengthening and development, website development, publications, information outreach and networking and resources mobilization among others, as provided in Section VI. In view of the large size and the specific needs of the region with 56 country Parties, this estimated US\$900,000 funding requirement is very modest (i.e., less than US\$20,000 per country).

98. Supplementary funding from donors should be solicited to complement the funding from the core budget for the professional positions (i) to (iii) and (v) as mentioned in paragraph 49.

99. One option to reduce the cost would be the secondment of NFPs by country Parties to fill one or two professional positions on a two-year rotational basis.

100. It is feasible that the Regional Office of the Convention-AP may tap into the technical expertise of other United Nations, international and regional agencies for free regional advisory services that are also within their mandates, as in the case with UNESCAP during 2001–2007 when its Regional Advisory Service on Environment and Sustainable Development was available.

VIII. Conclusions

101. The cost-effectiveness and the added value of the Asia-RCU have been well demonstrated through its past activities and its significant contributions and achievements towards promoting the implementation of the Convention in the Asian region. The willingness of UNESCAP to host the Asia-RCU, the full support of the affected country Parties in the region,

as well as the contribution by affected country Parties to its operational costs, have fully justified its existence.

102. In order more efficiently and effectively to serve the affected country Parties in the region, it is proposed that the existing RCM-AP be strengthened. At the core of this strengthened RCM-AP, a Regional Office of the Convention for Asia and the Pacific (Regional Office of the Convention-AP) will be established to replace the existing Asia-RCU, with strengthened mandates and at least five professional staff funded by the core budget. This new Regional Office of the Convention-AP will maintain and strengthen the existing activities of the Asia-RCU. A number of new activities, such as regional advisory services, preparation of RAP (2010–2014), visiting fellowship programme, promotion of science and environmentally sound technologies, development of regional roster of experts, website development, publications, newsletter and other outreach information and resource mobilization will also be initiated within the context of The Strategy as contained in decision 3/COP.8. An Advisory Committee will be established to provide guidance on the implementation of the RCM-AP and the operation of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP.

103. An integrated and coordinated strategy within the UNCCD secretariat is required to implement this strengthened RCM-AP, as well as the efficient and effective operation of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP.

IX. Recommendations

104. Based on this proposal, the Parties at COP 9 may wish to deliberate and decide on the following items:

(a) To endorse the strengthened RCM-AP and the establishment of the new Regional Office of the Convention-AP that will replace the existing Asia-RCU in 2010;

(b) To approve the two-year Regional Office of the Convention-AP results-based management workplan (2010–2011) and the proposed activities as provided in the workplan;

(c) To approve the provision of financial resources under the core budget for the next biennium in order to cover the operational and activity costs of the Regional Office of the Convention-AP;

(d) To convene the Third Asian Ministerial Conference in 2010;

(e) To convene a United Nations Summit to review the progress on the implementation of the Convention in 2014 in commemoration of its 20-year anniversary.

Table 1. The Regional Office of the Convention-AP results-based management workplan (2010–2011)

Proposed activities	2010	2011	TOTAL	Expected outputs, outcomes and indicators	Linkage to the strategic and operational objectives of the 10-year (2008–2018) Strategy	Possible sources of funding
	US\$	US\$	US\$			
Objective of the RCM-AP: To more efficiently and effectively serve the Asia-Pacific member countries and assist them in the effective implementation of the Convention policy services				Areas of land degradation and desertification reduced over longer term	Strategic objectives 1 to 5 and operational objectives 1 to 5	Core budget/supplementary funds
Activity 1: Regional representation of the UNCCD secretariat	Regular activities	Regular activities	Regular activities	Relevant activities participated on behalf of the UNCCD secretariat	Strategic objectives 1 to 5 and operational objectives 1 to 5	Core budget
Activity 2: Follow up of COP and subsidiary bodies decisions and facilitate member countries' reporting obligations	Regular activities	Regular activities	Regular activities	COP and subsidiary bodies decisions followed and member countries' reporting obligations fulfilled	Strategic objectives 1 to 5 and operational objectives 1 to 5	Core budget
Activity 3: Contribution to UNCCD headquarters work programme and joint work programme with the GM	Regular activities	Regular activities	Regular activities	UNCCD headquarters work programme and joint work programme with the GM successfully developed with regional input	Strategic objectives 1 to 5 and operational objectives 1 to 5	Core budget
Activity 4: Technical assistance and advisory service (including capacity-building)	90,000	90,000	180,000	No. of missions undertaken with tangible results and outcomes	Operational objectives 2 and 4	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 4.1: Provide support to the implementation of NAPs, SRAPs and RAP, including advisory services, training and awareness-raising workshops				NAPs, SRAPs and RAP successfully implemented		
Activity 5: Coordination of thematic programme networks	60,000	60,000	120,000	TPNs successfully coordinated	Operational objective 4	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 5.1: Coordination and provision of support for TPNs				Increase in TPNs activities with tangible results and outcomes		

Proposed activities	2010	2011	TOTAL	Expected outputs, outcomes and indicators	Linkage to the Strategic and operational objectives of the 10-year (2008–2018) Strategy	Possible sources of funding
Activity 6: Preparation of RAP (2010-2014)	30,000	30,000	60,000	RAP (2010–2014) prepared	Strategic objectives 1 to 5 and operational objectives 1 to 5	Core budget
Activity 7: Visiting fellowship programme	85,000	85,000	170,000	No. of visiting fellows supported	Operational objective 4	Supplementary funds
Activity 7.1: Visiting scientists, NFPs of one to three months duration, as appropriate						
Activity 8: Partnerships strengthening and development	10,000	10,000	20,000	Existing partnerships strengthened & new partnerships developed	Strategic objective 4	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 8.1: Participation in relevant UN and other meetings as representative of the UNCCD secretariat				No. of relevant meetings participated		
Activity 9: Synergies with CBD, UNFCCC and other relevant MEAs and frameworks				Increase in joint activities with partners	Strategic objective 4	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 9.1: Participation of workshops organized by CBD, UNFCCC and other relevant frameworks (e.g., Hyogo Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction)	10,000	10,000	20,000			
Activity 10: Promotion of science and environmentally sound technologies and development of regional roster of experts (coordination with CST)	20,000	20,000	40,000	Good practices disseminated, Regional roster of experts established, maintained and updated	Operational objective 5	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 11: Publication, information outreach and networking					Operational objectives 1 and 3	Core budget and/or supplementary funds

Proposed activities	2010	2011	TOTAL	Expected outputs, outcomes and indicators	Linkage to the Strategic and operational objectives of the 10-year (2008-2018) Strategy	Possible sources of funding
Activity 11.1: Development and maintenance of website, including database	25,000	25,000	50,000	Website developed & maintained		
Activity 11.2: Publication of e-newsletter	10,000	10,000	20,000	E-newsletter published		
Activity 11.3: Other thematic publications	25,000	25,000	50,000	Thematic books published		
Activity 12: resources mobilization				Increase in financial resources	Strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5	Core budget and/or supplementary funds
Activity 12.1: Development of GEF projects for eligible countries	30,000	30,000	60,000	Increase in GEF-funded projects		
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						
RCU-AP coordinator (P5)	120,000	120,000	240,000			Core budget
Deputy coordinator (P4)	100,000	100,000	200,000			Core budget
Programme officer (x2) (P3)	150,000	150,000	300,000			Core budget
Junior professional officer (2) (P2) (funded by donors)						Donors
Administrator/secretary (P1)	50,000	50,000	100,000			Core budget
Interns (as appropriate)						
Staff travel	50,000	50,000	100,000			Core budget
Equipment (PCs)	5,000	5,000	10,000			Core budget
Operational expenses (e.g., office space, transportation, communication, etc)	30,000	30,000	60,000			Core budget
Total	900,000	900,000	1,800,000			

Annex III**Regional proposal: Latin America and the Caribbean****I. Background****A. Introduction**

1. In consideration of the seriousness of the problem of desertification in Latin America and the Caribbean, the country Parties in the region have endeavoured, from the beginning of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to implement a range of measures to optimize actions aimed at combating this global environmental problem. Therefore, the actions undertaken should involve all affected country Parties and be implemented in an organized manner. In order to deal with this situation, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is working towards the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism that would facilitate the systematic and effective implementation of actions, taking account of the multiple actions undertaken by different international institutions, United Nations agencies, donor country institutions and non-governmental organizations.
2. By way of illustration of this subject, it is useful to mention some of the key actions, organizations and countries participating in the initiatives. At the national level, in Costa Rica, for example, ECLAC and IFAD work together with CATIE in the implementation of projects relating to land degradation. In Mexico, in particular, close cooperation exists with NCRS/USDA, CEC and CICEANA.
3. Some United Nations agencies such as UNDP, UNEP and IFAD are carrying out activities related to desertification, in most countries in the region. The GM plans interventions in Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Dominican Republic. FAO in Mexico will carry out actions through COFAN. UNDP in Chile manages the GEF small grants programme, geared towards the fight against desertification, together with the European Commission Environment Programme. In Argentina, on the other hand, GEF is financing the implementation of three projects to combat desertification.
4. As regards regional organizations, IICA, IADB and OAS are engaged in almost all countries in the region, whereas CATIE carries out a wide range of activities linked to SLM in Central American countries.
5. Cooperation and donor agencies are also actively engaged in the region, especially European agencies such as the German GTZ and the Spanish AECI, as well as the governments of Netherlands, Italy and Japan and the European Union. On the American continent, the involvement of the Canadian agency CIDA, which mainly focuses on cooperation with Central America, can be highlighted.
6. On the other hand, there are many networks of private or NGOs that cooperate on issues pertaining to the fight against desertification. In this context, the presence of RIOD - the NGO Network on Desertification and Drought - in almost all countries in the region should be taken into consideration. Other international NGOs such as WWF, PRONATURA and AVINA are

involved on an individual basis. And so are private initiatives such as those by the companies BIMBO and CEMEX in Mexico.

7. Various subregional political blocs also have initiatives or strategies to combat desertification, as is the case for MERCOSUR, for the Southern-Cone countries, CARICOM in the Caribbean, or the Andean Community.

8. All these initiatives, including many others that are not mentioned in this proposal, are being pursued in the region and require an organizational framework that would help organize and coordinate them so as to enhance their effectiveness, in some cases, or avoid overlapping of functions, in others. This way, the RCM could serve as the conceptual framework facilitating the coordination of the various institutions and activities undertaken in the region. In order to achieve this coherence and coordination, it is proposed to set up a Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification (Regional Office of the Convention) as the coordinating unit for all these initiatives and implementing organizations, which would help systematize, enhance and exchange all information relevant to the fight against desertification in the region.

9. Both the RCM and the attendant Regional Office of the Convention (initially referred to as Regional Coordination Units) have been subject to debate and proposals from the beginning of the UNCCD. The main decisions and articles underlying the establishment of a Regional Coordination Mechanism and the attendant Regional Office of the Convention are presented below.

B. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the mechanism and the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification

10. Article 3 (b) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification establishes that Parties “should [...] improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels” in order to enhance financial, human, organizational and technical resources. Technical coordination and cooperation is addressed in article 16 (a) (iv), which states the importance to “link national, subregional and regional data and information centres more closely with global information sources” and article 17 (d), similarly, calls for the development and strengthening of national, subregional and regional research capabilities.

11. In order to achieve the set objectives, article 19 on “Capacity building, education and public awareness” provides in paragraph 4 that, among other functions, the Conference of the Parties shall establish and/or strengthen networks of regional education and training centres to combat desertification, which are to be coordinated by an institution created or designated for that purpose.

12. The financing of this measure and of other actions is addressed in articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and article 25 refers to networking at the national, subregional and regional levels, requesting CST to evaluate existing national, subregional and regional networks and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and reinforce networking.

13. Similarly, article 26 (4) addresses information exchange at the subregional or regional levels, providing that any group of affected country Parties “may make a joint communication on

measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes”, this information is passed on to the Conference of the Parties through the permanent secretariat.

14. Article 11 of the Convention makes specific reference to the role of RAPs and SRAPs and provides that they must be “in accordance with relevant regional implementation annexes” and that subregional and/or regional action programmes should be prepared “to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes.”

C. Implementation of the process in the Latin American and Caribbean Region

15. Article 3 (1) of the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean specifies that “subregional and regional programmes may be prepared and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the region”. The institutional framework is provided in article 7, which specifically notes that a mechanism shall be set up to coordinate the national focal points for the purpose of “exchanges of information and experience, coordination of activities at the subregional and regional levels, promotion of technical, scientific, technological and financial cooperation, identification of external cooperation requirements and follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of action programmes”.

16. On the other hand, article 7 gives the secretariat of the Convention a fundamental role in organizing this coordination, mainly by way of periodic meetings and in facilitating information that may be relevant in establishing or improving coordination processes.

17. In the context of the regional meetings, in the first Regional Meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1996), reference was made, among other priority actions, to the “establishment of an appropriate mechanism for communication and exchange between the countries of the region, with special emphasis on horizontal cooperation, in order to prepare and implement regional and subregional action programmes.”

18. The same meeting recommended the establishment of systems for regional scientific and technical cooperation, financial mechanisms and horizontal cooperation mechanisms in order to conduct inventories and analyses of relevant organizations, facilitate information exchange, strengthen capacities and research with the support of existing regional coordination mechanisms and promote advocacy and public awareness raising among others.

19. To date, twelve regional meetings have been held, almost all of which discussed issues relevant to the RCM and its coordination office. At the outset, the housing and the host country for the office were established, namely UNEP and Mexico respectively.

20. Subsequently, in various decisions and resolutions, the country Parties in the region pursued their request for the establishment of a coordination mechanism and its objectives, as well as the functions, staffing and terms of reference of the Regional Offices of the Convention.

21. These objectives include the creation of information systems through an information network (DESELAC), forums, conferences and electronic bulletins. The regional meetings also addressed the issue of financing the Regional Office, calling on all countries to make voluntary contributions while, at the same time, seeking to ensure funding through the UNCCD secretariat.

D. Conference of the Parties decisions relevant to the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification

22. By its decision 6/COP.5 the COP considers the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification initiative (referred to here as “Regional Coordination Units”) and decides to include on the agenda of the sixth session of the COP an item on the need for, modalities for, costs involved and feasibility and possible terms of reference of the Regional Coordination Units.

23. Decision 11/COP.6 thus invites the Parties, existing regional coordination offices, the Global Mechanism and other relevant regional entities to propose the best arrangements for strengthening regional coordination. Decision 11 further requests the secretariat to identify “how to make the best use of the existing regional coordination units”. It invites the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session, taking into account the outcome of the feasibility study and associated consultations, to take a decision on the role of and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to the Regional Offices of the Convention.

24. By its decision 11/COP.7, the COP decides to establish an open-ended group to review available reports and information received from Parties and other entities and make recommendations to COP 8 on options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination and, in particular, on how to make the best use of the existing Regional Offices of the Convention and other relevant regional and subregional entities, and take a decision at COP 8 on the role of and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to the Regional Offices of the Convention.

25. During COP 8, held in Madrid, the Conference adopted decision 3/COP.8. Paragraphs 29 and 30 of the document identify regional coordination as an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy and highlight the need for coordination mechanisms to be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and the specific issues of regions.

26. Paragraph 30 also calls upon each region to develop a proposal, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the GM, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia, existing regional coordination activities, tools and donor and regional funding arrangements and to provide details of staffing, hosting possibilities and other financial resources required. It further calls on the regions to define the functions and output and reporting arrangements of such mechanisms in terms of implementing the Convention and delivering The Strategy and to provide these prior to COP 9 for consideration in the context of the budget and the programme of work.

II. Mission, objectives and functions of the Regional Coordination Mechanism

27. The RCM represents a coordination model, that has a mission and attendant objectives. The Regional Office of the Convention, for its part, is the implementing agency of the mission and objectives and has, consequently, a mandate to discharge such functions or activities as help fulfil the mission and objectives set by the RCM.

