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Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

**Report on the performance of the Trust Fund for Supplementary
Activities in the biennium 2002-2003 as at 31 May 2003**

Note by the secretariat*

Addendum

SUMMARY

By its decision 4/COP.5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to report to the COP at its sixth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the COP.

The present document contains information on the activities supported under the Supplementary Fund in the biennium 2002-2003. It provides a brief description of activities carried out, as well as an assessment of the results achieved as at 31 May 2003. This information is accompanied by the statement of expenditures in the period under review. A short description of activities to be undertaken during the remaining seven months of the year 2003 is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures.

* The submission of this document has been delayed in order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the most up-to-date information on the performance of the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities.

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Mandate

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

2. By its decision 4/COP.5, the COP requested the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to report to the COP at its sixth session on the status of the trust funds established under the financial rules of the COP.

B. Scope of the report

3. The present document contains information on the activities supported under the Supplementary Fund in the biennium 2002-2003. It follows the structure and updates the information contained in earlier documents, ICCD/COP(4)/2/Add.7 and ICCD/COP(5)/2/Add.4. It provides a brief description of activities carried out, as well as an assessment of the results achieved as at 31 May 2003. This information is accompanied by the statement of expenditures in the period under review. A short description of activities to be undertaken during the remaining seven months of the year 2003 is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures. The document is organized in accordance with the main programmes as follows:

- (a) Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice, and global issues (COPSUBLA);
- (b) Facilitation of implementation and coordination (by region);
- (c) External relations and public information.

4. Each regional section includes activities at the national, subregional and regional levels, as well as on interregional activities. It should be noted that activities supported by the secretariat were often undertaken jointly with other bilateral or multilateral partners, in order to achieve optimum results.

II. PERFORMANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

Table 1. Status of the Supplementary Fund as at 31 May 2003
(United States dollars)

Income	Actual as at 31 May 2003	Estimate for June-Dec. 2003	Total
Balance brought forward	3,698,037		3,698,037
Contributions received	3,431,013	4,500,000	7,931,013
Prior year savings on obligations and interest income	593,498		593,498
Total income	7,722,548	4,500,000	11,222,548
Total expenditures (inclusive of programme support costs)	6,404,482		6,404,482
Balance	1,315,066	4,500,000	5,818,066

Table 2. Expenditures of the Supplementary Fund by programme
(United States dollars)

Programme	Actual as at 31 May 2003	Estimate for June-Dec. 2003	Total
Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice, and global issues	1,544,046	720,500	2,264,546
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	3,538,716	3,087,500	6,626,216
External relations and public information	587,576	516,000	1,103,576
Subtotal	5,670,338	4,324,000	9,994,338
Programme support costs	737,144	562,120	1,299,264
Total	6,407,482	4,886,120	11,293,602
Operating capital reserve	346,317	732,918	732,918
Grand total	6,753,799	5,619,038	12,026,520

Table 3. Expenditures of the Supplementary Fund by object of expenditure
(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	Actual as at 31 May 2003	Estimate for June-Dec. 2003	Total
Staff costs	655,000	266,000	921,000
Consultants and experts	920,883	303,000	1,223,883
Travel of participants and representatives	1,252,201	1,819,000	3,071,201
Staff travel	431,064	57,000	488,064
Contractual services	376,632	181,000	557,632
Grants	2,034,558	1,698,000	3,732,558
Subtotal	5,670,338	4,324,000	9,994,338
Programme support costs	737,144	562,120	1,299,264
Total	6,407,482	4,886,120	11,293,602
Operating reserve*	346,317	732,918	732,918
Grand total	6,753,799	5,619,038	12,026,520

* It is anticipated that by the end of the year 2003 the required operating reserve will be US\$ 732,918, after taking into account the amount of US\$ 614,805 brought forward from 2002.

A. Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its
subsidiary bodies and legal advice, and global issues

1. *First meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention*

5. The first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 1) was held from 11 to 22 November 2002 in Rome, Italy. The secretariat facilitated the organization of thematic review, geographic review (regional wrap-up sessions) and the global interactive dialogue. The presentation of specific case studies grouped along thematic topics, as decided by decision 1/COP.5, assisted the CRIC in its review and deliberations. The secretariat was supporting this process and provided advice to country Parties as well as technical input to the presentations made.

Staff travel	231,068
Logistics and contractual services	55,728
CRIC 1 total	286,796

2. Activities relating to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

6. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP 6) will be held from 25 August to 5 September 2003 in Havana, Cuba. During the Conference, two major parallel events will be organized, the Round Table of Parliamentarians and the Forum of Arts and Culture.

7. The fifth Round Table of Parliamentarians will be held from 3 to 4 September 2003, organized in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. More than 60 Members of parliament from all over the world are expected to attend the Round Table. The deliberations of the parliamentarians will focus on "The role of Members of Parliament in promoting sustainable human development at national level in the context of a successful implementation of the UNCCD", and the outcome of the Round Table will be formally submitted to the attention of COP 6.

Estimated costs for the travel of participants	60,000
Organization of the Round Table - Facilities and interpretation services	50,000
Other logistics in connection with the Round Table	50,000

8. The UNCCD secretariat, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is organizing a Forum on Arts and Culture in the context of the implementation of the UNCCD which will take place from 30 to 31 August 2003. Forty eminent intellectuals are expected to participate. The Forum will aim at creating a new approach to addressing the problem of the combat against desertification and poverty, and will produce an appeal to intellectuals worldwide strongly to support the combat against desertification. The results will be presented to COP 6.

Estimated costs for the travel of participants	60,000
Estimated costs for the facilities and interpretation	50,000
Estimated costs of supplies and equipment for use during COP 6	290,000
Logistics	7,187

Activities relating to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties total **567,187**

3. Support to the strengthening of synergies among the Rio conventions

9. Pursuant to the decisions by the COPs to the UNCCD and to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a joint work programme between the two conventions has been developed. The overall aim of the programme of work is to promote the objectives of the CBD in dry and sub-humid lands, as well as to meet the objectives of the UNCCD, particularly in those areas faced with the threat of drought and desertification. It should be pointed out that the process is underway to recruit a technical expert who will be jointly funded by UNCCD and CBD.

10. The Expert Group on the Joint Work Programme on the CBD and the UNCCD recommended that support be sought to facilitate the preparation of project proposals that could qualify for funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other institutions. Moreover, the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Biological Diversity of Dry and Sub-humid Lands, which was formed at COP 6 of the CBD, recommended that the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and the UNCCD explore ways of assisting Parties to build their capacity for GEF project preparation in this thematic area. Consequently, the UNCCD secretariat, with the support of interested partners, has facilitated the training of selected affected country representatives, to enable them to attain the necessary methodological tools for project preparation. The first training of an initial ten country representatives took place in January-February 2002 at the *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (IAO), in Florence, Italy, with very positive and promising results. Two more training courses have been organized in cooperation with IAO, in February-March 2002 and May 2003.

Grant to IAO – lecturers' fees, background material	55,350
Travel of participants	7,800
Travel of staff	3,370

11. The next training course will take place before the end of 2003.

Estimated costs for lecturers' fees and background material	28,000
Travel of participants	10,000

12. The synergistic implementation is facilitated through activities at the national and local levels. Several developing country Parties have already held their national synergy workshops, the outcomes of which are reported under sections C to F of the present document. With regard to the conceptual development of effective synergistic implementation, a series of workshops are being carried out, with the aim of developing tools for an assessment of the challenges and pitfalls for more coherent and joint implementation of the conventions. Also the strengthening of capacities at the local level for synergistic programme development will be targeted in these workshops. A workshop was held in May 2003 in Kenya; one is scheduled in Namibia for July 2003.

