

Workshop on Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting synergy in the implementation of the three Rio conventions

Organized by the UNCCD and CBD secretariats, in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat

5-7 April 2004
Viterbo, Italy

Final report

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I. PROCEEDINGS

A. Opening session

1. On 5 April 2004, Prof. Ervedo Giordano, University of Tuscia, delivered a welcoming address and opened the workshop.
2. Mr. Paolo Soprano, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory, also welcomed the participants.
3. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, and Mr. Dennis Tirpak, on behalf of Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), welcomed participants to the workshop and made statements.
4. Mr. Giancarlo Gabbianelli, Mayor of Viterbo, welcomed the participants on behalf of the local authorities.

B. Election of the co-chairpersons

5. The workshop elected Prof. Riccardo Valentini, Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UNCCD, and Dr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Chairperson of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, as co-chairpersons of the workshop.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The workshop adopted the agenda and organization of work with minor modifications. The final agenda is given in annex I.
7. The representatives of the three secretariats presented an overview of their conventions, the main decisions taken relating to cooperation, and the opportunities for synergism. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) representative outlined the importance of synergism under the GEF.
8. Within the framework of two main themes ("Potential for synergies through forest landscape management and soil conservation" and "Ecosystem services and poverty reduction"), several presentations from different organizations and four case studies were discussed (see annex I).

D. Setting up of working groups

9. The workshop decided to establish eight working groups and agreed to the nomination of their facilitators:

Mr. Paolo Kageyama (Brazil)
Ms. Catherine Okotiko (Cameroon)
Mr. Sisir Ratho (India) (replaced by Mr. Desh Deepak Verma)
Mr. Alfredo Guillet (Italy)
Mr. Samsudin Musa (Malaysia)
Ms. Marina Stadthagen Icaza (Nicaragua)
Mr. David Hafashimana (Uganda)
Mr. John Parrotta (United States of America)

10. A number of interlinkages, opportunities, win-win situations, similarities and trigger points were presented in the working groups. The deliberations of the working groups have been compiled under the two broad themes of the workshop and are attached in annex II to this report.

E. Attendance

11. The workshop was attended by representatives of the following 39 Parties to the three Rio conventions:

Algeria	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Argentina	India	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Senegal
Belgium	Ireland	South Africa
Brazil	Italy	Spain
Cameroon	Luxembourg	Sweden
Canada	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Turkey
China	Malaysia	Uganda
Costa Rica	Mali	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Cuba	Mongolia	United States of America
Denmark	Netherlands	
European Community	New Zealand	
Finland	Nicaragua	
France	Portugal	
Germany		

12. The following United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented:

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Agronomes et Forestiers sans Frontières (AGRFOR)
Climate Action Network (CAN)
Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management (ECCM)
Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA)
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
Intercooperation
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
TC-Dialogue Foundation
Tunisian Association on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (2C2D)

II. CO-CHAIRPERSONS' SUMMARY

A. Exchanges at the Viterbo workshop

15. The specific merits of the Viterbo workshop relate directly to the interactions among the focal points of the three Rio conventions and other participants. The workshop has encouraged participants to identify options for the implementation of specific synergy actions at local level, relating to forests and forest ecosystems and their use and conservation, derived from the mandates and commitments under each of the Rio conventions. The workshop has contributed to the identification of synergistic processes between sectoral policies relating to forests as well as between sectoral organizations dealing with forest ecosystems and forest functions, and provided an opportunity for an exchange of views among different focal points, agencies and ongoing international processes and partnerships such as UNFF and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

16. The participants discussed opportunities for forest protection and sustainable management through joint programmes at the national level. A number of opportunities, trigger points and mechanisms that are immediately available for use by focal points were presented and discussed.

17. The potential, as well as the constraints, of the forest sector to serve as a platform for synergy among the Rio conventions, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements, was reviewed during a broad exchange of ideas and experiences focusing on sustainable forest management. The workshop considered a number of options which could assist national focal points in the development of joint pilot projects.

18. The participants, who gathered in working groups, discussed forward-looking approaches to strengthening and mobilizing support for synergies through the forest sector and related aspects of sustainable forest management.

19. Possible elements and options were reviewed in regard to a joint approach in the forestry sector by national focal points for the Rio conventions, in terms of land degradation, biodiversity and climate change. A number of priority issues were considered as relevant to delivering the objectives of the three Rio conventions through contributions to ongoing work by Parties in the environmental protection and sustainable development arenas. The co-chairpersons wish to emphasize the following elements.

B. Opportunities for pilot actions

20. The workshop noted the very worrying global statistics on deforestation rates for indigenous forests, and the importance of employing new approaches in order to reverse these trends. Increasing interest was evident in managing forests as ecosystems through sustainable forest management, including by maintaining the environmental services (such as hydrological, soil stabilization, recreational, biodiversity, carbon sequestration services) provided by forests, and the promotion of market-based and policy tools to capture the value of these services, nationally and where applicable internationally. The economic potential for developing national and international markets and market transactions for such environmental services provided by forests was recognized. In this context potential conflicts between livelihood requirements and environmental services were recognized and the need to include such aspects in the synergy discussion was taken into consideration.

21. The importance of building on previous and ongoing exercises to make optimal use of all available information was noted.

22. The workshop has recognized the importance of actions at local and national level which play a relevant role in achieving full implementation of the three Rio conventions and hence contribute to the solution of global problems. In particular the workshop has recognized the importance of adding value to existing actions, to identifying success stories and promoting a win-win approach to project design and implementation. *Inter alia*, the following elements were identified.

Afforestation/reforestation and ecosystem services

23. Countries could achieve synergistic effects in afforestation/reforestation by formulating projects according to basic principles contained in the objectives of the three Rio conventions. This would ensure that appropriate attention is paid to the environmental goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, combating desertification, carbon sequestration and other environmental goals and socio-economic aspects, including fair and equitable benefits sharing and poverty eradication.

24. In a learning-by-doing process ongoing experience provides a useful basis for improving the planning of future projects, that is, selection of species, identification of project areas, involvement of local communities and exchanges among focal points and institutions.

25. This synergistic approach to afforestation/reforestation by the Parties would also contribute to mobilizing diverse sources of funding, and encouraging the involvement of the business community. To this effect, some participants felt that public funding - both bilateral and multilateral (official development aid and other forms of public aid) - is needed for the transition to sustainable forest management. This could also encourage the private sector to become involved, as well as create the enabling environment in terms of local policies and measures in order to ensure that immediate economic benefits are generated and transferred to local communities (benefit sharing).

Sustainable forest management

26. Sustainable forest management, which includes, among others, forest conservation and the sustainable use of forests was perceived as a possible effective means of contributing to mitigating the effects of land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change. It has been estimated that annual deforestation rates reached 14.6 million hectares of natural forests globally¹ during the period 1990 to 2000 with a continuing impoverishment of species, loss of soil fertility and increase in greenhouse gas emissions. In this respect, reducing the rates of deforestation could be considered as an effective additional means of addressing targets common to the three conventions. Filling gaps in the knowledge base and stimulating discussion on forest conservation through practical experience and implementation of pilot projects was considered important in this respect.

¹ Part of this large area was offset by an expansion of 5.2 million hectares of forests (natural regeneration and plantations) per year, resulting in a net deforestation rate of 9.4 million ha per year during this period. (FAO, 2001)

Specific attention was also given to wildland fires and their management as an important component of national and local action with a potential high value for synergy. The workshop confirmed the usefulness of the ecosystem approach developed under the CBD as a concept supporting sustainable forest management.

27. The impact of sustainable forest management in mitigating global greenhouse gas emissions, with the full participation of local communities, including compensation measures as necessary, could be assessed further based on practical experience and could subsequently be considered by the relevant constituencies of the three conventions.

