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Options to increase synergies in monitoring the Rio Conventions

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The importance of enhancing synergies in reporting is emphasized in decision 8/COP.8, which requests the secretariat to consult with the other secretariats of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and to advise on ways of making reporting more efficient, taking into account the reporting procedures and obligations under each Rio Convention. Decision 8/COP.9 takes up the specific reference to reporting in requesting the secretariat to continue coordinating with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity through the JLG in order to facilitate exchanges of information and joint approaches to harmonizing and facilitating the reporting requirements of Parties.

Several options to enhance synergies in reporting to the three Rio Conventions have been presented in an option paper for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions, which has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the three Conventions, as agreed at the meeting of the JLG in January 2004. The present document undertakes an analysis of the reporting requirements under the Rio Conventions and explores the options presented in the JLG option paper and elsewhere. It comes to the conclusion that one effective way to enhance synergies in reporting would be by developing mechanisms and cooperative arrangements between relevant institutions involved in the reporting processes at national level, and streamlining data collection and compilation.

The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention may wish to take account of the information and the options for achieving synergies in reporting contained in the present document, and to initiate consultations with a view to reporting to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, as requested by decision 8/COP.9.

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List of abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CSO	civil society organization
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DLDD	desertification/land degradation and drought
EST	environmentally sound technology
EMG	United Nations Environmental Management Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	greenhouse gas
GM	Global Mechanism
GWP	global warming potentials
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LUCF	land-use change and forestry
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MEA	multilateral environmental agreement
NAP	national action programme
NAPA	national adaptation plan of action
NBSAP	national biodiversity strategy and action plan
NCSA	national capacity self-assessment
NFP	national focal point
NR	National Report
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPS	programme and project sheets
PRAIS	performance review and assessment of implementation system
RAP	regional action programme

SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SFA	standard financial annex
SRAP	subregional action programme
SLM	sustainable land management
TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The launch of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy) reiterates the necessity to enhance and build upon synergies among the three Rio Conventions. An important element of The Strategy is the introduction of a new reporting and monitoring system. Taking this into consideration, decision 8/COP.8 requests the secretariat to consult with the other secretariats of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and to advise on ways of making reporting more efficient. In line with this decision, the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) recommended that facilitating the development of synergies with the other Rio Conventions should be a basic principle to be taken into consideration when designing the new reporting system under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Furthermore, CRIC 7 also recommended that information systems that support the preparation of reports under different multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) should be integrated into existing relevant databases in order to improve the coordination and circulation of information at national and local levels.¹

2. Several decisions at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) take up the matter of achieving synergies specifically with regard to reporting. Decision 8/COP.9 requests the secretariat to continue coordinating with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the JLG to facilitate exchanges of information and joint approaches to harmonizing the requirements for Parties' reports. This request is further specified in decision 13/COP.9, where Parties invite the JLG, inter alia, to provide technical assistance relating to outcome 2.5 and impact indicator (SO) 4-4 of The Strategy. In addition, decision 17/COP.9, paragraph 4 (c) requests the secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and using an iterative process ... to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies, taking account of possible synergies with relevant programmes, projects and institutions, including those associated with other Rio Conventions. Decision 10/COP.9, on the other hand, urges stakeholders to look for synergies in monitoring ... through the use of similar indicators and similar methodological approaches relating to data collection and assistance for affected country Parties in the preparation of national reports.

B. Achieving synergies among the Rio Conventions

3. In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the high reporting burden and its related costs, which are ever increasing, because each Convention provides guidance on the content and format of their reports independently of the other Conventions, thus creating an "artificial" institutional fragmentation along individual Convention themes at the national level, resulting in duplication, overlap and inefficiency.

4. The rationale for promoting synergies and collaboration among the UNCCD, the CBD and the UNFCCC is to avoid duplication of effort, to strengthen joint efforts and to use available resources more efficiently by taking into consideration the linkages between

¹ ICCD/CRIC(7)/3.

the issues that they address under the common objective of sustainable development as defined by the Rio Earth Summit and its Agenda 21.

5. The matter of increasing synergies among international MEAs has received significant attention at the highest international levels focusing on environmental instruments, including the United Nations General Assembly,² the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),³ the United Nations Environmental Management Group (EMG),⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD),⁵ as well as from national governments. The COPs of the Rio Conventions emphasize that collaboration among the environment Conventions is desirable, and a number of elements of the texts of the three Conventions imply linkages with the objectives of the other Conventions.⁶ In the case of the UNCCD, encouragement to coordinate activities among the three Conventions is built into the text of the Convention itself⁷ and was further defined by a number of COP decisions.⁸

6. Since the three Rio Conventions were launched at the 1992 Earth Summit, each one complements the others by way of using coordinated approaches by substantively contributing to Agenda 21. This is why at every COP the UNCCD Parties have adopted decisions regarding the need for actions to make use of synergies among these Conventions. The reporting processes have been seen as a good way to begin achieving such synergies.

7. A key concrete step towards increasing synergies was the establishment in January 2001 of an Issue Management Group by the EMG to support joint meetings of the heads of Convention secretariats in order to ensure complementarity and synergy;⁹ this was followed in 2002 by the formation of the JLG of the three Rio Conventions, with the goal of “promot[ing] cooperation among the three Conventions at the national and international levels, with an ultimate aim of developing complementarities and synergies in their activities on issues of mutual concern”.

C. Increasing synergies in reporting under the Rio Conventions

8. Calls for collaborative or synergistic reporting among the three Rio Conventions and for inter-MEA information accessibility have existed right from the start and are already included in Agenda 21.¹⁰ Chapter 40 of Agenda 21, “Information for Decision-Making”,

² A/RES/57/257 (February 2003), A/RES/57/260 (January 2003), A/RES/58/243 (February 2004), A/RES/58/212 (March 2004) culminating in the “Delivering as one: report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment” (A/RES/61/583, November 2006).

³ UNEP/GC/24/12, decision V; GC 20/decision 28.

⁴ EMG 1/decision 3.

⁵ WSSD Plan of Implementation §§41(c), 42, 44(c), and 44(r).

⁶ See <www.cbd.int/cooperation/artsdecs.shtml> for CBD and UNFCCC decisions on cooperation. See also relevant CBD COP 9 decisions: <www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-27-en.pdf> and <www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-16-en.pdf> as well as the relevant CBD COP 8 decision at <www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-08/cop-08-dec-16-en.pdf>.

⁷ Article 8.1; Article 22, 2 (i); Article 23, 2 (d).

⁸ Decision 13/COP.1; decision 8/COP.2; decision 12/COP.3; decision 17/COP.3; decision 1/COP.4; decision 8/COP.4; decision 3/COP.5; decision 7/COP.5; decision 17/COP.5; decision 1/COP.6; decision 12/COP.6; decision 2/COP.6; decision 12/COP.7; decision 4/COP.8; decision 3/COP.8; decision 8/COP.8; decision 13/COP.9; decision 8/COP.9; decisions 13/COP.9.

⁹ A/53/463, Annex. See UNGA Res. 53/242.

¹⁰ In this document the term multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) is applied when referring to

mentioned a possible need to “reduc[e] the differences regarding data and ... improve access to information.” That chapter also recognized major differences in developing nations’ capacity to gather and process data adequately for “informed decision making”.¹¹

9. While the vast majority of Parties are of the opinion that increasing synergies in reporting is more cost-effective, some Parties have doubted the assumption that reporting harmonization will eliminate inefficiencies or save time, while still supporting reporting harmonization as a means of achieving other desirable objectives, such as building key relationships and understandings between the entities and officials implementing each of the three Conventions, and thereby giving rise to greater opportunities for collaborative action.¹²

10. These issues have been discussed at greater length in an option paper for enhanced cooperation among the three Rio Conventions, which has been prepared jointly by the secretariats of the three Conventions as agreed by the JLG, meeting in January 2004.¹³ The JLG option paper was presented as a document before the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA)¹⁴ and as a document tabled at UNCCD COP 7.¹⁵ The JLG option paper outlines five options for facilitating harmonized reporting. The aim of the present document is to follow the discussion thread of the JLG option paper.

II. Elements for achieving synergies among the Rio Conventions in reporting

11. This section makes a comparison of reporting requirements under each Rio Convention and discusses overlaps of reporting objectives, reporting processes and indicators, frameworks and templates, reporting schedules and cycles, reporting entities and capacity-building elements. Section III provides an in-depth discussion of the options presented in the JLG option paper, based on an analysis of the reporting requirements of the Rio Conventions, and suggests concrete steps for the way forward.

A. Overall objectives of reporting

12. National reporting is a key commitment for Parties to MEAs. All three Rio Conventions recognize national reporting as the basis for reviewing the implementation of their Conventions, as a means of informed and effective decision-making by Convention bodies, and as a means of sharing information among Parties and with other organizations and MEAs. In addition, they have specifically noted that an MEA national reporting process builds national capacity with regard to the primary issues relevant to that MEA.

13. Considering options to increase synergies in reporting among the three Rio Conventions, the similarities of the objectives and mandates of the three instruments are an obvious starting point, noting specifically that all of them (a) are particularly broad in overall scope, (b) focus on ecological issues and (c) ultimately focus on environmental

the wider range of Conventions, treaties and other multilateral agreements. The term Rio Convention is applied when making specific reference to those three agreements only.

¹¹ See also UNGA document A/53/463, Annex and UNGA Res. 53/242.

¹² FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.19, and see also Government of Australia/Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), 2008.

¹³ Hereinafter referred to as the JLG option paper.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.19.

¹⁵ ICCD/COP(7)/5/Add.1.

conservation/ protection and sustainable development. Reports of the Rio Conventions are thus all based on data and information regarding a relatively similar group of natural-resource sectors.

14. However, there are significant differences among the three Rio Conventions reflecting each one's specific mandate. In the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol (KP), reporting provisions have become very controversial, in the light of the use of UNFCCC/KP reporting data as the primary justification for national commitments regarding emissions reduction and other key components of the Convention's operation. CBD reporting focuses on biological issues relevant to the Parties' duties to inventory/monitor the status of various components of biodiversity,¹⁶ and of changes in the threats faced. The reporting process under the UNCCD has been developed reflecting the very clear mandate of setting and achieving goals for national/regional activities and monitoring achievement of the Convention's objectives.

B. Evolution of the reporting processes and comparison of indicators and frameworks

15. In all three Rio Conventions the reporting systems are evolving internally, in accordance with the respective negotiation processes as well as the different results required. These differences in how reporting processes are evolving may complicate the process of finding areas of harmonization, but they also provide the flexibility to integrate the changing reporting requirements gradually, with the ultimate goal of increasing the level of collaboration, particularly in relation to the development and use of common data and indicators and consistent glossaries.

16. The core elements of the UNFCCC national communications for both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties are information on emissions and removals of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and details of the activities a Party has undertaken to implement the Convention. Annex I Parties which have ratified the Kyoto Protocol must include supplementary information in their national communications and their annual inventories of emissions and removals of GHGs to demonstrate compliance with the Protocol's commitments, whereas initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties may or may not include a national GHG inventory depending on their capacity to follow the overwhelming quest for precise numerical results.¹⁷ Where they provide GHG inventories, non-Annex I Parties are not required to use the same baseline dates or statistics as Annex I Parties, and are encouraged to make estimates and identify/justify deviation percentages applicable to each estimation process. This provides the flexibility for non-Annex I Parties at national level to integrate/compare data collection and indicator and baseline setting for the three Rio Conventions. However, regarding the controversy on the critical relationship between capacity-building and reporting this might nevertheless still not be achievable.¹⁸

17. Evolution of the CBD reporting process has moved from a more objective (multiple choice) process to the current method, which encourages longer written responses. In recent years, the CBD has been in the process of developing indicators. In 2004, the COP of the

¹⁶ CBD article 7. CBD Parties are required to conduct inventories and monitoring, but are not required to share that information as part of national reporting

¹⁷ Although non-Annex I Parties are not required to submit formal, GHG Inventories, "most Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention have used the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;" and "national inventories from some non-Annex I Parties have been generally comparable to those of Annex I Parties". (UNFCCC, decision 2/CP.8.)

¹⁸ See discussion in chapter II.A.6 Comparison of Reporting Entities and Capacity Building.

CBD identified 13 “global headline indicators”, and 10 other general indicator areas, noting that this latter group “has been specifically withheld from trial use, and formally declared to be in need of further work”.¹⁹ Originally intended to assess progress towards the 2010 target of the WSSD, these indicators focus tightly on the biological status of species, ecosystems and biomes, and are thus comparable in level to the UNCCD impact indicators (annex II, section A). The CBD indicators are not yet fully integrated into national reporting,²⁰ but have been utilized in the preparation of Global Biodiversity Outlook 4. There has been little progress on CBD indicators since 2004, although the COP and other bodies have recently called for new indicators to measure progress after the 2010 deadline.²¹

18. UNCCD Parties at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), decided on a new performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS).²² Assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy is based on impact indicators for the strategic objectives (to be reported upon every four years) and performance indicators for the operational objectives of The Strategy (to be reported upon every two years), as well as reporting on financial flows as contained in the standard financial annex (SFA) and programme and project sheet. In addition, reporting entities and civil society organizations (CSOs) are invited to report on best practices.

19. When considering options to increase synergies in reporting to the Rio Conventions, it is crucial to mention that the set of 18 performance indicators has been adopted by the Parties on a provisional basis only.²³ The reporting process is accompanied by an iterative process, which captures the lessons learned during the reporting process and refines the indicators and methodologies applied. The same process applies for the impact indicators.²⁴ Since the methodology for the subset of the two indicators required for reporting by affected countries in 2012 (land cover status and proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line) is still under development and discussion, and an additional set of nine indicators are going to be further developed and defined after a test run, there is still much room for development and adjustment taking into consideration options for enhanced synergy.

20. While demonstrating the differences in objectives between UNCCD and CBD work on indicators, annex II is useful in considering how the UNCCD impact indicators may ultimately align with the CBD headline indicators, further enhancing and broadening this iterative process.

21. As indicated in annex II, section A and B, the use of indicators varies greatly among the three Rio Conventions. While the UNCCD has developed and is using a sophisticated set of tightly-focused performance and impact indicators, closely linked to reporting obligations, neither the CBD nor the UNFCCC/KP has made significant progress in this respect.

22. Annex IV sets out basic reporting provisions most relevant to developing countries under the current templates of the Rio Conventions, in a “side-by-side” format,

¹⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/VII/30.