A. The mission

28. Establish a framework for organizing and coordinating all desertification-related activities in Latin America and the Caribbean carried out by any international, public, private and civil society institutions or regional political blocs. These activities are aimed at preventing, controlling and reversing desertification and land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought, through adequate education and awareness raising, policy promotion, scientific and technical capacity-building. It also includes the search for and mobilization of national, bilateral and multilateral financial resources in order to reduce poverty, strengthen food security and promote environmental sustainability in the region.

B. Key objective of the Regional Coordination Mechanism

29. Facilitate the exchange of information and experience and coordinate action among national focal points, multilateral agents and civil society organizations in order to strengthen and support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the region.

C. Mandate of the Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification

30. Carry out the lines of action provided by the country Parties in the region through the Regional Executive Committee and the functions identified in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism aimed at providing support and strengthening any actions facilitating the effective implementation of the RAP, consistent with the operational objectives of The Strategy.

D. Functions

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

- (a) Information dissemination
- (b) Facilitation of regional meetings
- (c) Support to civil society organizations

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

- (a) Enhance regional cooperation
- (b) Improve NAP, SRAP and RAP reviews
- (c) Develop public policies relating to UNCCD

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

- (a) Support science and technology networks and institutions

- (b) Coordinate the implementation of relevant TPNs
- (c) Harmonize and implement a regional monitoring programme

Operational objective 4: Capacity building

- (a) Identify actors' training needs
- (b) Assess programmes, inventories and analyses of relevant organizations

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

- (a) Promote the preparation of integrated financial strategies
- (b) Identify innovative financing sources and mechanisms

E. Added value of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for The Strategy

31. The benefits of having a Regional Coordination Mechanism and the attendant Regional Office of the Convention can affect the areas of coordination and management and the economic sphere.

32. In terms of organization and coordination, the RCM is an essential tool for achieving the implementation of the RAP and the mission outlined in The Strategy, whose goal is to “provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation.” Thus, the RCM facilitates the organization and coordination of all regional activities designed to achieve the objective and mission set forth in The Strategy. In this context, it should be taken into account that having a regionally-based Regional Office of the Convention facilitates exchange between the different United Nations agencies present in the region, which often have their headquarters in the same city, even in the same building, that can host the Regional Office of the Convention. This enables Regional Office of the Convention officials to engage closely with these agencies, the Parties and, more generally, all actors working in the region. This gives the secretariat of the Convention an active presence in the region and thus enhancing the effectiveness of the services delivered, preventing the duplication of activities and enabling closer follow-up and monitoring of the Convention, despite the usual change in focal points.

33. This improved regional coordination will also benefit other actors such as focal points and civil society organizations and the private sector, by facilitating closer engagement and thus getting them more involved in the fight against desertification.

34. In terms of institutional coordination, the RCM facilitates the complementarity and coherence of services delivered by the GM and the secretariat and is also a tool for organizing and addressing both current and emerging needs, capacities and problems that are specific to the regions, consistent with the provisions of The Strategy. On the other hand, and following the recommendation emanating from the XII LAC Regional Meeting, it has been stated that a Regional Office of the Convention “can be a mechanism to reduce costs and coordinating efforts

at the regional level between the secretariat and the GM” and that the host country is encouraged to provide significant economic support for the running of the office.

35. In fact, the possibility for the secretariat and the GM to share one regional office of the Convention, would save costs and encourage them to work together and assist countries by providing information on financial support, in addition to giving UNCCD a better standing within the different financial entities in the region, including IADB, and in the sub-region such as, for example, CABEL, CDB, the Andean Development Commission (CAF) and the Banco del Sur.

36. On the other hand, the effectiveness of the functions is being enhanced, because the existence of a Regional Office of the Convention enables the countries in the region to work together more closely and provides a framework for coordinating all those mechanisms that are already engaged in the fight against desertification, as well as those related to biodiversity and climate change and facilitates synergies between them. In accordance with the new structure presented by the secretariat, a coordination mechanism with regional representation is required in order to strengthen country Parties’ sense of ownership and commitment and, at the same time, to enable a realistic, close-up view of the UNCCD process in the region through ongoing mapping of stakeholders and the activities they carry out in the region. Another advantage of having a Regional Office of the Convention is the fact that it facilitates communication between all members during working hours, since the time difference between countries in the region is two hours at most, whereas the time difference to Europe can be between five and eight hours.

37. The new structure also has considerable economic benefits, since having a coordination office based in the region rather than in Bonn saves on travel time and expenses. In general, running costs (office space, administrative backstopping, staffing) are lower in LAC than in Europe, which is also the case for living allowances paid by the United Nations.

38. Lastly, the RCM, by virtue of its status as an organizing and structuring framework, will facilitate the exchange of information and experience and the coordination of actions. It will function as a catalyst for the implementation of the objectives of The Strategy, promoting communication and placing land degradation/desertification on the agenda of country Parties and civil society organizations, scientific communities and regional forums (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCAD, etc.). This would be difficult and slow to achieve without the RCM.

III. Institutional agreements

39. The Regional Office of the Convention is the institutional agreement required for the effective implementation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism through the coordination and liaison between the different activities and institutions within the framework of the RCM. The Regional Office of the Convention is thus the mechanism which facilitates, through exchange of information and experience and capacity building, proper coordination among the countries in the region. Consequently, efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels, by being linked to the representatives of the Convention’s bodies, will facilitate better implementation of the Regional Action Programme. As a way of strengthening these actions, the Regional Office of the Convention will facilitate links between the secretariat and the GM which, by working together, will provide better services to the country Parties in the region.

40. The guidelines for the operation and monitoring of the RCM will be prepared in consultation with all countries in the region, as represented by the Regional Executive Committee.

A. Basic principles

41. The basic principles are intended to focus the mission and objectives of the RCM and, at the same time, offer guidance to the Regional Office of the Convention in the discharge of its functions, thus providing a basis for the coordination and communication to be established. The cornerstone of any activity, function or institutional agreement established under the Regional Coordination Mechanism must be the notion that their ultimate purpose is to support the implementation of the RAP and compliance with the UNCCD Strategy, consistent with the mission of the RCM.

42. Notwithstanding, certain guiding principles must be established for the RCM, which should be based on the principles of complementarity and subsidiarity, cooperation, coordination, participation, transparency and integration.

B. Regional Coordination Mechanism

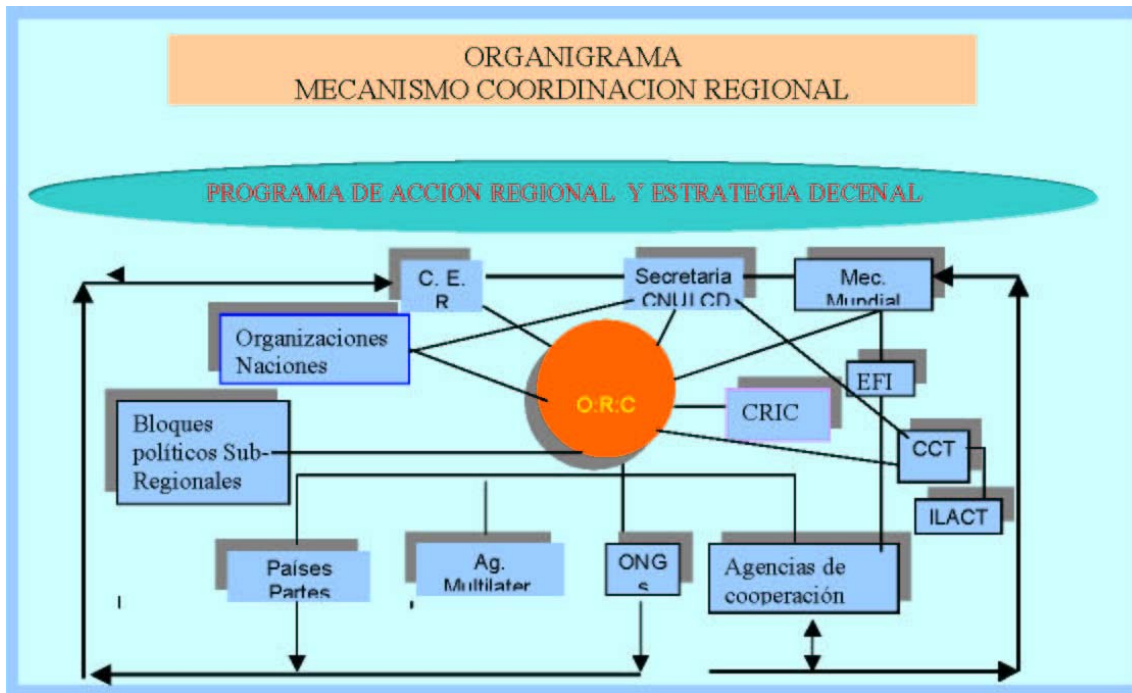
43. This is the organizational framework for all activities and the coordinating framework for the organizations, institutions and agencies engaged in the fight against desertification in the region. These are made up of the country Parties, United Nations agencies, donor country agencies and their programmes and projects, civil society organizations, NGOs, initiatives of the scientific community and subregional political blocs.

C. Regional Office of the Convention to Combat Desertification

44. The Regional Office of the Convention is the central office, whose role is to build the best possible regional coordination mechanism capable of facilitating progress at country levels through a series of measures designed to harmonize and coordinate the activities entrusted to it by the countries, consistent with The Strategy. The functions of the Regional Office of the Convention are therefore directly linked to the support for the implementation of the RAP and the five operational objectives of The Strategy. In order to achieve these objectives, joint efforts by the secretariat and the GM and support from other bodies of the Convention are needed.

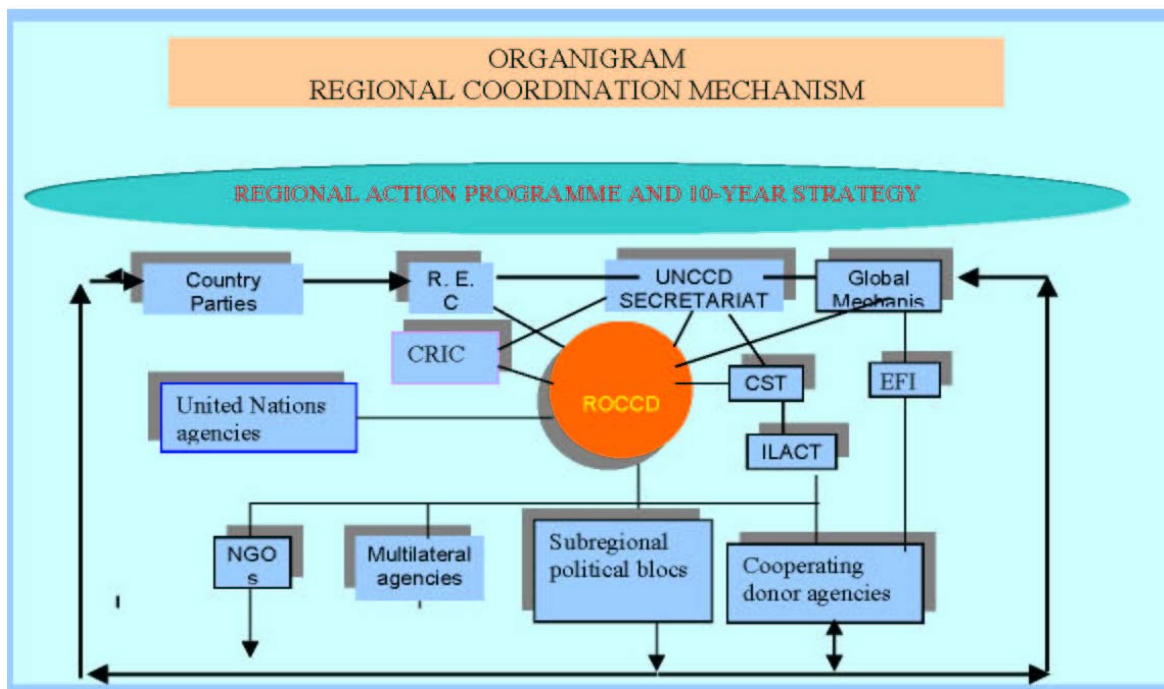
D. Country Parties

45. According to articles 4 and 5 of the UNCCD and article 7 (b) of the III Regional Implementation Annex, the country Parties shall exchange information, coordination of activities at the subregional and regional levels and promotion of cooperation in order to achieve the RAP implementation. The proposals given by the parties shall be done by the REC, who may bring them to the Regional Office of the Convention for their implementation. The country parties of the region, could demand reports and information, concerning the adequate functioning of the RCM, in order to do the follow up and evaluation of the RCM, thus do the modifications in order to achieve the RCM mission and the Regional Office of the Convention mandate.



E. Regional Executive Committee

46. The Regional Executive Committee is the highest authority in the follow-up and monitoring of the RCM and acts as link between the country Parties in the region and the Regional Office of the Convention when it comes to identifying priority issues and promoting joint efforts of the Secretariat and the GM in the preparation of a two-year workplan, following a results-based management approach consistent with The Strategy.



47. The country Parties in the region will identify their priorities for action, as well as the key functions of the Regional Office of the Convention, which will be assigned through the REC. The bodies of the regional meetings will evaluate the implementation and progress made.

48. At these meetings, the Parties, through the Executive Committee, will request a two-year workplan, consistent with The Strategy, which proposes priorities and actions to be implemented by the Regional Office of the Convention. Between sessions of the regional meetings, the REC shall meet with the Regional Office of the Convention to follow-up on the implementation of these actions.

49. Taking into account that REC membership is renewed each year and that RIOD is the only permanent observer, it is suggested that RIOD should act as rapporteur for the REC to the Regional Office of the Convention, in order to ensure continuity and follow-up of action.

F. Convention institutions and bodies

50. The four institutions and bodies of the Convention: the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Science and Technology Committee and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention should act in a coordinated manner, irrespective of whether they are part of or merely supporting the Regional Office of the Convention. Their role within the RCM is described below.

1. Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

51. Pursuant to article 7 of the Regional Implementation Annex for LAC, the secretariat of the Convention is given a fundamental role in the organization of the coordination, mainly through periodic meetings and the facilitation of information that may be relevant in establishing or improving coordination processes.

52. It is also responsible for concluding agreements with the host institution and host country, staffing, expense management, etc. Through the Regional Office of the Convention, it participates in the allocation and monitoring of the actions the countries assign to the Regional Office of the Convention.

2. Global Mechanism

53. The GM, consistent with its mandate, must increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing mechanisms and mobilize substantial resources and be a key actor in achieving operational objective 5.

54. Consequently, it is responsible for securing funding for the implementation of actions within the framework of the objectives of the RCM and in conformity with The Strategy and the biannual work programme prepared together with the secretariat.

55. On the other hand, the GM regional advisors¹ can assist with monitoring the implementation of the SRAPs and suggest agreements with subregional entities (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Central American Commission for Development and Environment (CCDA) etc.) that could help Regional Office of the Convention to fulfil its mission. These advisers, thanks to their familiarity with the situation on the ground in the country and/or subregion, can support the Regional Office of the Convention by providing more detailed information on the needs and requirements at the national and subregional levels.

56. The GM shall cooperate with other regional coordination bodies, such as the Interagency Technical Committee, to strengthen relations with other international cooperation agencies, especially multilateral development banks and international funds, including GEF, for the development of programmes and budget forecasts relating to the fight against desertification. In this connection, special attention should be awarded to the recently established investment platform (PIMAST), under implementation process in Mesoamerica, which could provide a basis for the development of an integrated regional financing strategy (EFIR) capable of meeting financing requirements.

3. Committee on Science and Technology

57. The Latin American Science and Technology Initiative (ILACT), which has been requested to be implemented through the Regional Office of the Convention, is a platform for action aimed at stimulating and enhancing the consultative processes that facilitate science and technology activities in the LAC region. Its long-term purpose is to contribute to the efforts made towards operational objective 3, namely for the Convention to “become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification and land degradation”. It is with this in mind that the above-mentioned initiative is proposed as a tool to be used by the CST in support of relevant actions in the region.

4. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

58. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) could provide operational support to the Regional Office of the Convention in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the RAP and the regional application of The Strategy, this could be laid down in a “conceptual document”, to be reviewed in the context of regional consultations.

