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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

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REPORTING DIRECTIVES FOR THE CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM - ADDENDUM

RIO MARKERS

At its meeting on 10-11 June 2004, the Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) agreed to collect data on aid targeting the objectives of the Rio Conventions (Rio markers) in the Creditor Reporting System during a trial period of three years. This addendum to the reporting Directives contains the definitions to be used. Instructions on where to place the Rio markers in the Unified Standard Input Format (USIF) are also included.

The text logically belongs between paragraphs 74 and 75 of the Directives, under the heading:
II.1 Compiling CRS Form 1
II.1.2 What and how to report on Form 1?
Section C. Form 1: Supplementary data

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REPORTING DIRECTIVES FOR THE CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM – ADDENDUM

RIO MARKERS

General

1. The Rio markers allow for the identification of activities that target the objectives of the three Rio Conventions:

- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD);
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

General information on the Conventions is given in the Appendix.

2. The Rio markers are to be included in CRS Form 1, section C (supplementary data) as follows:

37. Biodiversity	2=principal objective 1=significant objective 0=not targeted
38. Climate change	
39. Desertification	3=principal objective and in support of an action programme (for desertification-related aid only)

In Unified Standard Input Format, the three new columns 37-39 should be placed at the end of the file.

3. Data collection follows the general principles of the DAC policy marker system (see Annex 6 of the Directives). For desertification-related aid, however, a score "3" is used to separately identify national, sub-regional or regional action programmes.

4. The definitions are given below.

DEFINITIONS

AID TARGETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	
DEFINITION	
An activity should be classified as bio-diversity-related (score Principal or Significant) if:	It promotes at least one of the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of bio-diversity, sustainable use of its components (ecosystems, species or genetic resources), or fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the utilisation of genetic resources.
CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY	The activity contributes to a) protection or enhancing ecosystems, species or genetic resources through in-situ or ex-situ conservation, or remedying existing environmental damage; **or** b) integration of bio-diversity concerns with recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research; **or** c) developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention. The activity will score "**principal objective**" if it directly and explicitly aims to achieve one or more of the above three criteria.
EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL ACTIVITIES	

1. Typical activities take place in the sectors of:
Water and sanitation
Agriculture
Forestry
Fishing
Tourism
	• Integration of biological diversity concerns into sectoral policy, planning and programmes; e.g.
	  • Water resources protection and rehabilitation; integrated watershed, catchment and river basin protection and management;
	  • Sustainable agricultural and farming practices including substitution of damaging uses and extractions by out-of-area plantations, alternative cultivation or equivalent substances; integrated pest management strategies; soil conservation; in-situ conservation of genetic resources; alternative livelihoods;
	  • Combating deforestation and land degradation while maintaining or enhancing biodiversity in the affected areas;
	  • Promotion of sustainable marine, coastal and inland fishing;
	  • Sustainable use of sensitive environmental areas for tourism.

2. Typical non-sector specific activities are: *Environmental policy and administrative management* *Biosphere and bio-diversity protection* *Environmental education/ training* *Environmental research*	• Preparation of national bio-diversity plans, strategies and programmes; bio-diversity inventories and assessments; development of legislation and regulations to protect threatened species; development of incentives, impact assessments, and policy and legislation on equitable access to the benefits of genetic resources. • Establishment of protected areas, environmentally oriented zoning, land use and regional development planning. • Protecting endangered or vulnerable species and their habitats, e.g. by promoting traditional animal husbandry or formerly cultivated/collected plants or ex-situ conservation (e.g. seed banks, zoological gardens). • Capacity building in taxonomy, bio-diversity assessment and information management of biodiversity data; education, training and awareness-raising on bio-diversity. • Research on ecological, socio-economic and policy issues related to bio-diversity, including research on and application of knowledge of indigenous people.