²⁰ Each CBD Party may decide whether to adopt/apply any indicator. Once adopted, the Party has discretion regarding definition of the indicator, identification of its baseline, and collection of data to analyse progress (UNEP/CBD/COP/VII/30).

²¹ Other indicators are being developed in some of the Convention’s thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues, especially by the ad hoc working groups on access and benefit sharing and Article 8 (j).

²² Decisions 11/COP.9, 12/COP.9 and 13/COP.9.

²³ Decision 13/COP.9.

²⁴ Decision 17/COP.9.

reorganizing the templates of UNFCCC/KP and the CBD in an attempt to place the most relevant subject matter together. It includes the PRAIS framework for “affected countries”, the UNFCCC/KP and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for non-Annex I reporting, and the CBD guidelines for its 5th National Reports. Overall, annex IV shows the substantial difference in approach of the three Conventions; the UNCCD reporting process is more specific and concrete than the narrative approach of the CBD, but significantly less technical than the key reporting requirements under the UNFCCC/KP.

23. The UNCCD system of performance and impact indicators, and the PRAIS system in general, constitute a major advance in the Convention’s structured approach, and its linkage of reporting to strategic planning.²⁵ As shown in annex IV, however, the substantive reporting frameworks of the other two Rio Conventions do not as yet offer similar advantages.

C. Identifying substantive overlaps

24. The degree of overlap in the content of the reports is highly dependent on the characteristics of the reporting country, such as geographic and geomorphologic features or the socio-economic situation. The overlap of UNCCD affected areas with biodiversity loss in ecosystems and GHG emissions and/or carbon sequestration vary accordingly. A higher degree of overlap is most likely to be found in a least developed country where unsustainable use of natural resources is not only having an impact on biodiversity conservation and land degradation but might also be an important source of emissions and increase vulnerability to climate change. There are only a few areas of overlap that might occur for all reporting countries; these reporting areas are discussed below.

1. Overlap of underlying data for reporting on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) land-cover status and monitoring, GHG emissions reporting and biodiversity loss in thematic programme areas

25. Considering the related topics, there may be a significant overlap between national GHG inventories and UNCCD performance indicator CONS-O-8 and impact indicator IX.²⁶ In turn, GHGs, relevant monitoring and land cover may be particularly relevant to CBD obligations regarding biodiversity inventory and monitoring,²⁷ as well as particular thematic programmes, including inter alia the thematic programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, developed in coordination by the UNCCD and the CBD.²⁸

26. Relevant issues in CBD reporting are generally addressed through general assessments of bio-geographical conditions and status. Based on both the “2010 Targets” and the expected “post-2010 targets”, CBD reporting also includes “action to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including consumption patterns, through the mainstreaming of biodiversity throughout government and society, through communication, education and awareness, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change”.²⁹

²⁵ Decision 17/COP.9; ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4; decision 3/COP.8.

²⁶ Performance indicator CONS-O-8 calls on reporting countries to “List any monitoring system available at the sub-national level that can contribute to the UNCCD reporting” and specifically to identify any national system “implying the systematic gathering, storing and processing of data in terms of analysis and vulnerability assessment.” In 2012 reporting, affected countries will be required to report on “Impact indicator IX: Land Cover Status”.

²⁷ CBD article 7.

²⁸ UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23.

²⁹ UNEP/CBD/SP/PREP/2, page 4.

These concerns embody key issues of “environmental services” and “status and trends of and threats to biodiversity” – all of which bear a direct connection to both climate change and DLDD.

27. The issues of DLDD, land cover and biodiversity loss, however, constitute only a small fraction of the range of issues included in each GHG inventory. Under the UNFCCC/KP and IPCC Guidelines, each GHG inventory consists of final calculations of inputs from many sectors, and from many sources in each sector. These inputs are divided on a gas-by-gas basis (emissions and removals). Sectoral inputs must be carefully monitored and transparent, to avoid overcounting or undercounting.³⁰ The process will also produce a “disaggregation key” which breaks down the information collected according to many subcategories. One relevant category is “land-use change and forestry” (LUCF).³¹ Even disaggregated, the GHG inventory’s gas-by-gas statistical reports may not correspond to the manner in which DLDD information is collected, analysed and addressed under the UNCCD, and nor to the Parties’ inventory/monitoring activities under the CBD.

28. This suggests that the data collection processes underlying GHG inventories will be relevant to UNCCD Parties’ monitoring of DLDD. It is also possible that DLDD data and monitoring results may provide a portion of the national data included in the country’s GHG estimates, and general UNCCD/KP reporting elements, calling on non-Annex I countries to “identify the range of possible source and sink activities that exist in your country”, and to “establish priorities for inventory work” based on a number of factors including “priorities among various greenhouse gases”, “the relative importance of source and sink activities within the country” and “the availability of relevant information”. With regard to these issues, all three types of national reports will probably begin from basic information that in part overlaps, particularly at the level of initial collection and sharing of data and information.

2. Overlap relating to national policy issues as put forward in national plans

29. As illustrated in annex IV, all three reporting templates address national policy development in detail and relate to national planning processes. All three Rio Conventions have geared their reporting formats towards providing the necessary information relative to assessing implementation of their strategic plans. All three Conventions place strong emphasis on the development of national strategies for implementation, which take into account the specific situation of the country (national action programmes (NAPs) for the UNCCD, national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) for the CBD, and national adaptation plans of action, (NAPAs) for the UNFCCC).

30. It seems quite likely that detailed reporting on activities and achievements under planning instruments will overlap to some extent, particularly where they reflect the high level of interrelationship between DLDD, climate change and biodiversity. To the extent that the various national planning processes are integrated or coordinated, reporting on them should also be coordinated, to enhance national implementation activities, processes, plans and agencies. The potential to increase synergies at this level is recognized by Parties

³⁰ See for example the sectoral tables to be used in the GHG inventory process as put forward in the *revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories — Reporting Instructions* (volume 1).

³¹ UNFCCC deliberations and decisions include significant discussion of “Land use, land-use change and forestry” (LULUCF) and its relationship to removals, sinks and other elements of carbon storage. The GHG inventory appears to focus only on LUCF. This disaggregation key also breaks down into “Changes in Forests and other Woody Biomass Stocks” (including further quantitative breakdown, e.g. by type of forest, “Forest and Grassland Conversion”, “Abandonment of Managed Land”, “CO₂ Emissions and Removals from Soil” and “Other”).

of the UNCCD who in decision 13/COP.9 invited the JLG to provide technical assistance for the indicators relating to outcome 2.5, which envisages that “mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions”.

31. There are many strong incentives for the Rio Conventions to assess and coordinate the NAP, NAPA and NBSAP processes at national level.³² Collection and comparison of base data on policy and planning documents of each country, and coordination in how they are reported, could be a potentially valuable tool for enhancing national level coordination and eventually streamlining the reporting processes under all three Rio Conventions.

3. Overlap relating to reporting on synergies among the Rio Conventions

32. Each reporting framework calls for a discussion on synergies, which would appear to overlap. The most direct reporting on synergies occurs under UNCCD performance indicator CONS-O-7 for Outcome 2.5: “Number of initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio Conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation, at all levels”.

33. The CBD Parties are asked to “describe ... how synergies are achieved at the national level in the implementation of the CBD, the UNFCCC the UNCCD and other relevant conventions”³³ as well as to “[consider] integration ... in terms of: ... (c) other convention processes besides the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as the processes under the four other biodiversity-related conventions (CITES, Convention on Migratory Species, RAMSAR and the World Heritage Convention), the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD), and others”.³⁴

34. Although not specifying the Rio Conventions, the UNFCCC calls on non-Annex I Parties to address possible international/regional/subregional coordination activities, through the call to “provide information on any steps they have taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions”. National responses to these questions have also included significant information on synergies.

4. Overlap relating to funding and project activities

35. All three reporting frameworks include significant elements calling for description of funding and project activities.

36. Under the UNFCCC/KP non-Annex I communication process, technical/financial support to non-Annex I Parties is included in the chapter Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. In addition to generic questions, non-Annex I Parties are requested to “provide ... a list of projects proposed for financing ... in

³² For example, a core component of the CBD-UNCCD joint work programme on dry and sub-humid lands is “facilitation of the integration of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD with national action programmes (NAPs) under the UNCCD.” (Tyrell, 2007.) Similarly, an initiative between the UNFCCC and the UNCCD is seeking to take advantage of concrete opportunities in their implementation for the two Conventions jointly to address synergy action that can be implemented at the local level within their respective mandates in affected countries, especially the least developed countries, by establishing appropriate institutional arrangements and communication protocols with respect to the NAPAs and the NAPs.

³³ CBD Reporting Framework for 5th National Reports, Part II, Question 5.

³⁴ Chapter III — Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose. Q2.

preparation for arranging the provision of technical and financial support”, as well as “information on country-specific technology needs and assistance received from developed country Parties and the financial mechanism of the Convention and, as appropriate, on how they have utilized this assistance in support of the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities, technologies and know-how”.

37. In the CBD, financial and project information is not requested in national reports, but numerous countries have provided it under a specific request in chapter II (Current Status of NBSAPs) calling for “an overview of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or other programmes and plans developed and adopted to implement the Convention”, and “an indication of domestic and/or international funding dedicated to priority activities”. In early years, funding information from developed countries’ national reports was separately analysed.³⁵

38. UNCCD reporting against operational objective 5, Financing and technology transfer, calls for specific information, such as the “degree of adequacy, timeliness and predictability of financial resources made available by developed country Parties to combat DLDD”, the “number of DLDD-related project proposals successfully submitted for financing to international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF”, and the “amount of financial resources and type of incentives which have enabled access to technology by affected country Parties”. Furthermore, reporting against strategic objective 4: “To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors” shall be undertaken against seven impact indicators (SO4-1 to SO4-7), which are partially covered in the SFA and the project and programme sheet.³⁶

39. These specialized tools of the PRAIS portal may serve as a basis for development of a harmonized reporting system on financial issues for all three Rio Conventions. This process has been started with the development of the Rio markers by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in consultation with the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions and with the Global Mechanism (GM); the markers allow “to not only estimate the ODA [official development assistance] financial flows and identify trends, but can also serve as the basis for streamlining the reporting of the aid-related activities under the Rio Conventions by the Parties, thus ensuring provision of consistent data and avoiding double reporting”.³⁷

40. Another option for increasing synergies in reporting on financing is recognized in decision 13/COP.9 (paragraph 7), where the UNCCD Parties call on the JLG to “provide technical assistance for the indicators relating to ... impact indicator SO4-4”, which measures contributions from innovative sources of finance for UNCCD-related activities. Since the identification of innovative sources of finance are common to all three Rio

³⁵ CBD-GEF/WS-Financing/INF/2; see <www.cbd.int/financial/innovative.shtml>.

³⁶ Programme and project sheets (PPS) are used to provide more detailed information on programmes or projects undertaken or completed in the reporting period. All country Parties and other reporting entities involved in the financing, coordination or implementation of relevant programmes and projects are requested to prepare a PPS for each of them, and to attach them to their official report to the UNCCD. The purpose of the SFA is to consolidate information on resources mobilized by affected country Parties and their development partners under the framework of relevant strategies and action programmes. It facilitates the aggregation of data on financial commitments, financial flows and resources available by all relevant funding sources for activities relating to the implementation of the Convention. It also helps minimize double counting in financial statistics.

³⁷ 2004 joint letter of the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions to the Chairperson of the OECD/DAC.

Conventions, it is suggested that the JLG define and regularly update a list of innovative sources of funding.

D. Comparison of reporting cycles and schedules

41. Among the three Rio Conventions, reporting cycles, schedules and deadlines are relatively distinct and difficult to compare. Annex III shows that there has been almost no temporal link between reporting deadlines.

42. Under the UNCCD and the CBD, reporting schedules for each cycle are set by decisions of the COP,³⁸ whereas the reporting schedules for UNFCCC/KP non-Annex I reporting are different for every country, since each Party's initial/first national communication is due within three years following the year that the Convention entered into force for that country.

43. Furthermore reporting cycles of some Rio Conventions have a changing focus. CBD reporting is often tied to species/ecosystem issues, such as conservation status, utilization, sustainability and threats, and tends to be sectorally focused with different sectors emphasized in each report, whereas the second and third reporting cycles of the UNCCD have had a specific regional focus. Starting from the fourth reporting cycle, UNCCD reporting will be at a global level on performance indicators in 2011 and on impact indicators in 2012.

44. The flexibility of deadline-setting under the Rio Conventions, and the similar lengths of the Conventions' reporting cycles, suggest that alignment of reporting schedules may be one of the simplest mechanisms for promoting coordination among national reports, at least between the UNCCD and the CBD.³⁹ Although the intended added value of such an endeavour diminishes with increasing coordination and integration of information collection and data storage, the synchronization of reporting schedules among the three Conventions may nevertheless be particularly important in case the reporting frameworks of the three Rio Conventions may be linked. For example, reporting frameworks under the UNCCD or the CBD may involve the use of data or computations initially compiled for the reporting country's GHG inventory.

E. Comparison of the collation and analysis of submitted reports

45. The work of compiling, interpreting and reviewing submitted reports in the Rio Conventions follows similar paths. All three Conventions allow submissions by both electronic and conventional means. The reports are analysed by the secretariat supported by a subsidiary body or a working group. In addition, they all post national reports/communications electronically, to maximize the availability of reported information. However, the bodies involved and the final output of the analysis vary.

46. During the first national reporting of the UNCCD for COP 4 in 2000, an ad hoc working group was in charge to analyse and summarize the first national reports of all countries; reporting cycles were supported by the CRIC, which was established in 2001.⁴⁰ The analysis of the second and third reporting cycles had a regional focus, with CRIC 3

³⁸ UNCCD, article 22.2 (b); CBD, article 26.

³⁹ Government of Australia/SPREP, 2008; UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), 2009.

⁴⁰ Decision 1/COP.5. At COP 9, evaluation of submitted reports was specifically identified as one of the standing obligations of the CRIC (decision 11/COP.9).

focusing on Africa and CRIC 5 focusing on regions other than Africa. In accordance with The Strategy, analysis of the fourth reporting cycle will be undertaken for all regions in alignment with the five operational objectives, resulting in five analytical reports. In addition, information submitted via the PRAIS portal will be made available and analysis of best practices will be discussed.