5. Civil society

59. Civil society can serve as a channel for information dissemination, in accordance with the provisions of The Strategy and, in particular, with regard to operational objective 1, but also as a key stakeholder in the implementation of national action plans (NAPs) and TPNs 2, 3, 5 and 6. Furthermore, its involvement as rapporteur of the REC helps the effective integration of civil society in the proposals submitted to the Regional Office of the Convention and follow-up to those proposals.

¹ Existing GM advisers that provide support to countries in the region are not permanent staff of the GM and are recruited as consultants on the basis of voluntary contributions made to support activities in LAC, which is why they may not be available at all times.

6. Cooperation agencies

60. A large number of initiatives exist in the region, as reflected in projects and programmes carried out by different donor country cooperation agencies (JICA, GTZ, NOVIP, AECI, USAID, CIDA, etc.), which would be best coordinated in the framework of the RCM in order to avoid duplication of actions and efforts. The agencies should work closely with the regional advisors of the Regional Office of the Convention, in order to prioritize their activities and coordinate with other regional or subregional efforts, to ensure that they function as a catalyst for the implementation of the RAP consistent with the objectives of The Strategy.

IV. Hosting agreements

61. The establishment of the Regional Coordination Unit was agreed at the Second Regional Meeting held in Mexico City (1996). In consideration of the offer by UNEP it would be hosted within the facilities of the UNEP regional office in Mexico City.

62. At the Fifth Regional Meeting (1999), the secretariat of the Convention announced the establishment of the Regional Coordination Unit. This was made possible by the generous financial contributions made by the governments of Mexico, Argentina, Cuba and Spain, UNEP and UNDP.

63. In September 2002, the coordination office was moved from the UNEP Regional Office to the ECLAC headquarters, which is also in Mexico City, from where it continues to operate. One person is involved, who is financed by the Spanish Government. This funding will continue until the end of 2009. Mexico, for its part, remains the host country. This situation could be reviewed when it comes to renewing agreements.

Criteria for selecting the host institution

64. The criteria for selecting the institution could be established using basic requirements that are vital for the operation of the unit and other desirable requirements that would enable the Regional Office of the Convention better to discharge its functions.

1. Basic requirements

65. The host institution could be part of the U.N. or another multilateral organization present in the region and capable of providing minimum financial assistance to cover the running cost. This organization should enjoy diplomatic immunity in as much as Regional Office of the Convention staff shall be recruited by the United Nations.

66. The host country should be in a position to make contributions to the running costs and/or support staff (e.g. a secretary) salaries.

67. A legal agreement must be concluded between the host institution and the secretariat and also between the host country and the secretariat. In this connection, it is suggested that agreements with the respective institution and country are reviewed and updated in order to ensure that they can accommodate the new structure of the Regional Office of the Convention and have a certain growth capacity, since staff may need to be increased. The decision whether

to maintain the current host institution and country should be taken by the country Parties at the regional meetings, taking into consideration offers and contributions made by both the current host institution and country and others that may be interested and meet the above-mentioned requirements.

2. Desirable requirements

68. Aside from the basic requirements already mentioned, a few others are taken into consideration which would facilitate and enhance the functioning of the Regional Office of the Convention. Those include ease of access to the country, since getting to certain countries which have no direct flights, even from neighbouring countries, can be difficult. In this respect, it is also important that the headquarters of the host institution are located in a city with an international airport and adequate means of transport.

69. Their contribution in the form of office equipment, payment of support staff, rent and/or cost of general services, is important when it comes to choosing a host country or institution.

70. It is also advantageous if the host institution, in addition to providing office space, undertakes to support the Regional Office of the Convention in its work.

V. Two-year work programme in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism

71. The work programme revolves around the implementation of activities and attainment of outcomes and results in the LAC region, in order to strengthen the RAP and the implementation of The Strategy. Consequently, the structure of the work programme is consistent with the United Nations results-based management approach, which facilitates the effective monitoring and evaluation of both achievements and the respective reports submitted. The work programme contains activities to be implemented over a period of 24 months.

A. Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought related issues.

Expected outcomes	Indicators	Results	Activities	Responsible actor
Greater cooperation and partnership among the different intergovernmental agencies and the U.N. in support of the UNCCD	Conventions, agreements and alliances concluded	Joint actions and programmes of work of different organizations	-Set up coordinating meetings -Identify cooperation needs -Conclude memorandums of understanding and agreements -Implement joint actions	Regional Office of the Convention GM secretariat
Greater communication and awareness among key stakeholders.	Number of organizations participating in the different events under the UNCCD Reference to the Convention in the various international forums	Effective involvement of key UNCCD stakeholders	-Participation in forums, seminars and regional, subregional and national meetings -Awareness and education workshops specialized training for governmental decision-makers, journalists. etc.	Regional Office of the Convention GM NFP NGOs

B. Operational objective 2: Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought

Expected outcomes	Indicators	Results	Activities	Responsible actor
Country Parties in the region review and update the RAP, bringing it into line with the objectives of The Strategy	RAP reviewed and updated for a new period, consistent with The Strategy (2010–2018)	Meetings and forums for exchange of views New RAP document	-Establish guidelines for redrafting the RAP. -Set up a working group -Recruit a consultant to draft a proposal.	Regional Office of the Convention REC
Greater synergies between the Rio conventions.	Number of joint or co-operative activities	Plans and agreements on joint activities	Joint planning meetings Preparation of cooperation and coordination procedures	Secretariat Regional Office of the Convention
The drivers of and solutions to desertification are addressed by different political entities at the regional, subregional and national levels	Number of meetings held or attended. Number of political representatives contacted	Relevant proposals and mainstreaming of desertification issues at the different levels	Organization of regional and subregional meetings. Identification of actors and stakeholders Drafting of reports	Regional Office of the Convention

C. Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and the mitigation of the effects of drought.

Expected outcomes	Indicators	Results	Activities	Responsible actor
TPN 5 on traditional knowledge and practices is promoted and TPN 1 (benchmarks and indicators) is strengthened	Relevant meetings, reports and activities	Establishment of pilot projects. Participation of relevant stakeholders	-Holding of meetings -Revision of the programme of work -Dissemination of information -Establishment of pilot projects	TPN coordinator Regional Office of the Convention
Support for national and regional monitoring and evaluation of the vulnerability of dry lands, through debates within the scientific community in the framework of CST meetings	Participants in meetings and debates Relevant country reports	Scientific contributions to the presentation of reports Recommendations by the CST Bureau	- Consultation and dialogue processes involving the CST and the regional scientific community -Preparation of a report on monitoring and land vulnerability	CST Regional Office of the Convention

D. Operational objective 4: Capacity building

To identify and address capacity building needs to prevent and to reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Expected outcomes	Indicators	Results	Activities	Responsible actor
The country Parties assess their capacity building needs for ensuring the implementation of NAPs and RAP	Number of countries conducting the assessment	Information materials and instruments designed to meet the capacity building needs	-Preparation of needs assessment instruments and materials -Design of capacity building tools	Regional Office of the Convention REC
Improvement in the accuracy and quality of information and of procedures for accessing sources of financing for the implementation of NAPs and RAP	Number and amount of proposals funded	Increase in regional funds for the implementation of proposals	-Training in funding application procedures -Dissemination of information on sources of financing -training in the drafting of proposals	GM Secretariat

E. Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources to increase their impact and effectiveness.

Expected outcomes	Indicators	Results	Activities	Responsible actor
Establishment of an integrated regional financing strategy (EFIR) platform that would help finance of activities pertaining to the NAP and RAP	<p>Number of programmes and activities supported in the framework of EFIR</p> <p>Number of beneficiary countries in regional and subregional processes</p> <p>Number of agreements with financing agencies</p>	The initiatives set forth in the RAP and NAP are endowed with financing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Setting up of the EFIR platform -Prioritize activities -Submission of proposals to the different financial entities -Conclusion of cooperation agreements -Establishment of project clusters for negotiation 	GM
Developed country Parties participate in and contribute to the financing of initiatives to combat desertification	<p>Number of developed countries providing financial support</p> <p>Number of regional, subregional and national initiatives benefiting from development cooperation programmes</p>	Developed countries provide financial support for initiatives aimed at combating desertification and drought in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meetings between donors and country and/or REC representatives in order to establish modalities for financial cooperation. -Incorporate the fight against desertification into the donor cooperation framework. -Review and coordination with portfolios of international institutions 	GM

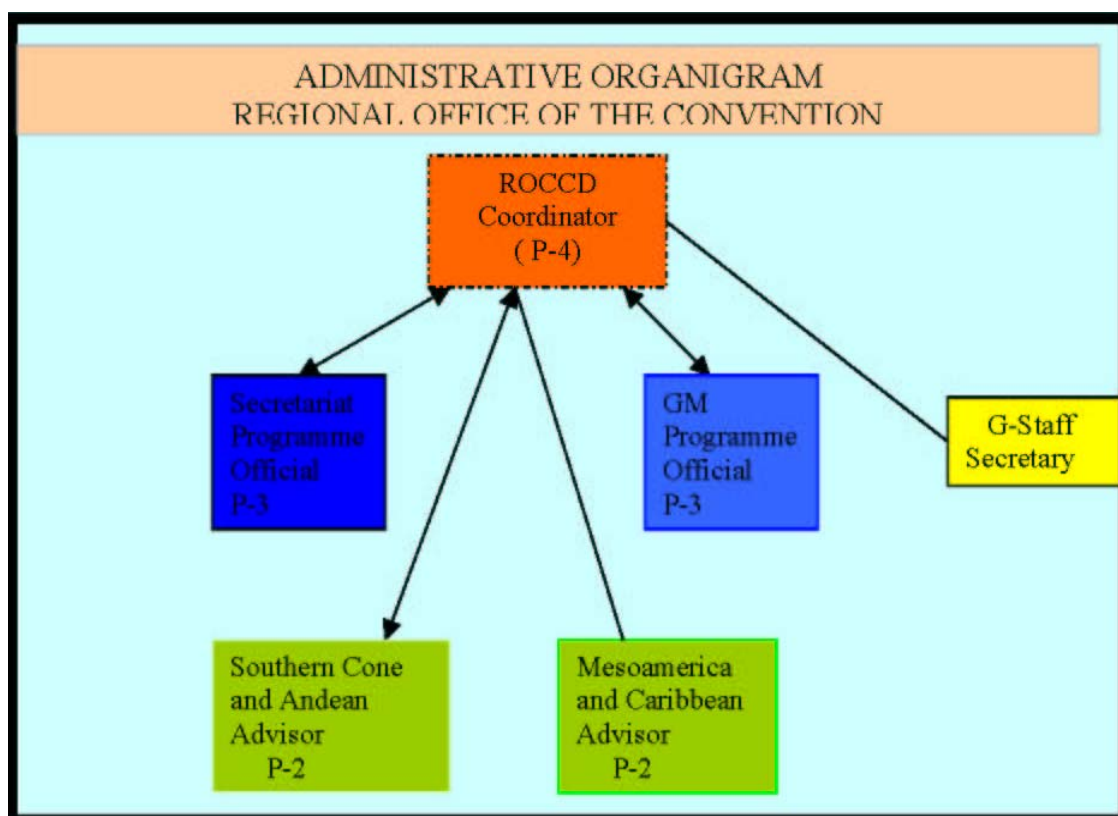
VI. Staffing requirements

72. The previous Regional Coordination Unit was run by a small team made up of the coordinator and his or her secretary. In the new operational structure proposed for the Regional Office of the Convention, the coordinator and the secretary remain in the office at the host institution. However, two additional programme officers are recruited, representing the secretariat and the GM respectively, who are based at the Regional Office of the Convention headquarters. Provisions are also made for two advisors to work in two subregions (Southern Cone-Andean and Mesoamerica-Caribbean), who would be based in one of the countries of their respective subregion.

Specific functions of the staff of the regional office of the Convention

1. Regional coordinator

73. He or she should draft and implement the programme of work entrusted by the REC, giving special consideration to the implementation of The Strategy and working in close consultation with the GM regional advisors. He or she should engage in ongoing consultations with the regional advisors, the national focal points and designated officers at the host institution. He or she should provide technical and logistical support for the implementation of RAP, SRAPs and NAPs.



74. Maintain close links with all coordinators of TPNs, monitor their implementation and offer advice relevant to achieving the set objectives. Inform the secretariat and the REC periodically of the activities carried out. Ensure ongoing exchange of information, especially

through DESELAC, newsletters and bulletins. Support civil society activities. Participate in and represent UNCCD in meetings, workshops and seminars at different levels (regional, subregional and national). Prepare financial reports on the activities undertaken.

2. Secretariat and Global Mechanism programme officer

75. In order to promote the joint efforts of the secretariat and the GM, two programme officers are required to work within the Regional Office of the Convention representing each of the Convention bodies. The officer representing the secretariat shall support the regional coordinator in his or her functions relating to representing the Convention in the region, strengthening the implementation of the RAP and the development of the TPNs, organizing regional and subregional meetings and liaising with national focal points and civil society organizations. The GM programme officer, the functions of whom do not make a new contract necessary, but rather the redistribution of existing contracts, shall work closely with existing GM advisors towards operational objective 5, conclude agreements with financial institutions and regional and subregional banks, and promote the development and implementation of an integrated, regional, financing strategy.

3. Subregional advisers

76. Their task is to maintain close links with focal points in the countries of the subregion, monitor and support the implementation of subregional action plans, establish contact and manage agreements with subregional organizations (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Andean Community, etc.), prepare programmes for activities carried out jointly with GM advisors, draft periodic reports to the Regional Office of the Convention coordinator, represent the Regional Office of the Convention coordinator and the Convention in meetings, seminars and events relevant to desertification, identify together with the GM advisor sources of financing, engage with civil society organizations, facilitate and assist with the organization of regional meetings (when they are held in the corresponding subregion), monitor and support the implementation of regional action plans, especially TPNs operating in the relevant subregion and, in general, any functions that enhance the implementation of UNCCD in the subregion.

VII. Financial resources

A. Running costs

77. At present, pursuant to decision 1/ COP. 8, existing coordination units will continue to be supported and strengthened through the Supplementary Fund. But the same decision encourages donors and country Parties in the regions concerned to provide funds to this end. However, in practice, the between 2002 and 2007, the RCU had one single coordinator, and an associate programme officer - financed by the Government of Spain - who joined in 2006 and has been in charge of running the office since early 2007 as the acting coordinator. Therefore, although RCUs should have received funding from the secretariat until now, for the last two years the operation of the RCU in Latin America and the Caribbean has been made possible by the Spanish cooperation.

78. It is also necessary to identify possible sources of financing for running and operating costs, and for the current fiscal year the following sources have been identified:

- (a) The UNCCD regular budget and voluntary contributions
- (b) Contributions by the host country
- (c) Contributions by the host institution
- (d) Contributions by countries in the region
- (e) Other sources (private sector, NGOs)

79. Another way of covering these expenses would be through different combinations of contributions by the host institution and/or the host country, the regular budget of the Secretariat, etc. In this case, the funds could be apportioned as follows:

- (a) Office and equipment: Host institution,
- (b) Staff salaries: Secretariat, through its regular budget,
- (c) Cost of support staff: Host country,

(d) Missions, communications, and dissemination: these costs could be covered by a percentage of GEF project financing, through OP 15, or through the Supplementary Fund.

80. In consideration of the new structure and functions of the Regional Office of the Convention, the estimated annual budget is shown in the table below, but it should be pointed out beforehand that, given that the new structure provided by the secretariat involves the transfer of facilitating units to the regions, the Regional Office of the Convention should not represent a significant additional expense.

Annual budget for the Regional Office of the Convention

Salary costs²	US dollars/ year
Coordinator (P4)	90.000
1 programme officer (UNCCD secretariat) (P3)	73.500
1 programme officer (GM) (P3)	73.500
1 Subregional adviser (Mesoamerica and Caribbean) (P2)	60.000
1 Subregional adviser (Southern Cone – Andean) (P2)	60.000
Sub-total	357.000
RUNNING COSTS	
Missions (travel)	38.000
Communications	5.000
Office equipment and maintenance	7.000
Sub-total	50.000
TOTAL	407.000

² In accordance with salary scales for United Nations professional categories of 1 January 2009.