Grant to Kenya for the organization of the workshop, consultancy and travel of participants	20,000
Estimated costs of the workshop in Namibia	20,000

13. For facilitating the planning and coordination of the development of synergies, the Government of the Netherlands seconded an officer to the UNCCD secretariat.

Staff and other personnel costs	143,500
Estimated personnel costs	52,500

Support to the strengthening of synergies among the Rio conventions total 340,520

4. Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

(a) The Panel of Eminent Personalities

14. In response to resolution 55/199 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat of the UNCCD established as a joint initiative the Panel of Eminent Personalities to consider the poverty-environment nexus in the context of the implementation of the UNCCD in April 2001. The Panel met twice, in the sidelines of COP 5 in Geneva in October 2001, and in Agadez, Niger at the end of February 2002, in which meeting it finalized its report. The Panel made an appeal, "the Agadez Call", to sensitize the international community to the plight of peoples living in the dry and arid zones of our planet, in order to provide them with assistance to improve their living conditions. The Panel's report was submitted by the Government of Niger for consideration by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Preparatory Committee at its third session, and further publicized by the members of the Panel during the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee and the Summit. The Panel's findings have been reflected in the WSSD outcome.

Agadez

Consultancy for the preparation of background documentation, travel of consultants	24,240
Travel of participants	31,030
Local costs: Panel travel Niamey-Agadez and meeting facilities	41,774
Travel of staff	26,566

Bali

Consultancy fees and travel	26,619
Travel of participants	66,011

Johannesburg

Travel of participants and experts	49,595
Local costs: resource persons, arrangements for the side event and exhibition, local transportation	58,066
Travel of staff	3,370

(b) The Praia conference preparatory to the WSSD

15. In its decision 8/COP.5, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the WSSD, and in the Summit itself, with a view to ensuring that the UNCCD goals and objectives, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development, are duly reflected in its outcome, and to report to the sixth session of the COP accordingly. At the invitation of the Government of Cape Verde, a Conference on the Implementation of the UNCCD preparatory to the WSSD was held in Praia, Cape Verde, in March 2002. The Conference was attended by Ministers and high-level representatives of those developing country Parties to the UNCCD which have adopted their national action programmes (NAPs), as well as their partners in the implementation of the Convention. The participants to the Conference adopted a Ministerial Message which underscores the important role of the fight against desertification in poverty reduction strategies and urges the international community to grant the necessary resources for

successful implementation of the NAPs. The outcomes of the Praia Conference were submitted for the consideration of the WSSD Preparatory Committee at its third session by the Government of Cape Verde.

Grant to Cape Verde	12,145
Consultancy fee/travel	44,672
Travel of participants	289,263
Logistics	30,855
Travel of staff	75,565

16. The WSSD proved to be a success from the viewpoint of the UNCCD. In the Plan of Implementation, the Summit acknowledged the Convention as one of the tools to address poverty eradication. The Summit also stressed the need to mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources, transfer of technologies and capacity-building for strengthening the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, the Summit invited the GEF Assembly to offer the GEF to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention.

Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development total	779,771
COPSUBLA actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	1,453,774
COPSUBLA estimated expenditures by the end of 2003	520,500
COPSUBLA total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	1,974,274

B. Substantive support to the Committee on Science and Technology and related activities

1. Traditional knowledge

17. The Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Italy has requested the secretariat to assist in the establishment of a Research Centre on Traditional Knowledge in Matera, Italy, with the main task of studying and documenting traditional and local knowledge and technologies in order to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. External consultancy was used to undertake a preliminary analysis of the institutional aspects of various options proposed for the Centre with regard to its corporate structure, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the various options proposed from a legal perspective. The results of the consultancy were presented at a meeting hosted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment in Rome, in cooperation with representatives of UNESCO and the UNCCD secretariat.

Consultancy costs	6,000
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2. Desertification information system for planning needs in the Mediterranean region

18. The Desertification information system for planning needs in the Mediterranean region (DISMED) project, launched in 2000 with the support of the Government of Italy, aims to improve the capacity of national administrations of Mediterranean countries to effectively programme measures and policies to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

19. The secretariat, in collaboration with the European Environment Agency (EEA), and the Applied Meteorology Foundation (FMA), organized a validation workshop on sensitivity mapping on desertification and on information system metadatabase. The outcome of the work had been developed during the first operational year of the project. The workshop was held in Tamanrasset, Algeria, from 15 to 18 October 2002.

20. The next meeting of DISMED is scheduled to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2003.

Travel of participants	7,692
Grant to local meeting organizers (facilities and translation – EEA)	21,800
Grant to local meeting organizers (FMA)	50,000
Travel of staff	4,780
Estimated cost of DISMED project	200,000
DISMED total	284,272
CST activities actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	90,272
CST activities estimated expenditures by the end of 2003	200,000
CST activities total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	290,272

C. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Africa region

1. *National level*

21. In 2002 activities focused on the formulation and/or updating of national reports in preparation for CRIC 1. Country Parties have also been continuously invited to complete the process of formulating and adopting the NAPs, with a view to finalizing them no later than the end of 2005 as requested by decision 8/COP.4. Emphasis has been placed on the facilitation of the convocation of consultative processes among all relevant actors, aimed at the conclusion of partnership agreements. Synergy workshops have been organized in several African countries to foster effective implementation of international Conventions on sustainable development. Furthermore, some African countries have been supported to launch pilot initiatives in the context of their NAPs.

(a) National reporting

22. To facilitate the preparation of national reports, the Help Guide developed in 1999 for the first national reporting process was revised on the basis of comments received, and made available to Parties. The relevant subregional institutions facilitated and guided the preparation and/or updating of the national reports in their respective constituencies. External expertise was used for the compilation, synthesis and preliminary analysis of the national reports submitted to CRIC 1 (ICCD/ CRIC(1)/2/Add.1 (A)).

Grants to the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) for supporting their member countries, and to Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Egypt, Madagascar, Rwanda and Sao Tomé and Príncipe for the preparation and/or updating of national reports	256,689
Consultancy fees and travel	36,000

23. In total, 48 African country Parties submitted their reports and nine of these countries presented case studies during CRIC 1. The reports have thrown more light on the actual progress, and it was noted that affected African country Parties have made significant efforts in the process of NAP formulation and implementation. However, a number of obstacles need to be removed, including difficulties in harmonizing planning tools relating to the management of natural resources, the lack of adequate and predictable funding and problems in concluding long-term partnership agreements.

(b) Elaboration and validation of NAPs

24. In cooperation with the Global Mechanism (GM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), national meetings to validate the NAP and to launch its implementation have been organized in Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique and Zambia.

Grants for the organization of national workshops for NAP validation	43,095
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25. The NAPs were endorsed by the respective governments as the instrument for combating desertification at the national level, to be integrated into the overall national development planning process and initiatives concerning natural resources management and poverty eradication. The completion of these NAPs brings the total number of NAPs in Africa to 29. Some three other country Parties are expected to complete their NAPs before the end of 2003.

(c) Convening of consultations for NAP implementation

26. Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia launched consultative processes for the purposes of concluding partnership agreements. Joint missions of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM were conducted to most of these countries to support the process. The objective is to bring together all the key stakeholders involved in NAP implementation at the national level as well as bilateral and multilateral partners. The extent to which the NAP has been integrated into various national sustainable development frameworks will be analysed, and resource gaps that need to be filled if the NAP objectives are to be achieved will be identified. A planned national forum on partnership agreements will mobilize public support and strengthen the networks of stakeholders, thereby enhancing a broad ownership of the NAP process at all levels.