47. Like the UNCCD, UNFCCC Parties submit their national communications to the UNFCCC secretariat, which makes them publicly available and synthesizes the most important information from submitted national communications in separate reports for Annex I and non-Annex I Parties, and then submits these reports to the subsidiary bodies and the COP for consideration. Each national communication of an Annex I Party is subject to an “in-depth” review conducted by an international team of experts and coordinated by the secretariat. National communications from non-Annex I Parties are not subject to such a review, but they are considered by the expert group set up by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to deal with issues relating to these communications.

48. For the first national reports, the Executive Secretary of the CBD was tasked with synthesizing national reports received and to submit the synthesis to the COP.⁴¹ Beginning with the second national reports, three different bodies undertook the analyses of the reports alongside the secretariat.⁴² In addition, the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WG-RI) met three times (in 2005, 2007 and 2010) utilizing reporting to give general guidance on the process of developing and revising the Strategic Plan of the Convention, with particular focus on the WSSD 2010 target. The primary utilization of national reports by the CBD has been the compilation of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. The fourth national report will be used to measure progress towards the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as to contribute to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. In addition, the CBD shares reported information and experience through the clearing-house mechanism (CHM),⁴³ which posts all national reports, coded where possible to facilitate on-line analysis and comparison of responses and to draw out particular similarities, differences and lessons.

F. Comparison of reporting entities and capacity-building

49. The UNCCD distinguishes between seven reporting entities comprising affected country Parties, developed country Parties, subregional and regional action programmes, United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations, the GEF, the secretariat and the GM.⁴⁴ In addition, CSOs are invited to report on best practices, and reporting guidelines for CSOs are under discussion. During CRIC 7, Parties made clear that enhancing reporting requirements and procedures “would need to go hand in hand with international support provided for capacity-building on monitoring”, leading the UNCCD secretariat to seek to provide such support through UNEP/the GEF, starting in 2010.⁴⁵ While the capacity development project gives emphasis to affected developing country Parties and their capacity needs at country level, the project delivers to all reporting entities

⁴¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/ II/17.

⁴² 2nd national reporting: the Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; 3rd national reporting: the Second Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention National Reports (WGRI-2); and 4th national reporting: Third Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-2).

⁴³ Publicly available at <www.cbd.int/information/>.

⁴⁴ <www.unccd.int/prais/docs/reporting%20entities.pdf>.

⁴⁵ ICCD/CRIC(7)/5.

the same reporting tools and technical services for uploading information onto the PRAIS portal.

50. The UNFCCC has two distinctive reporting entities. The required contents of national communications and the timetable for their submission are different for Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. Annex I Parties are required to submit information on their national inventories annually, and to submit national communications periodically, according to dates set by the COP, whereas after their initial communication, non-Annex I Parties have discretion as to when or whether to provide second, third and fourth national communications.

51. The relationship between capacity-building and reporting has been a particular issue of debate in the UNFCCC/KP. The GEF has developed specific funding mechanisms to support non-Annex I reporting and GHG inventories. There are no fixed dates for the submission of national communications of non-Annex I Parties, although these documents should be submitted within four years of the initial disbursement of financial resources to assist them in preparing their national communications.

52. Some non-Annex I Parties argue that non-Annex I Parties' reports, even if they contain competent GHG analyses, are not given the same weight as Annex I inventories. This controversy, coupled with the flexibility of non-Annex I reporting schedules, has led to a situation in which few non-Annex I Parties' communications have been submitted. To date, the UNFCCC/KP has received 166 national communications and out of these there were 137 initial national communications, 27 second national communications, and only one third and one fourth national communications. In comparison, it is noted that the UNCCD and the CBD have each received over 400 national reports. In this connection, the SBI⁴⁶ called on "non-Annex I Parties that have already received funding for their second or third national communications to make all efforts to submit their national communications".⁴⁷

53. For the CBD, all Parties to the Convention are obliged to do the reporting, making use of the reporting guidelines of the specific reporting cycle. Following the invitation of the eighth meeting of the COP to provide funding for the preparation of the fourth national reports,⁴⁸ the GEF made financial support available through a medium-sized project jointly managed by the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP for national assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, including the preparation of the fourth national reports. In addition to the common sets of guidelines, the CBD has devised an information portal to provide Parties with consolidated information resources and tools to assist with the preparation of the fourth national report. This portal will also serve to promote the 2010 Biodiversity Target assessment among CBD partners.

III. Options promoting increased synergies in reporting

54. A number of options to increase synergies in reporting have been tested and discussed, especially with a focus on the biodiversity-related conventions. The JLG has circulated an options paper specifically focusing on enhanced cooperation among the three

⁴⁶ SBI-30, June 2009.

⁴⁷ In 2002 A *Consultative Group of Experts on Non-Annex I National Communications* (CGE) was established (decision 8/CP.5), but has so far been unable to resolve open questions. The CGE mandate expired at COP 13 (December 2007), but was re-established by COP 15 (decision 5/CP.15), for three years from 2010 to 2012.

⁴⁸ Decision VIII/18.

Rio Conventions.⁴⁹ The JLG options paper identifies five options for enhancing synergy in reporting of the Rio Conventions: (a) the recognition and refinement of the common substance of reporting requirements, (b) the development of a common glossary to be used in the preparation and analysis of national reports of all three Conventions, (c) the development of formal programmes and mechanisms for sharing lessons learned in each Convention's reporting processes, (d) the development of mechanisms to facilitate useful access by all three Conventions and their bodies, Parties and focal points to information generated from national reports, and (e) the "implementation synergies" by coordinating the reporting processes of each country through action at the national and regional/subregional level. This chapter will look into the various options in order to discuss their applicability to the context of the Rio Conventions. The analysis will distinguish between options at national and at global level.

A. Refinement of the common substance of reporting requirements

55. The most radical option proposed to increase synergies in reporting of the Rio Conventions is the development of a joint reporting format. Other options which head in a similar direction include (a) the identification of common points, and integration into a unified "core report" (possibly with treaty-specific add-on reports addressing points that are not common to the three Conventions), and (b) the development of modular report components, unifying specific questions on particular sectors or subjects.⁵⁰ The applicability of these options differs according to the level of implementation (national, global or regional).

1. Global level

56. In general, it appears that complete integration of the reporting templates into a single unified template adopted at the global level would not provide a benefit. The review of reporting requirements under the Rio Conventions has discerned relatively little overlap among the three Conventions. In addition, the reporting templates are currently designed to fit the information needs from distinct reporting entities, not only between the Conventions but also within the Conventions.

57. With reference to experience of the Human Treaty System, the "core report" approach instead suggests that the Conventions develop, and agree on, a unified core report covering "basic" or "core" information required under all three Conventions, which would be supplemented by smaller treaty-specific reports that address the specific information needs of the Conventions. Since sustainable development is the major concern shared by the Rio Conventions, this suggests that a joint core report should be centred on the state and sustainable development of ecosystems.⁵¹ In addition, considering the above-discussed areas of overlap in reporting among the Rio Conventions, the areas of, funding and financing, reporting on synergy and planning could be also included in such a core report.

58. Considering that most recent guidelines and templates of the three Conventions do not require reiteration of any core information, but only request that Parties note significant changes or updates, it seems that the opportunity for the promotion of core report development has long passed. However, this process might find support, particularly when

⁴⁹ This report was presented before the UNCCD COP 7: (ICCD/COP(7)/5/Add.1), the UNFCCC SBSTA: (FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.19) and the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/7).

⁵⁰ WCMC, 2009, paragraph 17.

⁵¹ WCMC 2010.

reviewing the regional (and national) templates, and formally deciding whether to accept an integrated regional or national template as part of (or in lieu of) a report filed using their standard global template.⁵²

2. Regional level

59. Although there is little basis for integration of the reporting frameworks into a single unified template at the global level, it might be feasible in the regional context, as has been experienced by the Pacific Islands, where the creation of a single integrated reporting template was effective in combining specific reporting templates due at that time.⁵³

3. National level

60. At national level, modular reporting aimed at a more effective distribution of data gathering and reporting responsibilities among national-level agencies and individuals has been tested successfully in several case studies.⁵⁴ In this undertaking, the reporting templates of the Conventions can either remain entirely separate or be coordinated by the development of modular report components, unifying specific questions on particular sectors or subjects.⁵⁵

B. Common glossary or coordination of glossaries

Global level

61. The development of a common glossary or the coordination of glossaries for better cross-referencing is a critical precondition for any reporting-related synergy, since differing terminology might make it impossible for one Convention to use data and report responses gathered by another. As noted above, however, the three Conventions at present call for varying levels of precision with regard to report responses.

62. Although all three Conventions provide glossaries of relevant terms,⁵⁶ only the UNCCD directly links its glossary to reporting (via the PRAIS portal). Within its reporting process, the CBD focuses on broadening input, and as such allows each reporting Party to interpret the reporting terminology as it chooses. By contrast, the UNFCCC/KP includes many very specific reporting elements, such as the components of the GHG inventory. Although these terms must be addressed in a particular fashion, the UNFCCC/KP process clarifies each term's specific meaning through its guidelines, rather than relying on a glossary.

63. There is common understanding that the development and use of a common glossary may help in ensuring that reporting is comparable and also in maximizing the ability of all three Conventions to compare and coordinate reported information. An alternative approach is to aim at improved integration of glossaries through improved coordination. Coordinated glossaries might allow more unification or cooperation in the national data collection process, so that all reports could be based on the same underlying data.

⁵² Government of Australia/SPREP, 2008.

⁵³ Government of Australia/SPREP, 2008.

⁵⁴ Case study, Panama, Sept. 2002; case study, Seychelles, May 2002; case study, Ghana (undated); Cruz Sardiñas, T.D., 2001.

⁵⁵ Case study, Indonesia, July 2003.

⁵⁶ See <www.cbd.int/cepa/toolkit/2008/doc/CBD-Toolkit-Glossaries.pdf> and <unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php>, as well as the PRAIS portal.

C. National focal points coordination and process integration

64. At the national level, a closer look at the institutions in charge of national reporting shows potential to increase synergy effects through better coordination among the focal points and the various institutions involved. The analysis of institutions involved shows considerable overlap. As documented in annex I (a table depicting overlap between/among national focal points (NFPs)), 36 per cent of developing countries have designated all three Rio NFPs within the same ministry, and six per cent in the same agency.⁵⁷ Formal cooperative arrangements between relevant institutions are a recognized requirement for the achievement of synergies at the national level.⁵⁸ With regard to reporting harmonization, these arrangements should link the national institutions that collect and manage data and information necessary for reporting to the Rio Conventions.

65. Another key element to increase synergies of national-level reporting is the integration or harmonization of stakeholder consultations. Many national reports identify a large number of official and unofficial contributors to the reporting process, without specifying the extent or nature of such participation. Studies demonstrate that national reporting processes in all three Conventions increasingly emphasize participatory approaches, frequently calling on the same subset of agencies, other Conventions' NFPs, CSOs and, to a lesser extent, science and technology institutions, to provide input and commentary.

66. The most appropriate way to put national-level integration and streamlining into practice will depend on circumstances in each country, such as the institutional setting, the amount and accessibility of available data, and the financial and staff resources of focal points and data-collecting institutions.⁵⁹ Case studies indicate that, at minimum, efforts directed at NFP coordination have improved the quality of the peer review processes of each national report. In other instances, they have carried through to the development of joint information systems, modular systems, unified central oversight of all national reports, and other improvements to report quality and the intrinsic capacity-building inherent in participation in national reporting processes.

D. Joint information systems

1. Global level

67. The electronic tools of the three Conventions, such as the Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD, the PRAIS portal and the UNFCCC/KP website, provide open access to a large body of reports and other national information. The development of joint systems of information management would allow for a more efficient use of Convention resources, giving easier access to information. One way to do this could be the development

⁵⁷ This analysis provides only one indicative measure of overlap. In many countries ministerial briefs are regularly realigned, sometimes bringing the various NFPs under a single ministry or agency, at other times spreading them across a range of institutions. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2009. Often, national reporting to an MEA is undertaken by other persons (consultants or committees) rather than the country's NFP. Government of Australia/SPREP, 2008.

⁵⁸ A formal evaluation undertaken by FAO considering the roles of NFPs in eight developing countries confirms the general conclusion that focal point responsibilities are frequently not institutionally located in the same ministry or agency, and that inter-NFP coordination is an essential need in most countries. FAO, 2009. At 38-47, *et passim*.

⁵⁹ For a more detailed discussion of issues to be considered in developing cooperative arrangements, see <www.unep-wcmc.org/conventions/harmonisation/docs/Preconditions%20for%20harmonisation_UNEP-WCMC.pdf>.

of a joint information portal as promoted by the JLG, who in 2004 decided to “proceed with ... the [implementation of a] portal for accessing national communications and reports”, stressing that this work would focus on “the sharing of information and mutual learning, and would not involve the standardization of reporting or reporting formats”.⁶⁰ Another option pursued by the JLG is to make the existing portals, websites, databases and other tools of the Rio Conventions interoperable. At its fifth meeting the JLG reported that “technical specifications for connecting databases of the Conventions were published and a first test has been successfully made. Common up-to-date information on meetings and focal points related to all three Conventions should be available soon on the three respective websites”.⁶¹

2. National level

68. A precondition for more effective coordination of reporting at national level is the development of national-level mechanisms for better integration of data collection and data management, such as establishing electronic tools for the centralized collection and dissemination of data, information and other materials, or improved coordination of the existing information networks.

69. Several case studies provide examples of how a central information-collection system can effectively apportion the duty to collect information among many different agencies and officials and then through the establishment of a central database make the data accessible to all.⁶² The coordinated collection of reporting material and the centralized data storage also has the benefit that due to its inclusive consultative process it can draw together data that otherwise would not have been sourced during the consultation and reporting process. Furthermore such a process enables an enhanced peer review of data, by stimulating discussion and exchange among the various agencies involved.⁶³

70. Another option tested in other national case studies is the transformation of a country’s existing information network into a metadata “warehouse for modular national reporting”, integrating data and information held by various public and private institutions, agencies and individuals in their own records and databases.⁶⁴

E. The way forward

71. The level of action needed to implement the above-presented options varies. Options such as the recognition of unified or common-substance reports, the adoption of a common glossary and other formal collaboration will require coherent decisions from all three COPs as a first step towards reaching an agreement among the three Conventions. More practical actions, involving amendments to reporting mechanisms and adjustments to electronic portals and websites or improved coordination at national level, may not require COP decisions in all cases, but concerted assistance from the international community, and notably the GEF, for adequate capacity-building programmes.