B. Operating costs

81. In its decision 3, the XII Regional Meeting asks the GM, in its capacity as a mobilizer of resources, to increase the efficiency of its actions relating to the implementation of the NAPs and the Regional Action Programme and, to this end, support the country Parties in the promotion of greater participation of international financial institutions such as the Interamerican Development Bank, the World Bank, FIDA, the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Banco del Sur, etc. in the implementation of activities to be undertaken by the RCM.

82. Subject to coordination with the RCM, it should be borne in mind that decision XVI of the Forum of Ministers of LAC has requested the Interagency Technical Committee to prepare, in cooperation with the GM, a proposal for a platform for an Integrated Regional Financial Strategy (EFIR), indicating modalities and actions required to increase the flow of financial resources in support of the implementation of UNCCD at the national, subregional and regional levels.

83. This proposal could also be based on the recently established investment platform for sustainable land management (PIMAST), which is currently under implementation in the Mesoamerican subregion and whose objective is to attract the participation and financing portfolios of bilateral and multilateral agencies and innovative sources of financing in order to contribute to the implementation of the SLM agenda.

America Latina y el Caribe

I. Antecedentes

A. Introducción

1. En consideración a la gravedad que reviste la desertificación en Latinoamérica y el Caribe, es que los países partes de la Región han buscado desde el inicio de la Convención de Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación (CNULCD), implementar diversas medidas que les permitan optimizar las acciones tendientes a combatir este problema medioambiental mundial. Debido a ello, es que las acciones que se tomen, deben comprometer a todos los países miembros afectados, lo cual se debe dar en forma organizada. Como una forma de dar respuesta a esta situación, es que la región de America Latina y el Caribe (ALC) esta procurando establecer un Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional (MCR) que le permita enfrentar las acciones de forma ordenada y eficaz, tomando en consideración las múltiples acciones llevadas a cabo por diversas instituciones del ámbito internacional, de Naciones Unidas, de países donantes y de organizaciones no gubernamentales.

2. En este sentido, es dable mencionar, a modo de ilustración, algunas de las principales acciones, organizaciones y países que participan de estas iniciativas. En el ámbito nacional, en Costa Rica, por ejemplo, la CEPAL y el FIDA se coordinan con el CATIE, para llevar adelante proyectos vinculados a la degradación de las tierras. En México en particular, se da una estrecha colaboración con NCRS/USDA, con la CCA y con CICEANA.

3. Algunas agencias de Naciones Unidas, como el PNUD, PNUMA y FIDA, tienen acciones vinculadas a la desertificación, en la mayoría de los países de la región. El MM tiene intervenciones previstas en Argentina, Brasil, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Perú y Republica Dominicana. La FAO en México realiza acciones a través del COFAN. El PNUD en Chile administra el programa de pequeños subsidios del GEF, orientados a la lucha contra la desertificación, en conjunto con el Programa del Medioambiente de la Comisión Europea. En Argentina, por su parte, el GEF esta financiando la implementación de tres proyectos de combate contra la desertificación.

4. En cuanto a organizaciones de tipo regionales, El IICA, el BID y la OEA tienen participación en casi todos los países de la Región, mientras que en los países centroamericanos, el CATIE tiene una alta presencia, con acciones vinculadas al MST.

5. Las agencia de cooperación o donantes bilaterales, también presentan una activa participación en la Región, especialmente aquellas provenientes de países europeos tales como la alemana GTZ y la española AECDI, como así también los gobiernos de los países bajos, Italia y Japón al igual que la Unión Europea. Del continente americano es destacable la participación de la Agencia Canadiense ACDI, enfocada mayoritariamente en la colaboración con países centroamericanos.

6. Por otra parte, existen numerosas redes de instituciones, ONGs, o de privados que trabajan articuladamente en temas de lucha contra la desertificación. En este contexto, se debe considerar la presencia de RIOD, red de ONGs vinculadas a la desertificación, en prácticamente todos los países de la región. Otras ONGs internacionales como WWF y PRONATURA y AVINA participan en forma individual. E incluso iniciativas privadas como las de las empresas BIMBO y CEMEX en México.

7. Diversos bloques políticos subregionales, también incluyen iniciativas o estrategias de lucha contra la desertificación, tales como son el caso de MERCOSUR, para los países del cono sur, CARICOM en el Caribe o la Comunidad Andina.

8. Todas estas iniciativas y muchas otras no incluidas en esta propuesta están siendo llevadas a cabo en la Región y necesitan de un marco ordenador que permita, organizarlas y coordinarlas de modo de potenciarlas en ciertos casos o evitar una sobreposición de funciones, en otros. En este sentido, el MCR viene a ser el marco conceptual que permite la articulación entre las diversas instituciones y actividades que se llevan a cabo en la Región. Para lograr esta conexión y articulación, se propone el establecimiento de una Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación (ORCCD), que es la unidad de coordinación de todas estas iniciativas y sus organizaciones, permitiendo de ese modo ordenar, potenciar e intercambiar toda la información concerniente a la lucha contra la desertificación, en la Región.

9. Tanto el MCR y la correspondiente Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación, (inicialmente denominadas Unidades Regionales de Coordinación, UCR), han sido objeto de discusiones y propuestas desde el comienzo de la CNULCD. A continuación se exponen las principales decisiones y artículos que contienen las bases para el establecimiento de un Mecanismo de Coordinación para la Región y su correspondiente Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación.

B. La Convención de Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación, el Mecanismo y la Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación

10. La Convención de Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación establece en su Artículo 3 (b) que las partes “deberán mejorar la cooperación y la coordinación a nivel sub-regional, regional e internacional” a objeto de mejorar los recursos financieros, humanos, de organización, y técnicos. La coordinación de la cooperación científica es tratada en el artículo 16 (iv), el que señala la importancia de establecer “vínculos mas estrechos entre los centros de datos e información nacionales, sub-regionales y regionales y las fuentes mundiales de información.”, y del mismo modo el artículo 17 (d) solicita que se desarrollen y refuercen las capacidades de investigación nacionales, sub-regionales y regionales.

11. Para el logro de los objetivos planteados, el artículo 19 de “Fomento de capacidades, educación y sensibilización del público”, establece en su inciso 4, que entre otras funciones, la Conferencia de las Partes establecerá y/o reforzara las redes de centros regionales de educación y capacitación para combatir la desertificación, estando la coordinación de esas redes a cargo de una institución creada o designada para tal efecto.

12. El financiamiento para estas, y otras acciones, lo contempla la Convención en sus artículos 20 y 21 así como el trabajo en redes a nivel nacional, sub-regional y regional esta

indicado en el artículo 25 donde se le solicita al CCT que evalúe las redes existentes, en el ámbito nacional, sub-regional y regional, y recomiende a la Conferencia de las Partes sobre los medios para facilitar y reforzar su integración.

13. Del mismo modo, el flujo de información a nivel sub-regional o regional está establecido en el artículo 26 (4), donde cualquier grupo de países partes afectados “podrá presentar medidas adoptadas a nivel sub-regional o regional en el marco de los programas de acción”, siendo canalizada esta información a la Conferencia de las Partes (COP) a través de la Secretaría Permanente.

14. Específicamente en cuanto a la función de los PAR y PASR, el artículo 11 de la Convención, los contempla y señala que estos se harán “con arreglo a los anexos de aplicación regional pertinentes, y se prepararan Programas de Acción Sub-Regionales y Regionales con el fin de armonizar y complementar los programas nacionales así como de incrementar su eficacia”.

C. Implementación del proceso en la Región de Latinoamérica y el Caribe

15. El Anexo 3 de Aplicación Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, en su artículo 3 (1), especifica, que “los programas sub-regionales y regionales podrán ser preparados y ejecutados en la medida de los requerimientos de la Región”. Cuyo marco institucional está dado en el Artículo 7, el cual señala, específicamente, que se establecerá un mecanismo de coordinación entre los Puntos Focales Nacionales, con el objeto de “intercambiar información y experiencias, coordinar acciones a nivel subregional y regional, promover la cooperación técnica, científica, tecnológica y financiera, identificar los requerimientos de cooperación externa y realizar el seguimiento y la evaluación de la ejecución de los programas de acción”.

16. Por otra parte, este mismo artículo 7, le otorga a la Secretaría de la Convención, un rol fundamental en la organización de la coordinación, principalmente a través de reuniones periódicas, y la facilitación de la información para el establecimiento o mejora de los procesos de coordinación.

17. En el marco de las reuniones regionales, desde la primera reunión regional, celebrada en Buenos Aires, Argentina (1996), se menciona entre las acciones prioritarias el “establecimiento de un apropiado mecanismo de comunicación e interacción entre los países de la región, poniendo especial énfasis en la cooperación horizontal para elaborar e implementar programas de acción regionales y sub-regionales”.

18. Esa misma reunión, recomendaba el establecimiento de sistemas de coordinación regional en aspectos científicos y técnicos, mecanismos financieros, y de cooperación horizontal con el objeto, entre otros, de, hacer inventarios y diagnósticos de organizaciones ligadas al tema, facilitar los flujos de información, fortalecer las capacidades y la investigación, apoyados por los mecanismos regionales de coordinación existentes, y promover la sensibilización y concientización pública.

19. A la fecha se han realizado doce Reuniones Regionales, tratándose en casi todas ellas temas relativos al MCR y a su oficina de coordinación. Inicialmente se estableció el alojamiento de esta oficina y su país anfitrión, siendo estos el PNUMA y México, respectivamente.

20. Posteriormente los países partes de la Región, continuaron, a través de distintas Decisiones y resoluciones, solicitando el establecimiento de un Mecanismo de Coordinación, y los objetivos que el debería tener, como así mismo las funciones, personal y modalidades de operación de la ORCCD.

21. Entre ellos se señalan los de establecer sistemas de información mediante una red de información (DESELAC), foros, conferencias y boletines electrónicos. De igual manera las Reuniones Regionales abordaron el tema del financiamiento de la Oficina de Coordinación de la Convención, haciendo un llamado a los países para que realicen contribuciones voluntarias como también para asegurar su financiamiento por parte del Secretariado de la CNULCD.

D. Decisiones de las Conferencia de las Partes en el marco del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional y la Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación

22. Durante la COP 5 en su Decisión 6, se considera una iniciativa para la Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación, (denominada en esos documentos como Unidad de Coordinación Regional - UCR) y se decide incluir para discusión en la COP 6 un ítem con las necesidades, modalidades, costos involucrados, viabilidad y términos de referencia para las UCR.

23. De esta forma la Decisión 11/COP.6 invita a proporcionar sus puntos de vista a las partes, a las Unidades de Coordinación Regionales existentes, al Mecanismo Mundial, y otras entidades regionales relevantes, para proporcionar los mejores arreglos para potenciar una coordinación regional. Del mismo modo, la Decisión 11, solicita a la Secretaría que “identifique como hacer un mejor uso de las Unidades de Coordinación existentes”. Invita a la Conferencia de las Partes en su Séptima Sesión a tomar en consideración el estudio de viabilidad y consultorías asociadas, para tomar una decisión en el rol de los acuerdos institucionales y presupuestarios relativo a las UCRs.

24. Durante la COP 7 se adopta la Decisión 11, donde se decide establecer un grupo de composición abierta para revisar los informes disponibles y la información recibida de las partes y hacer recomendaciones a la COP 8 en opciones eficaces, costos efectivos y en particular sobre la forma de hacer el mejor uso posible de las ORCCD existentes y otras entidades regionales y subregionales afines, y adoptar una decisión en la COP 8 sobre las funciones y las disposiciones institucionales y presupuestarias relativas a las ORCCD.

25. De ese modo, durante la COP 8, realizada en Madrid (2007), se acuerda la Decisión 3 en donde sus numerales 29 y 30, señalan que la coordinación regional es un componente importante de la aplicación de la Convención y la Estrategia, e indican además, que los Mecanismos de Coordinación deben responder a las necesidades, capacidades y problemas específicos, tanto actuales como emergentes, de las regiones.

26. Así mismo, el numeral 30 exhorta a cada región a preparar una propuesta, en colaboración con el Secretario Ejecutivo y el MM, sobre los mecanismos para facilitar la coordinación regional de la aplicación de la Convención, teniendo en cuenta, entre otras cosas, las actividades, instrumentos, y arreglos de financiación regionales y con donantes de que se dispone para la coordinación regional y dando datos específicos sobre la dotación de personal, las posibilidades de acogida y otros recursos financieros necesarios. También solicita definir sus

funciones y resultados y sus arreglos para la presentación de informes respecto de la aplicación de la Convención y la ejecución de la Estrategia, y a prepararlos antes de la COP 9 para que se examinen en el contexto del presupuesto y el programa de trabajo.

II. Misión, Objetivos y Funciones del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional

27. Se debe tener presente que el MCR corresponde a un concepto de articulación, y como tal responde a una misión y sus correspondientes objetivos. Por otra parte, la ORCCD es la unidad implementadora de esta misión y objetivos, en consecuencia obedece a un mandato, debiendo llevar a cabo las funciones o actividades que permitan la consecución de la misión y objetivos planteados por el MCR.

A. La Misión

28. Establecer un marco que ordene y coordine todas las actividades que en materia de desertificación y mitigación de los efectos de la sequía, se ejecutan en la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, llevadas a cabo por todas aquellas organizaciones internacionales, públicas, privadas y de la sociedad civil, así como bloques políticos y técnicos de los países, tendientes a prevenir, controlar y revertir la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras y mitigar los efectos de la sequía mediante una adecuada educación y sensibilización, promoción de políticas, desarrollo del conocimiento científico y técnico, la búsqueda y movilización de recursos financieros nacionales, bilaterales y multilaterales, reduciendo así la pobreza, fortaleciendo la seguridad alimentaria y apoyando la sostenibilidad ambiental en la Región.

B. Objetivo central del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional

29. Facilitar el intercambio de información, experiencias y coordinación de acciones entre los puntos focales nacionales como así mismo con organizaciones multilaterales y de la sociedad civil para fortalecer y apoyar la implementación de la Convención de Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra Desertificación en la Región.

C. Mandato para la Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación

30. Llevar a cabo los lineamientos señalados por los países partes de la Región a través del Comité Ejecutivo Regional y las funciones indicadas en el marco del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional, tendientes a prestar apoyo y fortalecer todas aquellas acciones que permitan propiciar la solidaridad y el constante trabajo para fomentar equipos de cooperación a objeto de lograr una adecuada implementación del PAR el cual deberá estar alineado con los objetivos operacionales planteados en la Estrategia Decenal.

D. Funciones

Objetivo operacional 1: Promoción, sensibilización y educación

- (a) Difusión de información,
- (b) Facilitación de encuentros regionales,

- (c) Apoyo a las organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

Objetivo operacional 2: Marco de políticas

- (a) Mejorar la articulación regional,
- (b) Mejorar la revisión de los PAN, PASR y PAR,
- (c) Desarrollo de políticas publicas para la LCD.

Objetivo Operacional 3: Ciencia, tecnología y conocimientos

- (a) Apoyo a las redes e instituciones de ciencia y tecnología,
- (b) Coordinar la implementación de los TPN relativos al tema,
- (c) Armonizar e implementar un programa de monitoreo regional.

Objetivo operacional 4: Fomento de la capacidad

- (a) Identificar necesidades de capacitación de los actores,
- (b) Evaluar programas, inventarios y diagnósticos de organizaciones vinculadas al tema.

Objetivo operacional 5: Financiación y transferencia de tecnología

- (a) Fomentar el establecimiento de estrategias financieras integradas,
- (b) Identificar fuentes y mecanismos innovadores de financiación.

E. Valor agregado del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional a la Estrategia Decenal

31. Los beneficios que brinda tener un Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional y su correspondiente ORCCD, se pueden establecer en los ámbitos de la coordinación, de la operación y en el ámbito económico.