Estimated expenditures for the logistical costs, background material and participation in the consultations for NAP preparations – three countries in 2003	60,000
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27. Support was given to Burkina Faso and Niger to prepare a detailed analysis on the linkages between their NAPs and the country support papers, following the workshops on the integration of priority activities relating to combating desertification into the country support papers in the context of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states and the European Union (ACP-EU) Partnership Agreement organized in 2001 in Cotonou, Benin.

Consultancy costs 14,130

28. This type of catalytic support proved to be effective in promoting the integration of the NAPs into the country support papers in the context of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. Natural resource management, in particular combating desertification, is well noted in the respective documents of the two countries and should help in mobilizing funds for the implementation of projects to combat desertification.

(d) National synergy workshops

29. Burkina Faso, Mali, Tanzania and Uganda held national level synergy workshops to support the work of the national level stakeholders, and to identify methods for further facilitating the development of the synergistic approach to the implementation of the conventions on sustainable development. Algeria, Eritrea and Ethiopia are currently preparing to hold similar workshops before the end of 2003. The workshops have sought to identify areas of linkages for the implementation of the conventions, to seek strategies for integrating the priorities of the conventions into the national development processes, and to elaborate future projects and activities reflecting synergies among the conventions. The national synergy workshops have brought together key stakeholders in the CBD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNCCD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands at national level, including relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local experts. The need for related guidelines on methodological issues, communication procedures and review processes has been frequently brought up in the workshops, generally as recommendations for further work by the secretariats of the conventions. Further, the necessity of scientific and technological backstopping for achieving the common goals has been noted in the workshops.

Grants to Algeria, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania and Uganda for the preparation of the background documentation for the workshop, and for the logistical costs of the workshop 73,125

(e) Pilot projects

30. Lesotho, in cooperation with UNDP, launched in 1997 the "Environmental Youth Corps", a project to rehabilitate degraded environment in rural and urban areas and to create income-generating activities for unemployed youth. The project turned out to be a success story, training more than five thousand young people in appropriate environment management, creating employment, and building capacity at community level.

31. On the basis of the results achieved in Lesotho, Benin, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Niger have formulated project proposals and launched youth corps projects in 2002-2003 with the support

of various partners. Several other African country Parties, including Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have prepared similar youth project frameworks.

Grants to Benin and Mozambique	153,000
Consultancy fees/travel	50,648
Estimated cost for youth project	140,000

32. Groups of unemployed young people have since been identified and mobilized in the countries in which the projects have been launched, and some groups have started implementing a number of pilot projects targeting protection and rehabilitation of degraded natural resources. Capacity building activities are also being planned to enhance the sustainability of the projects.

(f) Capacity building support

33. The UNCCD secretariat, in close collaboration with UNDP, has facilitated the provision of support to the National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) of Niger since the end of 2002. The support is targeted at building the capacity of CNEDD and other governmental and non-governmental organizations on various themes in the context of implementing the National Plan on Environment and Sustainable Development (PNEDD) of Niger. Subsequently, it is expected that the issues of environment management should receive increased attention, and all actors concerned in the process will be better able to recognize their respective rolls in environmental management.

Niger institutional support	241,665
Africa national level total	1,068,352

2. Subregional level

34. Four of the five African subregions have completed their subregional action programmes (SRAPs). The Central African subregion is still in the process of formulating its SRAP with a view to completing it before the end of 2005. In the context of the joint work programme between the UNCCD and the GM, support is given to this process and a subregional workshop for Central African country Parties is planned to be held before the end of 2003.

Estimated costs of staff travel	5,000
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(a) Transboundary pilot projects

35. Support to African country Parties has also placed emphasis on the joint management of shared natural resources by affected communities in the form of transboundary pilot projects. In most cases the involvement of the affected communities in the joint management and utilization of the shared resources have defused potential local conflicts. Local communities from Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia have participated in the formulation and implementation of pilot projects.

36. Communities are taking active roles in the management of shared pastures and grazing lands along the border between Mali and Niger. On the border between Burkina Faso and Mali, communities have assumed the management responsibilities of shared salted sites for their livestock. In the locality of Tamchekett, on the Mauritanian side of the border, the communities have successfully completed the protection and rehabilitation of degraded lands. A community-based project in the Tin-Zaoauten zone between Algeria and Mali has strengthened the capacity of the local communities for food security and coping mechanisms. A community project in the arid and semi-arid zones between Algeria and Mali is bringing stability to sand dunes movement in the area. In the SADC subregion, a consultative process undertaken in the Kalahari-Namib has identified potential community-based projects on eco-tourism.

Grant to local NGO <i>Walde Ejef</i>	106,000
Grant to local NGO <i>Nodde Nooto</i>	65,000
Grant to local NGO <i>Association d'Intérêt Collectif de Hazaoua</i>	4,295
Grant to local NGO <i>Association des Amis de Tamchakett</i>	10,000
Support to Azaoak project	20,000
Support to the Kayes-Kakossa project	12,013
Support to Goraul project	40,000

(b) Subregional meeting on GEF procedures

37. In view of the new GEF operational programme on sustainable land management to be adopted as a result of the new GEF focal area on land degradation (desertification and deforestation), the Government of Benin hosted a subregional high-level meeting on GEF procedures in April 2003, to ensure that key players at national level are familiar with these procedures. Participants from 10 western African countries at ministerial and technical level recommended among other things the organization of training workshops, the continuation of GEF country dialogue workshops and the mobilization of adequate funding.

Grant to Benin for the organization of the workshop	29,801
Consultancy	40,917
Travel of participants	31,916

Africa subregional level total **364,942**

3. Regional level

(a) Regional meeting preparatory to CRIC 1

38. In July 2002 Namibia hosted the African regional meeting preparatory to the first session of the CRIC. Forty-two African country Parties and several developed country Parties, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs attended the meeting. The participants made a peer review of the African reports as part of the preparation of regional input for the CRIC review process. Three interactive dialogue sessions, focusing on the thematic topics identified for the review process which included participation, monitoring and assessment and resource mobilization, were held and gave an opportunity to exchange views and ideas. A side event in the form of a round table meeting with representatives of Namibian local communities was organized during the meeting.

Grant to Namibia for the organization of the meeting	31,574
Travel of participants	140,537
Travel of staff	31,636
Expert fees and travel	18,000

(b) African ministerial conference preparatory to COP 6

39. The African regional meeting preparatory to COP 6 will be held in Cotonou, Benin in June-July 2003. African country Parties will review the recommendations made by CRIC 1, coordinate positions regarding the main issues to be discussed during CRIC 2 and COP 6 and prepare elements for draft decisions. In addition, participants will share experiences and assess achievements and constraints and map out strategies to enhance the implementation of the Convention from the regional viewpoint.

40. A two-day ministerial segment is scheduled to conclude the meeting with a view to maintaining and further activating the political resolve expressed during WSSD on the UNCCD, to be discussed during an interactive dialogue session. The ministerial segment will also consider the report of the technical segment and the elements for draft decisions to be made at COP 6.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	350,000
Estimated costs of the meeting facilities	60,000

(c) Activities under the regional action programme for Africa

41. The African regional action programme (RAP) consists of six thematic programme networks (TPNs). TPNs aim at promoting capacity building in activities which are better implemented at the regional level, and strengthening exchange of information and appropriate techniques, technical know-how and relevant experience.