Forest landscape restoration

28. Key components of forest landscape restoration are related to forests, sustainable forest management and forest ecosystems, namely forest functions, ecological processes, socio-economic value, land tenure, forest resilience and forest fragmentation. It was also recognized that the benefits of landscape restoration go beyond a specific site and affect a more extensive area of land. Additional priorities should be given to sustainable use of vulnerable areas where a synergistic approach is needed for combating soil erosion, preventing biodiversity losses and maintaining carbon stocks.

29. The three Rio conventions might encourage Parties to enhance forest regeneration further, by such means as inclusion of regeneration projects in National Forest Programmes (NFPs).

Technology innovation and technology transfer

30. It was recognized that technology innovation and technology transfer are important actions towards improving countries' adoption of actions intended to address the objectives of the three Rio conventions and towards developing cost-effective actions in forest-related issues and ultimately contributing to capacity building and sustainable development.

31. In particular, the workshop noted significant synergies in using biomass as renewable energy, promoting water harvesting systems for dryland reforestation, promoting technologies for soil organic matter, in integrated management of water and energy, in improvements of technologies for silviculture and in intensifying research on conservation of biodiversity.

32. Another important area for synergy is data collection (both ground observations and remotely sensed data), data dissemination and analysis, and the use of early warning systems to provide the data needed for policy planning and implementation of projects at local and national level. The specific data requirements for such actions in relation to forest issues and synergies among the three Rio conventions need to be identified.

Forest-related knowledge and fair and equitable benefits sharing

33. The workshop recognized the relevance of existing tools and mechanisms at national, regional and international levels which can serve as platforms for fostering synergism in the implementation of the three Rio conventions at national and subnational levels in relation to forest-related knowledge.

34. The workshop recognized a number of relevant works including the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (CBD decision VI/22), the Joint Work Programme between the CBD and the UNCCD on Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands, the Proposals for Action of the Intergovernmental Panel and Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF Proposals for Action) and three UNFF 4 documents, 'Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination', 'Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge' and 'Scientific Forest-Related Knowledge'.

35. Further work on collection, development and synthesis of traditional and scientific knowledge and its application to combating desertification, maintaining biodiversity and improving carbon stocks was strongly encouraged. Increased coordination between the Rio conventions and other international partnerships, such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was also recommended. At national level, the establishment of systems for documenting and protecting traditional knowledge, and for disseminating success stories regarding the application of such knowledge (subject to the consent of its holders) in the implementation of projects within the three Rio conventions was highly encouraged.

36. The discussion on access and benefit sharing reported that little work has been dedicated to evaluating potential synergies among the three Rio conventions in this context. The identification of benefits to local communities of synergistic implementation of the three Rio conventions in the forest sector was encouraged.

C. Institutional context

37. It was underlined that it will be increasingly important to facilitate country-level interaction between focal points of the conventions and representatives of forest-related institutions, using existing policy and planning mechanisms at the national level, such as NFPs. It was also specified that all national strategies and programmes relating to the three conventions, together with the NFPs, should be coherent with and contribute to the National Strategy for Sustainable Development or the Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programmes.

38. To this end the workshop encouraged efficient communication between the national focal points of the three Rio conventions and other relevant stakeholders (particularly UNFF and the GEF) at national level. This could be accomplished through suitable national-level operational institutional arrangements, which could facilitate harmonized planning and implementation of the three Rio conventions at the national level (that is, effective consultation and mutual cooperation between NAPs under the UNCCD, NBSAPs under the CBD and NAPAs under the UNFCCC, combined with participation in NFPs and their analysis for elements of synergy among the conventions, preparation of technical work programmes for COPs and analysis of the national implications of COP decisions, including needs for legislation, capacity building and financing, exchange of experience in project design and implementation through regional cooperation frameworks.

39. Some participants also pointed out the importance in national reporting to the conventions' COPs of including case studies, success stories and lessons learned in creating synergies when fulfilling commitments under the three conventions, particularly in sustainable forest management and forest ecosystems related matters. Side events at COPs were also felt to be appropriate forums for publication of these case studies.

40. Capacity building was identified by the workshop as a means of contributing to better coordination between the three Rio conventions. The GEF and its

implementing and executing agencies may more actively promote such coordination in the context of their capacity building initiatives.

41. The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) is encouraged to discuss ways and means of facilitating the sharing of information on forests and forest ecosystems related issues, including the collection of case studies, success stories, methodologies and experiences and lessons learned by countries at national and local level on synergies between the three Rio conventions in sustainable forest management- and forest ecosystem-related issues. Conventions' COPs may wish to consider reviewing these issues further through their subsidiary bodies.

D. Financing for synergy

42. Case studies from a number of countries (China, Cuba, Senegal) clearly demonstrated that joint field activities are already taking place, although there is still a need for awareness raising at the national level, and also especially at the local level. Some countries called for national forums to enhance understanding and coordination of synergistic programmes (especially of focal points in the country), including a focus on financing opportunities to support these programmes and projects. Sustainable forest management and forest ecosystems are seen as an entry point for these activities. It is important that synergies are demand-driven, as this would allow for a greater alignment of national development agendas (livelihoods) with global priorities.

43. The workshop noted that additional resources are needed to make optimum use of synergies between the three Rio conventions. Such investment would probably reduce the overall costs of implementation of the three Rio conventions.

44. It was recognized that financial resources are limited, and are not sufficient to meet the increasing demand to mitigate the effects of land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change. Forest-related projects and programmes have been proven to be one common way of addressing the objectives of the three conventions at the same time. Even if it is not always feasible to achieve synergy among the objectives of all three conventions, a systematic look at where and when these synergies come into play provides a very good opportunity to increase the cost effectiveness of official development assistance. It was also recognized that including synergistic targets in project development may actually generate additional costs, but would also increase the benefits emerging from such projects. It would also get the public and private sectors more involved in support for the implementation of environmental and sustainable development programmes.

Annex I: Final agenda

Monday, 5 April 2004: plenary session

Opening session

Welcoming addresses; election of co-chairpersons and organization of work; introduction to the scope and the expected results of the workshop

Presentations and discussions

- Progress toward achieving synergy among the Rio conventions (Mr. Ndegwa Ndiang'ui, UNCCD secretariat)
- Opportunities for synergy in the Convention on Biological Diversity (Mr. Jo Mulongoy, CBD secretariat)
- Forests in the UNFCCC process (Mr. Dennis Tirpak, UNFCCC secretariat)
- Synergies in forests and forest ecosystems: GEF modalities and GEF support (Ms. Kanta Kumari, GEF secretariat)
- Plenary discussion

Theme 1: Potential for synergies through forest landscape management and soil conservation

- Forest and regional perspectives, including with regard to LFCCs (Mr. Michael Martin, FAO)
- Forest and global perspectives (Ms. Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, UNFF Secretariat)
- Forest, water harvesting and soil conservation (Mr. Brent Swallow, ICRAF)
- Threats to forest ecosystems (Mr. Johann G. Goldammer, GFMC)
- Country case studies: China (Mr. Sen Wang)
 Algeria (Mr. Andrea Vannini)

Theme 2: Ecosystem services and poverty reduction

- Role of forests and forest ecosystems in poverty reduction (Mr. Daniel Murdiyoso, CIFOR)
- Forests and adaptation to climate change (Mr. Jean-Laurent Pfund, Intercooperation)
- Supporting implementation of international forest and poverty eradication objectives through forest landscape restoration (Ms. Carole Saint-Laurent, IUCN)
- Forests and forest ecosystem: role in carbon sequestration and provision of environmental services (Ms. Rose Askew, ECCM)
- Forest protection and deforestation: potential role of forests in adaptation and mitigation to climate change (Mr. Philippe Mayaux, JRC)
- Country case studies: Finland (Mr. Anders Portin)
 Argentina (Mr. Octavio Perez Pardo)
- Plenary discussion on themes 1 and 2