32. En los aspectos de organización y coordinación, el MCR es una herramienta fundamental para dar cumplimiento a la implementación del PAR y a la misión definida en la Estrategia Decenal, cuya meta es “Proporcionar un marco mundial para apoyar la elaboración y ejecución de políticas, programas y medidas nacionales y regionales para prevenir, controlar y revertir la desertificación”. En ese contexto, el MCR viene a ordenar y coordinar todas aquellas actividades regionales tendientes al cumplimiento de la meta y misión propuesta por la Estrategia. En este sentido, se debe tener en consideración que el contar con una ORCCD, establecida en un país de la Región facilita las interacciones entre los distintos organismos de Naciones Unidas presentes en la Región, los cuales en muchos casos tienen sus sedes en la misma ciudad e incluso en el mismo edificio donde pueda estar albergada la ORCCD. Ello permite a los oficiales de la ORCCD no solo estar en estrecho contacto con estos organismos, sino también con las partes y

en general con todos los actores involucrados en la región, permitiendo así, la existencia de una presencia activa de la Secretaría de la Convención aumentando de ese modo la eficiencia en los servicios prestados, evitando duplicación de actividades y llevando a cabo un seguimiento y monitoreo de la Convención mas cercano, a pesar del cambio de puntos focales que normalmente ocurre.

33. Este incremento en la coordinación regional, también beneficiara a otros actores, no solo a los puntos focales, sino que también a organizaciones de la sociedad civil y el sector privado, al estar en un contacto más cercano, ampliando de ese modo su participación en la lucha contra la desertificación.

34. En términos de coordinación institucional, el MCR permite la complementariedad y la coherencia en la prestación de servicios entre el Mecanismo Mundial y la Secretaría y a la vez es un instrumento que viene a organizar y dar respuesta a las necesidades, capacidades y problemas específicos, tanto actuales como emergentes, de las regiones, de acuerdo a lo estipulado en la Estrategia. Por otra parte, y siguiendo con la recomendación emanada por los países de ALC, durante la XII Reunión Regional, se indico que una ORCCD podría “permitir ahorrar costos al unir los esfuerzos a nivel regional entre la Secretaría y el Mecanismo Mundial”, y por otra parte alienta al país anfitrión a proporcionar un apoyo económico significativo para el funcionamiento de la Oficina.

35. En efecto, al permitir la co-existencia de la Secretaría y del Mecanismo Mundial en una sola oficina regional, permitirá ahorros y les animara a interactuar y apoyar a los países con información sobre apoyos financieros, además de facilitar el posicionamiento de la CNULCD, en las distintas instancias financieras de la Región tales como el BID, y sub-regionales como por ejemplo el BCIE, CDB, la Comisión Andina de Fomento (CAF) y el Banco del Sur.

36. Por otra parte, la operatividad de las funciones se ve incrementada, pues al contar con una ORCCD, los países de la Región, pueden trabajar en forma mas cercana y estrecha, lo cual brinda una estructura para coordinar todos los mecanismos existentes vinculados a la lucha contra la desertificación, y también con aquellos vinculados a biodiversidad y cambio climático, permitiendo la sinergia entre estos. Por otra parte, y de acuerdo a la nueva estructura planteada por el Secretariado, se requiere de un Mecanismo de Coordinación que tenga representación regional, de este modo se favorece el sentido de pertenencia y compromiso de los países partes, a la vez que permite tener una visión real y cercana del proceso de lucha contra la desertificación a través de un mapeo constante de los actores y las actividades que llevan a cabo en la Región. Otra ventaja que brinda el tener una ORCCD, es aquella que permite la comunicación entre todos sus miembros durante las mismas horas laborales por encontrarse todos los países de la región con una diferencia horaria no mayor a dos horas, situación que difiere significativamente con Europa, con la cual la diferencia horaria puede variar entre de 5 a 8 horas.

37. La nueva estructura permite logros económicos importantes, por cuanto al no estar la oficina de coordinación en Bonn, sino en la Región, se obtienen reducciones de costos y tiempo en viajes. En general, los costos básicos (oficina, servicios, staff) son mas baratos en ALC que en Europa, lo cual también se aplica para el subsidio por costo de vida establecidos por Naciones Unidas, los cuales son de menor valor en los países de ALC.

38. Por último, el MCR en su carácter de marco ordenador y organizador, facilitará el intercambio de información, experiencias y coordinación de acciones, actuando como catalizador para el cumplimiento de los objetivos planteado por la Estrategia, favoreciendo la comunicación e incorporando la temática de degradación de la tierra y desertificación tanto en los países partes, como en el ámbito de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, comunidades científicas y foros regionales, (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCAD, etc.), lo cual sin la existencia del MCR sería muy difícil y lento de lograr.

III. Institucionalidad

39. La Oficina Regional de la Convención (ORCCD), constituye el acuerdo institucional necesario para llevar a la práctica y hacer efectivo el Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional, mediante la coordinación y conexión de las diferentes actividades e instituciones dentro del marco dado por el MCR. Es así como la ORCCD constituye la unidad que permite, mediante el flujo de información, intercambio de experiencias y creación de capacidades, una adecuada coordinación entre los países de la Región. Consecuentemente, estos esfuerzos realizados tanto a nivel nacional, sub-regional y regional, al estar conectados con los representantes de los órganos de la Convención, permitirán una mejor implementación del Programa de Acción Regional. Como una forma de potenciar estas acciones, la ORCCD posibilitará la conexión entre la Secretaría y el MM, mediante insumos que permitan consolidar un programa de trabajo entre estos dos órganos, que a través de un trabajo conjunto brindarán un mejor servicio a los países partes de la Región.

40. Las directrices de funcionamiento del MCR al igual que su monitoreo estarán dadas por la participación de todos los países de la Región, representados por el Comité Ejecutivo Regional.

A. Principios Básicos

41. Los principios básicos pretenden direccionar la misión y objetivos del MCR y a la vez orientar en las funciones que debe llevar a cabo la ORCCD, buscando de ese modo sustentar la coordinación y relaciones que se deben llevar a cabo. Como visión central de todas las acciones, funciones y acuerdos institucionales que se establezcan en función del Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional, se debe tener en consideración que estos procuren tener como fin último, el apoyo a la implementación del PAR y el cumplimiento de la Estrategia de la CNULCD en concordancia a la misión asignada al MCR.

42. No obstante lo anterior, se deben consignar algunos principios rectores para el MCR, el cual debe estar basado en principios de complementariedad o subsidiariedad, cooperación, coordinación, participación, transparencia, e integración.

B. Mecanismo de Coordinación Regional

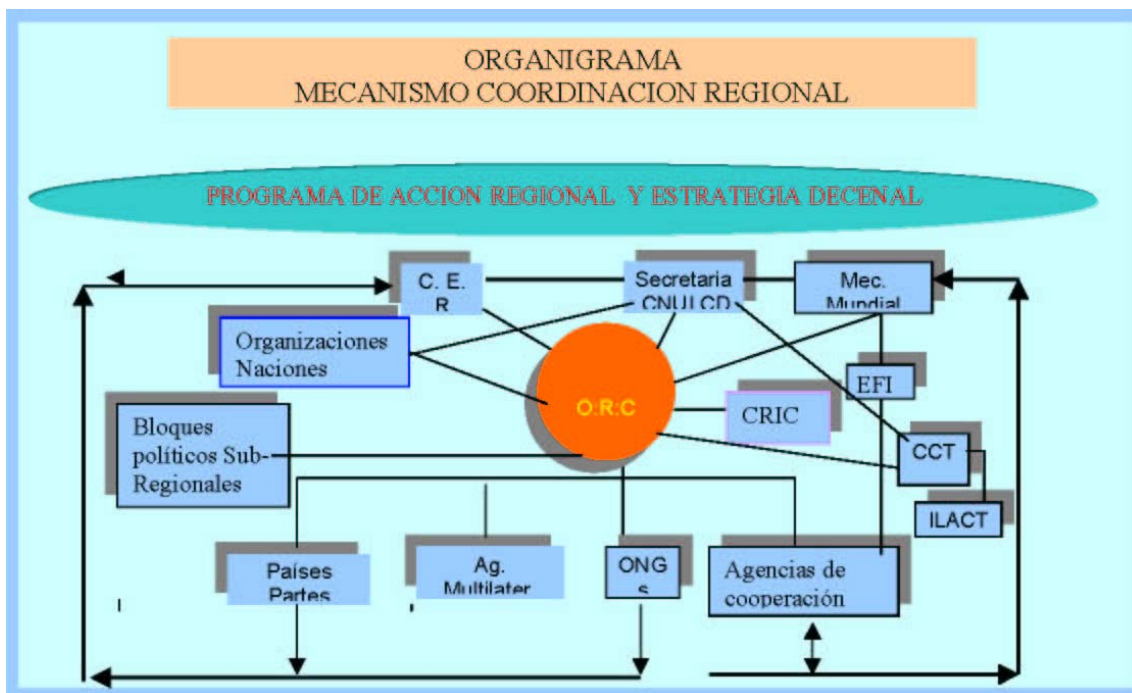
43. Es el marco ordenador de todas las actividades y coordinador de las organizaciones, instituciones y agencias que participan en la lucha contra la desertificación en la Región. Este comprende a los países partes, las agencias de Naciones Unidas, las agencias de los países donantes y sus programas y proyectos, las iniciativas provenientes de la comunidad científica, de la sociedad civil, ONGs, y de los bloques políticos sub-regionales.

C. Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación

44. La ORCCD es la dependencia operativa, cuya función es establecer el mejor mecanismo de coordinación regional que pueda ayudar a los países a progresar, gracias a un conjunto de medidas destinadas a armonizar y coordinar las acciones encomendadas por el mandato de los países y alineadas con la Estrategia Decenal. Es por ello que las funciones de la ORCCD están en directa relación con el apoyo a la implementación del PAR y con los 5 objetivos operacionales. Para alcanzar este logro, se requiere del trabajo conjunto entre la Secretaría y el MM y el apoyo de los otros órganos de la Convención.

D. Países Partes

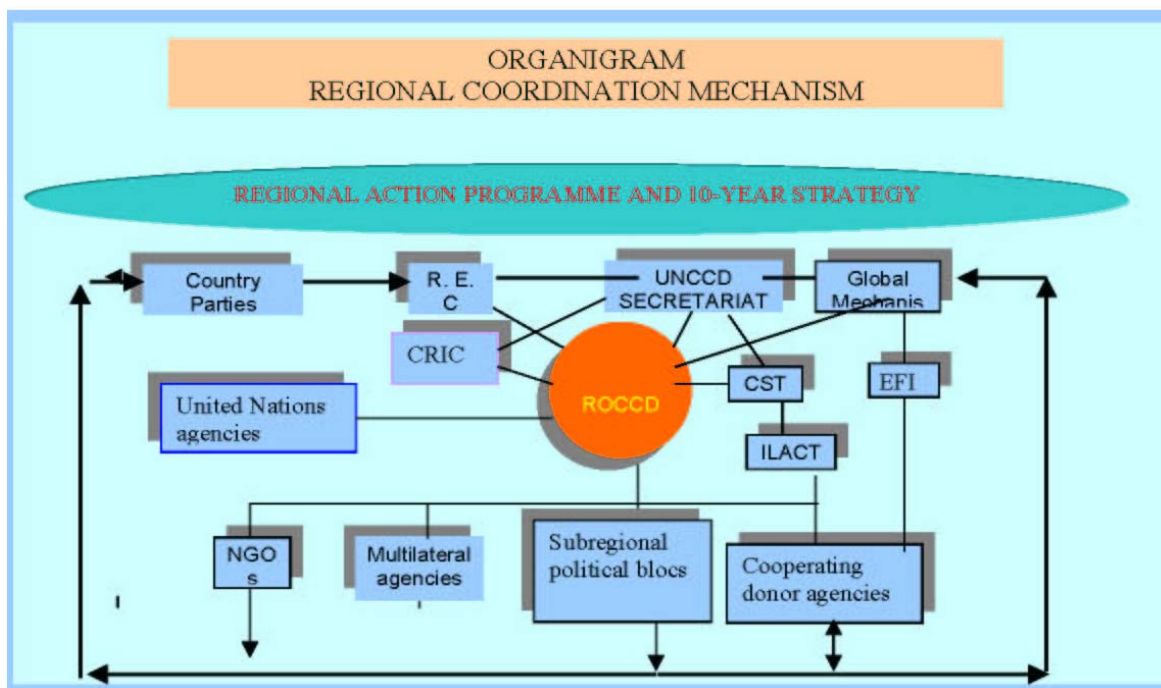
45. Los países partes, de acuerdo a lo dispuesto en los Artículos 4 y 5 de la CNULCD y al artículo 7(b) del Anexo de aplicación regional III tendrán la función de intercambiar información, coordinar acciones y promover la cooperación a objeto de lograr una correcta implementación del PAR. Las propuestas de acciones y funciones las realizarán los países a través del CER, el cual a su vez le entregará el mandato a la ORCCD, para su implementación. Las partes podrán solicitar informes e información sobre la implementación de acciones y de todas aquellas actividades concernientes a la correcta aplicación del MCR, para realizar un seguimiento y evaluación del MCR, como así mismo proponer las modificaciones necesarias, con el fin de que cumpla con su misión y la ORCCD cumpla con su mandato.



E. Comité Ejecutivo Regional

46. El Comité Ejecutivo Regional (CER) es la máxima autoridad en el seguimiento y monitoreo del MCR, actuando de conector entre los países partes de la Región y la ORCCD a fin de señalar temas prioritarios y promover el trabajo conjunto entre la Secretaría y el MM para la

elaboración de un plan de trabajo bienal, y con un enfoque de la Gestión Basada en los Resultados (GBR), en concordancia con la Estrategia.



47. Los países partes de la Región definirán sus prioridades de acción, así como las principales funciones a desarrollar por la ORCCD, las que serán asignadas a través del CER, siendo evaluada su implementación y avances en las instancias de las Reuniones Regionales.

48. Con ocasión de dichos eventos las Partes solicitaran por medio del Comité Ejecutivo Regional un plan de trabajo bienal, concordante con la Estrategia, proponiendo prioridades y acciones a ser llevadas a cabo dentro de las funciones de la ORCCD. En los periodos inter-sesiónales de las Reuniones Regionales, el CER se reunirá con la ORCCD para darle seguimiento a la implementación de las acciones.

49. Tomando en consideración que los miembros del CER son renovados anualmente, y solo RIOD permanece como observador, a efectos de entregarle continuidad y seguimiento a las acciones, se propone que RIOD actúe como relator del CER en el ámbito del MCR.

F. Órganos de la Convención

50. Los cuatro órganos de la Convención, Secretaría, Mecanismo Mundial, Comité de Ciencia y Tecnología y el Comité para la Revisión de la Implementación de la Convención, deben actuar coordinadamente, ya sea formen parte de la ORCCD o bien estén apoyándola. A continuación se señala su funcionalidad dentro del MCR.

1. Secretaría de la Convención de Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación

51. De acuerdo al artículo 7, del anexo regional para ALC, se le otorga a la Secretaría de la Convención, un rol fundamental en la organización de la coordinación, principalmente a través

de reuniones periódicas, y la facilitación de la información para el establecimiento o mejora de los procesos de coordinación.

52. Además es la responsable de establecer los acuerdos con la organización huésped y con el país anfitrión, contratación del personal, administración de gastos, etc. A través de la ORCCD, participa en la asignación y monitoreo de las acciones establecidas por los países a la ORCCD.

2. Mecanismo Mundial

53. El MM, obedeciendo a su mandato, debe aumentar la eficiencia y eficacia de los mecanismos actuales y movilizar recursos sustanciales, como así mismo ser un actor fundamental en el logro del Objetivo Operacional N°5.

54. En respuesta a ello, es la entidad encargada de velar por la búsqueda de financiamiento para la implementación de acciones, en el marco de los objetivos del MCR, y en concordancia con la Estrategia y el plan de trabajo bienal elaborado en conjunto con la Secretaria.

55. Por otra parte, los asesores ¹ con los que cuenta el MM en la Región, podrán apoyar al monitoreo de la implementación de los PASR y proponer acuerdos con instancias de acción sub-regionales (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCDA, etc.), de tal modo de permitirle al MCR cumplir con su misión. Estos asesores, por el hecho de estar más cercanos a las realidades de los países y/o de las sub-regiones, podrán prestar apoyo a la ORCCD a fin de informar más en detalle de los requerimientos y solicitudes que a nivel nacional y sub-regional se realicen.