42. First four TPNs have been launched and the remaining two will be launched shortly.

43. The TPN on agroforestry and soil conservation (TPN 2) launched in 2001 is mandated to identify and develop suitable agroforestry, soil and water conservation techniques and practices to augment conventional agriculture production methods. A workshop is planned for November 2003 on best practices and to launch activities that would be undertaken at the local level consistent with the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions. The workshop is expected to focus mainly on community level resource users in Eastern and Southern Africa. It will give support to initiatives promoting agroforestry farming systems and the domestication, processing and marketing of agroforestry products (plant species), as well as addressing synergy approaches in the implementation of the Rio conventions. It is envisaged that the individual communities will develop pilot activities on these best practices in their respective localities.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	100,000
Estimated local costs	20,000
Estimated costs for the travel of staff	10,000

44. The meeting for the launching of TPN 4 on ecological monitoring, remote sensing, natural resources mapping and early warning systems in Africa was organized by the network focal point, the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) in October 2002 in Tunisia. The meeting planned the activities for TPN 4 and proposed a work programme. To orient the network, approaches for standardizing remote sensing and mapping techniques for better coordination at all levels, development and application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for drought and desertification, integration and linking of numerous existing information programmes, and the development of new and specific approaches for implementing the UNCCD were considered. Participants to the meeting included representatives from the specialized institutions in Africa as well as relevant subregional organizations, national institutions and NGOs.

Travel of participants	49,918
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45. The launching of TPN 5 on new and renewable energy sources is scheduled for October 2003 at a venue to be identified, in collaboration with the GM. A preparatory meeting organized in May 2003 in Tunisia by the network focal point, the *Agence Nationale des Energies Renouvelables* (ANER) in collaboration with ENDA (Environmental Development Action in the Third World), Senegal, identified major activities and key stakeholders for the TPN taking into account the Millennium Declaration, the recommendations of WSSD and the NEPAD. A questionnaire has been developed to identify the needs of members and the added value of such a network in the context of the UNCCD, and thus will be circulated to all potential members of the network.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	70,000
Estimated local costs	15,000
Estimated consultancy costs	15,000
Estimated costs of staff travel	10,000

(d) Regional coordination unit

46. The results of the activities of the regional coordination unit (RCU) for Africa, hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), in Côte d'Ivoire/Tunisia, have included support to the launch activities of TPNs, organization of regional meetings in Africa, the facilitation of inter-agency coordination, the formulation and implementation of joint work programmes with various African institutions as well as representation of the UNCCD secretariat at national, subregional and regional meetings.

Staff costs (RCU Africa)	236,000
Estimated staff costs for the RCU Africa	66,500

(e) Cooperation in the context of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD

47. The Environment Initiative of NEPAD has combating desertification as the first of its eight sub-themes for priority interventions. African countries have considered that the best complementarities between the NEPAD and the UNCCD processes would be achieved through including the RAPs and SRAPs to combat desertification under the desertification component of the action plan of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. These discussions have continued through three consultative meetings involving UNCCD focal points and representatives of relevant subregional

and other organizations, organized jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in September 2002, Rome, Italy, in November 2002 in the margins of CRIC 1, and Algiers, Algeria, in January 2003.

48. As a follow-up, IGAD and AMU have been supported in the creation of subregional projects facts sheets containing sufficient information to be included in the action programme of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. The other subregions are yet to be provided with similar assistance. The major result of these activities has been the integration of identified project proposals to combat desertification into the action plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

49. A special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) adopted the action plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD in early June 2003. The overall objective of this programme area of the action plan is to enhance support for implementation of the UNCCD in Africa. The African RCU will continue to collaborate closely with all relevant African counterparts and their major cooperation partners towards further development of the project proposals.

Travel of participants	34,525
Grant to CILSS for local costs of the Ouagadougou meeting	5,540
Consultancy	23,233
Africa regional level total	1,287,463

4. Interregional level

Fourth Africa-Asia Interregional Forum – Theme: Agroforestry and soil conservation

50. In 2001, the third Africa-Asia Forum on combating desertification underscored the potential of agroforestry and soil conservation as essential tools for sustainable agricultural farming systems, particularly in dryland areas. Subsequently, the fourth Africa-Asia Forum to be held in Cotonou, Benin, in June 2003 will focus on this specific issue. African and Asian participants will exchange lessons learnt, and best practices for rehabilitating degraded lands through the application of agroforestry techniques in both regions. A review of the processes of cultivating, processing and marketing of agroforestry products will be undertaken. The main objective of the Forum is to strengthen South-South collaboration between the two regions with a view to concluding partnership agreements in the area of agroforestry and soil conservation.

Estimated costs for the travel of participants	120,000
Estimated local costs for meeting facilities	28,000
Consultancy fees and travel	5,000
Estimated costs for staff travel	12,000
Africa interregional activities total	165,000
Africa actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	1,809,257
Africa estimated expenditures by the end of 2003	1,076,500
Africa total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	2,885,757

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asia region

1. *National level*

51. At the national level, in 2002 activities focused on the preparations for CRIC 1, and in particular on the preparation and/or update of national reports. In addition, emphasis has been placed on facilitation of the preparation and validation of NAPs, in line with decision 8/COP.4.

(a) National reporting

52. CRIC 1 examined reports from affected country Parties of all regions. In order to facilitate national reporting, the Help Guide developed in 2000 for the first round of reporting was revised at the Asian regional meeting in 2002. In total, 44 reports were submitted by affected Asian country Parties, of which 34 provided updated reports and 9 prepared new reports. External expertise was sought for preparing the compilation and synthesis of the national reports for CRIC 1, and for reviewing the methodological implications of the reporting process.

Grants for the preparation and/or updating of national reports to Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao P.D.R., Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme for South Pacific countries	188,455
Consultancy fees and travel	20,000

53. The national reports of the Asia region demonstrated that country Parties were implementing activities to the best of their ability and in conformity with recommendations adopted by the COP. Considerable progress was reported in the field of participatory approach and the institutional mechanisms deemed necessary for effective implementation. Financial constraints at national but also at subregional and regional levels are still considered the main obstacle to accelerated implementation.

(b) Preparation and validation of national action programmes

54. National coordinating bodies and focal points are assisted in the organization of national awareness-raising seminars as the first step in preparing the NAP. The objective of this activity is to ensure that the key stakeholders at the national level are aware of the objectives and the provisions of the Convention, particularly those groups involved in policy making, and natural resource users at the local level, including women and youth groups, parliamentarians and key government officials, as the fundamental basis for the NAP formulation process.

Grants for NAP preparation	20,250
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55. Furthermore, in cooperation with the GM, national meetings to prepare and validate the NAPs and to launch their implementation have been organized in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. The aim of these meetings has been to have the NAP endorsed by the respective governments as the instrument to combat desertification at the national level, as well as to integrate the NAP into the overall national development planning process and other initiatives concerning natural resources management and poverty eradication. Bangladesh, Fiji, Jordan, Lebanon, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Tuvalu have considerably advanced in the preparations of the NAP in the course of 2002-2003, with the support of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM.

(c) Convening of consultations for NAP implementation

56. Following China's experience in 2001, India, Mongolia and Tajikistan have taken steps to launch consultative processes with the objective of concluding partnership agreements, as stipulated in Annex II article 8 of the UNCCD. This process aims to bring together all main stakeholders involved in NAP implementation at the national level as well as bilateral and multilateral partners. It will analyse the extent to which the NAP has been integrated into various national sustainable development frameworks, and identify the resource gaps that need to be filled in order to achieve the NAP objectives. Furthermore, concrete priority projects are considered. The technical workshops on formulation of field projects for NAP implementation were held in India and Mongolia in December 2002, and a similar workshop is planned to take place in Tajikistan in the mid 2003.