⁶⁰ Report of JLG-5, 2004, available as FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.9, 8. Another major effort towards interoperability of biodiversity-related data is found in the current work of the Conservation Commons (<http://www.conservationcommons.net>).

⁶¹ JLG-6, 2005, 4 (g).

⁶² Case study, Panama, September 2002; case study, Seychelles, May 2002; case study, Ghana (undated); Cruz Sardiñas, T.D., 2001.

⁶³ Case study, Seychelles, May 2002.

⁶⁴ See, for example, discussion of Indonesia’s National Biodiversity Information Network (NBIN) (WCMC Case Study, Indonesia (July 2003)) and Panama’s National System for Environmental Information (SINIA) (WCMC Case Study, Panama (Sept. 2002)).

72. Developing and agreeing on the most adequate options for increasing synergies in reporting needs to involve formulating particular activities, and the role various stakeholders should play in their implementation. These activities should preferably be embedded in the establishment of a joint work programme of the Rio Conventions, such as the one discussed at CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010.⁶⁵ In order to ensure transparency and to make best use of existing expertise, consultations at multiple levels involving key stakeholders of all three Rio Conventions should be envisaged.

73. Initially, some type of agreement would be needed under which the Conventions commit to assessing further the value of various data and information-sharing, portal-sharing and/or template-streamlining activities. There are various scenarios in this regard, including establishing a collaborative task force. The JLG or EMG could facilitate an informal forum on collaborative technical analyses of these options and their effectiveness.

74. Often the most effective communication and cooperation between MEAs has occurred at the level of subsidiary bodies, working groups or other task teams. Each of the three Conventions has separate rules and procedures determining how responsibilities are shared among their various bodies. In the UNFCCC/KP, responsibilities relating to national communications are divided among the SBI, the SBSTA and other working groups. Reporting issues in the CBD are allocated to numerous bodies,⁶⁶ while in the UNCCD the CRIC is mandated to deal with reporting matters. Before direct work on specific reporting activities can begin among the three Conventions, it may be necessary for each Convention's COP to delegate the collaborative task to a particular subsidiary body or working group. Proposals for collaborative work at the level of subsidiary bodies of the Rio Conventions should be submitted directly to the COPs, who should be invited to identify which of their subsidiary bodies should take the lead on their behalf.

75. Another option may be to consider the establishment of an ad hoc intergovernmental panel, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the IPCC. It might be easier, however, to build on these panels rather than establishing additional consultation mechanisms.

76. Once the initial work has been done and one or more specific options to increase synergies have been tentatively agreed, a more formal agreement is needed, by which the Conventions commit to particular activities to enhance national reporting, such as the development of a joint portal or the use of electronic protocols for interoperability.

77. Since a formal agreement would need the approval of all three COPs, synchronized and cross-referenced negotiation on how to increase synergies should be conducted. The most recent example of this has been the development of formal coordination among the three "chemicals conventions" (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm).⁶⁷ When considering concrete circumstances for finding this formal agreement, the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012 seems to be a good setting.

⁶⁵ UNEP/CBD/COP/10/23.

⁶⁶ See discussion in chapter II.E. Comparison of the Collation and Analysis of Submitted Reports.

⁶⁷ The Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in a joint extraordinary COP agreed with UNEP to undertake many collaborative measures, including the appointment of a coordination officer. (Environmental Policy and Law, vol. 40, pages 56–61). UNEP is currently spearheading an international process focused on "global environmental governance". Inter-MEA coordination may be a key objective for that process.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

78. The Rio Conventions have shown strong commitment to improving collaboration in reporting, and their reporting systems are evolving. In the short term this suggests that it may be difficult to agree on options to increase synergies lasting beyond the current reporting cycles. In the long term, however, it indicates that any agreement by the three COPs to pursue synergies in reporting, albeit difficult, can be integrated gradually, ultimately increasing the level of collaboration, particularly in relation to the development and use of indicators and consistent glossaries. The ongoing iterative process of the UNCCD with respect to indicators might thus gain the benefits of a “three-Convention view.”

79. To further advance along this route, a collaborative task force might be established to investigate further the value of various information-sharing, portal-sharing and/or template-streamlining activities, which have been suggested by the option paper of the JLG and discussed in more detail in this document.

80. Based on the analysis of the reporting requirements of the Rio Conventions, this report comes to the preliminary conclusion that general harmonization of reporting (in the form of a unified reporting template or agreement on a single set of indicators or coordinated indicator sets) is not a practicable option, since there are only a few comprehensively overlapping areas of reporting. Most of the overlaps in information needs depend on the country-specific situation, while there are many Convention-specific elements not relevant to the other Rio Conventions. The development of a core report or of modular report components seem to be more feasible options in this regard. In some areas of reporting, the development of common indicators might be considered, for example the use of Rio markers or reporting against a list of innovative sources of funding.

81. The shared interest in systematizing reporting suggests that there is a strong basis for collaboration on the development of tools for information sharing and joint data management, as well as other tools for streamlined reporting such as the development of a common glossary or the alignment of time schedules for the reporting cycles.

82. Enhancing synergies at the national level turns out to be the most effective, practical and feasible option, since it does not require lengthy procedures at international level, seeking an agreement among the three COPs. Pending completion of these steps at the international level, at the national-level synergies can be developed and implemented by improving and streamlining report preparation, even if the three reports remain separate. Methodologies for reporting harmonization at national level might include streamlining and broadening a country’s information collection processes through mechanisms such as developing a single-source portal for the provision of report-related information and/or by coordinating meetings and processes designed to maximize stakeholder participation in national reports. These developments at national level can be supported by COP decisions calling for training and capacity-building.

83. In the light of the discussion on the critical relationship between capacity-building and reporting for successful implementation of enhanced synergies in

reporting, coordinated and coherent support to developing national capacities in reporting should be considered.⁶⁸ Eventually, the provision of joint capacity-building initiatives might not only help to improve coordination at national level and to decrease the reporting burden, but at the same time might allow a more efficient use of resources, including the GEF allocations for enabling activities in the various focal areas. The provision of similar amounts of funding enabling activities for all three Conventions would, however, be indispensable in order to make this possible.

B. Recommendations

84. CRIC 9 may wish to initiate consultations on concrete options to enhance synergies in reporting, and to consider:

(a) Recommending Parties and involved stakeholders to develop national-level mechanisms for enhanced coordination of reporting, through formalization of information-sharing processes and building institutional linkages between the ministries responsible for implementation of each Convention, as well as maximization of stakeholder interaction and active participatory processes;

(b) Exploring the feasibility of establishing an intergovernmental working group on synergies in reporting, involving NFPs and representatives from the three Conventions, to address the range of options to increase synergies (including unification of reporting templates, identification of particular elements to form a core report or reporting modules, creation of a shared reporting portal, devising a common glossary, and so on and to produce concrete proposals for action;

(c) Requesting the secretariat to assess potential capacity-development needs, along the lines of the options put forward by the working group, and to formulate a programme to meet the needs of a number of target countries wishing to develop national mechanisms to facilitate achieving increased synergies in reporting;

(d) Inviting developed country Parties and financial institutions, including the GEF, to provide technical and financial support for joint capacity-building initiatives aimed at achieving increased synergies in reporting at national level;

(e) Encouraging the Executive Secretary to continue promoting synergies in reporting through the JLG and the EMG, as appropriate;

(f) Inviting the JLG to promote the development and use of common terms and definitions, and to continue in its efforts to make interoperable the existing portals, websites, databases and other communications tools of the Rio Conventions.

85. The CRIC may also wish to take account of the information and the options to increase synergies in reporting contained in the present document, and ensuing consultations on this matter, with a view to reporting to COP 10 on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, as requested by decision 8/COP.9.

⁶⁸ See chapter II.F Comparison of reporting entities and capacity-building.

Annex I

Overlap between/among national focal points

1. The following table compares countries which have designated focal points (NFPs) for some or all of the Rio Conventions and which are required to submit all of the following:

- National reports to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as affected Parties,
- National communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as non-Annex I Parties
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) national reports

Table
Considering the institutional relationships among national focal points

<i>Total number of developing countries</i>			
<i>Parties to all three Rio Conventions which have designated at least one NFP</i>		151	
<i>Level of shared relationship</i>	<i>Focal points in same ministry (excluding diplomatic ministries)^a</i>	<i>Focal points in same agency</i>	<i>Same individual named as NFP (excluding diplomatic designees and Ministers)^a</i>
<i>All 3 Rio Conventions</i>	55	8	2
<i>Shared only by UNCCD + UNFCCC</i>	5	6	5
<i>Shared only by UNCCD + CBD</i>	21	14	2
<i>Shared only by UNFCCC + CBD</i>	27	5	1
<i>No apparent institutional relationship between NFPs</i>	23		

^a A number of countries have designated a diplomatic ministry or officer (Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ambassador, etc.) as NFP for one or more Convention. Such a designation serves multiple purposes, e.g. it allows the country to delay designation of the responsible ministry, agency or official until more is known about the Convention.

2. The above comparison is only indicative. It is hoped that it provides an indication of the differing national situations regarding focal point responsibilities to the three Rio Conventions. It is based on a combination of desk comparison, personal knowledge and contact with countries.

3. Many countries reorganize (and rename) ministries on a periodic basis and so designations on MEA websites may not be up to date. Where the names given appear to be substantively similar, they are assumed to refer to the same ministry or agency. Where the individual names given differ, but their specific titles are identical, then it is assumed that the same individual is the NFP.

4. Many countries list multiple NFPs. The UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol (KP) maintains two lists of NFPs (overall focal points and focal points for Article 6 (Education, Training and Public Awareness)), while the CBD maintains lists of seven different types of NFP (including Primary NFPs, NFPs to its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, NFPs to the clearing-house mechanism, NFPs on access and benefit-sharing, NFPs to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, NFPs to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and NFPs to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.) Several countries list more than one focal point in each category. This comparison considers all named NFPs in determining whether there is crossover between/among them.

5. In many countries, the national report is not necessarily prepared by the country's NFP. Not all national reports and national communications identify the report's primary author and/or overseer.

Annex II

Comparison of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification impact indicators with the Convention on Biological Diversity global headline indicators

A. Comparison of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification impact indicators with the Convention on Biological Diversity global headline indicators¹

	<i>UNCCD impact indicators</i>	<i>CLOSEST EQUIVALENT from CBD global headline indicators</i>			
	Indicator	National level	Global level	Focal area	Indicator
Objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations	Core indicator S-1: Decrease in the number of people negatively impacted by the process of desertification/land degradation and drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Water availability per capita in affected areas • II Change in land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Water availability per capita in affected areas 	Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages Other indicator of the status of indigenous and traditional knowledge*
	Core indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III Proportion of population in affected areas living above the poverty line 	Status of resource transfers	Indicator of technology transfer*
	Core indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV Childhood malnutrition and/or food consumption/calorie intake per capita in affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V The Human Development Index as defined by UNDP 		

¹ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has not adopted any indicators of global or national impacts.

Indicator	National level	Global level	Focal area	Indicator
Core indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • II Change in land use • VI Level of land degradation (salinization, water and wind erosion, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IX Land cover status 	Status and trends of the components of biological diversity	Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats
Core indicator S-5: Increases in net primary productivity in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VII Plant and animal biodiversity • VIII The aridity index • IX Land cover status 			Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Objective 2: To improve the condition of ecosystems				Coverage of protected areas
			Sustainable use	Change in status of threatened species
				Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance
			Threats to biodiversity	Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources* Ecological footprint and related concepts* Nitrogen deposition Trends in invasive alien species

	Indicator	National level	Global level	Focal area	Indicator
Objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD				Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services	Marine Trophic Index Water quality of freshwater ecosystems Trophic integrity of other ecosystems* Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems Incidence of human-induced ecosystem failure* Health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services* Biodiversity for food and medicine*
	Core indicator S-6: Increases in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VII Plant and animal biodiversity • III Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line 	Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and Practices	Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
	Core indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X Carbon stocks above and below ground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XI Land under SLM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XI Land under SLM 	Status of access and benefit-sharing Other indicator of the status of indigenous and traditional knowledge* Indicator of access and benefit-sharing*

UNCCD impact indicators

CLOSEST EQUIVALENT from CBD global headline indicators

Indicator	National level	Global level	Focal area	Indicator
			Status of resource transfers	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) provisional impact indicators appear to be closer in level and substance to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) global provisional headline indicators

* Indicator topics that, although included in the list of global headline indicators, have been specifically withheld from trial use, and formally declared to be in need of further work. All other indicators have been declared “ready for immediate testing and use” (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/15).

B. Comparison of performance level indicators^{2,3}

<i>UNCCD Performance indicators</i>		<i>UNFCCC -SBSTA - EGTT - Addressing TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER only</i>			
Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective	
UNCCD Operational objective 1: "Advocacy, awareness raising and education", including outcomes 1.1-1.3	CONS-O-1	Number and size of information events organized on the subject of DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity, and audience reached by media addressing DLDD and DLDD synergies	PI-TI-02**	National communications containing information on technology transfer activities	"To make available information through national communications"
	CONS-O-2	Number of official documents and decisions at international, regional and subregional levels relating to DLDD issues	PI-EE-10	Degree of disclosure and transparency in the approval process	"To explore transparent and efficient approval procedures"
	CONS-O-3	Number of CSOs and science and technology institutions participating in the Convention processes	PI-TNA-05**	Synthesis report on technology needs	"To consider the synthesis report"
	CONS-O-4	Number and type of DLDD-related initiatives by CSOs and science and technology institutions in the field of education	PI-MECH-02**	Report on cooperation between the Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements	NA, but the sub-theme is labelled "Possible ways and means to enhance cooperation with relevant conventions and intergovernmental processes"
			PI-MECH-03	Report on references to objectives of other multilateral environmental agreements	NA, but the sub-theme is labelled "Possible ways and means to enhance cooperation with relevant conventions and intergovernmental processes"

² The CBD has not adopted any performance-level indicators.

³ The UNFCCC/Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Expert Committee on Technology Transfer initially identified these 40 indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the technology transfer framework. The indicators have been grouped under the five key themes of the framework; the sixth group would be used to assess trends in financial flows for technology transfer.