AID TARGETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	
DEFINITION **An activity should be classified as climate-change-related (score Principal or Significant) if:**	It contributes to the objective of stabilisation of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system by promoting efforts to reduce or limit GHG emissions or to enhance GHG sequestration.
CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY	The activity contributes to a) the mitigation of climate change by limiting anthropogenic emissions of GHGs, including gases regulated by the Montreal Protocol; **or** b) the protection and/or enhancement of GHG sinks and reservoirs; **or** c) the integration of climate change concerns with the recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research; **or** d) developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention. The activity will score "**principal objective**" if it directly and explicitly aims to achieve one or more of the above four criteria.
EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL ACTIVITIES **1. Typical activities take place in the sectors of:** *Water and sanitation* *Transport* *Energy* *Agriculture* *Forestry* *Industry*	• GHG emission reductions or stabilisation in the energy, transport, industry and agricultural sectors through application of new and renewable forms of energy, measures to improve the energy efficiency of existing generators, machines and equipment, or demand side management. • Methane emission reductions through waste management or sewage treatment. • Development, transfer and promotion of technologies and know-how as well as building of capacities that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of GHGs, in particular in waste management, transport, energy, agriculture and industry. • Protection and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of GHGs through sustainable forest management, afforestation and reforestation, rehabilitation of areas affected by drought and desertification.
2. Typical non-sector specific activities are: *Environmental policy and administrative management* *Biosphere protection* *Biodiversity* *Env. education/training* *Environmental research*	• Protection and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs through sustainable management and conservation of oceans and other marine and coastal ecosystems, wetlands, wilderness areas and other ecosystems. • Preparation of national inventories of greenhouse gases (emissions by sources and removals by sinks); climate change related policy and economic analysis and instruments, including national plans to mitigate climate change; development of climate-change-related legislation; climate technology needs surveys and assessments; institutional capacity building. • Education, training and public awareness related to climate change. • Climate-change-related research and monitoring as well as impact and vulnerability assessments. • Oceanographic and atmospheric research and monitoring.

AID TARGETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION	
DEFINITION	
An activity should be classified as desertification-related (score Principal or Significant) if:	It aims at combating desertification or mitigating the effects of drought in arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid areas through prevention and/or reduction of land degradation, rehabilitation of partly degraded land, or reclamation of desertified land.
CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY	The activity contributes to a) protecting or enhancing dryland ecosystems or remedying existing environmental damage; **or** b) integration of desertification concerns with recipient countries' development objectives through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research; **or** c) developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention. The activity will score "**principal objective**" if it directly and explicitly relates to one or more of the above criteria, including in the context of the realisation of national, sub-regional or regional action programmes.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL ACTIVITIES
1. Typical activities take place in the sectors of:
Water and sanitation
Agriculture
Forestry
	• Integration of action to combat desertification and land degradation into sectoral policy, planning and programmes (e.g. agricultural and rural development policy, plans and programmes);
	  • Rehabilitation of land, vegetation cover, forests and water resources, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources;
	  • Sustainable irrigation for both crops and livestock to reduce pressure on threatened land; alternative livelihood projects;
	  • Development and transfer of environmentally sound traditional and local technologies, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification, e.g. methods of conserving water, wood (for fuel or construction) and soil in dry areas.

2. Typical non-sector specific activities are: *Environmental policy and administrative management* *Env. education/training* *Environmental research*	• Preparation of strategies and action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought; establishment of drought early warning systems; strengthening of drought preparedness and management; observation and assessment of CCD implementation, including monitoring and evaluation of impact indicators; • Measures to promote the participation of affected populations in planning and implementing sustainable resource management or improving security of land tenure; • Support for population/migration policies to reduce population pressure on land; • Capacity building in desertification monitoring and assessment; education, training and public awareness programmes related to desertification and land degradation; • Research on desertification and land degradation.