Tuesday, 6 April 2004: Working groups session on synergy at local levels

Meeting of working groups on theme 1:

1. Preventing and mitigating threats to forests and forest ecosystems (facilitation: Nicaragua)
2. Forest landscape restoration (facilitation: Cameroon, including presentation by IUCN)
3. Sustainable forest management (facilitation: Malaysia)
4. Enhancing the enabling environment (facilitation: Italy)

Meeting of working groups on theme 2:

5. Sustainable livelihoods and forests resources (facilitation: Brazil)
6. Access and benefit sharing of forests and genetic resources (facilitation: Uganda)
7. Applying appropriate technology (facilitation: India)
8. Forest-related knowledge (facilitation: USA)

Wednesday, 7 April 2004: Plenary sessions

- Presentations and discussion of the outcome of the working groups by the facilitators
- Exchange of views on synergy among national focal points
- Financing for synergy
- Presentation and discussion of the co-chairpersons' summary

Annex II: Outcome of the working groups

Theme 1: Potential for synergies through forest landscape management and soil conservation

Working group 1: Preventing and mitigating threats to forests and forest ecosystems
(Facilitator: Ms. M. Stadthagen, Nicaragua)

Introduction

As a first step, the basic assumptions on which the work of the group was to be based were discussed by the group, and emerged as follows:

- Forestry and forestry-related issues provide a common ground for achieving synergy among the three Rio conventions.
- There is room for enhanced cooperation among national focal points of the conventions on forestry-related issues.
- Synergistic work will allow the use of resources in a more efficient and effective way.

The group was asked to keep in mind the following questions while discussing how to work in a more synergistic manner in the context of the three Rio conventions:

- Are there any lessons learned in achieving synergy at the local level?
- What can be done at the international level to facilitate the process of synergy at the local level?
- What ways exist to enhance synergies among focal points?

Threats to forests and forest ecosystems

The group identified threats to forests and forest ecosystems which should be addressed in a synergistic manner by the Parties to the three Rio conventions at national level. These threats, and the ways of addressing them, are priority areas for collaboration at the national and international levels. These threats are common obstacles to the process of reaching the objectives of the three Rio conventions; they threaten biodiversity and at the same time contribute to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations and to the process of land degradation.

Identified threats which should be addressed in a synergistic manner by the three Rio conventions:

- **Vegetation fires (forest fires, wildland fires):** Fire poses a serious threat to biodiversity, especially in ecosystems not adapted to fire, where it may permanently remove or degrade vegetation, and kill or displace fauna. The suppression of natural and sustainable anthropogenic fire disturbance regimes also poses a threat to biodiversity, especially in ecosystems that are adapted to fire and where the regeneration of many plant and animal species is secured by fires. Through their emissions to the atmosphere, vegetation fires pose the threat of contributing to climate change. Fires are considered a cheap method of eliminating unwanted biomass, but they lead to deforestation and ultimately to land degradation and desertification. Wildland fire management is therefore of common concern for the three Rio conventions and is an important area for collaboration.

- Deforestation, fragmentation of forests and conversion of forests to other land uses: This should be addressed through joint efforts.
- Land degradation: If land degradation is not controlled, it will affect forest ecosystems negatively and may lead to desertification. It is therefore of concern for the three Rio conventions and efforts to combat it should be coordinated.
- Biodiversity: The loss of biodiversity and the economic, political and social conditions which lead to it require joint efforts.
- Invasive alien species: It was agreed that this issue should be an important one for consideration under the CBD and UNCCD mandates.
- Climate change: This is a major threat to forests and forest ecosystems, especially considering the secondary effects of climate change, such as the occurrence of droughts. These effects will trigger further threats, such as fires or insect attacks, which will change the characteristics of forests and forest ecosystems.
- Pollution: Pollution threatens forest productivity and its adaptive capacity. It has a direct effect on forests and therefore needs to be considered by the three Rio conventions and to be an area for collaboration.

Ways in which the three Rio conventions could address these threats jointly:

- Vegetation fires (forest fires, wildland fires): *Wildland fire management* should be addressed at the national and local level. *Early warning and monitoring systems* should be used as tools for wildland fire management. *Participatory, community-based fire management systems* should be fostered at the local level and they should target the main causes of fires. *Decision support systems* are needed for wildland fire management. *Research* into wildland fire management needs to be broadened. *Guidelines for wildland fire management* (such as for example those of ITTO for the tropics, FAO's Fire Management Guidelines for Temperate and Boreal Forests, the WHO Health Guidelines on Vegetation Fire Events, and the GFMC Fire Management Handbook for Sub-Saharan Africa) have to be further elaborated and to be disseminated.
- Deforestation, fragmentation of forests and conversion of forests to other land uses: This should be addressed by joint efforts; research should be expanded and shared. *Information exchange* of ongoing activities for research on deforestation should be sought among the three Rio conventions.
- Biodiversity: Further *research* is needed on the loss of biodiversity and the economic, political and social conditions which lead to it.
- Climate change: Greater regional, national and local research is needed on the *impact of climate change on forest ecosystems*. Research into the *vulnerability and adaptive capacity of forests* is needed. The impact of the *reduction in the supply of water to forests*, relating to climate change, needs further research.

Overall:

- The *promotion of national forest inventories* is of interest for the three Rio conventions.
- The *promotion of afforestation and reforestation activities* is an area where increased cooperation and coordination is needed.
- The *promotion of renewable energy and the efficient use of firewood*, because of its link to deforestation, climate change and land degradation, should be an area for collaboration.
- The *establishment of early warning systems* is an important area for cooperation among the three Rio conventions. The development, broader use

of and access to global, regional and local early warning systems for addressing the management of forests should be facilitated.

- *Capacity building and exploring mechanisms to improve the usage of early warning systems* are needed. Existing gaps in the knowledge base should be addressed and information tools developed to make data accessible. Capacity at the national and local levels to build monitoring and early warning systems needs to be enhanced.
- The *flow of early warning information* should be broadened.
- The *standardization of data* should be sought.

Specific suggestions for promoting and improving synergistic work at the international and national levels

International:

- Reporting: Additional work was encouraged on how to make the process of reporting an easier one and how to rationalize the gathering and use of information.
- Capacity building for managing ecosystems should be created. This area is one in which joint efforts can easily be coordinated. This process can be fostered through the ongoing GEF National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs). The United Nations University provides, through its Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), an opportunity for developing joint environmental training models to foster synergies between the three Rio conventions.
- Funding organizations and bilateral donors should encourage synergistic work at the local and national levels when covering issues of interest to the three Rio conventions.
- A set of indicators should be developed to measure the success of synergy work.
- Cooperation and coordination at the regional and subregional levels should be encouraged.

National:

- Focal points of the three Rio conventions should seek to coordinate actions with the GEF national focal point.
- At the local level, greater exchange of information on reporting should be sought among the focal points.
- Cooperation among the focal points of the three Rio conventions is recommended in coordinating work programs to address issues in the three Rio conventions.
- In the process of preparation of national communications and national reports, greater interaction between the focal points should be sought. Where appropriate, coordination among the focal points is recommended in the process of formulation of the NAPA, NAP, NBSAP.
- Focal points should share information on important decisions taken at each other's COPs.
- There should be a flow of information and awareness raising on the need for synergistic work.
- Local capacity to address synergistic work should be strengthened.
- Policy and legislation harmonization at the local level is required to support a synergistic approach.
- There is need for political will and commitment in order to work synergistically.

