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Programme and budget

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

**Consideration of the report on the implementation of the joint work
programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (2008–2009)**

Summary

By decision 3/COP.8, Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification requested the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat to submit a draft joint work programme (JWP) setting out a common approach to supporting the Parties and delineating a clear division of labour. The draft JWP was to include indicators of successful cooperation in their results-based management (RBM)-based JWP with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of the synergistic services provided by them.

The 2008–2009 JWP was prepared with the assistance of a joint task force, and agreed through management-level consultations. It was submitted to the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) for the consideration of the Parties, and was revised on the basis of comments received. By decision 3/COP.8, Parties requested the GM and the secretariat to report jointly to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the JWP; the requested report is contained in this document.

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I. Introduction

1. By decision 3/COP.8, Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) requested the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat, within their respective mandates, to implement the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) in order to ensure consistency and complementarity in the delivery of services, and to strengthen their coordination and cooperation from headquarters to country level. They further requested the Executive Secretary and the GM to submit a draft joint work programme (JWP) setting out a common approach to supporting the Parties and delineating a clear division of labour, and to include indicators of successful cooperation in their results-based management (RBM)-based JWP with the objective of strengthening the effectiveness of the synergistic services provided by them.

2. The 2008–2009 JWP was prepared with the assistance of a joint task force, and agreed through management-level consultations. It was submitted for the consideration of Parties at the seventh session of the Committee to Review the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7), and revised on the basis of comments received.¹ By decision 3/COP.8, Parties requested the GM and the secretariat to report jointly to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the implementation of the JWP; the requested report is contained in this document.

3. The 2008–2009 JWP did not involve the specification of resources. Instead, its implementation was based on the budgets of the GM and the secretariat, and consequently the financial aspects of the JWP have been integrated into the respective performance reports. The present document should be read in conjunction with these performance reports, which are contained in documents ICCD/COP(9)/6 and its Add. 2.

¹ The revised version of the JWP is contained in the annex to this document.

II. Report on the implementation of the 2008–2009 joint work programme

4. The 2008–2009 JWP includes cooperation under operational objectives 1 on advocacy, awareness-raising and education, 2 on policy framework, 4 on capacity-building and 5 on financing and technology transfer. In addition, a cooperation area for an enabling environment for strengthened collaboration is contained in the JWP.
5. Under operational objective 1, the GM and the secretariat sought to contribute jointly to the increased visibility and improved image of the Convention by collaborating in the preparation of the comprehensive communication strategy which was developed under the leadership of the secretariat. They also exchanged information on their respective communication activities for the World Day to Combat Desertification, and the GM participated in the “Land day” that was organized by the secretariat in June 2009.
6. Under operational objective 2, the GM and the secretariat cooperated towards increasing political support from key constituencies to create an enabling policy framework for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), improving common understanding by Parties of the actions relating to the implementation of The Strategy, and increasing political, institutional and financial support to sustainable land management (SLM) in major financial, sustainable development and environmental forums and processes.
7. With support from the Czech Republic, the GM and the secretariat jointly prepared and convened a regional workshop on financial resource mobilization for the Central and Eastern European region in September 2008. Furthermore, the GM participated in a joint UNCCD-United National Development Programme (UNDP) meeting in June 2009 which resulted in the establishment of a strategic partnership for enhanced UNDP involvement in the implementation of the Convention. UNDP support is sought particularly for national-level mainstreaming of DLDD/SLM, and for capacity-building in various areas.
8. Further to the GM-organized workshop on desertification, migration and local development held in Tripoli in November 2007, the GM and the secretariat decided to exchange information on potential areas of cooperation as a follow-up to this workshop. With regard to supporting the engagement of civil society, the GM and the secretariat have exchanged information on their activities concerning the involvement of civil society.
9. The GM and the secretariat have planned a guide to providing assistance to affected country Parties with regard to the alignment of action programmes with The Strategy. They agreed to prepare a report for COP 9 on “Guidelines for the alignment of action programmes with The Strategy” with a view to providing country Parties with a reference to help guide this process. At the request of West African countries within the framework of SolArid, a meeting was also organized in October 2008 on national action programme (NAP) alignment, and the results were presented to the African Group during CRIC 7. The GM will contribute to further meetings during the remainder of the biennium, including a joint two-day workshop on NAP alignment which took place at the end of June 2009 for West African countries. The secretariat organized a specific meeting in Uganda on NAP alignment, and North African focal points met on the same subject in July 2009 back-to-back to the African regional meeting preparatory to COP 9. In 2009 the secretariat successfully organized three other workshops on NAP alignment