Grant to India and Mongolia for technical workshop	14,500
Estimated costs for the workshop in Tajikistan	30,000

(d) National synergy workshops

57. To support the work of the national level stakeholders, and to identify practices and methods for further facilitating the development and application of the synergistic approach, national level synergy workshops are planned to take place in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in June/July 2003. These countries have been advancing the implementation of the UNCCD, and the national workshops will seek to identify further areas of synergy and linkages between the implementation of various conventions at the national level, to promote approaches for integrating the priorities under the conventions into national planning processes and strategies, and to formulate concepts for future field projects and activities reflecting synergies between the conventions. The national synergy workshops will bring together the national focal points for CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as well other relevant stakeholders at national level, including relevant ministries, NGOs and local experts.

Grant to Pakistan and Sri Lanka	16,000
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Asia national level total	289,205
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2. Subregional level

(a) Support to the action programme process in South-East Asia

58. The South-East Asian country Parties to the UNCCD have launched the process of preparation of NAPs and SRAPs to combat land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, with the aim of supporting countries in their efforts and to strengthen coordination and complementarity between NAPs and RAPs. A South-East Asia subregional workshop on the development of the SRAP is planned to take place in Indonesia in July 2003 to formulate the framework of the SRAP in collaboration with relevant agencies, institutions and NGOs.

Estimated cost of organizing the workshop for ten countries in South-East Asia	26,000
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(b) North-East Asian workshop on combating sand and dust storms

59. A North-East Asian workshop on combating sand and dust storms, focusing on a Chinese cooperative national project, was held in Beijing, China, in May 2002. The meeting recommended that a related subregional framework should be developed by international organizations, including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNCCD secretariat and UNEP, with the participation of national governments, and that a steering committee should be formulated to steer the subregional project development process. The meeting was fruitful in terms of information sharing and promoting intergovernmental cooperation as well as mobilizing support for the combating of dust storm problems in North-East Asia. Both dust-source and affected countries clearly indicated strong willingness to cooperate. The meeting also helped to enhance interagency synergy within each government, in their common struggle to combat dust storms and desertification.

Grant to China – workshop on sand and dust storms	12,000
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Asia subregional level total	38,000
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3. Regional level

(a) Regional meeting preparatory to CRIC 1

60. The Asian regional meeting preparatory to CRIC 1 was held in July 2002 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. Twenty-eight reports of affected developing country Parties were reviewed in depth during the meeting. In addition, two subregional and one regional report were presented.

61. The review concluded that financial constraints at national but also at subregional and regional levels are still considered the main obstacle for full implementation of the Convention. The meeting renewed its call to affected developing country Parties to finalize NAP formulation by 2005, as requested by decision 8/COP.4. Issues relating to the Committee and Science and Technology (CST) and in general to the application of benchmarks and indicators were also mentioned as serious obstacles. Closer cooperation with the work executed under the CST was called for.

Travel of participants	124,906
Grant to Syrian Arab Republic for meeting facilities	15,250
Expert fees and travel	10,500

(b) Regional meeting preparatory to COP 6

62. The Sixth Asia Regional Meeting of National Focal Points (NFPs) and the Second Asian Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties is scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in June 2003. During the Conference, the affected country Parties will share their experience and achievements and the constraints faced in implementation of the Convention. Participants are expected to place particular emphasis on the assessment of measures undertaken to implement the previous decisions of the COP.

63. In this context, the recommendations made by CRIC 1 will be reviewed. Action required at the national, subregional and regional levels will be discussed from the regional viewpoint, with the aim of efficiently supporting and facilitating the work to be carried out at the national level. Particular emphasis will be placed on consideration of the main agenda items of COP 6.

Estimated travel of participants	230,000
Estimated consultancy fee/travel	14,000

(c) Activities under the regional action programme for Asia

64. The operationalization of these thematic priority areas under the RAP will continue through the TPNs and the priority activities defined by the Ministerial Conference in June 2003.

65. TPN 1 on desertification monitoring and assessment was formally launched in July 1999. The first set of benchmarks and indicators developed by a small expert group has been distributed to all TPN 1 members and other interested non-member institutions, for review and comments. The host institution of TPN 1 is making efforts to design and develop the information network, particularly the interactive Web site for the TPN. As the next step, a TPN 1 meeting for adoption of benchmarks and indicators has been scheduled to be held in Beijing, China, in November 2003. With the technical support and data contribution from the European Space Agency, the Asian TPN 1 members will be able to produce the first regional desertification map at operational scale in the near future.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	50,000
Estimated costs of the meeting facilities	12,000

66. The interested Asian country Parties launched the TPN 2 on agroforestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas in March 2000. The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) in Jodhpur, India, acts as the TPN 2 Task Manager under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, a national focal point for the UNCCD, in collaboration with the Indian Council for Agriculture Research. As a follow-up to the first workshop held in December 2001, the second workshop is planned to take place in October 2003, with the aim of giving support to initiatives promoting agroforestry farming systems and the domestication, processing and marketing of agroforestry products (plant species) of socio-economic interest to

Asian country Parties in the context of implementing the UNCCD at local levels. The objective is also to build awareness of the contribution of the tree component of agroforestry systems to nutritional security and income generation. It is proposed to complete a regional study on agroforestry practices to prepare a handbook on agroforestry in drylands, and related techniques and to upgrade the TPN 2 Information Network.

Estimated costs for the Asia regional workshop: travel of participants	50,000
Estimated costs for the network development - consultancy	26,000

67. The Asian TPN 3 on rangeland management in arid areas including the fixation of shifting sand dunes was officially launched in Yazd, Islamic Republic of Iran, in May 2001. The TPN 3 members adopted their work programme, which includes several programme activities. Among these are the selection of representative sample areas, and using rangeland management systems and/or practices that are bio-physically and socio-economically appropriate for those areas, and designing, planning and carrying out pilot projects.

Grant to Islamic Republic of Iran	23,613
Travel of participants	4,817

68. In April-May 2002 a pilot project design meeting for TPN 3 was held in Bonn, Germany, to prepare draft proposals on rangeland management and sand dune fixation.

69. The participants discussed and approved the systematic design of testing on pilot project plots the application of mulching, soil conditioning and windbreaks for sand fixation and rangeland protection. The Belgian and Chinese NGOs committed themselves to donating materials necessary for the tests, and to covering all the costs for international shipment.

70. A follow-up workshop was held in the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2002 as an initial step towards implementing the focus areas of the network. Substantive discussions were held on the establishment of pilot plots for experiments on criteria for selection, expected targets for such experiments, data management and information sharing, and a pilot plot establishment plan/design was considered. A field trip was arranged to visit the proposed pilot plots.

Grant to Islamic Republic of Iran for meeting facilities and the field trip	11,360
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71. Ten tons of mulching material and three tons of soil conditioner were delivered to the Islamic Republic of Iran after the workshop. The first TPN 3 pilot plots were thus established.

72. It is scheduled that replication tests will be carried out in Kyrgyzstan and Syrian Arab Republic in late 2003, and more tests of a similar kind will be conducted in other TPN 3 member countries when resources become available in the future.