Working group 2: Forest landscape restoration (Facilitator: Ms. C. Okotiko, Cameroon)

Comments

The working group began deliberations on the topic of landscape restoration by noting the current situation regarding forest management in Cameroon as a working example for group discussion. The representative of the IUCN presented key components of the Global Partnership for Landscape Restoration such as forest function, ecological processes, socio-economic factors, land tenure, forest resilience, the mixture of approaches required and forest fragmentation. It was noted that landscape is a contiguous area of land and distinct from a specific site.

The working group recognized the value of the Global Partnership and supported it as an example of good practice. It was announced during the meeting that the Government of Italy had joined the Partnership. The group further endorsed the approach and also discussed possible barriers to its implementation as an approach to achieve synergy. It was important to note that the restoration processes should remain demand driven, and not return to the top-down approach.

The group also noted that the objectives of the three conventions were different within different projects. It was observed that there was a lack of public relations and media coverage concerning projects containing success stories. The group also recalled that many forest management plans exist, but have yet to be implemented.

Questions to the working group

- (i) What are the main elements that your working group is addressing with regard to which effective synergy could be developed and translated into concrete actions at the local level? Would these actions have a global impact? Can we assign priorities accordingly?

The group considered land tenure and adequate levels of funding the main elements to be considered in the realization of effective synergy through forest landscape restoration. To achieve local level synergy, priority could be assigned to the process of checking whether ongoing projects and new projects conform to the objectives of the three conventions. If projects do conform, then a global impact was considered as being possible.

- (ii) Can a specific set of indicators be identified in relation to the topics that your group is addressing, aimed at evaluating the forest-related projects in terms of their synergistic potential?

The Group questioned whether the checklist was for the evaluation of field projects, or was a checklist for the government to use in determining whether proposed projects met synergy objectives.

If the checklist were for field evaluation of synergy, then indicators based on land use functionality and landscape fragmentation might be considered as well as environmental and biological diversity co-benefits, social co-benefits and emerging concepts such as permanence, leakage and additionality. Livelihood indicators and level of community participation were also considered as good indicators.

In determining whether projects have synergistic potential, a diverse set of indicators could be based on the following questions - how many disciplines are covered in the project? What are the benefits? How many local people are involved? How many proposals have been received by local and international organizations? Have conditions changed? Have specific objectives been obtained for each of the three conventions? Is there ownership by the three conventions? Have the projects been put into action?

It was felt that more research was needed if the intention was to combine these two uses of the possible checklist. Additional indicators in this context were discussed and included the following: the number of indigenous species, water, wood, waste, environment, survival rate of trees, appearance of new species surrounding newly-planted trees, appearance of animals and socio-economic indicators relating to agro-forestry projects.

Inventory, analysis and scoring of current projects in terms of synergy could assist in establishing its immediate potential.

- (iii) What mechanisms can be established at local and international level to facilitate activating policy options relating to forests and forest ecosystems?

A number of possible mechanisms to facilitate policy options for integration of forest landscape restoration were discussed, such as implementation or revision of the forest management plan, improvements in the regulatory environment, incentives in the form of carbon credits, and the creation of conservation and transboundary corridors.

Community-level participation should also be viewed as an important mechanism.

Additional mechanisms include linking youth to the achievement of project goals, establishing landscape ecology education programmes and building university networks.

The NFP is a fundamental mechanism for synergy for many countries. To support these programmes, mechanisms such as training and capacity building, and the alignment of legal and policy objectives, should be considered.

It was felt that the political will of the government was the most important mechanism in promoting landscape restoration objectives. It is envisaged that the added value of synergy will be an option in persuading governments to implement restoration policies.

An important mechanism is the coordination that must exist between the focal points.

Database sharing such as the clearinghouse mechanism should be supported.

- (iv) What are the lessons learned in achieving synergy at the local level? Is past experience rated satisfactory, or is there room for enhanced cooperation among national focal points? Can an international enabling environment contribute to strengthening the process at the local level?

Trade-offs and understanding trade-offs are important lessons to be learned and applied in the development of forest landscape restoration pilot projects. It is impossible to maximize all aspects; loss of some environmental goods is a reality.

Short-term gains by large-scale agricultural projects should be contrasted with the added value that synergy-based projects in landscape restoration and rehabilitation contain.

Additional emphasis should be placed on the NFP as the foundation for synergy through landscape restoration.

Experience is needed at this point to know who are the actors and who are the stakeholders for forest landscape restoration. The focal points need to understand and promote the interactive enabling environment.

Case studies from the FAO Forestry Department can serve as a valuable source of possible synergy experience at the local level.

Suggestions specific to the theme

1. New projects in landscape restoration should capitalize on how the local populations feel about and understand project work relating to synergy.
2. Ways and means should be identified of promoting success stories in landscape restoration.
3. Focal points should be fully aware of other conventions' projects and activities in this area, particularly in low forest cover countries.
4. Institutional structure should be improved to support focal points' meetings on a regular basis.
5. At the national level, no restoration or rehabilitation project should be approved if aspects of synergy are not covered.
6. A similar determination should be made in terms of what synergy in landscape restoration means for sectors other than forestry
7. Opportunities to promote pilot project work in ecological zones, such as LFCCs, should be viewed as 'win-win' opportunities, particularly where conditions are environmentally poor.
8. CDM-based small pilot projects should be promoted as instruments for landscape restoration.

Additional suggestions

9. An appeal should be made to donors to balance funding levels between the conventions as a way of promoting equity and synergy.
10. Stronger linkages should be made between the three conventions based on technical and scientific knowledge.
11. National and international level projects should be integrated and should avoid sectoral emphasis.
12. Concrete activities should take place at the local level, but should have impacts at the international level. At the national level the most important factor is the institutional interchange, with coordination and inter-connection of the focal points

being the most important element. The GEF national focal point should be included in the discussion among focal points.

13. Utilization of existing opportunities and processes such as CPF should be promoted in order to maximize the opportunities of producing synergism.
14. Bringing together groups of experts from the three conventions should be considered, as these groups can provide good cross learning and serve as go-betweens for the focal points.
15. A set of criteria and indicators for synergy-based projects should be developed.
16. A checklist at the national level and/or regional level which can assist the donor community in evaluating synergy projects should be developed.

Working group 3: Sustainable forest management (Facilitator: Mr. S. Musa, Malaysia)

There is general recognition that forest ecosystems, especially tropical forests, continue to be threatened with deforestation and degradation. Governments and international agencies are supporting sustainable forest management (SFM) to address these problems.

The main forest-related synergy amongst the three different conventions lies in their representing international commitments dealing with environmental services. Environmental services touch upon several of the seven thematic areas of SFM which are outlined below.

- Extent of forest resources
- Biological diversity
- Forest health and vitality
- Productive functions of forest resources
- Protective functions of forest resources
- Socio-economic functions
- Legal and policy framework

SFM, in particular, is able to address many of the objectives of the three Rio conventions and could play a central role in providing synergies between addressing climate change, loss of biodiversity, and land degradation and desertification.

SFM is also closely linked to poverty eradication, employment and broader development goals and is thus of great relevance to populations.

Areas of synergy in SFM include the preservation of and increase in carbon stocks, conserving biodiversity, preserving and maintaining soil fertility and maintaining water quality and quantity. The group highlighted the importance of these benefits which also have a global impact. In this respect, SFM can play an important role and its synergistic value should be considered in formulating international policies on environmental protection, in particular by the three Rio conventions.