UNCCD Performance indicators		UNFCCC -SBSTA - EGTT - Addressing TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER only			
Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective	
UNCCD Operational objective 2: Policy framework outcomes 2.1-2.5	CONS-O-5	Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities to have finalized the formulation/ revisions of NAPs/SRAPs/ RAPs aligned to The Strategy, taking into account biophysical and socio-economic information, national planning and policies and integration into investment frameworks.	PI-TNA-04**	Published TNAs completed or updated	“To make available information on TNAs”
	CONS-O-6	Number of partnership agreements established within the framework of the Convention between developed country Parties/United Nations and IGOs and affected country Parties	PI-EE-12**	Percentage of participation in partnerships	“To cooperate closely with public and private partnerships”
	CONS-O-7	Number of initiative for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio Conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation at all levels	PI-TNA-06 PI-EE-01**	Technologies from TNAs implemented Performance against World Bank governance indicators	“To implement the results of technology needs (identified in TNAs)” “To enhance legal systems (including those related to trade and intellectual property rights)”

Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective
CONS-O-8	Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities to have established and supported a national/subregional/regional monitoring system for DLDD	PI-MECH-05**	Report on guidance for reporting on joint R&D needs	NA, but the sub-theme is labelled 'Promotion of collaborative research and development on technologies'
CONS-O-9	Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities reporting to the Convention along revised reporting guidelines on the basis of agreed indicators	PI-TNA-04**	Published TNAs completed or updated	"To make available information on TNAs"
		PI-TI-02 **	National communications containing information on technology transfer activities	"To make information available through national communications"
CONS-O-10	Number of revised NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity	PI-EE-07**	Mention of transfer of EST in NSDS	"To integrate technology transfer into national policies"
		PI-EE-04	Bilateral and multilateral programmes that have helped developing countries develop and implement regulations for promoting ESTs	"To strengthen regulatory frameworks"
CONS-O-11	Type, number and users of DLDD-relevant knowledge-sharing systems at the global, regional, subregional and national levels described on the Convention website	PI-CB-04	National and regional institutions operating as centres of excellence for the development and transfer of technologies	"To establish or strengthen capacity for the development and transfer of technologies in institutions of developing country Parties"
CONS-O-12	Number of science and technology networks, institutions or scientists engaged in research mandated by the COP	PI-TI-03**	Information on maintaining, updating and developing TT:CLEAR	"To maintain, update and further develop TT:CLEAR"

UNCCD operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge, outcomes 3.1–3.6.

Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective
UNCCD Operational objective 4: Capacity-building; including outcomes 4.1-4.2	CONS-O-13 Number of countries, subregional and regional reporting entities engaged in building capacity to combat DLDD on the basis of NCSA or other methodologies and instruments	PI-TI-04**	Technology information centres and networks connected to TT:CLEAR	“To network with technology information centres”
		PI-TI-05**	Users of TT:CLEAR from developing countries	“To increase the number of users (of TT:CLEAR)”
		PI-TNA-02**	Programmes/projects for capacity-building on TNAs	“To build capacity” “
		PI-EE-02**	Volume of joint R&D opportunities	“To promote joint research and development “
		PI-TI-01**	Training programmes and workshops for building capacity in technology information	“To build capacity”
		PI-CB-03	Participants and experts in training programmes for the development and transfer of technologies	“To provide training on ESTs in developing country Parties’ and ‘to develop and implement standards and regulations for ESTs”
		PI-EE-11**	Studies that explore barriers, good practices and recommendations for ESTs	“To prepare technical studies on developing enhanced enabling environments”
		PI-CB-02	Report on needs and priorities for capacity-building	“To report on capacity-building needs and experiences of developing country Parties relating to the development, deployment, diffusion and transfer of technologies”

Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective	
UNCCD Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer, including outcomes 5.1–5.5	CONS-O-14	Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities whose investment frameworks, established within the IFS devised by the GM or within other integrated financing strategies, reflect leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources for combating desertification and land degradation	PI-MECH-04	Barriers to and good experiences in the development of endogenous technologies	NA, but the sub-theme is labelled “Promotion of endogenous development of technology through the provision of financial resources and joint research and development”
	CONS-O-15	Amount of financial resources made available by developed country Parties to combat DLDD	PI-CB-01**	Financial resources for capacity-building	“To implement or support capacity-building activities for the development and transfer of technologies in developing countries”
			PI-EE-08**	Rating of investment climate according to World Bank business indicators	“To create an environment conducive to investment”
	CONS-O-16	Degree of adequacy, timelines and predictability of financial resources made available by developed country Parties to combat DLDD	PI-TNA-03**	Targeted [assistance to] non-Annex I Parties through financial support	“To build capacity”
	CONS-O-17	Number of DLDD-related project proposals successfully submitted for financing to international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF	PI-EE-03	Presence of clear policy guidelines to recipients of public funding on how to move from R&D to commercialization of ESTs	“To promote transfer of publicly-owned technologies”
	CONS-O-18	Amount of financial resources and type of incentives which have enabled access to technology by affected country Parties.	PI-MECH-01	Innovative public–private financing mechanisms and instruments	NA, but the sub-theme is labelled “Innovative options for financing the development and transfer of technologies”
PI-EE-09			Percentage of government procurement budget allocated to ESTs	“To explore preferential government procurement”	

Indicator number	Indicator name	Code (ID)	Performance indicator name (in short)	Related synthesized objective
		PI-TNA-01**	Financial resources for TNAs	“ To provide resources”
		PI-EE-05	Presence of tax preferences and incentives on imports/exports of ESTs	“To utilize tax preferences”
		PI-EE-06	Volume of export credits	“To utilize tax preferences”
		PI-FIN-01	Total global mitigation technologies	NA
		PI-FIN-02	Total global adaptation technologies	NA
		PI-FIN-03	Convention financial mechanisms	NA
		PI-FIN-04	Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms	NA
		PI-FIN-05	Bilateral sources	NA
		PI-FIN-06	National sources	NA
		PI-FIN-07	Multilateral sources	NA
		PI-FIN-08	Private sources	NA

** Indicators that do not involve any input from Parties.

Annex III

Reporting schedules

<i>Year</i>	<i>UNCCD Reporting</i>	<i>CBD Reporting Deadlines as Originally set by COP</i>	<i>UNFCCC National Communications</i>
2014		Fifth National Report deadline (31 March 2014)	
2013			For each non-Annex I country, the deadline for submission of initial national communication is three years from the Convention's entry into force in that country, except where a lack of capacity prevents completion of the report.
2012			
2011			
2010	UNCCD Fourth National Report deadline (12 November 2010)		
2009		Fourth National Report deadline (30 March 2009)	Second, third, and fourth national communications from non-Annex I countries are not mandatory.
2008			
2007	Third National Report deadline (other regions)	Note: From 2000–2004, CBD Parties were also encouraged to submit eight "thematic reports" (on alien species, access and benefit-sharing, forest ecosystems, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, mountain ecosystems, protected areas, and technology transfer and cooperation, and including a voluntary report on expanded work programme for forests).	
2006			
2005	Third National Report deadline (Africa only)		
2004			
2003			
2002	Second National Report deadline (30 April 2002)		
2001			Second National Report original deadline (15 May 2001)
2000			
1999	First National Report deadline (31 May 1999)		
1998		First National Report original deadline (15 May 1998)	

Annex IV

Reporting formats of the three Conventions: overlaps, duplications, gaps and inefficiencies¹

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Operational Objective 1: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

Performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) elements on operational objective 1	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 1	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report elements most relevant to operational objective 1
<p>1.1.1 Performance indicator CONS-O-1 for outcome 1.1: Number and size of information events organized on the subject of DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity, and audience reached by media addressing DLDD and DLDD synergies</p>	<p>Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. C. Education, training and public awareness. Q45: In this section, Parties are invited to provide information on activities relating to climate change education, training and public awareness.</p>	<p>Part I. An update on biodiversity status, trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q2: Why is biodiversity important for your country? Highlight contributions of biodiversity and related ecosystem services to human well-being and socio-economic development.</p>

¹ The high level of difference among the three Conventions in terms of their reporting approach has made side-by-side comparison of these documents extremely difficult. The following table attempts to group the reporting elements of each Convention in terms of the most relevant UNCCD operational objective. It graphically documents the various reporting elements. The IPCC Guidance was not copied below, owing to its scientific detail. It can be found in three volumes at <<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gl/invs6.html>> In utilizing the following table, it has not been possible to determine comparative needs, given that both the UNCCD and CBD have structured their current reporting cycle to address perceived information needs, and UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol (KP) work on national communications by non-Annex I Parties is currently in a state of flux.

Performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) elements on operational objective 1	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 1	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report elements most relevant to operational objective 1
Performance indicator CONS-O-3 for outcome 1.3: Number of CSOs and science and technology institutions participating in the Convention processes.	Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. E. information and networking. Q48: In this section, Parties are encouraged to provide information on their efforts to promote information sharing among and within countries and regions, for example information related to participation in and contribution to networks, and access to, and use of, information technologies for information exchange.	Part II. The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, its implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q10: How effectively has biodiversity been mainstreamed? ...
1.1.3 Performance indicator CONS-O-4 for Outcome 1.3: Number and type of DLDD-related initiatives of CSOs and science and technology institutions in the field of education	<p>Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. C. Education, training and public awareness. Q45. Non-Annex I Parties are invited to provide information on activities relating to climate change education, training and public awareness.</p> <p>Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. E. Information and networking. Q48. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on their efforts to promote information sharing among and within countries and regions. Information could cover, as appropriate, participation in and contribution to networks, and access to, and use of, information technologies for information exchange.</p>	<p>Appendix II. Further sources of information [This appendix often includes information relevant to UNCCD operational objective 1.]</p> <p>Appendix III. National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues [This appendix may also include information relevant to UNCCD operational objective 1, depending on national circumstances.]</p>

Performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) elements on operational objective 1	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 1	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) report elements most relevant to operational objective 1
		<p>From Guidance for 4th national reports, page 7</p> <p>(1) For the purposes of communicating to stakeholders at various levels, Parties are invited to prepare an executive summary ... that provides an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Overall status and trends in biodiversity, and major threats; (b) Key actions taken in support of the Convention's three objectives and to achieve the 2010 target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; (c) Areas where national implementation has been most effective or most lacking; (d) Major obstacles encountered in implementation; (e) Future priorities.

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2	UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2	CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2
<p>1.2.1 Performance indicator CONS-O-5 for outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3: Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities to have finalized the formulation/revision of NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs aligned to The</p>	<p>Part II. National circumstances, Q3: Non-Annex I Parties should provide a description of their national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, on the basis of which they will address climate change and its adverse impacts. This description may include information on features of</p>	<p>Part II. The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity, Q10: Describe also how synergies are achieved at the national level in the implementation of the CBD, the UNFCCC, the UNCCD and other relevant conventions.</p>

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

Strategy, taking into account biophysical and socio-economic information, national planning and policies, and integration into investment frameworks.

1.2.2 Performance indicator CONS-O-7 for outcome 2.5. Number of initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio Conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation, at all levels.

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

their geography, climate and economy which may affect their ability to deal with mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as information regarding their specific needs and concerns arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, as contained in Article 4, paragraph 8, and, as appropriate, in Article 4, paragraphs 9 and 10, of the Convention.

Part II. National circumstances. Q4: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide a summary of relevant information regarding their national circumstances, as appropriate, in tabular form.

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part II. The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q8: How has your national biodiversity strategy and action plan been updated to incorporate [nationally set] targets [Part III, Q7] and to serve as an effective instrument to mainstream biodiversity? ...

Part II, The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q10: ... Describe how biodiversity is reflected in: Poverty Reduction Strategies and other key cross-cutting policy instruments, and in the various economic sectors. (Which sectors (and ministries) integrate biodiversity well and which do not)? Describe also how biodiversity is integrated into planning mechanisms. Which tools are used (e.g. the Ecosystem Approach, biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment)? ...

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. Q25: Each non-Annex I Party shall, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 1 (b), communicate to the Conference of the Parties a general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention, taking into account its common but differentiated responsibilities and its specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances.

Chapter II. Current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans: Purpose (1): In this chapter, Parties are requested to provide an overview of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or other programmes and plans developed and adopted to implement the Convention in line with the requirements of Article 6 (a) of the Convention. The chapter should provide a succinct account of existing strategies and actions that Parties have decided to implement, and information on the extent to which these actions have been implemented. The chapter should assess the effectiveness of the strategy, and also identify obstacles encountered in implementation with a view to overcoming them....

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. Q26: Non-Annex I Parties may provide information on programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, following the provisions in these guidelines.

Chapter II - Current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans: Purpose
(2) In this chapter, Parties are requested to provide:
 (a) A brief description of the NBSAP, identifying the main or priority activities; (b) An indication of whether and where targets and indicators (both global and national) adopted under the Convention have been incorporated into NBSAPs; (c) Information on how activities under the NBSAP contribute to the implementation of the articles of the Convention and the thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues adopted under the Convention; (d) An overview of progress made in implementation of priority activities or actions, focusing on concrete results achieved; (e) An indication of domestic and/or international funding dedicated to priority activities; (f) A review of successes and obstacles encountered in implementation and lessons learned; (g) An analysis of the effectiveness of NBSAPs, focusing on: (i) Whether observed changes in status and trends in biodiversity (as described in chapter I) are a result of measures taken to implement NBSAPs and the Convention;

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. Q28: Each Party shall, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 1 (b) and (c), of the Convention, provide to the COP information on the general descriptions of steps taken or envisaged towards formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, and any other information they consider to be relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in their communications.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. Q29: In doing so, non-Annex I Parties should provide information on their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change, and on adaptation measures being taken to meet their specific needs and concerns arising from these adverse effects.

(ii) Whether the current NBSAP is adequate to address the threats to biodiversity identified in chapter I; (iii) How implementation of NBSAPs may be improved, where necessary, including suggestions of possible ways and means to overcome identified obstacles; (h) The specific information requested in COP 8 decisions (see a list of these requests contained in Annex I of the guidelines).

Chapter II. Current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans: Purpose (3) Parties that have not yet completed their NBSAPs or related strategies and plans are still requested to report on relevant activities, according to the headings in paragraph (2) above, as appropriate. In addition, such Parties should report on: (a) The status of development of NBSAPs or other related strategies and plans; (b) Obstacles to completing NBSAPs and ways to overcome them.

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 1. Methodological approaches. Q30: Non-Annex I Parties may use appropriate methodologies and guidelines they consider better able to reflect their national situation for assessing their vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, provided that these methodologies and guidelines are consistent, transparent and well documented.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 1. Methodological approaches. Q31: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to use, for the evaluation of adaptation strategies and measures, appropriate methodologies they consider better able to reflect their national situation, provided that these methodologies are consistent, transparent and well documented.