(d) Launch meeting

73. The Asian TPN 4 on water resources management for agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas was launched in July 2002 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. Prior to the launch meeting, a framework paper was produced by the TPN host country, in cooperation with a

group of interested agencies in order to seek consensus on the support mechanism for regional cooperation under TPN 4. Furthermore, a national needs assessment was undertaken in ten countries. This assessment served to identify priority areas for TPN 4.

Grant to Syrian Arab Republic for the local costs of the meeting	20,750
Consultancy	19,025

74. At the meeting, the TPN 4 member countries adopted the framework document, which contains a specific work programme for the first year of the operationalization of the TPN and a wide range of reporting functions, which aim to ensure that networking will take place both at regional and national levels, thereby linking activities implemented at the NAP and RAP levels. The launch meeting also decided to establish five working groups within the framework of TPN 4.

75. A follow-up workshop took place in Bonn, Germany, in March 2003. Lead countries of the newly-established five working groups under TPN 4 were invited to discuss, with technical backstopping from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the GM and the UNCCD secretariat, the scope, content and operational modalities of information sharing for TPN 4. ICARDA was subsequently requested to formulate a project proposal on data management and Web site design which was completed according to the established time schedule.

Travel of participants	22,438
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76. The launch meeting of TPN 5 on strengthening capacities for drought impact mitigating and desertification combating is scheduled to take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in July 2003. In the preparatory process for the launch meeting, it is proposed to undertake a networking activity on early warning systems for desertification and drought, integrated ecosystem management and drought risk management.

Grant to Mongolia for meeting facilities and publication of the proceedings	31,500
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77. For promoting UNCCD implementation at regional and subregional levels, the Asia RCU on behalf of the UNCCD secretariat has coordinated and cooperated with regional offices of international organizations and agencies in Bangkok, Thailand, and institutions in the region, including, among others, ESCAP, UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, UNESCO and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). The unit has also provided technical assistance to Asian country Parties for developing, formulating and validating NAPs for national implementation of the UNCCD, and has efficiently coordinated regional and subregional activities on the priority issues identified by the country Parties of the region.

Staff related costs	145,600
Estimated staff costs	94,500
Asia regional level total	906,259

4. *Interregional level*

International Seminar on Women's Role in Combating Desertification - a follow up of the Africa-Asia and Africa-LAC forums

78. The Africa-Asia and Africa-LAC forums have repeatedly emphasized the importance of finding suitable strategies for strengthening the involvement of local communities in implementation of the Convention. Of particular importance is the involvement of women who have consistently played decisive roles in land use and management. It is therefore proposed to hold a seminar on women's role in combating desertification by the end of 2003 in Inner Mongolia, China, with the involvement of FAO, UNDP, UNEP, GM. Dalate County Desert Reclamation (NGO) and the Ushen County Reforestation Section will host the proposed seminar. The seminar will provide delegates from different regions with practical approaches and technical measures on controlling land degradation, reforestation, combating desertification and poverty alleviation at community level.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	50,000
Consultancy fees and travel	5,000
Estimated costs of the meeting facilities including interpretation	16,000
Asia interregional activities total	71,000
Asia actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	705,964
Asia estimated expenditures by the end of 2003	598,500
Asia total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	1,304,464

E. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

1. *National level*

79. In 2002 activities focused on the preparation of the first session of the CRIC, particularly on the updating of national reports. In addition, emphasis was placed on initiating NAPs in line with decision 8/COP.4. National workshops on synergy have been organized in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, with the aim of fostering effective implementation of the three Rio conventions.

(a) National reporting

80. In order to facilitate the second national reporting process, a Help Guide developed in 2000 was revised in 2002. In total, 33 LAC countries submitted their reports. External expertise was required to prepare, compile, synthesize, and analyse the national reports for submission to CRIC 1 as well as for the review of the methodological implications of the reporting process.

81. National reports underline that the participatory approach has been successful in the UNCCD implementation process at national, subregional and regional levels. The country Parties of the region call for improved exchange of technical and scientific information, as well as sharing

the lessons learnt. Moreover, the international community is requested to grant predictable support to the implementation process, by ensuring the provision of new and additional financial resources and technical assistance to affected country Parties.

Grants to Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela for national reporting	156,020
Consultancy fees and travel	25,000

(b) Preparation and validation of national action programmes

82. NCBs and NFPs are assisted in the organization of national awareness seminars as the first step in preparing NAPs. The objective of this activity is to ensure that key stakeholders, at national level, are aware of the objectives and provisions of the Convention. Costa Rica, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela were assisted in the formulation of their NAPs. In cooperation with the GM, the awareness-raising activities as the first step to NAP formulation are foreseen in the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago by the end of 2003.

Grants to Barbados, Costa Rica and Uruguay	12,500
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83. Seven LAC countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru have adopted their NAPs. In the coming months nine more country Parties are expected to complete the process.

Estimated costs to support NAP preparation and completion	150,000
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(c) National synergy workshops

84. To support the work of national stakeholders and to identify practices/methods to facilitate the development and application of a synergistic approach, three national workshops are expected to be held in Argentina, Brazil and Mesoamérica by the end of the biennium. Bolivia, El Salvador and Venezuela have advanced in the implementation of the Convention, and national synergy workshops are under preparation.

Estimated costs of national synergy workshops	75,000
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LAC national level total	418,520
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2. Subregional level

85. The strengthening of conceptual and substantive bases for implementation of the Convention, with the aim of supporting the efforts when formulating/implementing NAPs, has been emphasized in the LAC region.

(a) Benchmarks and indicators

86. Three subregional workshops for further development of benchmarks and indicators on drought and desertification in LAC took place in Argentina (September 2002), St. Lucia (February 2003) and in Honduras (April 2003), to update the methodology for the formulation and use of indicators through the exchange of information, experience and lessons learnt. Participants discussed mechanisms, objectives and strategies to promote the development of regional activities on benchmarks and indicators, taking into account the enormous experience gained as well as related international cooperation in this field, especially its South-South component. The results of these workshops will be summarized at the ninth regional meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, in June 2003, with a technical segment providing elements for launching the TPN on benchmarks and indicators.

87. These meetings improved the understanding of different socio-economic and environmental scenarios in the LAC subregions. The main future challenge will be to move forward with the TPN and draw tangible results on the basis of numerous existing experiences.

Grants to Honduras and St. Lucia for the local costs of the workshops	26,000
Consultancy fee/travel	18,211
Travel of participants	81,528

88. As a follow-up to the Mesoamerican workshop, agro-environmental benchmarks and indicators are planned to be applied as a pilot phase in these countries, with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Estimated cost for project preparation	20,000
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(b) Support to NAP preparation/implementation in the Mesoamerica subregion

89. Eight Mesoamerican countries are supported to undertake planning actions regarding NAP developments and to establish guidelines for the SRAP. The main objectives of the workshop is to identify opportunities for horizontal cooperation at subregional level and the definition of priority areas. Accordingly, these countries will launch the SRAP through a ministerial meeting to be held after all NAPs of the subregion have been elaborated.

Estimated costs	50,000
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(c) Support to the preparation/implementation of NAPs in the Caribbean subregion

90. The secretariat and the GM have included in their joint work programme provisions to achieve NAPs preparation/implementation processes in each Caribbean country. To this end, the UNCCD secretariat signed a MOU with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat for the functioning of this process, with CARICOM acting as the technical body.