APPENDIX

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)
HTTP://WWW.BIODIV.ORG/

A. Key terms and Concepts

1. **Biological diversity** refers to the number and variety of living organisms on the planet. It is defined in terms of genes, species, and ecosystems which are the outcome of over 3,000 million years of evolution. To date, an estimated 1.7 million species have been identified. The exact number of the Earth's existing species, however, is still unknown. Estimates vary from a low of 5 million to a high of 100 million.

2. **Species extinction** is a natural part of the evolutionary process. However, species and ecosystems are more threatened by human activities than ever before in recorded history. The losses are taking place all over the world, primarily in tropical forests -- where 50 - 90 per cent of identified species live -- as well as in rivers and lakes, deserts and temperate forests, and on mountains and islands. The most recent estimates predict that some two to eight per cent of the Earth's species will disappear over the next 25 years. **Species extinction therefore has important implications for economic and social development.** At least 40 per cent of the world's economy and 80 per cent of the needs of the poor are derived from biological resources. In addition, the richer the diversity of life, the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries, economic development, and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change.

3. **Main causes of species extinction** include deforestation -whether accidental or due to the conversion of forests to other uses, such as mono-crop agriculture, and land degradation due to pollution, drought, and over-exploitation. Main causes of marine biodiversity loss include pollution and over-harvesting of marine species (corals, fish etc). The degradation or conversion of wetlands is an important cause of biodiversity loss. The deliberate or accidental introduction of foreign species is another cause of species extinction.

B. Key features of the Convention

4. The **Biodiversity Convention** aims towards the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. It addresses all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems. It also recognises the need to reconcile conservation and socio-economic development needs. Parties are thus requested to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

5. Means to support developing countries implement the Convention include scientific and technical co-operation, access to financial and genetic resources, and the transfer of ecologically sound technologies.

6. To this end, the Convention provides for a financial "mechanism" (the GEF) and a subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice.

7. A **"Clearing House for Technical and Scientific Co-operation"** is also established to provide a means for identifying and disseminating information relevant to the implementation of the Convention. This includes providing data for decision-making; supporting access to existing knowledge, generating new knowledge and more generally to promote technical and scientific communication and avoid duplication of efforts.

8. The Conferences of the Parties have defined "**Thematic Work Programmes**" on **Coastal Biodiversity**, **Forests**, **Freshwater, Agricultural Biodiversity**, **Traditional Knowledge**, and **Biosafety**. These "work programmes" outline the priorities for implementation of the Convention, each related to a specific ecosystem or theme. Each work programme also identifies specific areas where research is required in support of implementation objectives. [In the forest area, for example, these include the relationship between forest biodiversity and forest products and services; the impact of climate change on biodiversity, especially related to forests, and research on indigenous knowledge of conservation of forest resources].

C. Examples of activities to conserve biodiversity (see also the marker's definition sheet)

Direct measures: In -situ Conservation

- Protection of ecosystems and natural habitats; development of legislation for the protection of threatened species and populations.

- Rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems; support to local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas.

- Controlling risks associated with biotechnology (living modified organisms).

- Sustainable wildlife management.

- Identification of components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use; monitoring these components through sampling and other techniques (including databases).

- Identification and promotion indigenous knowledge related to biodiversity use and conservation, and Assistance for indigenous group to participate in relevant meetings at national and international levels. Support for developing countries' participation in the expert-level discussions held to clarify the key technical and scientific issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

Direct measures: Ex-situ conservation

- Establishment and maintenance of ex-situ conservation facilities in developing countries (e.g. botanical gardens, gene banks etc).

- Establishment of facilities for ex-situ research on, plants, animals and micro-organisms.

- Assistance related to the Clearing House Mechanism: access to relevant scientific information networks and databases, including notably through Internet and capacity development in relevant disciplines.

- Support for improved access to or transfer of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources.

Capacity development and enabling environment

Integration of biodiversity in national planning and policy making

- Identification of processes and activities which have, or are likely to have, a significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; systematic environmental impact assessments.