Suggested approach

- Link the information provided in this chapter to that provided in chapter I, where relevant, and also to chapter III, given that mainstreaming of biodiversity is an essential part of NBSAPs.
- Make use of the information already submitted to assist with the review of implementation of NBSAPs, incorporating such information into this report along with any necessary updates. Accordingly, Parties may wish to refer to the guidelines for review of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (contained in the annex to COP decision VIII/8) in preparing this chapter.
- Consider relevant activities implemented by all stakeholders and at all levels of government.
- Highlight a few case studies or success stories on implementation of NBSAPs.

Chapter III. Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose (1): In this chapter, Parties should describe their efforts to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies as required by Article 6 (b) of the Convention. Clearly, achieving the objectives of the Convention, and in particular the 2010 target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, will be impossible without engaging the main sectors and key actors that have impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

A. Transfer of technologies. Q41: With a view to facilitating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development programmes, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to provide information on any steps they have taken to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1 (f), of the Convention.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 2.

Reporting. Q32: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on the scope of their vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including identification of the most critically vulnerable areas.

Chapter III. Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose (2):

For the purpose of this report, integration should be considered in terms of: (a) Sectors other than the environment, such as agriculture, education, health, rural development, forestry, fishery, mining, tourism, finance, trade and industry; (b) Other national and subnational strategies and programmes, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national plans for achieving Millennium Development Goals, national sustainable development plans, national action programmes to combat desertification, and others; (c) Convention processes other than those of the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as the processes under the four other biodiversity-related conventions (CITES, Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar and the World Heritage Convention), the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD), and others.

Chapter III. Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose (3):

In this chapter, all Parties are requested to provide: (a) A description of the extent to which biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans (with reference to elements contained in paragraph 2 above), providing concrete examples; (b) A description of the process(es) by which biodiversity has been integrated into these sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans.

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 2.

Reporting. Q33: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to include a description of approaches, methodologies and tools used, including scenarios for the assessment of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, as well as any uncertainties inherent in these methodologies.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 2.

Reporting. Q34: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on their vulnerability to the impacts of, and their adaptation to, climate change in key vulnerable areas. Information should include key findings, and direct and indirect effects arising from climate change, allowing for an integrated analysis of the country's vulnerability to climate change.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A. Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 2.

Reporting. Q35: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on and, to the extent possible, an evaluation of, strategies and measures for adapting to climate change, in key areas, including those which are of the highest priority.

Chapter III. Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose (4):

In addition, Parties that are donor countries are requested to provide information on how biodiversity has been taken into account in programmes of overseas development assistance (ODA), scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer. This may include South-South cooperation. Particular reference should be given to support for mainstreaming biodiversity into various sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, including national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

Appendix II. Further sources of information

[Appendix II may also include information relevant to UNCCD operational objective 2.]

Appendix III. National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions related to cross-cutting issues.

[Appendix III may also include information relevant to UNCCD operational objective 2, depending on national situation and conditions.]

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. A.

Programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. 2.

Reporting. Q36. Where relevant, Parties may report on the use of policy frameworks, such as national adaptation programmes, plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. B.

Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. Q37:

Each Party shall, in accordance with Article 12, paragraphs 1 (b) and (c) of the Convention, provide to the COP information on the general descriptions of steps taken or envisaged for formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and any other information they consider to be relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in their communications.

The reporting elements on general implementation are included under this objective, including overall descriptions of national programmes

PRAIS elements on operational objective 2

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 2

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 2

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. B. Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. 1. Methodological approaches. Q38: Based on national circumstances, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to use whatever methods are available and appropriate in order to formulate and prioritize programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change; this should be done within the framework of sustainable development objectives, which should include social, economic and environmental factors.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. B. Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. 1. Methodological approaches. Q39: In their assessment of these programmes on various sectors of the economy, non-Annex I Parties may use the appropriate technical resources.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. B. Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. 2. Reporting. Q40: Based on national circumstances, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide, to the extent their capacities allow, information on programmes and measures implemented or planned which contribute to mitigating climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including, as appropriate, relevant information by key sectors on methodologies, scenarios, results, measures and institutional arrangements.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3	UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3	CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3
1.3.1. Performance indicator CONS-O-8 for outcomes 3.1 and 3.2: Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities to have established and supported a national/subregional/regional monitoring system for DLDD.	Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention. B. Research and systematic observation. Q43: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on climate change research and systematic observation, including their participation in and contribution to activities and programmes, as appropriate, of national, regional and global research networks and observing systems.	Part I: An update on biodiversity status, trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. [from 5th NR guidelines: Part I should focus on identifying changes in biodiversity since the fourth report was prepared (or changes that have become known since that time), the causes of these changes, and the consequences for ecosystem services and human well-being. Detailed descriptions of biodiversity would not be necessary, especially as these have generally been provided in the fourth national reports.]
1.3.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-9 for outcome 3.1 and 3.2: Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities reporting to the Convention along revised reporting guidelines on the basis of agreed indicators	Part III. National greenhouse gas inventory. Q6: Each non-Annex I Party shall, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1 (a), and Article 12, paragraph 1(a) of the Convention, communicate to the Conference of the Parties a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, following the provisions in these guidelines.	Part III: Progress towards the 2020 Biodiversity targets and contributions to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Drawing on the information presented in parts I and II, Parties are requested in this chapter to, inter alia, analyse progress towards the targets and mission of the Strategic Plan 2011–2020 as well as related national targets, analyse the contribution of actions taken to implement the Convention towards the Millennium Development Goals and the 2015 targets, and highlight lessons learned and suggestions on how to further enhance implementation and the achievement of the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

Impact indicator selected for inclusion in national reports (2011–2012) Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line (Reporting on this impact indicator to begin in 2012.)

Impact indicator selected for inclusion in national reports (2011–2012) Land cover status (Reporting on this impact indicator to begin in 2012.)

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III. National greenhouse gas inventory. Q7: Non-Annex I Parties shall estimate national GHG inventories for the year 1994 for the initial national communication or alternatively may provide data for the year 1990. For the second national communication, non-Annex I Parties shall estimate national GHG inventories for the year 2000. The least developed country Parties could estimate their national GHG inventories for years at their discretion.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart A. Methodologies. Q8: Non-Annex I Parties should use the Revised 1996 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, hereinafter referred to as the IPCC Guidelines, for estimating and reporting their national GHG inventories. The IPCC Guidelines in three volumes are available online at <http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gl/invs1.html>. Step-by-step computational guidelines are included in Volume 2 of the Guidelines.

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

(b) Overview of status of biodiversity;
(c) Trends (i.e. changes in status, providing data in time series if available);
(d) Main threats to biodiversity (drivers or causes of changes);
(e) Implications of changes on human well-being. Major biomes or ecosystem types to consider might include: agricultural ecosystems, forests, inland waters, marine and coastal areas, dry and sub-humid lands, islands, and mountain ecosystems.

Part I: An update on biodiversity status, trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Purpose (1): Parties are requested, inter alia, to provide an overview on changes in the status and trends of the country's biodiversity since the last report in terms of ecosystems, habitats, species and, where such information is available, genetic diversity, as well as on the importance of the country's biodiversity and related ecosystem services for human well-being and socio-economic development, providing estimates of economic value where possible. Further, impacts of actions under the Convention on the status and trends of biodiversity are to be described, as well as main threats to biodiversity by main biomes and/or components of biodiversity, their underlying causes, and the relation to the relevant economic sectors; finally, implications of observed changes in biodiversity and associated changes in ecosystem services for human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction and other socio-economic and cultural values, should be formulated, as well as plausible future scenarios for changes in biodiversity and their impact.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3	UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3	CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3
<p>1.3.3. Performance indicator CONS-O-10 for outcome 3.3 and 3.4: Number of revised NAPs/SRAPs/RAPs reflecting knowledge of DLDD drivers and their interactions, and of the interaction of DLDD with climate change and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart A. Methodologies. Q9: In accordance with the IPCC Guidelines, Parties may use different methods (tiers) included in the Guidelines, giving priority to those methods, which are believed to produce the most accurate estimates, depending on national circumstances and the availability of data. As encouraged by the IPCC Guidelines, Parties can also use national methodologies where they consider these to be better able to reflect their national situation, provided that these methodologies are consistent, transparent and well documented.</p>	<p>In NR5, parties are expected to emphasise changes since NR4. Suggested approach: In structuring their narrative response, Parties are invited to begin the chapter by giving an overall picture of biodiversity status, trends and threats in their country. Following this summary, Parties could adopt a biome-by-biome format, reporting the following information for each biome, as appropriate:</p>
<p>1.3.4. Performance indicator CONS-O-11 for outcome 3.5: Type, number and users of DLDD-relevant knowledge-sharing systems at the global, regional, subregional and national levels described on the Convention website.</p>	<p>Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart A. Methodologies Q10. The IPCC Guidelines offer a default methodology which includes default emission factors and in some cases default activity data. As these default factors, data and assumptions may not always be appropriate for specific national circumstances, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to use their country-specific and regional emission factors and activity data for key sources or, where these do not exist, to propose plans to develop them in a scientifically sound and consistent manner, provided that they are more accurate than the default data and documented transparently. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to formulate cost-effective national or regional programmes aiming at the development or improvement of country-specific or regional emissions factors and activity data.</p>	<p>Part I. Q2: What major changes have taken place in the status and trends of biodiversity in your country? Focus on changes that have occurred, or that have become known, since the fourth national report was prepared. The analysis or synthesis should provide a succinct overview of biodiversity status, trends and threats sufficient to inform decision makers, rather than an exhaustive assessment of these issues. There is no need to repeat detailed descriptions of your country's biodiversity that were provided in the fourth or previous national reports. Where possible, use quantitative indicators (with technical details of the indicators provided in an annex). Also draw upon expert qualitative assessments. Illustrate trends with charts, graphs, figures and tables.</p>

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III. National greenhouse gas inventory. A. Methodologies. Q11: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to apply the IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (hereinafter referred to as the IPCC Good Practice Guidance), taking into account the need to improve transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy in inventories.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart A. Methodologies Q12. Non-Annex I Parties are also encouraged, as far as possible, to undertake any key source analysis as indicated in the IPCC Good Practice Guidance to assist in developing inventories that better reflect their national circumstances.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q14. Each non-Annex I Party shall, as appropriate and as far as possible, provide in its national inventory, on a gas-by-gas basis and in units of mass, estimates of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) by sources and removals by sinks.

Part I. Q3: Are the positive changes in the status and trends of biodiversity a result of actions taken to implement the Convention? Where possible, analyse how actions taken (i.e. actions described in chapter II) have resulted in changes in biodiversity. Use case studies to illustrate general points. The case studies should demonstrate significant reductions in the loss of biodiversity (or a specific component) within a defined scale, and a clear rationale of how this is linked to the actions taken. The case will be most useful if it contains lessons that are more widely applicable.

Part I. Q4: What are the main threats to biodiversity? (Or, what are the main causes of the negative changes described in the answer to question 2?). For the main biomes and/or components of biodiversity, describe the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss (pressures) and link them back to the main indirect drivers (underlying causes) and relate these to the relevant economic sectors. Be specific about the direct drivers (e.g. “dynamite fishing”, “coastal development”), but also categorize them (habitat change, climate change, overexploitation, invasive species, pollution).

Part I Q5: What are the impacts of the changes in biodiversity for ecosystem services and the socio-economic and cultural implications of these impacts? Describe the impacts of declining biodiversity and ecosystems on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction etc. Consider all relevant and significant ecosystem goods and services.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q15. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to provide information on anthropogenic emissions by sources of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Part I Q6: What are possible future changes for biodiversity and their impacts? Describe plausible future scenarios for biodiversity in terms of underlying causes, pressures, impacts on biodiversity and implications for human well-being. For example, compare what might happen under “business as usual” policies with what might happen with greater investment in biodiversity and ecosystems. Such scenarios may be model-based, narrative-based or both.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q16. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to report on anthropogenic emission by sources of other greenhouse gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs).

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. This part should answer the following questions:

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q17. Other gases included in the IPCC Guidelines, but not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, such as sulphur oxides (SO_x), may be included at the discretion of Parties.

Q7: What are the biodiversity targets set by your country? Describe the measurable targets (for example, for 2020) that have been developed in line with the Convention’s Strategic Plan 2011–2020.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q18. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, to the extent possible, and if disaggregated data are available, to estimate and report CO₂ fuel combustion emissions using both the sectoral and the reference approaches, and to explain any large differences between the two approaches.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. Subpart B. Reporting Q19. Non-Annex I Parties should, to the extent possible, and if disaggregated data are available, to report emissions from international aviation and marine bunker fuels separately in their inventories. Emission estimates from these sources should not be included in the national totals.

Q8: [excerpt included above] ...Describe: how the actions contained therein will achieve the targets outlined in the answer to question 6; how they will contribute to the achievement of the Convention's new Strategic Plan; how they will address the threats to biodiversity identified in the answer to question four; and how they addresses the guidance provided in CBD decision IX/8. Describe in particular how the NBSAP will achieve the integration of biodiversity considerations into broader national plans, programmes and policies, economic and social sectors and levels of government.

Q9: What actions has your country taken to implement the Convention since the fourth report and what have been the outcomes of these actions? Describe relevant legislation, policies, institutional and cooperative mechanisms, and funding. Where relevant, link these actions to outcomes in terms of the status and trends of biodiversity and implications for human well-being. Use case studies and, as appropriate, cross-reference to the answer to question three. Indicate how the actions relate to the various programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. (with details provided in appendix III) Note that if your NBSAP has been recently updated, most of the actions reported may relate to the previous version.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. B. Reporting Q20. Non-Annex I Parties wishing to report on aggregated GHG emissions and removals expressed in CO₂ equivalents should use the global warming potentials (GWP) provided by the IPCC in its Second Assessment Report (“1995 IPCC GWP Values”) based on the effects of GHGs over a 100-year time horizon.

Q10: How effectively has biodiversity been mainstreamed? Describe how biodiversity is reflected in: Poverty Reduction Strategies and other key cross-cutting policy instruments, and into the various economic sectors (which sectors (and ministries) integrate biodiversity well and which do not?). Describe also how biodiversity is integrated into planning mechanisms. Which tools are used (e.g. the ecosystem approach, biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment)? Describe also how synergies are achieved at the national level in the implementation of the CBD, the UNFCCC the UNCCD and other relevant conventions.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. B. Reporting Q21. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on methodologies used in the estimation of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including a brief explanation of the sources of emission factors and activity data. If non-Annex I Parties estimate anthropogenic emissions and removals from country-specific sources and/or sinks which are not part of the IPCC Guidelines, they should explicitly describe the source and/or sink categories, methodologies, emission factors and activity data used in their estimation of emissions, as appropriate. Parties are encouraged to identify areas where data may be further improved in future communications through capacity-building.