Estimated costs	50,000
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(d) Subregional agroforestry workshops

91. Within the framework of SRAPs, which include comprehensive programmes in the Chaco and Puna Americana ecosystems, and the transboundary initiatives on Hispaniola island, LAC country Parties intend to define pilot activities in agroforestry and soil conservation to be initiated later in 2003. The pilot activities will seek to identify potential measures at local, national and regional levels to reduce vulnerability, promoting sustainable use and management of soil, water resources and forests. Economic incentives to invest in environmental management processes which recognize environmental goods and services, will be considered too. In this regard, two workshops are planned to be organised in LAC region by the end of 2003, with the active participation of resource users and other stakeholders at the community level. One workshop will be held with the participation of countries that share Chaco-Puna Americana ecosystems and the second will be held on the Hispaniola island.

Estimated consultancy costs	10,000
Estimated local costs for meeting facilities	20,000
Estimated costs for the travel of participants	46,000
LAC subregional level total	321,739

3. Regional level

(a) Regional meeting preparatory to CRIC 1

92. The regional meeting was held in July-August 2002 in Bridgetown, Barbados, with the participation of 27 affected LAC country Parties and other Parties, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. Participants made a peer review of national reports, with the aim of preparing regional input for the reviewing process. Among the main issues discussed were the methods and means to share the comparative advantages that some countries have in specific sectors for the benefit of all. To this aim, the LAC Information Network on Desertification (DESELAC), was mentioned as very instrumental in the flow of information including the one relating to traditional knowledge and the successful experience developed by local communities and civil society. Participants also emphasized the importance of creating and taking full advantage of existing synergy among the various environmental and sustainable development instruments. One possible way of seeking and benefiting from synergy could be through technical and financial strategic alliances for effective regional and international cooperation and partnership, including its south-south dimension. The approach would contribute to the formulation and implementation of the NAPs, guaranteeing consistency and coherence when realizing the objectives of sustainable development.

Staff related costs	129,900
Grant to Barbados for local costs	18,000
Travel of participants	78,714
Travel of staff	29,933
Expert fees and travel	20,000
Estimated staff costs	52,500

(b) Regional meeting preparatory to COP 6

93. The ninth Latin America and Caribbean regional meeting preparatory to COP 6 is scheduled to take place in Bogotá, Colombia, in June 2003. Affected country Parties are expected to share experience, achievements and constraints faced during the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the recommendations made by CRIC 1 will be reviewed. The required action to be taken at national level will be discussed from the regional point of view, with the aim to support efficiently and to facilitate the work to be carried out. The draft decisions based on the CRIC 1 recommendations, to be considered and adopted by COP 6, will also be discussed.

Estimated travel of participants	98,000
Estimated local costs of the meeting facilities	20,000

(c) Regional training on GEF issues

94. Training on GEF issues is to be implemented as a pilot experience in two subregions, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and will benefit the NCBs in those two subregions by providing training to 16 delegates from Mesoamerica and 28 from the Caribbean.

Estimated costs for training course – travel and trainee’s fees for Mesoamerica	30,000
Estimated costs for training course – travel and trainee’s fees for the Caribbean	50,000

(d) Crosscutting issues at regional level

95. The RAP of LAC country Parties contains six TPNs mandated at the ninth LAC regional meeting.

DESELAC information electronic network (TPN 1) is an information tool linking all relevant actors with the UNCCD implementation process in the LAC region. By the end of 2003, the Web site will be designed and launched, and training on the utilization of the Web site will be provided.

Estimated costs	25,000
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Best practices on traditional knowledge and technologies (TPN 3) aims to build a repertory of best practices in the use of traditional knowledge and technologies that can be replicated in every LAC country. The launching of the regional programme will be prepared during 2003, in coordination with existing related initiatives in the LAC region.

Estimated costs	25,000
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Integrated water resource management (TPN 4) will seek to promote sustainable policies on the use of water resources in LAC countries. The launching of the regional programme will be prepared during 2003.

Estimated costs	50,000
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Renewable energy (TPN 6) will promote the use of alternative and sustainable sources of energy in LAC country Parties. The launching of the regional programme will be prepared during 2003.

Estimated costs	50,000
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Studies on drought will be launched, with the aim of promoting the exchange of information on drought, particularly on early warning systems. In this regard, an Italian institution has been contracted to prepare a training course on early warning systems.

Grant to <i>Instituto di Biometeorologia</i>	15,000
Estimated costs for the organisation of the training and related background material	50,000

Environmental services

In cooperation with ECLAC, a project on the use of environmental services as a tool to combat desertification will be launched by the end of 2003. This project will seek to assess an economic value performed by coffee plantations in Mesoamerican countries as part of their NAPs, with the aim of identifying measures to protect the livelihoods of small producers through the identification of alternative economic sound options.

Estimated costs of the project	366,000
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LAC regional level total	1,108,047
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4. Interregional level

High-Level Forum on Cooperation between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean in the Framework of the UNCCD

96. Over 115 delegates from 43 country Parties in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the Third High-Level Forum on Cooperation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean in the Framework of the UNCCD, held in Caracas, Venezuela, in February 2002.

97. The Forum resolved that the land ownership question should be addressed in favour of the dispossessed to effectively combat desertification and eradicate poverty. The Forum further identified as priorities, among others, the need to establish a micro-financing system, persistent striving for broad participation and capacity building of local communities, establishment of viable economic activities at community levels, undertaking of concerted activities to restore fertility of soils, reforestation and developing alternative sources of energy. At the end, the Forum adopted the "Caracas Declaration" which host country submitted for consideration of the WSSD and its preparatory process.

Travel of participants	154,155
Consultancy fees and travel	5,000
Grant to Venezuela for meeting facilities	15,000

LAC interregional activities total	174,155
LAC actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	784,961
LAC estimated expenditures by the end of 2003	1,237,500
LAC total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	2,022,461

F. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe regions and other affected country Parties

1. National level

98. At the national level, activities in 2002 focused on preparations for CRIC 1, held in November 2002, and in particular on the preparation and/or update of national reports. Assistance has been provided to finalize one NAP.

(a) National reporting

99. In order to facilitate national reporting, an informal Help Guide for affected country Parties of regions other than Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean was developed. In total, 17 national and one subregional reports were submitted by the affected countries of Europe.

100. External expertise was sought for preparing the compilation and synthesis of the national reports for CRIC 1, and for reviewing the methodological implications of the reporting process.

Grants to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova and Romania	50,108
Consultancy costs	10,200

101. Consideration of national reports demonstrated that the UNCCD process was gaining momentum throughout the Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe and other affected country Parties. It was generally recognized that national reports provide indispensable information regarding the state and dynamics of the UNCCD process and also serve as important elements in decision-making by potential partners. The need further to improve the quality of the reports was recognized. The involvement of NGOs in the assessment of progress was welcomed and should be further facilitated. The Help Guide should be reviewed to reflect the specific needs of the country Parties in these regions.

(b) Preparation and validation of NAPs

102. During the biennium, Georgia was assisted in the preparation of its NAP, which was finalized in April 2003. The secretariat also assisted Armenia in presentation and implementation of its NAP.

Grants to Armenia and Georgia	51,850
Consultancy fees and travel	10,000

103. The total number of NAPs in these regions reached seven. One country is expected to finalize its NAP in the forthcoming months.

NM, CEE and other affected country Parties national level total **122,158**

2. Regional level

(a) Regional meeting preparatory to CRIC 1

104. The regional meeting for Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2002. The participants made a peer review of the reports received from the region, on the basis of which the conclusions and recommendations for the CRIC were approved. Special attention was paid to drought mitigation and possible cooperation between Annex IV and Annex V country Parties. For the first time, the implementation of the UNCCD was discussed among all affected Parties of Europe.