56. El MM interactuara en conjunto con otras instancias de coordinación regionales, tales como el Comité Técnico Interagencial a objeto de fortalecer la interacción ante otras agencias internacionales de cooperación, particularmente bancos multilaterales de desarrollo y fondos internacionales, incluido el FMAM, para el establecimiento de programas y previsiones presupuestarias orientadas a la lucha contra la desertificación. En este caso se debe prestar especial atención a la recientemente conformada plataforma de inversiones (PIMAST), en proceso de implementación en Mesoamerica, la cual podría servir de base para el establecimiento de una Estrategia Financiera Integrada Regional (EFIR), que pueda dar cumplimiento a las necesidades presupuestarias requeridas.

3. Comité de Ciencia y Tecnología

57. La Iniciativa Latinoamericana para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (ILACT), la cual se ha solicitado, sea implementada desde la ORCCD, es una plataforma de trabajo para activar y mejorar los procesos participativos que facilitan las acciones en ciencia y tecnología en la Región de ALC. Su propósito a largo plazo es contribuir a los esfuerzos planteados por el Objetivo Operacional N° 3, en el sentido de transformar la Convención en “la autoridad mundial en materia de conocimientos científicos y técnicos sobre la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras”. Tomando esto en consideración, es que se plantea que dicha iniciativa constituya una

¹ Los asesores regionales del MM que actualmente apoyan a los países, no son en si staff fijo del Mecanismo Mundial y son contratados en calidad de consultores en base a las contribuciones voluntarias que se reciben para apoyar las acciones en ALC., por lo que eventualmente podrían no estar disponibles.

herramienta a ser utilizada por el CCT, para apoyar las acciones vinculadas a esta temática en la Región.

4. Comité de Revisión de la Implementación de la Convención

58. El CRIC podrá dar su apoyo al funcionamiento de la ORCCD en cuanto a la supervisión y evaluación de la implementación del PAR y la aplicación de la Estrategia en la Región, establecido ello en un documento conceptual, que podrá ser revisado en consultas regionales.

5. Sociedad civil

59. La sociedad civil puede actuar como un canal de difusión de información, de acuerdo a lo estipulado en la Estrategia y específicamente en el logro del Objetivo Operacional N°1, pero también como un actor fundamental en la implementación de los Planes de Acción Nacionales (PAN) y los TPN 2,3 5 y 6. Adicionalmente, su participación como relator en el CER permite integrar a la sociedad civil efectivamente en las propuestas que se le entreguen a la ORCCD y darle un seguimiento a las mismas.

6. Agencias de Cooperación

60. Existen en la Región una gran cantidad de iniciativas reflejadas en proyectos y programas, llevadas a cabo por diversas agencias de cooperación de los países donantes (JICA, GTZ, NOVIP, AECID, USAID, ACIDI, etc.), las que es necesario ordenar en el marco del MCR a fin de evitar duplicaciones de acciones y esfuerzos. Estas agencias deberían trabajar en estrecho contacto con los asesores regionales de la ORCCD, a fin de priorizar y coordinar sus actividades con otras llevadas a cabo en el plano nacional o subregional, a fin de lograr que estas acciones sean un catalizador para la implementación del PAR y estén alineadas a los objetivos establecidos por la Estrategia.

IV. Acuerdos de hospedaje

61. El establecimiento de la Unidad de Coordinación Regional, se acordó durante la segunda Reunión Regional celebrada en Ciudad de México (1996), la cual en consideración al ofrecimiento de PNUMA la albergaría en su Oficina Regional de Ciudad de México.

62. Con ocasión de la V Reunión Regional (1999), la Secretaria de la Convención, comunica del establecimiento de la Unidad de Coordinación Regional, gracias a la generosa contribución de los gobiernos de México, Argentina, Cuba y España, el PNUMA y el PNUD.

63. En Septiembre del 2002 se traslada la oficina de coordinación desde la Of. Regional de PNUMA a la sede de CEPAL, en la misma ciudad de México, donde esta funcionando hasta hoy a cargo de solo una persona, financiada por el gobierno español. Este financiamiento se mantendrá hasta fin del año 2009. Por su parte, México mantiene su condición de país anfitrión, situación que podría revisarse a objeto de renovar acuerdos.

Criterios para la selección de la organización huésped

64. Los criterios de selección de la unidad pueden establecerse mediante requisitos básicos, siendo estos aquellos que son absolutamente necesarios para su funcionamiento y aquellos otros

denominados como requisitos deseables, los cuales permiten un mejor desempeño a las funciones de la ORCCD.

1. Requisitos básicos

65. La institución anfitriona podría pertenecer a N.U ó a alguna otra organización de carácter multilateral con representación en los países de la Región, y que la apoye con el financiamiento mínimo, los cuales al menos cubran los gastos corrientes. Esta organización debe contar con un status de inmunidad diplomática, por cuanto el personal que estará a cargo de la ORCCD, será contratado por Naciones Unidas.

66. El país anfitrión debería estar en condiciones de realizar aportes para el funcionamiento y/o pago de personal de apoyo (por Ej.: una secretaria).

67. Se debe establecer un acuerdo legal entre la organización huésped y la Secretaría, así como también uno entre el país anfitrión y la Secretaría. En este sentido, se sugiere revisar y actualizar dichos acuerdos con la respectiva institución y país, de modo tal de que pueda responder a la nueva estructura que tendrá la ORCCD y que tome en consideración el posible aumento de personal, por lo que deberá contar con una capacidad mínima de crecimiento. La decisión de continuar con la actual sede y país anfitrión, debe ser materia de resolución de los países partes, con ocasión de las Reuniones Regionales y tomando en consideración los ofrecimientos y aportes que realicen tanto la actual sede y país, como otros que pudiesen estar interesados y cumplir con los requerimientos indicados.

2. Requisitos deseables

68. Aparte de los requisitos básicos ya mencionados, se consideran algunos otros que podrán permitir una mejor y mayor facilidad de funcionamiento a la ORCCD. Entre ellos, es dable mencionar, la facilidad de acceso al país, ya que algunos países, requieren de rutas complejas puesto que no tiene vuelos directos, desde incluso, los países vecinos. En relación a esto, también es necesario que la sede huésped este ubicada en una ciudad que cuente con aeropuerto internacional y adecuados medios de transporte.

69. La contribución del país o sede, con equipos para oficina, el pago de personal de apoyo, costos de arrendamiento y/o costos de servicios generales, constituye un atributo importante al momento de tomar en consideración la elección.

70. Es deseable también que la organización huésped, no se limite solamente a entregarle un espacio físico a la ORCCD, sino que se comprometa con el apoyo al trabajo que debe desarrollar esta Oficina.

V. Programa de Trabajo para dos años en el marco del Mecanismo De Coordinación Regional

71. El plan de trabajo presentado se centra en la realización de actividades y obtención de logros y resultados en la Región de ALC con el fin de fortalecer el PAR y la aplicación de la Estrategia Decenal. En consecuencia, la estructura del programa de trabajo es coherente con el marco de la Gestión Basada en Resultados (GBR) de Naciones Unidas, lo cual permite un

monitoreo y evaluación eficaz tanto de los logros alcanzados como de los respectivos reportes que se vayan entregando. El periodo de trabajo de este programa tiene prevista la ejecución de actividades durante 24 meses.

A. Objetivo operacional 1.- Promoción, sensibilización, y educación

Influir activamente en los procesos y agentes pertinentes internacionales, nacionales y locales a fin de de que aborden adecuadamente las cuestiones relativas a la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras y la sequía

Logros previstos	Indicadores	Resultados	Actividades	Responsable
Se da una mayor cooperación y asociación entre las distintas agencias intergubernamentales y de N.U. en apoyo a la CLD	Nº de Convenios, acuerdos y alianzas establecidas	Acciones y programas de trabajo conjunto entre las distintas organizaciones	-Establecer reuniones de coordinación -Identificar necesidades de colaboración -Establecer Memorándum de entendimiento y Convenios -Implementar acciones conjuntas	ORCCD MM Secretaría
Se potencia la comunicación y la sensibilización entre los principales grupos interesados.	Nº de organismos participantes en los distintos eventos de la CLD. Nº de foros internacionales en los cuales se incluya y/o mencione la CLD	Participación efectiva de los principales grupos interesados en la CLD	-Participación en Foros, seminarios y reuniones regionales, sub-regionales y nacionales -Talleres de sensibilización y educación capacitación especializada en agentes gubernamentales tomadores de decisión, periodistas, etc.	ORCCD MM PFN ONGs

B. Objetivo operacional 2: Marco de políticas

Apoyar la creación de entornos propicios para promover soluciones de lucha contra la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras y mitigar los efectos de la Sequía

Logros previstos	Indicadores	Resultados	Actividades	Responsable
Los países partes de la Región revisan y renuevan el PAR, alineándolo a con los objetivos propuestos en la Estrategia	PAR revisado y renovado por un nuevo periodo, coincidente con la Estrategia (2010-2018)	Reuniones y foros de intercambio de opiniones Nuevo documento del PAR	-Establecer directrices para la reformulación del PAR. -Conformar un grupo de trabajo -Contratar un consultor para que elabore la propuesta.	ORCCD CER
Se incrementa la sinergia entre las convenciones de Río.	Cantidad de actividades conjuntas o relacionadlas	Planes y acuerdos de actividades conjuntas	-Reuniones de planificación conjunta -Preparación de procedimientos de cooperación y coordinación	Secretaria ORCCD
Los factores y soluciones a la desertificación se tratan entre las diferentes instancias políticas en el ámbito regional, sub-regional y nacional	Cantidad de reuniones realizadas o asistidas. Cantidad de personeros políticos contactados	Propuestas e inclusión de la temática de la desertificación en los distintos niveles	-Organización de reuniones regionales y subregionales. -Identificación de actores y participantes -Elaboración de informes	ORCCD

C. Objetivo operacional 3: Ciencia, tecnología y conocimientos

Llegar a ser una autoridad mundial en materia de conocimientos científicos y técnicos sobre la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras y sobre la mitigación de los efectos de la sequía.

Logros previstos	Indicadores	Resultados	Actividades	Responsable
Se activa el TPN 5 sobre conocimientos y practicas tradicionales y se refuerza el TPN 1 (parámetros e indicadores)	Nº de reuniones, informes y actividades relacionadas	Establecimiento de proyectos pilotos. Participación de los actores relevantes en el tema	-Celebración de reuniones -Renovación del programa de trabajo -Difusión de la información -Establecimiento de proyectos pilotos	Coordinador del TPN ORCCD
Se apoya el monitoreo nacional y regional y la evaluación de la vulnerabilidad de las tierras secas, mediante debates de la comunidad científica en el marco de las reuniones del CCT	Nº de participantes en las reuniones y debates Nº de informes por países en relación al tema	Aportes científicos para la presentación de informes Recomendaciones de la mesa del CCT	-Proceso de consultas y debates por parte del CCT con la comunidad científica regional -Elaboración de un informe sobre monitoreo y vulnerabilidad de las tierras	CCT ORCCD

D. Objetivo operacional 4: Fomento de la capacidad

Determinar y satisfacer las necesidades de fomento de la capacidad para prevenir y revertir la desertificación y la degradación de las tierras y mitigar los efectos de la sequía.

Logros previstos	Indicadores	Resultados	Actividades	Responsable
Los países partes evalúan sus necesidades de fomento de las capacidades para dar cumplimiento a la implementación de PAN y PAR	Cantidad de países que realizan la evaluación	Material informativo y de instrumentos para satisfacer la necesidad de fomento de las capacidades	-Preparación de instrumentos y materiales de evaluación de necesidades. -Diseño de herramientas de fomento de capacidades	ORCCD CER
Mejoramiento de la calidad y precisión de la información y en los procedimientos de acceso a fuentes de financiamiento para la implementación de los PAN y PAR	Cantidad y montos de las propuestas financiadas	Aumento de los fondos en la Región para la implementación de propuestas	-Capacitación de procedimientos de postulación a fondos -Difusión de fuentes de financiamiento -capacitación para la elaboración de propuestas	MM Secretaria

E. Objetivo operacional 5: Financiación y transferencia de tecnología

Movilizar recursos financieros y tecnológicos nacionales, bilaterales y multilaterales y mejorar la elección de los beneficiarios y la coordinación de esos recursos a fin d aumentar su impacto y eficacia.

Logros previstos	Indicadores	Resultados	Actividades	Responsable
Establecimiento de una plataforma de Estrategia Financiera Integrada Regional (EFIR), que permita financiar las actividades vinculadas a los PAN y PAR	<p>Cantidad de programas y acciones apoyadas en el marco de la EFIR</p> <p>Cantidad de países beneficiados en los procesos regionales y subregionales</p> <p>Cantidad de acuerdos con agencias de financiamiento</p>	Las iniciativas establecidas en los PAR y PAN cuentan con mecanismos de financiamiento	<p>-Conformación de la plataforma de EFIR</p> <p>-Establecer un priorización de actividades</p> <p>-Presentación de propuestas a las distintas entidades financieras</p> <p>-Establecer acuerdos de cooperación</p> <p>-Establecer Clusters de proyectos para su negociación</p>	MM
Los países partes desarrollados, se integran y contribuyen al financiamiento de iniciativas de lucha contra la desertificación	<p>Cantidad de países desarrollados que brindan apoyo financiero</p> <p>Numero de iniciativas regionales, sub-regionales y nacionales beneficiadas por programas de cooperación al desarrollo</p>	Los países desarrollados, brindan apoyo financiero a las iniciativas vinculadas al ámbito de la lucha contra la desertificación y sequía en la Región	<p>-Reuniones entre donantes y representantes de los países y/o CER, para determinar formas de cooperación financiera.</p> <p>-Integrar al marco de cooperación de los donantes la incorporación de la lucha contra la desertificación.</p> <p>-Revisión y articulación con las carteras de las instituciones internacionales</p>	MM

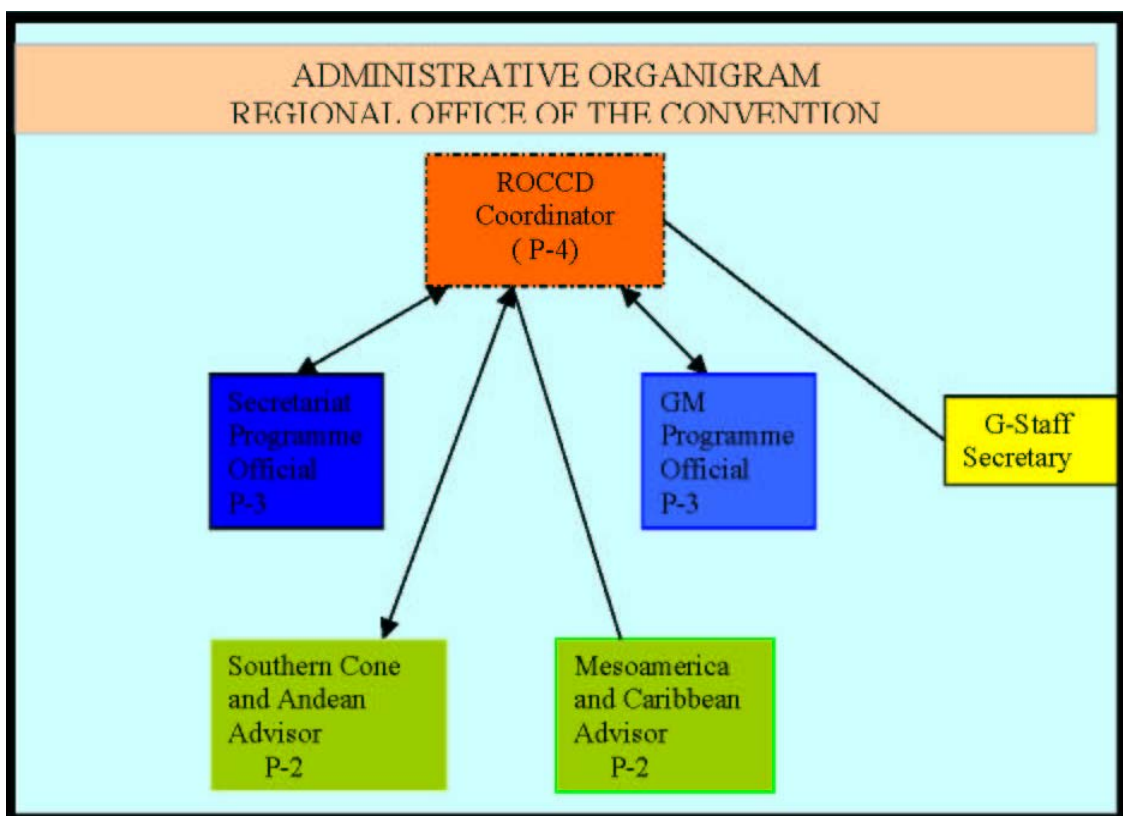
VI. Personal requerido

72. La otrora Unidad de Coordinación Regional (UCR) funciona con una pequeña plantilla, conformada por el coordinador y su secretaria. En la nueva estructura de funcionamiento propuesta para la ORC, se mantiene el coordinador y la secretaria albergados en la oficina de la organización huésped. Sin embargo se agregan dos oficiales de programa, uno en representación de la Secretaría y otro del Mecanismo Mundial con asiento ambos en la sede de la ORCCD. Además se contemplan dos Asesores para que cada uno de ellos cubra las funciones en dos sub-regiones (Cono Sur-Andina y Mesoamerica-Caribe), y con localización en alguno de los países de la subregión a cubrir.