The group recognized that significant work is being undertaken at the local and national level with concrete projects that have valuable synergistic contributions. Specific case studies in some countries, Argentina, New Zealand and Bolivia, for example, were highlighted. In particular the project reported by Argentina on youth and environment

located in Argentina and China referred to reforestation of 3000 ha of degraded arid lands using native species with the aim of contributing to CDM of the Kyoto Protocol and to meet biodiversity conservation criteria and sustainable development goals through capacity building and the employment of young people. The project, if successful, can be replicated in other areas.

The group recognized further that NFPs² with their inherent qualities of broad stakeholder and interest participation, as well as iterative approaches, would be a good mechanism for identifying where synergy needs to be improved in the light of climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation. Local projects on synergy need to be also integrated into national policies. It was highlighted that linking SFM to poverty eradication and rural development adds value to SFM projects and enhances funding opportunities.

The group pointed out that national priorities for developing countries within the conventions include capacity building, financial assistance and technology transfer. Work at the international level, in particular through the CPF, has focused on sources of financing for SFM, forest-related concepts, terms and definitions and on streamlining forest-related reporting.

The group recognized that much forest-related work is also undertaken in international political processes besides the three Rio conventions, such as the UNFF, as well as in bilateral and national initiatives. However, the group agreed to restrict the discussion on synergies to the three conventions for the particular scope of the workshop and proposed to request the Rio conventions and the UNFF to work on the synergies between these elements as contained in the conventions. It was emphasized that the CPF is an important platform for addressing common forest-related topics and synergies in the conventions as they involve all key organizations involved in activities relating to sustainable forest management, including the secretariats of the three conventions.

Having recognized the work at local and international levels, the group highlighted the need for mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of synergies in concrete actions. It was also recognized that there needs to be further analysis of lessons learned on the practical application of SFM, and the ecosystem approach of the CBD which is being promoted in the other Rio conventions. In this context it should be noted that the fourth session of the UNFF, to be held 3-14 May 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland, will discuss the relationship between sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach.

The group discussed the need to enhance communications between national focal points and to facilitate mechanisms at the national level for addressing synergies. Furthermore, the need for a specific financial mechanism for funding synergies was also recognized.

² IPF proposal for action 17a) National Forest Programmes:

- 1) consistency with national, subnational or local policies and strategies, and - as appropriate - international agreements;
- 2) partnership and participatory mechanisms to involve interested parties;
- 3) recognition and respect for customary and traditional rights of, *inter alia*, indigenous people and local communities;
- 4) secure land tenure arrangements;
- 5) holistic, intersectoral and iterative approaches;
- 6) ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources;
- 7) adequate provision and valuation of forest goods and services.

The group highlighted the need for more efficient dissemination of information from convention secretariats to Parties by improving contacts with relevant national focal points.

The group highlighted the need for better communication between the focal points of the three Rio conventions, including also the focal points for UNFF, through the organization of workshops and any other means of facilitating exchanges. In this respect, capacity building and the creation of a synergistic approach to national projects, and the role of the GEF, have been highlighted.

The discussions went on to analyse the need for a system of criteria and indicators to address specifically the synergistic value of SFM projects with the aim of finding win-win options and to increase the value of the project in its fulfillment of the multiple benefits. This should not duplicate the work of the regional criteria and indicator processes of SFM, which currently involve over 130 countries and include developed and in some cases implemented indicators on the environmental function of forest, specifically biological diversity, climate change and land restoration. Although this process was considered valuable for the national focal points, the group decided to start by identifying case studies that countries consider to have a high potential for synergies. These case studies will include, in addition to the elements of synergism, an evaluation of how the focal points have been interacting in the formulation of the project or how they have been consulted by stakeholders.

The discussions went on to how to develop a mechanism for presenting the case studies. The group agreed to request the JLG, CPF, UNFF and FAO to consider this activity in their respective mandates. It was mentioned in particular that this information could be disseminated at COP and subsidiary bodies' side events.

Working group 4: Enhancing the enabling environment (Facilitator: Mr. A. Guillet, Italy)

Summary of the discussions

The group 4 discussions were based on experience gathered by participants in their respective countries and areas of work; they pursued the potential for synergism through a review of some fresh topics as well as a joint critical analysis of a number of subjects which had already been discussed - but separately - by the different conventions' forums. The discussions led to a number of recommendations which included both the innovative use of existing mechanisms and processes and suggestions regarding the new ones; they built upon lessons learned on coping with obstacles impeding synergy.

The following obstacles were identified:

- Lack of communication and of information sharing among different actors and national agencies. These, in particular, include the focal points of each convention and the GEF.
- Several policy-making processes and institutions under which projects take place do not take into account the objectives of the three conventions.
- Conventions are both negotiated and implemented by different agencies. These agencies do not necessarily cooperate or share information on their activities. This

lack of communication may result in conflicts, inefficient use of resources or duplication of work.

- The lack of capacity in several institutions.

Whereas discussions relating to synergy among the three conventions considered a wide range of issues of a general nature, the potential role of forests and forest ecosystems has been consistently recognized. This is supported, for example, when considering such a process as has evolved under national forestry plans involving all stakeholders, as well as the existence of comprehensive databases on the whole range of forest-related issues (e.g. that accessible through the web site of the FAO Collaborative Partnership on Forests comprising all forest reporting). Some participants noted that legal provision should corroborate the enabling environment to ensure integration besides mere communication.

The following elements were recognized and addressed by the group due to their potential for supporting effective synergies at local and/or international levels: information sharing, the development of national strategies, the activities of focal points and other actors, the national processes of planning and policy making, finance and capacity building and technology transfer. More particularly:

Sharing of information

Information sharing and spread was seen as a key element in enhancing synergy between the Rio conventions. It was seen as a first step to further action. Factors such as best practices and finance issues (including guidelines on how to access the GEF for implementing NAPs) were considered key information components toward promoting synergies. These also included catalytic mechanisms, methodological contributions (the CBD “enabling environment package on forest” emerged among those mentioned). The group suggested the following actions:

- The establishment of national spaces for information sharing. These may include national forums and workshops intended to discuss either actions towards synergy among the three conventions in general or actions in a specific context (such as NFPs).
- The existing mechanisms for policy making and planning could be used as one space for information sharing. Whenever meetings relating to a specific convention take place, actors in charge of other conventions could be invited.
- The fostering of a structured communication between focal points and agencies before participation in a COP or SBSTA. This could ensure that negotiators are aware of the priorities of the country in the broad sense. Summaries and briefings could be prepared in order to avoid the necessity for negotiators and other actors to read bulky material.
- The diffusion of information is also important. Written information on activities of implementation of the conventions should be made available to a wide range of actors; both the form and content of this information should be appropriate for the recipients (local authorities, the private sector, the community and so on).
- The JLG is one of the main channels at the international level for sharing information and ensuring coherence of the policy-making process. The COPs could request the JLG to provide “integrated” information (for example, in the form of background documents) that was relevant for specific agenda items. The information considered by all COPs and the subsidiary bodies would therefore be the same.
- Although focal points do not normally have access to higher policy and decision-making levels, they could play a major role in ensuring transfer of structured

information (including case study analyses on synergies), particularly in cases characterized by inadequate communications between ministries responsible for the different conventions. In such cases they could be functional in ensuring independent transfer by the secretariats of structured guidelines separately to the top and to the bottom levels.

- Opportunistic use should be promoted of different types of gathering/debriefing exercises in preparation for the COPs.
- The establishment of clearing house mechanisms and dedicated focal point units was suggested for the international and national levels, respectively. The CBD Clearing House Mechanism is an important tool at national level and could be adapted to include relevant information on the other conventions.