Travel of participants	26,491
Consultancy fee/travel	21,022
Travel of staff	19,776
Contractual services	25,000

(b) Regional meeting preparatory to COP 6

105. The regional meeting for Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern European and other affected country Parties in preparation to COP 6 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2003. During the meeting, the country Parties will discuss issues relating to the preparation for COP 6, in particular, draft decisions based on the CRIC1 recommendations, to be considered and adopted by COP 6. They will consider progress in implementation of recommendations of the previous regional meeting, preparation and implementation of NAPs and resource mobilization.

Estimated costs for the travel of participants	60,000
Estimated costs for meeting facilities and interpretation	15,000
Estimate cost of staff travel	15,000

(c) A consultative meeting of Northern Mediterranean focal points

106. A consultative meeting was organized in parallel to the first session of the CRIC in Rome, Italy, in November 2002, with the aim of presenting the results of analysis of a questionnaire on the needs and offers from each Annex IV country in terms of regional cooperation and to identify further steps.

Consultancy, including travel	10,722
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107. The meeting contributed to obtaining a consensus on the use of the questionnaire's analysis as a tool to facilitate the exchange of information at national and regional levels in Annex IV with a view to fostering regional cooperation.

- (d) Workshop for Northern Mediterranean focal points on regional cooperation activities within Annex IV

108. A workshop was held in Bonn, Germany, in April 2003 to discuss in working groups the potential regional activities of cooperation and to explore possibilities regarding partnership between Annex IV countries. The secretariat introduced two new tools, directly derived from the questionnaires filled in by each country. There was a general consensus of participants on the very interesting potential of these two new tools to launch discussion among Parties of Annex IV. It would be used at two levels. At national level, these tools might strengthen the role of NFPs, to obtain a better overview of what could be offered by national actors and to facilitate the identification of national priorities. At regional level, these tools could provide a frame for exchange between countries and a basis for discussion of concrete ideas in the future.

Consultancy fees and travel	9,500
Travel of participants	3,865

- (e) Central and Eastern European workshop on regional cooperation within Annex V

109. Four Central and Eastern European countries (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Romania), have finalized and adopted their NAPs to implement the UNCCD. Several other country Parties of the region are expected to finalize their programmes in the near future. The countries of the region have recently initiated the preparation of a RAP with the aim of coordinating and streamlining their approaches and activities. To support this initiative, a meeting of all Central and Eastern European NFPs will be organized in Minsk, Belarus, at the end of 2003.

110. The objectives of the meeting are to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination in the management of land resources, and to support implementation of the Convention in the region. In the long term, this meeting is expected to contribute to the development of national and regional policies and regulatory frameworks for sustainable land resource management, and eventually improve the quality and quantity of arable land, and increase agricultural productivity.

Estimated costs of the travel of participants	45,000
Estimated local costs for meeting facilities	20,000
Consultancy for background material	10,000
Estimate cost of staff travel	10,000

NM, CEE and other affected country Parties regional level total **291,376**

NM, CEE and other affected country Parties actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003 **238,534**

NM, CEE and other affected country Parties estimated expenditures by the end of 2003 **175,000**

NM, CEE and other affected country Parties total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003 **413,534**

G. External relations and public information (ERPI)

111. The secretariat has continued its efforts toward strengthening cooperation and effectively building synergies with other conventions, United Nations bodies, and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the secretariat has extensively used the service of its liaison facility at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The facility proved to be cost-effective in organizing a number of COP and CRIC Bureaux meetings, which were held in conjunction with the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other major United Nations gatherings. The Chief of that office also represented the secretariat at meetings of relevant United Nations organs, bodies, funds and programmes as well as at preparatory sessions of WSSD held at United Nations Headquarters. He also served as a focal point for the GEF and undertook for the secretariat a series of consultations with Washington D.C.-based multilateral agencies, NGOs and United States of America Government officials.

1. *Inter-agency and synergistic coordination activities*

112. Experts were hired in this period to assist the secretariat in the context of major international events such as the WSSD, the GEF Council and Assembly and the United Nations General Assembly where substantive UNCCD-related matters were discussed.

Fees and travel of consultants and experts	447,244
ERPI inter-agency and synergistic coordination activities total	447,244

2. *Coordination with non-governmental organizations*

113. Following established practice, NGO representatives organize a preparatory workshop the weekend prior to each COP. During these workshops, non-governmental representatives coordinate their input to the agenda of the COP, including matters referring to the two half-day open dialogue sessions.

Grant to <i>Solidarité Canada Sahel</i> for organization of the two-day preparatory workshop prior to COP 5	10,000
Estimated costs of the NGO preparatory meeting prior to COP 6	26,000

114. The Argentinean NGO *Los Algarrobos* organized a workshop on desertification and rural poverty and financial assistance was granted for assessment and follow-up of the workshop.

Grant for contractual services	5,000
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115. Support was provided for the organization of a round table involving community-based organizations from Namibia on the occasion of the African regional meeting preparatory to the CRIC. The participants to the round table shared their experience in combating desertification, providing several presentations on local level activities in the implementation process of the NAP in Namibia. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the participants to the regional meeting.

Grant to Namibia for local travel and meeting facilities	10,080
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116. The Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) organized, in parallel to the seventh LAC regional meeting, the first Caribbean NGO meeting with a view to establishing and developing the NGO Caribbean network and strengthening the participation of these NGOs in the implementation process in the subregion.

Grant to CNIRD for local costs of the meeting	3,043
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ERPI coordination with NGOs total	54,123
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3. NGO participation in the COP, its subsidiary bodies and other related meetings

117. Decision 18/COP.3 on enhancement of the participation of NGOs in the work of the COP outlines the importance the COP places on the participation and contribution of representatives from civil society in the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, support was provided to facilitate the participation of 12 NGO representatives in the first session of the CRIC.

Participation of NGOs in CRIC 1	47,000
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Estimated costs of NGO participation in COP 6 (60 NGOs)	420,000
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118. Assistance was also extended to 12 NGO representatives from the Africa and LAC regions in the framework of the Third Africa–LAC Cooperation Platform with the view to promoting enhanced interaction between civil society stakeholders and their public partners aiming at fostering exchange of experience, the sharing of success stories and channelling their input to the policy formulation level.

119. Paragraph 106 of the report of the AHWG (ICCD/COP(4)/AHWG/6) presented to COP 5 states, "... it is important to encourage not only regional and subregional intergovernmental meetings, but meetings of NGOs". In this regard, the effective participation of a relevant number of NGO representatives has been ensured at all the regional meetings in 2002 and 2003. In order to maximize cost efficiency, these meetings were organized back-to-back with the different regional meetings.

NGO participation in the COP, its subsidiary bodies and other related meetings total	968,367
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4. Public information activities

120. Public information activities by the end of year 2003 are expected to cover, *inter alia*, the production of memorabilia for COP 6 and support for the participation of two developing country journalists at the sixth session of the COP.

Contractual services	65,209
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Estimated supplementary costs for public information activities up to the end of 2003	70,000
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121. Public information activities are expected to increase public awareness of the UNCCD process substantially, and of desertification around the world and its relationship with other environmental issues, in particular biodiversity and climate change.

ERPI public information activities total	135,209
ERPI actual expenditures as at 31 May 2003	587,576
ERPI estimated expenditures up to the end of 2003	516,000
ERPI total Supplementary Fund expenditures 2002-2003	1,103,576

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

122. In the light of the information provided in this document, the Parties way wish to take note of the report on the performance of the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities.