- Development of appropriate legislative frameworks, for example in the area of biosafety.

Education, training, research

- Legislative, administrative and policy measures on access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses;

- Facilitate access to, and transfer of technology.

- Capacity to identify, acquire, develop and apply necessary technologies to ensure sustainable use of biological resources; and to comply with reporting requirements.

- Exchange of information relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

- Establishment of national assessment and monitoring systems and assistance for technical and policy-formulation efforts relevant to each of the “thematic work programmes”.

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

http://www.unfccc.int

A. Key Terms and Concepts

1. **Climate change** is due to increasing concentrations of certain gases in the atmosphere. There are many uncertainties about the scale and impacts of climate change. Because of the delaying effect of the oceans in absorbing or emitting GreenHouse Gases (GHGs), surface temperatures do not respond immediately. However, the balance of the evidence suggests that the climate may have already started to change.

2. **GHGs** control the flow of natural energy through the atmosphere by absorbing infrared radiation. The overall concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere depends on the balance between the release of GHG into the atmosphere and their re-absorption back from the atmosphere. Principal GHGs include Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide, a range of artificial chemicals (CFCs, HCFCs and Sulphur Hexafluoride)[1], Ozone. While many GHGs are released by natural processes, human activities contribute to the build-up of GHG in the atmosphere by releasing GHGs (anthropogenic GHG sources) and by interfering with natural GHG "sinks".

3. **GHG sources** are processes that lead to the release of GHGs into the atmosphere. Examples include burning fossil fuels and cattle raising. **GHG sinks** remove GHGs from the atmosphere. For example, a growing tree takes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, uses the carbon to create wooden matter, and releases oxygen. (This is called photosynthesis.) Converting a forest to other uses stops this "sink" function. Because considerable amounts of carbon are captured in the sub-soil, land degradation leads to the emission of carbon back into the atmosphere.

4. **Carbon dioxide** (CO2) is produced when fossil fuels are used (e.g. coal, petroleum) to generate energy[2] and when forests are converted to other uses. These are probably the first and second largest sources of GHGs emissions from human activities. **Methane** (CH4) and **Nitrous Oxide** (N2O) are emitted from agricultural activities, changes in land use and the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills. Extracting, processing, transporting, and distributing fossil fuels also release greenhouse gases. This happens when natural gas is flared or vented from oil wells, emitting mostly carbon dioxide and methane, respectively but also from accidents, poor maintenance, and small leaks in well heads, pipe fittings, and

1 Although they are important greenhouse gases, CFCs and HCFCs are better known for their role in damaging the earth's ozone layer. Their production is regulated by another treaty, the Montreal Protocol. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are used as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs in some applications, as they do not deplete the ozone layer. However, as they are greenhouse gases, HFCs and PFCs are covered by the Climate Change Convention and are also included in the six greenhouse gases subject to emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

2 Because combustion is often incomplete, carbon monoxide and other pollutants are also produced. When fuel is burned completely, the only by-product containing carbon is carbon dioxide.

pipelines. **Ozone** in the lower atmosphere is generated indirectly by automobile exhaust fumes[3]. **Artificial chemicals** (CFCs, HCFCs, PFCs) and other long-lived gases such as sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) are released by industrial processes.

B. Global climate change: impacts and remedies

5. **Climate change is likely to have a significant impact on the global environment.** In general, the faster the climate changes, the greater will be the risk of damage. The mean sea level is expected to rise, causing **flooding of low-lying areas** and other damage. Climatic zones (and thus ecosystems and agricultural zones) could shift towards the poles, forests, deserts, rangelands, and other unmanaged ecosystems would face new climatic stresses and individual species will become extinct. Risks of more extreme weather events and of changes in the Gulf Stream will increase.