Development of national strategies

The implementation of the different conventions is usually done through the development of a national strategy. Given the many processes that take place globally, countries may be developing different strategies at the same time, a fact which opens a window for synergy to take place. Some participants noted that this synergy might be enhanced if strategies were developed to be coherent with and to contribute to the sustainable development of the country through its National Strategy for Sustainable Development or Poverty Reduction Strategy and Programme. The discussions underscored the merit of taking into account the following considerations when preparing/updating national strategies:

- The development of national strategies relating to environmental issues should take into consideration issues relating to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and desertification.
- National strategies could be developed through a participatory process where as many actors as possible were invited to participate.
- Sectoral national strategies should aim at providing intersectorally coherent policies for the implementation of projects at the local level.
- Existing national strategies should be taken into consideration when developing new ones for different themes.
- The potential was underscored for countries which have not yet prepared their UNCCD NAPs to build on the Recife momentum, exploit their willingness to catalyze synergistic interactions with other conventions, and design them in an integrated fashion.
- The potential was also recognized to promote synergy among the three conventions regarding national processes not originating under their umbrella, such as on poverty alleviation.
- While avoiding duplication in national plans emerging from the three conventions, an ad hoc approach has to be adopted since several countries are not a Party to one or more of them. In order to facilitate investing opportunistically in those available by integrating them with the appropriate systemic/synergistic dimension, the need for a relevant inventory was indicated.

Focal points and other actors

Both policymaking and actions are the result of human interaction. Although focal points play a main role in the coordination of activities relating to the conventions, implementation usually goes beyond focal points. Focal points' mandates might not go beyond a project supporting life. In a number of countries forests do not fall under the mandate of the national institution with a negotiating mandate (e.g. MOF vs. MOE). The following suggestions emerged in the discussion for their relevance to synergy:

- Communication and interaction among focal points both within and between conventions should be enhanced. The dialogue between focal points should aim at influencing the policy-making process.
- The creation of spaces where focal points may interact each other as well as with other relevant actors, in particular those involved in the implementation of the conventions.
- The awareness of organizations and professionals involved in the implementation of the conventions should be increased. This may include commitment by these actors to understanding the linkages between conventions as well as national and sectoral policies that are relevant to them.

National planning and policy-making processes

Implementation of the different conventions takes place at the national and local levels, where other policy-making processes also take place. Each country has a wide range of institutions and organizations in place with specific responsibilities. Existing institutions have a double role as on the one hand they are the main channel for implementation, while on the other hand they play a central role in the development of national strategies for implementation. The following suggestions resulted from the discussion:

- Planning and policy making should be integrative. The development of sectoral policies should take into consideration the objectives and priorities established in the strategies for dealing with the different conventions.
- A systemic approach to the implementation of the conventions has the potential to ensure that national and sectoral policies are drafted and implemented taking into consideration the objectives of the convention. Each country should make an effort to identify the relevance of the activities of implementation of the Rio conventions in all sectors. In other words, the implementation of the conventions has to be embedded in national and sectoral policies.
- The participation of a broader set of organizations when developing specific policies can ensure coherence and synergy. The process of planning and policy making can benefit if more stakeholders participate in it. Formal setups for interaction could be created.
- In order to facilitate the above, partnerships for concrete actions as well as working groups could be established.
- Given the further consideration that in some countries one institution deals with more than one convention, the merit of an adaptive methodological model was defended with regard to this element also.
- Intergovernmental processes should be explored for their potential for supporting planning and monitoring synergistic performances and pursuits (reference has been made to Espoo recommendations).

Funding

Relevant to the pursuit of synergies, the following was suggested:

- There may be a need to support the national agency in charge of receiving funding. In this regard, organizations and focal points of all conventions can support the process of negotiating different funds (bilateral and multilateral). Funding entering the country should be mainstreamed.
- With regard to the GEF, if Parties believe that it is beneficial to favour projects that take the objectives of the three conventions into consideration and generate benefits relevant to all of them, additional guidance to the GEF could be given in order to promote these projects.

- Where conventions share the same major international financial mechanisms wholly or in part, experience should be refined in order to effectively negotiate relevant procedural setups also toward the aim of creating synergies.

Capacity building and technology transfer

An enabling environment includes the creation of national capacity to deal with the implementation of the conventions, as well as to identify and promote synergy. In this regard, the group made the following suggestions:

- Capacity building effort should be directed not only at the national but also at the international level in order to support both the operationalization of national plans and the access to financial institutions and mechanisms (such as the GEF).
- The country capacity self-assessment should consider capacity building for synergy.
- Additional efforts by international donors and agencies should be made in order to increase the capacity of developing countries to participate in, contribute to and benefit from the conventions. This may include participation in the international processes and the activities needed to implement the conventions in a synergistic way.
- Some participants noted the importance of establishing monitoring systems as well as of strengthening the scientific basis supporting national implementation of the conventions.
- With relation to the design of projects, capacity should be created through the development of guidelines, the sharing of lessons learned, and piloting applications of systemic projects functional to intersectoral and synergistic convergence.
- In relation to technology transfer, the experience of the UNFCCC, including the input from its expert group (EGTT), can be adapted to serve the purposes of other conventions.
- Intergovernmental processes relating to technology transfer should take into account the results from several workshops on synergies. In particular, some participants noted the UNEP intergovernmental high-level panel for the Strategic Plan for capacity building and technological support.

Theme 2: Ecosystem services and poverty reduction

Working group 5: Sustainable livelihoods and forests resources (Facilitator: Mr. P. Kageyama, Brazil)

Introduction

Considering that forests and forest ecosystems offer opportunities for achieving synergy among the three Rio conventions, and the corresponding value that synergy can bring to the goals of sustainable forest management, the focus of the working group was:

- To identify opportunities and mechanisms available for combining sustainable livelihoods and forest protection, sustainable forest management, reforestation, afforestation, restoration and rehabilitation, and
- To identify the added value of forests and forest ecosystems in terms of mitigating the effect of degradation of land, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

A people-centred approach to implementation of the Rio conventions was considered as an important entry point to achieving sustainable livelihoods.

Elements of forests and forest ecosystems upon which effective synergy could be built and translated into concrete actions at local level

Forests and forest ecosystems were identified as sources of various well documented products and services, including products used as bases for livelihoods (timber, fuel wood, non-timber forest products, and so on) and spiritual and aesthetical values.

Extractive demands on forests to meet livelihood needs may be alleviated through the provision of alternative systems in order to increase potential synergies. Ecotourism was identified as one example of such an alternative source of income from forests.

Possible ways of promoting synergy were identified through the definition of common geographical or thematic areas where the conventions might best work together. Striking a balance between the intensity of extractive demands, the vulnerability of ecosystems and existing or potential support activities could contribute to precise and effective implementation.

In considering how the Rio conventions will be able more effectively to contribute to forestry-related activities that improve livelihoods at the local level, it is essential to evaluate the ways in which the conventions are currently addressing sustainable livelihoods and to identify the gaps. Criteria for monitoring and (self-)evaluating convention-related projects to support sustainable livelihoods should take into account national policy options and governance issues.

Mechanisms that can be established at local, national and international levels to facilitate the operationalization of forest- and forest ecosystem-related policy options

Approach:

- Take livelihoods needs as the starting point and then look for a way to create alternatives through the principles of the three conventions;
- Enhance livelihoods in ways that are not in conflict with the objectives of the three conventions but in fact can help work synergistically (restoring degraded lands, income generation, etc.);
- Develop more pro-poor activities through small-scale projects and promote stakeholder participation;
- Identify local initiatives and build on a bi-directional information & communication mechanism (success stories from communities to policy makers and awareness using the issues raised by the conventions);
- Promote articulation between the different levels (subsidiarity principle). Adapt the questions and debates according to the levels. Take advantage of and strengthen planning levels and policies;
- Mainstream the conventions in sustainable development local reflections;
- Promote more integrated approaches by the conventions to sustainable livelihoods;
- Consider land tenure;
- Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity.