Funciones específicas del personal de la Oficina Regional de la Convención de Combate a la Desertificación

1. Coordinador Regional

73. Debe elaborar y poner en práctica el plan de trabajo encomendado por el CER, tomando en especial consideración la implementación de la Estrategia Decenal y en estrecho contacto con los asesores regionales del MM. Deberá estar en contacto permanente con los asesores regionales, los puntos focales nacionales, y los oficiales asignados del organismo huésped. Deberá proveer asistencia técnica y logística para la implementación de los PAR, PASR, y PAN.



74. Mantener estrecho contacto con los coordinadores de cada TPN y monitorear su implementación así como prestar la asesoría necesaria para lograr los objetivos propuestos. Informar periódicamente a la Secretaría como así también al CER de las actividades realizadas.

Establecer un flujo constante de información especialmente a través de DESELAC y de informativos y boletines. Apoyar las actividades de la sociedad civil. Participar y representar a la CNULCD en reuniones talleres y seminarios a distintos niveles (regional, subregional y nacional). Proporcionar informes financieros de las actividades llevadas a cabo.

2. Oficial de programa de la Secretaria y del Mecanismo Mundial

75. Con el fin de potenciar el trabajo conjunto entre la Secretaria y el MM, se plantea la necesidad de establecer en la ORCCD dos oficiales de programa, cada uno de ellos en representación de estos dos órganos de la Convención. De este modo el oficial de la Secretaría apoyara al coordinador regional en sus funciones de represtación de la Convención en la Región, fortalecimiento de la implementación del PAR y desarrollo de los TPN, organización de reuniones regionales y sub-regionales, vinculación con los puntos focales nacionales y organizaciones de la sociedad civil. Por su parte el oficial de programa del MM, para cuyo cargo no es necesario un nuevo contrato sino mas bien una redistribución de los actuales, trabajara en estrecho contacto con los actuales asesores del MM en la consecución del objetivo operacional N°5, establecerá acuerdos con instituciones financieras y bancos regionales y sub-regionales, y fomentara el establecimiento e implementación de una plataforma de Estrategia Financiera Integrada Regional.

3. Asesores Sub-regionales

76. Mantener estrecho contacto con los puntos focales de los países de la sub-región, monitorear y apoyar la implementación de los Planes de Acción Sub-regionales, establecer contactos y gestionar acuerdos con las organizaciones sub-regionales (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Comunidad Andina, etc.), elaborar programas de actividades conjuntas con los asesores del MM, elaborar informes periódicos al coordinador de la ORCCD, representar al coordinador de la ORCCD y a la Convención en reuniones, seminarios y eventos vinculados a la desertificación, identificar junto al asesor del MM fuentes de financiamiento, mantener contacto con organizaciones de la sociedad civil, facilitar y apoyar la organización de las Reuniones Regionales (cuando se realicen en la correspondiente sub-región), monitorear y apoyar la implementación de los Planes de Acción Regionales, en especial los TPNs que estén desarrollándose en su sub-región y en general todas aquellas funciones que permitan una mejor implementación de la CNULCD en la sub-región.

VII. Recursos Financieros

A. Costos de funcionamiento

77. Momentáneamente y de acuerdo a la Decisión 1/ COP 8, las Unidades de Coordinación existentes serán apoyadas y fortalecidas mediante el Fondo Suplementario. Pero esa misma Decisión solicita a los donantes y a las partes de las regiones interesadas aportar fondos con este fin. Sin embargo y en la practica la ORCCD desde el año 2002 hasta el 2007 contaba con un coordinador, incorporándose una Oficial de Programa Asociada financiada por el gobierno de España en el 2006 y quedando esta persona a cargo de la oficina desde principios de 2007 hasta la fecha actuando como coordinadora en funciones. Por lo tanto, hasta el momento las ORCCDs deberían tener un financiamiento de la Secretaria, pero de hecho ha sido la cooperación española

la que ha permitido el funcionamiento de la ORCD en Latinoamérica y el Caribe los últimos dos años.

78. Es necesario también identificar las posibles fuentes de financiamiento tanto para los costos de funcionamiento como operacionales, y dentro de este ejercicio se identifican las siguientes fuentes:

- (a) El presupuesto ordinario de la CNULCD y contribuciones voluntarias,
- (b) Aportes del país anfitrión,
- (c) Aportes de la institución huésped,
- (d) Aportes de países de la Región,
- (e) Otras fuentes (sector privado, ONGs).

79. Otra forma de cubrir estos costos podría darse mediante diversas combinaciones, donde exista un aporte de la organización huésped y/o el país anfitrión, presupuesto ordinario de la Secretaria, etc. De este modo, podrían distribuirse estos de la siguiente manera:

- (a) *Oficina, equipos*: Organización huésped,
- (b) *Costos salariales Staff*: Secretariado a través de su presupuesto ordinario,
- (c) *Costo de personal de apoyo*: País anfitrión,
- (d) *Misiones, comunicaciones, divulgación*: Estos costos podrían ser cubiertos a través de un porcentaje de los proyectos financiados por el GEF, a través del OP 15 o mediante el fondo suplementario.

80. En consideración a la nueva estructura y funciones que deberá desempeñar la ORCCD, el presupuesto anual estimado se presenta en la siguiente tabla, no sin antes señalar que debido a la nueva estructura propiciada desde la Secretaria, en el sentido de trasladar las unidades de facilitación a las Regiones, la ORCCD no debería representar un costo adicional significativo.

Presupuesto Anual para la Oficina Regional de la Convención

COSTOS SALARIOS²	US\$ dolares anuales
Coordinador (P4)	90.000
1 oficial de programa (Secretaria de la CNULD) (P3)	73.500
1 oficial de programa (Mecanismo Mundial.) (P3)	73.500
1 Asesor Sub-regional (Mesoamerica y Caribe) (P2)	60.000
1 Asesor Sub-regional (Cono Sur – Andino) (P2)	60.000
Sub-total	357.000
COSTOS FUNCIONAMIENTO	
Misiones (viajes)	38.000
Comunicaciones	5.000
Equipamiento y manutención oficinas	7.000
Sub-total	50.000
TOTAL	407.000

B. Costos Operacionales

81. En su rol de movilizador de recursos, la Decisión 3 de la XII Reunión Regional, solicita al MM que incremente la eficacia de sus acciones para atender la implementación de los PAN y del Programa de Acción Regional, y para ello debe identificar diversas instituciones financieras susceptibles de apoyar a los Países Parte en la promoción de una mayor participación tales como el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Banco Mundial, FIDA, Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica (BCIE), Banco de Desarrollo del Caribe (CDB), Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF), Banco del Sur, etc. para el logro de las actividades a ser implementadas por el MCR.

82. Actualmente y ha objeto de articularse con el MCR, se debe tener presente que la Decisión XVI del Foro de Ministros de LAC, ha solicitado al Comité Técnico Interagencial, que en coordinación con el Mecanismo Mundial elabore una propuesta de plataforma de Estrategia Financiera Integrada Regional (EFIR), que indique modalidades y acciones necesarias para incrementar el flujo de recursos financieros para apoyar la implementación a nivel nacional, subregional y regional, de la CNULD.

83. Esta misma propuesta podrá estar basada en la recientemente establecida Plataforma Regional para la Promoción de Inversiones para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra (PIMAST), actualmente en fase de implementación en la sub-región mesoamericana, cuyo objetivo es atraer la participación y los portafolios de financiamiento de las agencias bilaterales, multilaterales y de las fuentes innovadoras de financiamiento para contribuir a ejecutar la agenda para el MST.

² De acuerdo al nivel en la escala de salarios profesionales de Naciones Unidas al 1 de Enero del 2009.

Annex IV**Regional proposal: Central and Eastern Europe****I. Background****A. The legal background**

1. The objective of the Convention to Combat Desertification "...is to combat desertification and mitigate effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification..." The objective says that it can be achieved "...through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas."
2. One of the main principles of the Convention is to improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels and better focus financial, human, organizational and technical resources.
3. According to the article 11 of UNCCD Convention, country Parties carry out consultations and cooperate to prepare subregional and regional action programmes. "The provisions of article 10 shall apply mutatis mutandis to subregional and regional programmes. Such cooperation may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation and strengthening of relevant institutions".
4. Article 5 para 4 of the Annex V of the Convention sets out guidelines and arrangements for implementing the Convention in Central and Eastern Europe. It offers concrete opportunities for strengthening regional cooperation. Because economic activities and ecosystems are not constrained by borders, countries can benefit from coordinating their efforts. According to article 6, important opportunities exist in the fields of scientific research, data management, information exchange, technology transfer, training, drought mitigation, and disaster preparedness.
5. Article 5 paras 4 (b), (c) and (d) of the Annex V stipulate that in preparing and implementing regional action programmes country Parties shall evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant regional, subregional and national institutions, assess existing programmes relating to desertification and consider action for coordination of subregional, regional and joint action programmes.

B. History of the whole regional coordination process

6. The Annex V was adopted by the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties in 2000 and it entered into force on 6 September 2001. At that time twenty CEE countries have already acceded to the Convention. At present, the Regional Implementation Annex V for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) includes the following 22 country Parties:

7. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine.

8. The region is very special and/or heterogeneous as regards its political and economical conditions. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia are already EU member countries and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia are candidate countries to the EU. Some of the above mentioned countries are emerging donors. Others listed above are countries in economic transition. Some of them are bounded with EU by European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) documents. It is also important to mention that not every country in the region is affected. The Czech Republic, Lithuania and Poland are not affected countries.

9. Several regional meetings of Annex V were organized at the regional level, important items were and the most relevant are presented in the following.

10. The consultative meeting to prepare the implementation of the UNCCD in CEE was held in Prague, Czech Republic in 2001. The goals of the meeting were to: review the process of implementing the UNCCD at national level, facilitate the process of accession of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe to the Convention, inform countries of the region on the relevant provisions and processes of the UNCCD and on major issues related to the implementation of the UNCCD at the national level and strengthen regional cooperation between countries of Central and Eastern Europe on the issues of land degradation and drought mitigation.

11. The first Regional Meeting for Northern Mediterranean (NM), Central and Eastern Europe and other affected country Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2002.

12. The first Regional Meeting of Annex V was held in Rome, Italy in 2002.

13. The major objective of the above meetings was implementation of the UNCCD in countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as acceleration of the process of accession of the countries of the region to the UNCCD.

14. The Regional Meeting held in Minsk, Belarus in 2003. It was convened to strengthen cooperation in the field of land resources management in Central and Eastern Europe. Based on their proposals for regional, subregional, transboundary cooperation in the CEE region, the countries made the significant contribution to identify the elements of the regional action programmes. They agreed on priority areas for thematic programme network and on a range of transboundary initiatives.

15. Paragraph 4 of the conclusion document of the meeting on the regional activities under Annex V of the Central and Eastern European representatives participating in COP 7, held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2005, sets out that "... participants came to a conclusion that a document (platform) for developing regional cooperation in CEE should be prepared".

16. At the Regional Meeting for Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe and other affected country Parties held in Bonn, Germany in 2006, the participants recognized that

countries in the NM and CEE regions still have different national capacities to implement the UNCCD. However, the representatives of the NM and CEE countries requested the UNCCD secretariat to continue to facilitate regional, subregional/transboundary and interregional cooperation in Europe in order to complement the NAP process.

17. At the Regional Meeting of Annex V focal points, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2007 the country Parties made the presentation of the work done towards the TPNs.

18. The following meeting held in Brno, Czech Republic in 2008, was called “ Regional initiative on financial resource mobilization for strengthening the implementation of the UNCCD in Central and Eastern Europe”. The participants at the meeting adopted the resolution on “financial resource mobilization for strengthening the implementation of the UNCCD in the Regional Implementation, Annex V for CEE”.

C. Present regional initiatives that are relevant in the context of Regional Coordination Mechanism

19. The Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe (DMCSEE) was launched in 2006 and has established the International Steering Committee as supervisory body. DMCSEE has approached the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the EU Commission to seek possibilities for joint work in the field of drought management. Bilateral cooperation was achieved between Slovenia and Hungary in the field of science and technology, financed by ministries responsible for research in both countries. Also cooperation was achieved with Biotechnical Faculty University of Ljubljana. The University of Nova Gorica was subcontracted to conduct a drought risk assessment with the aim of contributing to the one of the core DMCSEE tasks.

20. The Regional Reference Centre on Soil Protection (RRC) in Czech Republic provides linkages with other CEE information directories and databases.

21. To date, the Zikatar Regional Forestry Training Centre in Armenia carried out eight training courses, an orienteering competition, a workshop and an international conference.

D. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties

22. The issue of regional coordination has been an item of consideration of all the previous COPs. To identify the ways and means of regional coordination was subject of consideration of the decision 6/COP.5 on the initiative of regional coordination units. Decision 11/COP6 sets out the need for, modalities for, costs involved in and the feasibility and possible terms of reference of the RCUs.

23. Decision 11/COP.7, taking into the consideration the document ICCD/COP(7)/7, and noting the request of Central and Eastern European country Parties to explore the possibility of the establishment of regional coordination arrangements, inter alia an RCU, decided “...to establish an open-ended group to review available reports and information received from Parties and other entities and make recommendations to COP 8 on options for cost-effective and efficient regional coordination, and in particular on how to make the best use of the existing RCUs and other relevant regional and subregional entities, and take a decision at COP 8 on the role of, and institutional and budgetary arrangements relating to the RCUs”.

24. By the decision 3/COP.8 each region should develop a proposal on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The same decision states that “regional coordination is an important component in implementing the Convention and The Strategy”. In the same decision it is mentioned that “coordination mechanisms must be responsive to existing and emerging needs, capacities and specific issues of the region”.

E. The mandate of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism at regional level

25. According to the decision 3/COP.8 the secretariat and the GM should cooperate and coordinate their activities to develop a proposal in collaboration on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention. By the same decision the Executive Secretary shall “compile regional proposals and the means for putting them into operation, and submit these to COP 9 for consideration”. The Executive Secretary, shall review the current regional coordination arrangements within the secretariat and within the GM with a view to improving them, they shall develop evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements based on the above-mentioned review and the proposals received from regions. The secretariat shall submit the proposals to COP.9 for consideration.

F. The Strategy

26. Coordinating efforts towards an enhanced implementation of the Convention has been acknowledged by Parties through decision 3/COP.8 on The Strategy.

27. RCM should contribute to the achievement of The Strategy, whose mission is to provide the global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought through scientific and technological excellence, raising public awareness, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.”

28. The strategic objectives should guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders in the period 2008-2018. They are to improve the living conditions of affected populations, to improve the condition of effected ecosystems, to generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD and to mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and International actors.