as follows: one for the Caribbean country Parties in Kingston, one for the South American country Parties in Montevideo, held back-to-back with the Latin America and the Caribbean regional meeting in which the GM also participated, and one for the Asian country Parties in Bangkok, held back-to-back with the Asia regional meeting.

10. Both the GM and the secretariat participated in an African Union high-level meeting on agriculture, land and livestock, and the African Ministers Council on Water. They delivered a joint statement at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and at the regional implementation forum for Western European and other countries, in preparation for the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16). A joint meeting was organized with the African Development Bank.

11. The GM and the secretariat continued as partners in the SLM coordinating platform of TerrAfrica, and coordinated their activities in the context of CSD-16, the forthcoming COP of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Forum on Forests.

12. Under operational objective 4, the GM and the secretariat sought to contribute to improved reliability and accuracy of information on financing relating to UNCCD implementation. While the secretariat was assigned by Parties in decision 8/COP.8 to develop the reporting guidelines, the GM supported this process by providing advice, participating in a meeting of the inter-agency task force (IATF) for reporting,² and preparing the “Financial annex and programme and project sheet” for the forthcoming guidelines.

13. The GM also provided its views on the development of performance indicators for measuring progress in meeting operational objectives 1, 2, and 5.

14. Under operational objective 5, the aim of the GM and secretariat cooperation was to increase understanding of strategic objective 4, to increase attention to DLDD/soil issues in the budgets of major international financial institutions, and to promote agreement among Parties on the benefits of integrated investment frameworks in the context of implementing the UNCCD action programmes.

15. The GM and the secretariat collaborated in the development of draft impact indicators for strategic objective 4 of The Strategy. They formulated terms of reference for a consultancy to analyse existing or proposed indicators and advise on possible alternatives, and the resulting initial analysis was presented by the secretariat to the IATF. The GM further contributed to the process by submitting to the IATF some preliminary reflections on potential impact indicators. One component for the next JWP was recognition of the need for continued cooperation to advance strategic objective 4, including through a policy dialogue on this issue in the next biennium.

² Following decision 8/COP.8, this task force was established to assist the UNCCD secretariat in reviewing the reporting principles and guidelines. The IATF comprises representatives of the eight organizations, in addition to the GM and the secretariat, and a representative of the Committee on Science and Technology is also a member of the task force.

16. With regard to the creation of an enabling environment for strengthened collaboration and improved coordination and communication between the GM and the secretariat, regular communication took place at the management level, and the joint task force was instrumental in developing the JWPs for 2008–2009 and 2010–2011.

17. Development of the UNCCD results-based management and budgeting involved continuous coordination and information exchange, and at the invitation of the secretariat the GM participated in the secretariat's RBM training in Bonn in February 2009. Consequently, the workplans and programmes of the GM and the secretariat assumed a harmonized approach. Coordination between the GM and the secretariat also functioned well in other financial and administrative matters.

18. The GM and the secretariat jointly facilitated a process of reviewing regional coordination mechanisms and proposing alternatives. Guidelines were prepared to assist Parties in the preparation of regional proposals according to a coherent approach, and the establishment and functioning of regional task forces under each regional implementation annex of the Convention was supported. The GM provided funding to the meetings of the regional task forces, and set up four e-forums for the development of proposals for regional mechanisms, moderated by regional consultants. On the basis of regional proposals submitted, as well as the review of the current regional coordination arrangements, the secretariat compiled evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements, which are submitted to COP 9.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

19. Parties may wish to review the information concerning the status of implementation of the JWP, as described above, and to guide the GM and the secretariat on the next steps to be taken in this context.