Resources:

- Need for definition of coherent and articulated policy framework able to mainstream and prioritize funding opportunities;
- Involvement of private sector through co-financing mechanisms;

- Promote market-based mechanisms and ensure their transparency, such as payments for environmental services (known case studies), in line with conventions;
- Facilitate access to carbon markets at local level;
- Define modalities for the adaptation fund to facilitate the synergy process and maximize the benefit at local level.

Synergy promotion:

- Simplify the national institutional set-up for the three conventions and strengthen the relationships among the focal points and between them and other institutions and policy makers to improve the link between national and local levels;
- Use national forest programmes as an opportunity to coordinate policy options. The link to sustainable livelihoods should be strengthened;
- National coordination of financial resources: “interministerial committee” to assist development of project proposals linked with the three conventions. Support to this committee for the development, monitoring and reporting needed;
- Support for sustainable development livelihoods in communities often under development assistance “banner” – not connected to the three conventions per se. Mechanisms regarding institutional cooperation/coordination should include development assistance institutions;
- Promote effective partnerships to assist the objectives of communities and support (sustainable) local capacities;
- Clarify the role of the government in project selection, as well as in ensuring synergies.

Lessons learned in achieving synergy at local level

- Need to build local capacities and supportive policies;
- Political will and commitment are prerequisites for success of synergy;
- National governments may facilitate the potential funding sources through multilateral, bilateral and unilateral mechanisms;
- Integration in global development plans, communities should have motivations for protection. Land tenure as possible incentive;
- Collaborative Forest Management projects show some successful experiences that may be linked with sequestration.
- Focal points need to be strengthened to be able to influence policy-making.

Working group 6: Access to and benefit sharing of forests and genetic resources
(Facilitator: Mr. D. Hafashimana, Uganda)

The facilitator made a short presentation on the significance of access and benefit sharing and the role of access and benefit sharing of forests and genetic resources (ABS) within the framework of the CBD. He explained the main decisions taken from COPs on ABS and the linkages between the ABS within the CBD and the other two conventions.

The group discussed and agreed upon how to conduct the work, how to reply to the four questions, and the possible output. One participant suggested taking into account the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, in particular goal 5 on ABS. Another participant suggested referring to the equitable information system.

Elements

The group agreed that only the CBD addresses ABS though it has indirect linkages with the other two conventions, among other organizations, through its possible impacts on forest ecosystems.

- Benefits arising from use of genetic resources can be used in stimulating conservation programs and afforestation and reforestation programmes.
- Excessive/unsustainable practices or harvesting of certain species/genetic resources can lead to degradation and deforestation, thereby undermining the objectives of the three conventions.

Would these actions have global impact? The group agreed by consensus that afforestation/deforestation can have a global impact in the medium/long term.

Can we assign priorities? The group felt that priorities should be assigned based on some previous assessment at national level, and in accordance with the mandates of the three conventions.

Indicators

The group agreed by consensus that it is possible to develop specific indicators for afforestation/reforestation and forest degradation, though it is very difficult to have indicators for ABS. The group agreed by consensus that such indicators are best set at a national level.

Mechanism

1. Local level
 - Capacity building;
 - Close collaboration between the three focal points and their respective institutions at national level.
2. International level
 - The JLG could perhaps address this issue in order to find possible synergies;
 - Collaborative partnerships on forests, UNFF and all relevant international agreements;
 - Clearing-house mechanism (information sharing, public awareness);
 - Need for financial resources (that is, GEF funding) and financial mechanism;
 - Jointly-funded programmes involving the three Rio conventions implemented by the relevant institutions at national level.

Lessons learned

The group agreed that is not possible to refer to any past experience, as none exists regarding synergies in ABS with respect to the three conventions.

The group also agreed that there is room for enhanced cooperation among national focal points on this topic.

The group further agreed that an international enabling environment could contribute to strengthening the process at local level, through for example capacity building programmes, information sharing, code of best practices, and available information within international organizations.

Working group 7: Applying appropriate technology (Facilitator: Mr. S.K. Ratho, India)

Overview of the work

The topic was introduced by the representative of India through a presentation highlighting the core issue of synergy and the thematic areas to be considered by the group. The group decided to develop a matrix of elements concerning different areas of the subject.

Deliberations

The following topics also figured in the group's deliberations:

- How would we analyse appropriate technology?
- Desertification continues, with thousands of hectares lost each year. Technologies presented can address this. More information can be provided off-line.
- Adaptation to climate change is an area of significant potential synergy with other conventions.
- Significant opportunities for synergies can be found, in particular as regards national level forest-related data sets through national forest inventories, assessment and monitoring, and meeting information needs of all three conventions along with the ongoing FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments.
- Synergy and streamlining of the national reporting processes on forest-related matters is under way in the CPF. This could also necessitate a change in reporting process from secretariat-driven formats to a country-driven mechanism, where one national report could potentially address the requirements of all three conventions. This actually already happens as regards trade and production-related data sets on forests, satisfying the needs of ITTO, UNCTAD and FAO.
- Sustainable management of mountain ecosystems is an important area for synergy.
- Synergy would be most appropriate at national level.

Case study

A system of mechanized water harvesting technology to fight against land degradation was well appreciated by the group.

Summary of recommendations

Thematic area	Synergistic issues	Activities suggested		Remarks
		Activities to encourage innovation	Technology transfer/capacity building	
1. Biomass for energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint forest management • Fuel wood for energy • Industrial energy • Substitute for other energy sources, implications for air pollution • Tradeoffs: impacts on local populations, biodiversity • Bio-diesel • Micro-hydel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D • Market mechanisms • Fuel wood use efficiency • Intermediate technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Extension and outreach • Encourage residue utilization for gas generation • Appropriate scale • Integrated development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of local communities
2. Afforestation/reforestation/conversion to forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implication of monoculture (pros and cons; various views expressed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use multiple species wherever possible • Management at landscape scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of sustainable management practices • Silvicultural technologies 	
3. Water harvesting system for dryland reforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated watershed development programme • Multiple technologies exist 			
4. Technology for soil ploughing and tillage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon storage in soils 			Minimizing releases of carbon from soils to atmosphere

5. Soil conditioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granular additive method described • Improved fallow techniques • Biomass transfer technologies 			Significant implications for avoiding / addressing desertification.
6. Monitoring and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite • Ground-based systems • Data management systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advances in information technology • Application of technology appropriate to country sensitivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from past experience • Integration of metrics associated with three conventions into monitoring and assessment systems 	<p>Capacity and resource constraints significant barrier</p> <p>Countries with resource constraints need to be supported</p> <p>Sensitivity of data, protocols for information sharing, cost recovery can address this</p> <p>Sharing information within country to be encouraged</p> <p>Sharing of information internationally, where appropriate</p> <p>Stakeholder involvement is important</p> <p>Reporting requirements of conventions differ. UNCCD provides some information to countries (maps)</p> <p>UNFCCC Annex I Parties required to report carbon stocks and fluxes annually, non-Annex I Parties report periodically</p>
7. Animal agriculture /Agro-pastoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing impacts on adoption of other technologies and practices 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Restricted grazing • Fodder banks 	

Working group 8: Forest-related knowledge (Facilitator: Mr. J. Parrotta, USA)

Comments

The group considered the overall workshop objectives and noted the role that the added value of synergy could play. The group discussed the areas of common interest of the three Rio conventions and how forest knowledge could be developed, used and synthesized. The importance of developing and applying both scientific and traditional knowledge to achieve sustainable forest management goals under all three conventions was emphasized.

