



Discussion Points by

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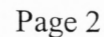
Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations
Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**)

*On the Occasion of the Tenth Session of the
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CCD

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Support to low forest cover countries



COP in Havana requested the UNCCD Secretariat to promote and strengthen relationships with UNFF and UNFCCC and CBD to promote activities with Low Forest Cover Countries, in their efforts to combat desertification, and meet their obligations under the other Rio Conventions.



Action of the global level

Work of the Joint Liaison Group

e Secretariats of CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC continue to reinforce their collaboration through the JL Options Paper elaborating further on areas of possible collaboration among the Rio Cs was prepared by the three secretariats, and presented to FCCC SBTA in this session at Buenos Aires.

f *Work of UNCCD Secretariat on Strengthening Synergy*

UNCCD has been involved in the search for and development of synergy with the other conventions, through:

the development of joint programmes of work *promoting synergy*

- holding of joint workshops and consultative forums;
- facilitating country level synergy workshops involving the environmental conventions at the local level, at the request of Parties to the convention.

UNCCD COP requested for continuation of the ~~national synergy workshops programme~~ *from activities*, and the number of workshops be increased in order further to enhance decision makers' capacity at country level fully to implement the conventions in a synergistic manner. Developed country Parties have also been requested to provide the necessary resources on a voluntary basis.

d *Testing of Pilot Initiatives for Carbon Sequestration*

UNCCD Secretariat has been facilitating the testing of pilot initiatives to integrate the Climate Change dimension, in particular carbon sequestration activities, into UNCCD sustainable development projects through afforestation and reforestation schemes. (Argentina, China and Mozambique)

~~Results:~~ Demonstration that challenge posed by the intricate impact of climate change, loss of biological diversity, drought and desertification on social, economic and environmental conditions in countries can be addressed jointly.

Conclusion: *Way forward*

To jointly address the issue of sustainable development and to achieve environmental security we need to focus broader framework encompassing:

- desertification and land management,
- biological diversity,
- climate change and socio-economic development

Adaptation



The motto think globally, act locally, from our perspective, must now be translated at the operational level through integrative land and water management strategies that must and can be implemented in a decentralized manner with the full involvement of all stakeholders including of course NGOs and CBOs that represent natural resources end users.

We are optimistic that the international community with the support of the GEF will gradually build up the type of partnership that shall respond to this imperative