Annex

The 2008–2009 joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism
 (Update, March 2009)

Operational objective 1. Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing issues relating to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)

Priority areas:

- Collaboration in the field of communication
- Coordinated/joint representation in relevant forums

1. The secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) will collaborate on a number of joint communication activities with a view to generating greater involvement of the media and civil society in matters relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Through these communication activities, including targeted participation in relevant forums, the two institutions aim to increase the visibility of the Convention, improve its image and generate a better understanding of its value as an instrument to achieve long-term sustainable development objectives. In this regard these activities are linked with the comprehensive communication strategy of the UNCCD.

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1.1. Increased visibility and improved image of the Convention | An increase in media coverage of the role of the UNCCD in addressing DLDD issues | Joint communication tools, products and messages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation in the process of preparing the Communication Strategy - Exchange of information, education and communication materials, including cooperation in sharing exhibition opportunities - Establishment of a regular communication channel for information exchange on awareness-raising activities - Coordination of activities taking place on the World Day to Combat Desertification |

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint side events, also involving the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariats - Delivery of common messages |

Operational objective 2. Policy framework

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

Priority areas:

- Support to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate other affected Parties, for enhancing the enabling environment
- Coordinated/joint approach to major international sustainable development and environmental processes

2. The GM and the secretariat will pursue coordinated approaches to influence key constituencies at all levels, with the aim of increasing political and financial support for sustainable land management (SLM). Furthermore, they will collaborate on moving forward The Strategy.

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|--|--|---|--|
| 2.1. Increased political support from key constituencies to create an enabling policy framework for addressing DLDD | Increased number of Parties and stakeholders publicly expressing their support for the UNCCD and its instruments | Documentation supporting the UNCCD/SLM agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation in the development of selected concept notes and targeted policy approaches on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o migration o gender - Cooperation in the development of strategic options and procedures for the inclusion of SLM in the implementation of action programmes under the CBD and the UNFCCC |

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|--|---|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation on the development and circulation of tools for assessing the cost of inaction - Exchange of information on activities concerning the involvement of civil society |
| <p>2.2. Improved common understanding by Parties of actions relating to the implementation of The Strategy</p> | <p>Decisions and recommendations of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) relating to the institutional and financial requirements of implementation of The Strategy</p> | <p>Guidelines for action programme alignment; report on lessons learned from pilot activities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation on advisory services and assistance provided to affected countries on alignment of action programmes with The Strategy, through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o development of guidelines for alignment of action programmes o pilot activities to align action programmes at subregional and regional level |
| <p>2.3. Increased political, institutional and financial support to SLM induced via major financial, sustainable development and environmental forums and processes</p> | <p>Increased number of statements and decisions made in support of SLM at major financial, sustainable development and environmental processes</p> | <p>E.g. two joint side-events and/or inputs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of activities and inputs relating to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CSD-17 o 5th World Water Forum o UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) in Copenhagen o G8 Summit - Cooperation in facilitating region-specific ongoing initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o TerrAfrica - Cooperation in interregional forums |

Operational objective 4. Capacity-building

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

Priority area:

- Reporting guidelines relating to the funding of UNCCD implementation

3. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) established an ad hoc intergovernmental working group (AHWG) to improve the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports, on the impact of UNCCD implementation. Based on the recommendations of the AHWG, by its decision 8/COP.8 the COP requested the Executive Secretary to develop draft reporting guidelines, taking into account the views of the GM, and to submit them to the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7). Cooperation between the secretariat and the GM in this regard would aim to ensure greater reliability and quality of information, particularly in terms of the financial resources available for UNCCD implementation. It is expected that after COP 9 all country Parties and organizations will report to the COP using the revised reporting guidelines, so that the information contained in the reports will enable a more effective review of implementation of the Convention.