Q11. How fully has your NBSAP been implemented? Analyse the extent to which the NBSAP has been implemented. For example, what proportion of the planned activities have been carried out and to what extent have the objectives been met? Identify the remaining challenges for implementation. (Note that if your NBSAP has been recently updated, this analysis will relate primarily to the previous version of the NBSAP.)

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory.

B. Reporting Q22. Each non-Annex I Party is encouraged to use tables 1 and 2 of these guidelines in reporting its national GHG inventory, taking into account the provisions established in paragraphs 14 to 17 above. In preparing those tables, Parties should strive to present information, which is as complete as possible. Where numerical data are not provided, Parties should use the notation keys as indicated.

Part III National greenhouse gas inventory.

B. Reporting Q24. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on the level of uncertainty associated with inventory data and their underlying assumptions, and to describe the methodologies used, if any, for estimating these uncertainties.

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. Q26: Non-Annex I Parties may provide information on programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, following the provisions in these guidelines.

Part III: Progress towards the 2020 Biodiversity targets and contributions to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals. This part should draw upon Parts I and II to answer the following questions:

Q12: What progress has been made by your country towards the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan and its 2020 targets? Drawing upon information in Parts I and II, analyse the progress towards each of the 2020 targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan as well as the overall mission of the Plan. Also indicate progress towards the national targets referred to in the answer to question seven. Where possible, use quantitative indicators (with technical details of the indicators provided in an annex). Also draw upon expert qualitative assessments. You may wish to use a simple "traffic-light" scheme or similar device to give an overall assessment of progress.

Q13: What has been the contribution of actions to implement the Convention towards the achievement of the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals in your country? Drawing upon information in Parts I and II, analyse the contribution of the actions taken to implement the Convention, and the outcomes in terms of biodiversity protection and the maintenance of ecosystem services towards each of the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals as well as to the overall goals themselves.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention, Q27.

Taking into account Article 4, paragraph 7 and, as appropriate, Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 5, of the Convention, the extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitment to communicate this information will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention relating to financial resources and transfer of technology.

Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

A. Transfer of technologies. Q42. Pursuant to decision 4/CP.7, its annex, and the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5 of the Convention, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, in the light of their social and economic conditions, to provide information on activities relating to the transfer of, and access to, ESTs and know-how, the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities, technologies and know-how, and measures relating to enhancing the enabling environment for the development and transfer of technologies.

Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

B. Research and systematic observation. Q44. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on research relating to programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change, programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, and the development of emission factors and activity data.

Q14: What lessons have been learned from the implementation of the Convention in your country? Provide an analysis of lessons learned from implementation, highlighting examples of successful and less successful actions taken. Also, provide suggestions for actions that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to enhance implementation of the Convention further at the national level and, in particular, to achieve the strategic goals and targets of the updated Strategic Plan

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. [From 5th NR guidelines: Part I should focus on identifying changes in biodiversity since the fourth report was prepared (or changes that have become known since that time), the causes of these changes, and the consequences for ecosystem services and human well-being. Detailed descriptions of biodiversity would not be necessary, especially as these have generally been provided in the fourth national reports.]

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Chapter I - Overview of biodiversity status, trends and threats. Purpose (1): In this chapter, Parties are requested, inter alia, to provide an overview on changes in the status and trends of the country's biodiversity since the last report in terms of ecosystems, habitats, species, and, where such information is available, genetic diversity, as well as on the importance of the country's biodiversity and related ecosystem services for human well-being and socio-economic development, providing estimates of economic value where possible. Further, impacts of actions under the Convention on the status and trends of biodiversity are to be described, as well as main threats to biodiversity by main biomes and/or components of biodiversity, their underlying causes, and the relation to the relevant economic sectors; finally, implications of observed changes in biodiversity and associated changes in ecosystem services for human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction and other socio-economic and cultural values, should be described, as well as plausible future scenarios for changes in biodiversity and their impacts. In NR5, parties are expected to emphasize changes since NR4.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q2: What major changes have taken place in the status and trends of biodiversity in your country? Focus on changes that have occurred, or that have become known, since the fourth national report was prepared. The analysis or synthesis should provide a succinct overview of biodiversity status, trends and threats sufficient to inform decision makers, rather than an exhaustive assessment of these issues. There is no need to repeat detailed descriptions of your country's biodiversity that were provided in the fourth or previous national reports. Where possible, use quantitative indicators (with technical details of the indicators provided in an annex). Also draw upon expert qualitative assessments. Illustrate trends with charts, graphs, figures and tables.

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q3: Are the positive changes in the status and trends of biodiversity a result of actions taken to implement the Convention? Where possible, analyse how actions taken (i.e. actions described in chapter II) have resulted in changes in biodiversity. Use case studies to illustrate general points. The case studies should demonstrate significant reductions in the loss of biodiversity (or a specific component) within a defined scale, and a clear rationale of how this is linked to the actions taken. The case will be most useful if it contains lessons that are more widely applicable.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q4: What are the main threats to biodiversity? (Or, what are the main causes of the negative changes described in the answer to question two?). For the main biomes and/or components of biodiversity, describe the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss (pressures) and link them back to the main indirect drivers (underlying causes) and relate these to the relevant economic sectors. Be specific about the direct drivers (e.g. “dynamite fishing”, “coastal development”), but also categorize them (habitat change, climate change, overexploitation, invasive species, pollution).

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q5: What are the impacts of the changes in biodiversity for ecosystem services and the socio-economic and cultural implications of these impacts? Describe the impacts of declining biodiversity and ecosystems on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc. Consider all relevant and significant ecosystem goods and services.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part I: An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q6: What are possible future changes to biodiversity and their impacts? Describe plausible future scenarios of biodiversity in terms of underlying causes, pressures, impacts on biodiversity and implications for human well-being. For example compare what might happen under “business as usual” policies with what might happen with greater investment in biodiversity and ecosystems. Such scenarios may be model-based, narrative-based, or both.

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q7: What are the biodiversity targets set by your country? Describe the measurable targets (for example, for 2020) that have been developed in line with the Convention’s Strategic Plan 2011–2020.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q8: ... [excerpt included above] ... Describe: how the actions contained therein will achieve the targets outlined in the answer to question 6; how they will contribute to the achievement of the Convention's new Strategic Plan; how they will address the threats to biodiversity identified in the answer to question four; and how they address the guidance provided in CBD decision IX/8. Describe in particular how the NBSAP will achieve the integration of biodiversity considerations into broader national plans, programmes and policies, economic and social sectors and levels of government.

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q9: What actions has your country taken to implement the Convention since the fourth report and what have been the outcomes of these actions? Describe relevant legislation, policies, institutional and cooperative mechanisms, and funding. Where relevant, link these actions to outcomes in terms of the status and trends of biodiversity and the implications for human well-being. Use case studies and, as appropriate cross-reference to the answer to question three. Indicate how the actions relate to the various programmes of work and cross-cutting issues of the Convention. (with details provided in appendix III). Note that if your NBSAP has been recently updated, most of the actions reported may relate to the previous version.

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q10: How effectively has biodiversity been mainstreamed? Describe how biodiversity is reflected in Poverty Reduction Strategies and other key cross-cutting policy instruments, and in the various economic sectors. (Which sectors (and ministries) integrate biodiversity well and which do not?). Describe also how biodiversity is integrated into planning mechanisms. Which tools are used (e.g. the ecosystem approach, biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment)? Describe also how synergies are achieved at the national level in the implementation of the CBD, the UNFCCC the UNCCD and other relevant conventions.

Part II: Q11: How fully has your NBSAP been implemented? Analyse the extent to which the NBSAP has been implemented. For example, what proportion of the planned activities has been carried out, and to what extent have the objectives been met? Identify the remaining challenges for implementation. (Note that if your NBSAP has been recently updated, this analysis will relate primarily to the previous version.)

Part III: Progress towards the 2020 Biodiversity targets and contributions to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals. This part should draw upon parts I and II to answer the following questions:

(For the purposes of this table, operational objective 3 is presumed to include technical reporting on geophysical conditions, GHG emissions, and biological and taxonomic issues)

PRAIS elements on operational objective 3

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 3

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 3

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q12: What progress has been made by your country towards the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan and its 2020 targets? Drawing upon information in Parts I and II, analyse the progress towards each of the 2020 targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan as well as the overall mission of the Plan. Also indicate progress towards the national targets referred to in the answer to question seven. Where possible, use quantitative indicators (with technical details of the indicators provided in an annex). Also draw upon expert qualitative assessments. You may wish to use a simple "traffic-light" scheme or similar device to give an overall assessment of progress.

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q13: What has been the contribution of actions to implement the Convention towards the achievement of the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals in your country? Drawing upon information in parts I and II, analyse the contribution of the actions taken to implement the Convention, and the outcomes in terms of biodiversity protection, and the maintenance of ecosystem services towards each of the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals as well as to the overall goals themselves.

UNCCD report elements on operational objective 4

1.4.1. Performance indicator CONS-O-13 for outcomes 4.1 and 4.2:

Number of countries, subregional and regional reporting entities engaged in building capacity to combat DLDD on the basis of NCSA or other methodologies and instruments.

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 4

Part V. Other information considered relevant to achievement of the objective of the Convention.
B. Research and systematic observation. Q43: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on climate change research and systematic observation, including their participation in and contribution to activities and programmes, as appropriate, of national, regional and global research networks and observing systems.

Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention.
D. Capacity-building. Q46: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide, in accordance with decision 2/CP.7, information on how capacity-building activities, as contained in the framework annexed to that decision, are being implemented at national and, where appropriate, at subregional and/or regional levels. This could include, inter alia, options and priorities for capacity-building, participation in and promotion of South–South cooperation, the involvement of stakeholders in capacity-building, coordination and sustainability of capacity-building activities, and the dissemination and sharing of information on capacity-building activities.

Part V. Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention.
D. Capacity-building. Q47: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to include, as appropriate, information on national, subregional and/or regional capacity-building activities for integrating adaptation to climate change into medium and long-term planning.

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 4

Appendix II: Further sources of information. Parties should provide sources of information on national implementation, such as website addresses, publications, databases and national reports submitted to other related conventions, forums and organizations. [This appendix may include information relevant to UNCCD objective 4.]

Appendix III: National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could use a table or matrix to highlight how national actions taken to implement the NBSAP, mainstreaming and the 2020 targets have contributed or are contributing to goals, targets and activities suggested in the thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could focus on those thematic areas and cross-cutting issues that are nationally relevant and important. [This appendix may include information relevant to UNCCD objective 4.]

UNCCD report elements on operational objective 4**UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 4****CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 4**

Part VI. Constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q49: Non-Annex I Parties should, in accordance with national circumstances and development priorities, describe any constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs, associated with the implementation of activities, measures and programmes envisaged under the Convention, and with the preparation and improvement of national communications on a continuous basis. Also they should describe proposed and/or implemented activities for overcoming the gaps and constraints.

Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q53: Non-Annex I Parties may include information on opportunities for the implementation of adaptation measures being undertaken or proposed, including pilot and/or demonstration adaptation projects. They may also provide information on barriers to the implementation of adaptation measures. They may include, as appropriate, information on how support programmes from Parties included in Annex II to the Convention are meeting their specific needs and concerns relating to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q55: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on other relevant needs and/or areas for capacity-building other than those mentioned in paragraphs 45, 47, 48 and 50.

UNCCD report elements on [?] operational objective 5	UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 5	CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 5
<p>1.5.1. Performance indicator CONS-O-14 for outcome 5.1: Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities whose investment frameworks, established within the IFS devised by the GM or within other integrated financing strategies, reflect leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources for combating desertification and land degradation.</p>	<p>Part IV. General description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention. B. Programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. 2. Reporting. Q40: Based on national circumstances, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide, to the extent their capacities allow, information on programmes and measures implemented or planned which contribute to mitigating climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including, as appropriate, relevant information by key sectors on methodologies, scenarios, results, measures and institutional arrangements.</p>	<p>Part I. An update on biodiversity status and trends, and threats and implications for human well-being. Q1 ... Where possible provide estimates of economic value (in monetary terms, or for example in numbers of people supported). Also highlight a few examples of exceptional biodiversity and ecosystems in the country.</p>
<p>1.5.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-16 for outcome 5.2: Degree of adequacy, timeliness and predictability of financial resources made available by developed country Parties to combat DLDD.</p>	<p>Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q49: Non-Annex I Parties should, in accordance with national circumstances and development priorities, describe any constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs, as well as proposed and/or implemented activities for over-coming the gaps and constraints, associated with the implementation of activities, measures and programmes envisaged under the Convention, and with the preparation and improvement of national communications on a continuous basis.</p>	<p>Appendix II: Further sources of information. Parties should provide sources of information on national implementation, such as website addresses, publications, databases and national reports submitted to other related conventions, forums and organizations. [This appendix may include information relevant to UNCCD objective 5.]</p>

UNCCD report elements on [?] operational objective 5	UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 5	CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 5
<p>1.5.3. Performance indicator CONS-O-17 for outcome 5.3. Number of DLDD-related project proposals successfully submitted for financing to international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF.</p>	<p>Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q50: Non-Annex I Parties should provide information on financial resources and technical support for the preparation of their national communications provided by themselves, as well as those received from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Annex II Parties or bilateral and multilateral institutions.</p>	<p>Appendix III: National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could use a table or matrix to highlight how national actions taken to implement the NBSAP, mainstreaming and the 2020 targets have contributed or are contributing to goals, targets and activities suggested in the thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could focus on those thematic areas and cross-cutting issues that are nationally relevant and important. [This appendix may include information relevant to UNCCD objective 5.]</p>
<p>1.5.4. Performance indicator CONS-O-18 for outcome 5.5: Amount of financial resources and type of incentives which have enabled access to technology by affected country Parties.</p>	<p>Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q51: Non-Annex I Parties should also provide information on financial resources and technical support provided by themselves and by the GEF, Annex II Parties or bilateral and multilateral institutions, for activities relating to climate change.</p>	
	<p>Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q52: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide, to the extent their capacities permit, a list of projects proposed for financing, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention, in preparation for arranging the provision of technical and financial support.</p>	

UNCCD report elements on [?] operational objective 5

UNFCCC non-Annex I national communication: elements most relevant to operational objective 5

CBD report elements most relevant to operational objective 5

Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q54: With regard to the development and transfer of technology, non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on country-specific technology needs and assistance received from developed country Parties and the financial mechanism of the Convention, and, as appropriate, on how they have utilized this assistance in support of the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities, technologies and know-how.