29. The strategy has the following operational objectives: advocacy, awareness raising and education, policy framework, science, technology and knowledge, capacity building, financing and technology transfer.

30. The implementation framework of The Strategy defines the roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, in relation to the regional coordination.

(a) CST strengthens its linkages with thematic programme networks and other regional implementation activities whose mandates are improved to provide regional input to the work of the CST;

(b) CRIC, as a first priority “is restructured around a simplified and effective reporting process based on information which is comparable cross regions and over time. New reporting guidelines are adopted taking into account the work undertaken by the ad hoc working group on reporting. Reporting should be inclusive of NAPs, subregional action programmes and regional action programmes”;

(c) GM, through its working programme supports the development of (sub) regional financing platforms for improving effectiveness, harmonization and alignment among donor institutions;

(d) The secretariat, through its working programme, supports the strengthening of dialogue and consultation at (sub) regional levels, services regional implementation annexes through facilitating cooperation at (sub) regional levels, and facilitates the process to determine optimal mechanisms for regional coordination;

(e) The secretariat and the GM ensure the consistent and complimentary delivery of services in establishment of appropriate regional dialogue and coordination facilitation mechanisms. This entails identifying the immediate added value of such a regional body in the context of the new secretariat and GM workplans, identifying the appropriate institutional arrangements for such a body in the regions and developing the short/medium-term RBM framework for these bodies.

II. The mission statement

31. The main function of the RCM in CEE region should be to enhance coordination and monitoring of implementation of the Convention in light of the strategy, in cooperation with UNCCD secretariat and GM headquarters. The objectives of the RCM in the region are consistent with the UNCCD law and are, in principle, as follows:

(a) Liaison between the secretariat of the Convention, GM and CEE countries on issues of common interest at the regional level;

(b) Facilitate elaboration and gradually review the progress in implementation of RAP and SRAPs;

(c) Facilitate the regional consultations in preparation for COPs, CRIC and CST sessions;

(d) Facilitate the exchange of experience in the elaboration/revision of NAPs;

(e) Enable the exchange of information between countries to prepare national reports;

(f) Facilitate cooperation between thematic networks, training centres, reference centres and other relevant initiatives established at the regional level;

(g) Facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge and technology among the countries of the region in line with the relevant CST thematic priorities;

(h) Assistance in public awareness raising and education;

(i) Facilitate the identification of sources of finance and financing mechanisms appropriate for CEE region and support the countries of the region to meet the requirements of the Resolution on “Financial resource mobilization for strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat desertification (UNCCD) in the regional implementation Annex V for Central and Eastern Europe” adopted in Brno, Czech Republic, 2008;

(j) Establish an information (data) centre for better exchange of information to create cooperation with another annexes.

III. Institutional arrangement

32. According to the COP decisions, a top priority for the current process is to define the frameworks of the activities and responsibilities of different institutions under the UNCCD, partners and stakeholders to achieve the objectives of The Strategy.

33. In order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat, GM and RCM and to ensure the consistent and complimentary delivery of services along the lines of The Strategy, the above mentioned institutions shall strengthen their coordination and cooperation from the headquarters to the country level.

34. The new structure of the secretariat of UNCCD is constructed functionally (i.e., it reflects the secretariat’s main functions regarding the implementation of the Convention globally), but it does not consider the regional principle, which is also a distinct part of the Convention. Thus, the secretariat does not have within its structure the divisions/units responsible for cooperation between the countries (inter alia Central and Eastern Europe) towards the direction of activities, and for the implementation of the UNCCD at regional level, as it was the case until COP. 8. The common principles and issues of the UNCCD policy should be developed at two levels: firstly, the secretariat to support implementation of The Strategy, COP decisions and the Convention and secondly the RCM to support the implementation of those policies that should take into account the regional character.

35. The GM works on national level and only in some cases on regional or subregional levels. The latter are related to the implementation of support of special programmes or initiatives such as CACILM. In this regard the RCM could be the link between the UNCCD secretariat and GM in the region.

36. CST is not represented at regional level. RCM could ensure coordination between the countries of the region to implement the CST decisions, to provide logistical support to the representative of CEE countries in the CST Bureau and to facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge and technology between the countries and institutions in the region. In addition to the coordination between thematic networks, training centres and reference centres, the RCM could assist to arrange the interrelation between the CST correspondents of the countries.

37. RCM should also refer to the CRIC-related activities, that is, the elaboration and/or revision of NAPs, RAP and, when needed, SRAPs, as well as the reporting process, on the basis of the applicable set of indicators.

38. The RCM the general framework makes it clear to Annex-V countries what action is required to enhance regional cooperation. However, given the highly heterogeneous framework of political and socio-economic conditions of the countries involved, which has further accentuated since the approval of the Annex V, and the lack of projects and initiatives related to DLDD with broad coverage in the CEE region, there is a urgent need to assign the task of the coordination of these activities to a defined organism, that is, a permanent office of the RCM. This would be consistent with the differentiation of the Convention and of peculiarities arising from its implementation on annexes, as well as with the realities in the case of annexes 1–3, for which RCUs have been in place for several years.

39. The RCM permanent office should be accountable to the UNCCD secretariat. Results of its work will be assessed by CRIC and COP.

40. The RCM should prepare the report of implementation of its work every two years, as set out in the work programme.

41. The reporting format of RCM should depend on the outcomes of the plans and programmes of its work. Considering the RCM subordination to the UNCCD secretariat, the RBM of its work should be complementary to the two-year work programmes and the four-year workplans of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM. It should also consider joint work programme of the UNCCD secretariat and GM, as well as the CST and CRIC workplan/programme.

IV. Hosting arrangements

42. The countries of CEE region have expressed a wish to establish the permanent office of RCM in one of the countries/organizations in the region. The countries/organizations³⁸ could express willingness to host the RCM to implement UNCCD at regional level and conclude legally binding document with the secretariat.

43. The host country/organization should provide, free of charge:

- (a) Office space
- (b) Office equipment
- (c) Communication costs

44. Additionally the host country/organization, together with the secretariat, should arrange the legal status of the international staff and office facility.

45. Any additional contribution will be considered an asset in choosing the host country/organization.

³⁸ The list of international organizations is attached.

Staffing requirements

46. Minimum number of staff required to run the RCM office at the beginning should be two persons: a programme officer and an assistant. However, the composition of staff would be an issue of further consideration for the full scale operation of RCM.

V. A short/medium-term RBM framework

47. According to the COP decisions, the secretariat is requested to develop the long-term plans and the two-year work programmes that could be implemented by the RCM. The two-year programmes can be implemented successfully if they are based on the strategic and operational objectives of The Strategy and coordinated with the NAPs.

48. A detailed plan of activities can be found in Table 1.

Table 1

No.	Activity	Responsibilities	Timeframe	Performance indicator	Remarks
1	Liaison between the secretariat of the Convention, GM and CEE Countries on issues of common interest at the regional level	RCM	permanent	Proper communication	
2	Facilitate elaboration of RAP and SRAPs	RCM secretariat GM Parties	two years	Consultations on RAP and SRAPs elaboration conducted	
3	Facilitate evaluation and gradually review the progress in implementation of RAP and SRAPs				
4	Facilitate the regional consultations in preparation for COPs, CRIC and CST sessions	RCM secretariat	permanent	Joint positions on agenda items agreed and summarized	
5	Facilitate the exchange of experience in the elaboration/revision of NAPs	RCM Parties	permanent	Number of NAPs elaborated/ revised	
6	Enable the exchange of information between countries to prepare national reports	RCM secretariat Parties CST GM	according to the reporting cycle	National reports are comparable and consider regional aspects	

No.	Activity	Responsibilities	Timeframe	Performance indicator	Remarks
7	Facilitate cooperation between thematic networks, training centres, reference centres and other relevant initiatives established at regional level	RCM Secretariat Parties CST GM, Relevant regional institutions	permanent	Experience and knowledge available at thematic networks, training centres, reference centres and other relevant initiatives are used by the countries of the region.	
8	Facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge and technology among the countries of the region in line with the relevant CST thematic priorities	RCM CST secretariat	permanent	Number of communications between countries and other stakeholders	
9	Assistance in public awareness raising and education	RCM secretariat, Parties	permanent	Number of seminars, publications, etc	In cooperation with CSO
10	Facilitate the identification of sources of finance and financing mechanisms appropriate for CEE region	RCM secretariat, GM	permanent	New sources of finance and financing mechanisms identified. Number of approved initiatives/projects Regional initiative on financial resource mobilization further developed	
11	Establish an information (data) centre for better exchange of information to create cooperation with another Annexes	RCM secretariat, Parties	permanent	The information centre is built up	

VI. Financial resources required

49. The following financing requirements are foreseen on the basis of the RCM working programme:

	Expenditure categories	Source of funding	amount
1	Staff: Programme officer Assistant	Core budget	
2	Office space, Office equipment, Communication costs, other	Hosting country	
3	Missions	Core budget/voluntary contributions	
4	Regional consultations	Supplementary Fund	
5	Publications	Core budget/voluntary contributions	
6	Consultancy	Core budget/voluntary contributions	

50. As the expenditures marked to be supported from the core budget are related to core activities of the secretariat (proposed to be transferred at the regional level), the establishment of RCM might be achieved within the current level of the core budget.

Appendix

International and United Nations organizations in CEE countries

United Nations and others in CEE		
COUNTRY	Organizations	
Albania	International Monetary Fund (IMF) IOM International Organization for Migration (IOM) UNDP United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNIFEM World Bank (WB) World Health Organization (WHO) International Labour Organization (ILO)	<i>With presence at the project/programme level:</i> FAO ILO International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) UNAIDS United Nations Educational and Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (non-resident agency) UNAIDS United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (non-resident agency) UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Armenia	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) World Food Programme (WFP) World Health Organization (WHO)	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Labour Organization (ILO) World Bank (WB) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

COUNTRY	Organizations												
Azerbaijan	<p>United Nations Agencies in Azerbaijan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Office of the Resident Coordinator * UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) * UNDP Projects in Azerbaijan * UNDPI (United Nations Department for Public Information) * UNDSS (United Nations Department of Safety and Security) * UNFPA (United Nations Populations Fund) * ILO (International Labour Organization) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) * UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) * UNWFP (United Nations World Food Programme) * IMF (International Monetary Fund) * WB (World Bank) * WHO (World Health Organization) * FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) * UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) 												
Azerbaijan	<p>United Nations Agencies represented by the projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * OHCHR project (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) * IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) 												
Belarus	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">UNDP</td> <td style="width: 50%;">WORLD BANK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>IFC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>IMF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DPI</td> <td>WHO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNAIDS</td> <td>ILO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNHCR</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	UNDP	WORLD BANK	UNFPA	IFC	UNICEF	IMF	DPI	WHO	UNAIDS	ILO	UNHCR	
UNDP	WORLD BANK												
UNFPA	IFC												
UNICEF	IMF												
DPI	WHO												
UNAIDS	ILO												
UNHCR													
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ICTY - International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia * ILO - International Labour Organization (Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe) * IMF - Bosnia and Herzegovina and International Monetary Fund * IOM - International Organization for Migrations Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina * UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization * UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund * UNHCR - The United Nations Refugee Agency - Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina * UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina * United Nations Volunteers in Bosnia and Herzegovina * WHO - World Health Organization - Country Information for Bosnia and Herzegovina * The World Bank's Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina 												

COUNTRY	Organizations
Bulgaria	<p>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children`s Fund (UNICEF) World Health Organization (WHO)</p> <p>The International Labour Organization (ILO) is represented in Bulgaria by a national correspondent officer, while the Bretton Woods Institutions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) both have resident missions.</p> <p>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) operates a project office in Sofia coordinating regional drug interdiction and crime prevention. Project offices are maintained also by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).</p> <p>International Organization for Migration (IOM), which collaborates with the United Nations agencies around the world, also has a field mission to Bulgaria.</p>
Croatia	<p>The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The International Organization for Migration (IOM), The World Health Organization (WHO) and Liaison Office for the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)</p>
Czech Republic	No information found
Georgia	<p>UNDP UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF UNIFEM FAO WFP WHO ILO</p>

COUNTRY	Organizations
Georgia	OHCHR IOM United Nations Office United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia International Committee of Red Cross International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies International Monetary Fund World Bank The Delegation of the European Commission of the European Union EUSR Office Tbilisi European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE Nagorno-Karabakh Mission Regional Office of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Representation of the Council of Europe in Georgia NATO/PFP Liaison Officer in the South Caucasus
Hungary	No information found
Latvia	IMF IOM UNDP UNESCO LNK UNICEF WORLD BANK WHO

COUNTRY	Organizations
Lithuania	<p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Health Organization (WHO) maintain country offices in Lithuania.</p> <p>The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are represented in Lithuania by the National Committees.</p> <p>UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) holds the representation UNHCR Regional Office for Baltic and Nordic Countries in Lithuania and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) operates a regional project from Vilnius coordinating regional drug interdiction and crime prevention.</p> <p>The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which collaborates with the UN agencies around the world, also has a field mission to Lithuania.</p>
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>NATO, the EU, the US and OSCE are the principal guarantors enforcing the Ohrid Framework Agreement.</p> <p>There are many international organizations present in the country including the UN, which is represented by 12 agencies.</p> <p>UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNMIK, UNIFEM, UNHCR, World Bank, IOM, IMF FAO, UNODC,</p>
Montenegro	<p>FAO IOM UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund), WHO (World Health Organization) WB (the World Bank).</p>

COUNTRY	Organizations			
Republic of Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * IFAD * ILO/IPEC * ILO Migrant * ILO National Correspondent for Moldova * IMF * IOM * FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe * FAO National Correspondent for Moldova * UNAIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * UNDP * UNFPA * UNHCR * UNICEF * UNESCO * UNIFEM * WHO * World Bank 		
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank UNICEF IOM IMF UN-HABITAT UNHCR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFC UNIC UNESCO UNDP UNEP/GRID WHO 		
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission Representation European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (E.B.R.D.) European Investment Bank (E.I.B) Information Bureau of the Council of Europe International Financial Corporation (I.F.C) International Labour Office International Migration Organization (I.M.O.) International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO Bureau in Bucharest - Higher Education European Center United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Development Programme (U.N.D.P.) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations Information Center (U.N.I.C.) United Nations Population Fond (U.N.P.F.A.) 		
Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFC ILO IMF IOM OHCHR UNAIDS UN-Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP UNDSS UNEP UNESCO UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNIC UNIDO UNODC WFP WHO WB 	

COUNTRY	Organizations
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * European Union - Delegation of The European Commission * European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) * Council of Europe * Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) * European Centre for Peace and Development (ECPD) * Private Enterprise Partnership South East Europe (IFC PEP SE) * United Nations Office in Belgrade * United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (UNORC) * The Office of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) * United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office * United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) * Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO) * United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) * United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) * United Nations International Children 'S Fund (UNICEF) * United Nations International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in The Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 * United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT) * International Organization for Migration (IOM) * International Management Group (IMG) * World Bank Country Office * International Monetary Fund (IMF) * International Finance Corporation (IFC) * International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) * Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) * International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCRCS) * South - East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) * North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Liaison Office (NATO MLO)

COUNTRY	Organizations
Serbia	<p>* Japan International Cooperation Agency (J I C A) * Regional Environmental Center For Central And Eastern Europe</p> <p>The UN System in Serbia comprises of 15 resident agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, ICTY, IOM, UNOB, WHO, UNODC, UNHCHR, UNOPS, UNIFEM, UN-HABITAT) with physical in-country presence. In addition, three Bretton Wood Institutions (WB, IFC and IMF) are also present in the UN Country Team in Serbia.</p>
Slovakia	UNDP region office (no more information found)
Slovenia	UNESCO Office of the Republic of Slovenia UNICEF Slovenia
Ukraine	United Nations Office in Ukraine Delegation of the European Commission International Monetary Fund Resident Representative Office in Ukraine UNHCR Mission in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Project Coordinator in Ukraine International Committee of the Red Cross International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Office in Ukraine European Bank for Reconstruction and Development International Organization for Migration (IOM) NATO Information and Documentation Centre NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine International Finance Corporation Information Office of the Council of Europe United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

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