The group reviewed a number of relevant documents including the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity (CBD Decision VI/22), the Joint Work Programme between the CBD and the UNCCD on Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-Humid lands and three UNFF4 documents, 'Enhanced Cooperation and Policy and Programme Coordination', 'Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge' and 'Scientific Forest-Related Knowledge'.

Questions for the working group

- (i) What are the main elements that your working group is addressing upon which effective synergy could be built and translated into concrete actions at the local level? Would these actions have a global impact? Can we assign priorities accordingly?

The further development, synthesis and application of both traditional and scientific forest-related knowledge was seen as critical for addressing a number of issues at local and national levels under the three Rio conventions. Among the many issues considered (and summarized in the attached annex), unmanaged wildland fire, forest restoration, and the development of criteria and indicators and forest monitoring systems were considered to be important areas of collaboration among the three conventions at the national level.

- (ii) Can a specific set of indicators be identified in relation to the topics that your group is addressing, aimed at evaluating the forest-related projects in terms of their synergistic potential?

The working group did not discuss this question.

- (iii) What mechanisms can be established at local and international levels to facilitate operationalization of forests and forest ecosystems-related policy options?

NFPs and existing FAO tools such as the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) should serve as platforms and bridges for synergy. The CPF was also discussed as an important mechanism at the international level to facilitate national level synergies.

- (iv) What have been considered to be the lessons learned in achieving synergy at the local level? Is past experience rated satisfactory, or is there room for enhanced cooperation among national focal points? Can an international enabling environment contribute to strengthening the process at the local level?

The group also noted issues of mutual concern that can be addressed through the application of traditional and scientific knowledge, and observed that some topics would be applicable to some countries and not to others. The availability of funding was seen as a crosscutting issue.

The group noted the importance of further application of traditional forest-related knowledge, the role of NGOs in the preservation of the traditional knowledge, and the largely untapped potential for integration of scientific and traditional knowledge into the development of projects under the three conventions.

The group noted the complexities relating to traditional knowledge such as indigenous peoples' rights, and the importance of documenting this knowledge as a major step towards protecting these rights.

The group also observed that individual countries were at different stages in their approach to cataloging traditional knowledge, including issues of access and benefit sharing, and that current processes concerning the use of such knowledge were still evolving

The group also observed that the CBD was more advanced in its work on certain aspects of traditional knowledge.

Work in both conventions was focused on conservation of traditional knowledge, but the CBD attached issues relating to economic valuation, as well as legal issues, to traditional knowledge, while the UNCCD, while still valuing the knowledge, promoted it as a tool for land rehabilitation, survival and for water conservation.

Recommendations

1. Nations that currently lack systems for documenting and protecting traditional knowledge should review applicable laws which enable protection of traditional knowledge. When such knowledge is recorded (published) and recognized by various institutions, it should be traceable regardless of its mode of application.
2. Efforts to "translate" traditional and scientific forest-related knowledge so that the best of both can be used to advance the goals of the Rio conventions should be supported.
3. Existing processes should serve as a possible base for synergy, particularly for the application of synergy to arid, semi-arid and sub-humid lands.
4. The major "synergy partners" should be recognized; at the international level these include the UNFF/CPF and the FAO Forestry Department. These partnerships, among others, should be used as a mechanism for the synergy among the Rio conventions.
5. Better information collection systems should be promoted, particularly for knowledge on Low Forest Cover Countries.
6. National-level political will regarding synergy is considered as important factor for success in synergy pilot projects dealing with the development and application of forest-related knowledge.
7. The stability of research institutions and other agencies as sources of knowledge should be viewed as a prerequisite for success in synergy projects.
8. Communication systems and the administrative arrangements concerning convention focal points should be clearly established in order to facilitate synergy. Focal points should meet regularly to review national programmes, engage in model building for synergy, build trust, establish modes of working and discuss project implementation.

9. Unmanaged wildland fires should be considered as a good overlapping issue for the application and integration of traditional and modern knowledge .

Assessment of topics of common concern to the CBD (Forest PoW), the UNCCD and the UNFCCC

Topic (goal)	CBD (Forests PoW: objective/activity)	Ref.	UNCCD	UNFCCC	Comments
<i>Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit-Sharing</i>					
Application of the ecosystem approach	Develop practical methods, guidelines, and strategies for applying EA adapted to regional differences, to forests both inside and outside forest-protected areas as well as in both managed and unmanaged forests	1.1.1	+	+	
Reduce threats and mitigate impacts of threatening processes on forest biological diversity	Improve knowledge of the impacts of invasive alien species on forest ecosystems and adjacent ecosystems	1.2.1	+	-?	Potential area of “negative” synergy
	Increase understanding of pollution impacts on forest biodiversity; support monitoring programmes to evaluate impacts	1.2.2 a,b	+	+	
	Mitigate negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity: <i>monitoring and research</i>	1.2.3 a	+	+	
	Mitigate negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity: <i>develop coordinated response strategies</i>	1.2.3 b	+	+	
	Mitigate negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity: <i>promote maintenance and restoration of biodiversity</i>	1.2.3 c	+		
	Mitigate negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity: <i>promote conservation and restoration of FBD in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures</i>	1.2.3 d		+?	
	Mitigate negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity: <i>assess role of conservation and sustainable use</i>	1.2.3 d	+	+	
	Prevent and mitigate adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression: <i>addressing causes and impacts</i>	1.2.4 a	+	+	
	Prevent and mitigate adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression: <i>understanding ecological roles of human-induced fire</i>	1.2.4 b	+	+	
	Prevent and mitigate adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression: <i>development and refinement of controlled burning practices for management</i>	1.2.4 c,d	+	+	
	Prevent and mitigate adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression: <i>risk assessment, prediction, prevention planning, education</i>	1.2.4 e-i	+	+	

	Prevent/mitigate losses due to fragmentation and land conversion: ecological corridors and reduction of fragmentation impacts	1.2.6 b,d	+		
Protect, recover and restore forest biodiversity	Forest restoration: practices, ecosystem services, databases and case studies	1.3.1	+	+	High potential for synergy
	Forest management practices to further conservation or endemic/threatened species	1.3.2	+		
	Development of adequate/effective protected area networks	1.3.3	+	+	
Promote sustainable use	to enhance conservation of forest BD	1.4.1 a-h (all)	+	+	
	to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources	1.4.2 a,b	+	+	
Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community management systems	Taking into account the outcome of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD	1.4.3 esp. c,e,f	+	+	High potential for synergy
Development of information systems and promote strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest BD	Genetic diversity assessments, monitoring, conservation and management strategies & practices	1.4.4 a-h (most)	+	+	
<i>Institutional and Socioeconomic Enabling Environment</i>					
Increase public education, participation and awareness	Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest BD and its goods and services at all levels	2.3.1	+	+	
<i>Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring</i>					
Forest classification	Development of appropriate forest classification systems	3.1.1 3.1.2	+	+	
	Specific forest ecosystem surveys in priority areas	3.1.3	+	+	
Improved knowledge and methods for assessment of forest status and trends	Advance development of criteria and indicators	3.2.1	+	+	
Role of forest biodiversity [in] ecosystem function	Research and development programs	3.3.1	+		
Improved infrastructure of data and information management and monitoring of forest biodiversity	Improve national level technical capacity to monitor forest biological diversity	3.4.1	+	+	
Additional topics: UNCCD/UNFCCC					
Establishment and management of forest plantations			+	+	

Other key elements of sustainable forest management aside from biodiversity			+	+	
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