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|--|---|--|--|
| 4.1. Improved reliability and accuracy of information on funding relating to UNCCD implementation | The UNCCD revised reporting guidelines are presented to COP 9 for consideration | 4.1.A. Draft UNCCD reporting guidelines | - Collaboration on the drafting of the sections of the reporting guidelines which relate to funding, particularly on aspects relating to strategic objective 4 and operational objective 5 |

Operational objective 5. Financing and technology transfer

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

Priority area:

- Informing country Parties of opportunities and developments with regard to financing and technology transfer for UNCCD implementation

4. The GM and the secretariat will collaborate closely on proposals for organization of the work of the CRIC and COP sessions on agenda items dealing with finance and technology transfer, with the common objective of increasing dialogue, participation and response generated by the CRIC and the COP. In particular, the two institutions aim significantly to increase participation in, and input to, the UNCCD processes, in order to improve the policy dialogue and increase outreach and response resulting from the CRIC, the COP and other relevant forums. In addition, by facilitating access to and monitoring of information on financial and technological resources, the two institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates and guidance provided under The Strategy, will effectively support the COP in its deliberations on matters relating to resource mobilization for all Parties concerned.

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|--|--|--|---|
| 5.1. Understanding of strategic objective 4 is increased | | Report to COP 9 on strategic objective 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation in the context of the application of strategic objective 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o intergovernmental exchange o indicators o joint input to Monterrey follow-up |
| 5.2. Increased attention to DLDD/soil issues in the budgets of major international financial institutions (IFIs) | The Global Environment Facility (GEF) takes into account the documentation prepared by the GM and the UNCCD secretariat. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information-sharing on GEF topics and projects - Preparation of joint documentation to inform Parties on matters relating to IFIs |

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|---|--|--|---|
| 5.3. Parties agree on the benefits of integrated investment frameworks in the context of implementing the UNCCD action programmes | COP 9 decision on integrated investment frameworks | Report to COP 9 on guidelines on development of integrated investment frameworks | - Preparation of a report on guidelines and lessons learned on integrated investment frameworks, based on the integrated financing strategy of the GM |

An enabling environment for strengthened collaboration

Priority areas:

- Development and harmonization of consultation, coordination and communication tools
- Assessment of regional coordination mechanisms

5. The GM and the secretariat will develop mechanisms and tools to enhance coordination and collaboration between the two institutions. This includes management support tools, communication tools and other coordination mechanisms which will substantially strengthen collaboration between the two institutions and enhance their capacity to deliver the expected accomplishments under The Strategy. The priority areas and activities under this heading are common to all the operational objectives of The Strategy, to which the two institutions are called to contribute; they are therefore clustered separately. Considering the emphasis placed by COP 8 on GM/secretariat collaboration, a significant number of activities will be undertaken under this area of work within the first biennium.

| Expected accomplishments | Performance indicators | Joint outputs | Activities |
|---|--|---|--|
| EE.1. Coordination, collaboration and communication between the two institutions is substantially improved | Parties express their satisfaction at the enhanced collaboration of the GM and the secretariat | Management support mechanisms and tools Communication mechanisms and tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration on the harmonization of the results-based management system - Development of joint working parties (JWPs) - Establishment of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system on JWP implementation - Development of information-sharing mechanisms - Joint organization of team-building activities - Coordination of budget preparations |
| EE.2. Appropriate regional coordination mechanisms are agreed | Options for improving regional coordination are debated at the COP and decisions reached | Review of current regional coordination mechanisms of the secretariat and the GM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance to regional implementation annexes in the development of proposals on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention - Preparation of factual information on current regional coordination mechanisms - Review of current regional coordination arrangements within the secretariat and within the GM |

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