Part VI. Constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs. Q55: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on other relevant needs and/or areas for capacity-building other than those mentioned in paragraphs 45, 47, 48 and 50.

UNCCD reporting elements under Additional Information
4.1. Reporting and process-related issues
4.2 Accommodation of specific requests within COP decisions

Impact indicator to be reported in 2011-2012: Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line.

Impact indicator to be reported in 2011–2012:

Land cover status.

4.3 Reporting on the implementation of the NAP (1. Which is the percentage of activities included in the NAP that are currently implemented? What activities included in the NAP are currently being implemented?)

4.3.2 Human Resources
4.3.3 Financial Resources

UNFCCC non-Annex-1 national communication: elements most relevant to additional Information under UNCCD reporting
CBD report elements most relevant to Additional Information under UNCCD reporting

Appendix II: Further sources of information. Parties should provide sources of information on national implementation, such as website addresses, publications, databases and national reports submitted to other related conventions, forums and organizations.

Appendix III: National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could use a table or matrix to highlight how national actions taken to implement the NBSAP, mainstreaming and the 2020 targets have contributed, or are contributing, to goals, targets and activities suggested in the thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could focus on those thematic areas and cross-cutting issues that are nationally relevant and important.

Additional information

UNCCD reporting elements under Additional Information

UNFCCC non-Annex-1 national communication: elements most relevant to additional Information under UNCCD reporting

CBD report elements most relevant to Additional Information under UNCCD reporting

4.4 Any other country-specific issues

Best practices

According to decision 13/COP. 9, Annex V, UNCCD best practices shall be collected according to seven themes: 1. SLM technologies, including adaptation; 2. Capacity building and awareness raising; 3. DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research; 4. Knowledge management and decision support; 5. Policy, legislative, institutional framework; 6. Funding/resource mobilization; 7. Participation, collaboration and networking.

Part II: The national biodiversity strategies and action plan, its implementation, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity. Q14: What lessons have been learned from the implementation of the Convention in your country? Provide an analysis of lessons learned from implementation, highlighting examples of successful and less successful actions taken. Also provide suggestions for actions that need to be taken at the national, regional and global levels to further enhance implementation of the Convention at the national level and, in particular, to achieve the strategic goals and targets of the updated Strategic Plan.

Chapter III: Sectoral and cross-sectoral integration or mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Purpose (3): ... providing concrete examples; (b) A description of the process(es) by which biodiversity has been integrated into these sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans. This should include a description of measures taken by relevant government departments, levels of government (from national to local) and other stakeholders for achieving the objectives of the Convention, including: (i) Mechanisms or arrangements put in place to ensure that implementation of these strategies and plans will avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity or contribute to the objectives of the Convention; and (ii) The use of any positive incentives and removal of perverse incentives; (c) A description of whether and how the ecosystem approach has been adopted and employed in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes; (d) Information concerning the extent to which biodiversity is included in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments undertaken at various levels; (e) An analysis of the outcomes achieved through implementation of these measures, in particular in terms of observed changes in the status and trends of important biodiversity components, and the extent to which these measures contribute to the implementation of NBSAPs.

While themes 2 to 7 represent different elements of the enabling environment needed for the implementation and dissemination/upscaling of sustainable land management (SLM) technologies (indirect impact), theme 1 comprises all actions on the ground that have a direct impact on desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation. ... Successful implementation of SLM technologies is the base for achieving strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Theme 1 also integrates five of the strategic areas defined by decision 8/COP.4, namely: (a) sustainable land use management, including water, soil and vegetation in affected areas; (b) sustainable use and management of rangelands; (c) development of sustainable agricultural and ranching production systems; (d) development of new and renewable energy sources; and (e) launching of reforestation/afforestation programmes/intensification of soil conservation programmes.

Chapter II: Current status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Purpose (1): In this chapter, Parties are requested to provide an overview of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, or other programmes and plans developed and adopted to implement the Convention in line with the requirements of Article 6 (a) of the Convention. ... The chapter should assess the effectiveness of The Strategy, and also identify obstacles encountered in implementation with a view to overcoming them. The experiences described in this chapter should assist Parties, and the Conference of the Parties, to plan for more effective implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

UNCCD Report element	UNFCCC Information on report preparation	CBD Information on report preparation
(a) Name, title and description of entity submitting report [“General information (contact data of the reporting entity)”]	Part II, National circumstances. Q5: Non-Annex I Parties may provide on a continuous basis a description of existing institutional arrangements relevant to the preparation of their national communications.	Appendix I: Information concerning reporting Party and preparation of national report. (Corroboration: Please provide information on the process used to prepare this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.)
PRAIS Element 4.1 Reporting process-related issues	Part III National greenhouse gas inventory. B. Reporting Q13: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to describe procedures and arrangements undertaken to collect and archive data for the preparation of national GHG inventories, as well as efforts to make this a continuous process, including information on the roles? of the institutions involved. Part III.A. Q14: Each non-Annex I Party shall, as appropriate and to the extent possible, provide in its national inventory, on a gas-by-gas basis and in units of mass, estimates of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄) and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O) by sources and removals by sinks. Part III.A. Q15: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to provide information on anthropogenic emissions by sources of hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆)	From 4th National Report guidelines: (10) In the fourth national report, Parties are requested to report on their national implementation of the Convention primarily in narrative form. For each chapter in the guidelines, information that should appear in the narrative response is listed under “Information Requested”. In considering how to present this information, Parties may wish to follow the suggestions provided under “Suggested Approach”. From 4th National Report guidelines: (11) In addition, Parties are encouraged to complement narrative reporting with any tables, figures or graphics that might help support or better communicate the information presented. Parties are encouraged to provide substantive information in concise form. The length of the fourth national report is expected to be at least 40 and no more than 100 pages, including appendices I to IV. If the report must exceed this limit, Parties are encouraged to append additional information as supplementary material. From 4th National Report guidelines: (12) Parties are requested to adhere to the main chapter headings for their reports, even though the structure of each individual chapter is flexible. In cases where there are overlaps in the information provided within and among chapters or sections, Parties are encouraged to make cross-references in order to avoid repetition.

UNCCD Report element	UNFCCC Information on report preparation	CBD Information on report preparation
	<p>Part III. National greenhouse gas inventory. B. Reporting. Q23: Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to include in their national communications the inventory sectoral tables and worksheets 1 of the IPCC, in both electronic format and hard copy.</p> <p>Part VII. Submission. Q56: The information provided in accordance with these guidelines shall be communicated by each non-Annex I Party to the COP in a single document, with an executive summary outlining the information contained in the full document, in both electronic format and hard copy format.</p>	<p>From 4th National Report guidelines: (13) In chapters II and III, Parties should incorporate the information already submitted to assist with the review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans requested in COP decision VIII/8, with updates provided where necessary.</p> <p>From 4th National Report guidelines: (14) Supporting tools will be developed to assist Parties in preparing their fourth national reports, including a guide, an online support facility and a sample report. It is envisaged that the first versions of these tools will be provided through the clearing-house mechanism in the course of 2007.</p> <p>From 4th National Report guidelines: (19) The preparation of national reports is an important opportunity for communicating achievements in meeting the Convention objectives to the general public and involving them in national implementation. To this end, in addition to involving stakeholders in the preparation of national reports, it is particularly important for Parties, after having submitted their national report, to communicate to the general public the positive outcomes for biodiversity identified in the report, and the obstacles and challenges that remain. Various means of communication could be used, including: publicly launching national reports on International Biodiversity Day, making national reports accessible to a wider audience through national clearing-house mechanisms or other media, and developing and disseminating byproducts of national reports.</p>

*Instructions, objectives and scope***UNCCD Instructions, objectives and scope**

Decision 13.9, Attachment, paragraph 16. Reports should be as concise as possible in order to facilitate their review. They should be structured as follows, taking into account the various reporting responsibilities of the reporting entities.

Decision 13.9, Attachment, paragraph 18. Reports shall be communicated to the secretariat in one of the official languages of the United Nations.

UNFCCC Note: Provisions regarding report contents are not expressed in mandatory terms

Part I Introduction. A. Objectives. Q1: The principal objectives of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) shall be:

(a) To assist non-Annex I Parties in meeting their reporting requirements under the Convention; (b) To encourage the presentation of information in a consistent, transparent and comparable, as well as flexible, manner, taking into account specific national circumstances; (c) To facilitate the presentation of information on support required for the preparation and improvement of national communications from non-Annex I Parties; (d) To serve as policy guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism for the timely provision of financial support needed by developing country Parties in order to meet the agreed full costs of complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, as referred to in decisions 11/CP.2, 2/CP.4, 2/CP.7 and 6/CP.7; (e) To ensure that the Conference of the Parties (COP) has sufficient information to carry out its responsibility for assessing the implementation of the Convention by Parties.

CBD

1. Parties are encouraged to provide quantitative information and data obtained over time (in time series), where available, to illustrate changes in the status and trends of biodiversity. The use of indicators, where available, is recommended. In addition, Parties may wish to draw upon and cross-reference existing national and/or international assessments of biodiversity, updating the information provided in these assessments where necessary.

(4th NR guidelines, Part I.3.) The fourth national reports should: (a) Enable Parties to assess and facilitate national implementation of the three objectives of the Convention by: (i) Providing an accessible overview of national status and trends of biodiversity and identifying the main threats to biodiversity; (ii) Assessing implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); (iii) Reviewing progress towards the 2010 target and the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan; (iv) Identifying needs and future priorities for implementation; (v) Communicating with various stakeholders and involving them in implementation.

UNCCD Instructions, objectives and scope

3. Report on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 (DLDD profile) *(not to be dealt with in fourth national reports, with future reporting being by affected country Parties only)*

(Corroboration: The impact indicators for strategic objective 4, their baselines, reporting attributions and targets, and the means of collecting information on them are set out in annex II to this decision.)

UNFCCC Note: Provisions regarding report contents are not expressed in mandatory terms

Part I Introduction. B. Scope. Q.2: As stated in Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the national communication shall include the following information: (f) A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent the country's capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties; (g) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the non-Annex I Party to implement the Convention; (h) Any other information that the non-Annex I Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculation of global emission trends.

Part II. National circumstances, Q4. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide a summary of relevant information regarding their national circumstances, as appropriate, in tabular form.

Part VII Submission: Q56. The information provided in accordance with these guidelines shall be communicated by each non-Annex I Party to the COP in a single document, with an executive summary outlining the information contained in the full document, in both electronic format and hard copy.

CBD

(b) Enable the Conference of the Parties to: (i) Facilitate the decision making processes of the Convention; (ii) Identify gaps in and define future priorities for the programme of work of the Convention in order to ensure full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention; (iii) Facilitate the exchange of information among Parties concerning the experience in implementing the Convention.

(c) Contribute to the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and its by-products.

Appendix III: National implementation of the CBD thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions related to cross-cutting issues.

Parties could use a table or matrix to highlight how national actions taken to implement the NBSAP, mainstreaming and the 2020 targets have contributed or are contributing to goals, targets and activities suggested in the thematic programmes of work and plans or COP decisions relating to cross-cutting issues. Parties could focus on those thematic areas and cross-cutting issues that are nationally relevant and important.

UNCCD Instructions, objectives and scope**UNFCCC Note: Provisions regarding report contents are not expressed in mandatory terms**

Part VII Submission. Q57: Each non-Annex I Party shall submit its national communication in one of the official languages of the United Nations. The executive summary, which is to be of no more than 10 pages, shall be translated into English and made publicly available. Parties are also encouraged to submit, to the extent possible and where relevant, English translations of their communications.

Part VII Submission. Q58: Additional or supporting information may be supplied through other documents such as a technical annex.

CBD**From guidance for 4th National Reports (18):**

Guidance provided in various COP decisions requests Parties to involve stakeholders in the preparation of their national reports, including NGOs, civil society, indigenous and local communities, business and the media. In addition, the national focal point responsible for preparing national reports is encouraged to work closely with national counter-parts responsible for implementation of other related conventions. By coordinating report preparation, the focal points for the various conventions can share data and analysis, ensuring consistency among re-ports and reducing the overall reporting burden for the country. Such coordination could furthermore enhance opportunities for synergy in the national implementation of related conventions. Parties are invited to provide, in appendix I of their report, a brief summary on the participatory process followed in preparing the report.

(21): Parties are required to submit their fourth national report to the Executive Secretary, using the format outlined in these guidelines. The submission of the fourth national report ahead of this deadline is encouraged as this would facilitate the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and of other analyses and syntheses that will be made available to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

(22): Parties are requested to submit an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy on diskette/CD-ROM, or by electronic mail, to the address below. Electronic copies should be available in a word processing software and graphic elements provided in separate files.

UNCCD Instructions, objectives and scope

UNFCCC Note: Provisions regarding report contents are not expressed in mandatory terms

CBD

Sources used for this comparison

UNCCD

General information from document “General structure for the reports”, as determined by decision 13/COP.9. Elements in this table are copied directly from the PRAIS portal. Most UNCCD reporting information is not reproduced here, on the assumption that the reader is familiar with it already.

UNFCCC:

Information from decision 17/CP.8: Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. Also used: Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Green-house Gas Inventories, available at <http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gl/invs6.html>. Owing to the length and scientific/mathematical specificity of these Guidelines, no excerpts are included below

Note: This Guideline was adopted at COP 8 (2003). Resulting from that decision, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I (CGE) had begun its work on developing agreement concerning non-Annex I communications. The CGE has not finished this work and its deliberations were extended to 2012, by a decision of COP 15. (Sources inside the UNFCCC, including national delegations, have questioned whether this guidance provides a proper basis for examination of non-Annex I reporting.)

CBD

Draft guidelines for the 5th national reports as contained in UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/6/Add.1. Final guidelines for the 5th national reports have not yet been agreed, but are expected to be adopted at COP 10, October 2010. Where relevant the draft guidelines have been supplemented with information from the Guidelines for the 4th National Reports, which are referenced in the Guidelines for NR5.