6. **Human society will face new risks and pressures.** Some regions are likely to experience food shortages and hunger. Water resources will be affected as precipitation and evaporation patterns change around the world. Physical infrastructure will be damaged, particularly by sea-level rise and by extreme weather events. Economic activities, human settlements, and human health will experience many direct and indirect effects. **The poor and disadvantaged are the most vulnerable to the negative consequences of climate change.**

C. Key features of the Convention and Protocol

7. **The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** sets an "ultimate objective" of stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a "safe" level, namely a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. This should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. To achieve this objective, all countries have a general commitment to address climate change, adapt to its effects, and report on the action they are taking to implement the Convention**.**

8. **The Convention divides countries into two groups: Annex I Parties** are the industrialised countries that have historically contributed the most to climate change and countries with economies in transition[4]. The principles of equity and **"common but differentiated responsibilities"** enshrined in the Convention require Annex I Parties to take the lead in modifying longer-term trends in emissions. Annex I Parties are committed to adopting national policies and measures with the (non-legally binding) aim of returning their greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. Other countries, basically, the developing countries are referred to as **non-Annex I Parties**.

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3 At ground level Ozone is a pollutant harmful to human health. At the level of the stratosphere, however, Ozone plays a role in filtering harmful radiations from the sun. The Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol aim to combat the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.

4 They are: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA. The OECD members of Annex I are also listed in the Convention's Annex II. They have a special obligation to provide "new and additional financial resources" to developing countries to help them tackle climate change, as well as to facilitate the transfer of climate-friendly technologies to both developing countries and economies in transition. Much of this assistance is provided through the Convention's financial mechanism, the Global Environment Facility.

9. **The Convention commits all Parties to** *i)* develop and submit "national communications" containing inventories of greenhouse-gas emissions by sources and greenhouse-gas removals by "sinks"; *ii)* adopt national programmes for mitigating climate change and develop strategies for adapting to its impacts; *iii)* promote technology transfer and the sustainable management, conservation, and enhancement of greenhouse gas "sinks" and "reservoirs" (such as forests and oceans); *iv)* take climate change into account in their social, economic, and environmental policies; *v)* co-operate in scientific, technical, and educational matters; and *vi)* promote education, public awareness, and the exchange of information related to climate change.

10. **The 1997 Kyoto Protocol** will require stronger action in the post-2000 period**.** The Parties to the Convention have agreed by consensus that developed countries will have a legally binding commitment to reduce their collective emissions of six greenhouse gases by at least 5% below 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012. The Protocol also establishes an emission trading regime and a "clean development mechanism (CDM)".

D. Examples of concrete measures to implement the climate change Convention (see also the marker's definition sheet):

Collection and exchange of information related to climate change

- Scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system (causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change; economic and social consequences of various response strategies).

- Exchange of scientific, technical, socio-economic information related to climate change.

Capacity Development and Enabling Environment

11. Cultural, educational, institutional, legal, and regulatory practices are all very important to effective mitigation of climate change. Examples of relevant activities in this area include:

- Formulation of measures to foster the incorporation of climate change concerns into social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

- Impact assessments of sectoral policies on GHG emissions and removals. Relevant sectors include energy, transport, water management, agriculture, forestry and others. This includes measures to take into account potential climate change impact when designing infrastructure.

- Establishment of policies and regulatory frameworks to encourage GHG reduction by consumers, investors and producers. This includes taxes, regulatory standards, tradable emissions permits, voluntary programmes, and the phase-out of counterproductive subsidies, etc.

Measures to contain GHG emissions and enhance GHG absorption

12. The avenues for limiting GHG emissions are many and varied. They include encouraging energy efficiency and the limitation of GHG emissions in industry, power generation, transport, housing, waste management and agriculture. Specific examples include:

- Development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent GHG emissions.

- Sustainable management of forests, wetlands, drylands, etc.
- Improved agriculture and livestock management.
- Programmes to improve urban management (reducing congestion, urban sprawl, etc).
- Activities to reduce the release of GHGs in the extraction and processing of fossil fuels (e.g. by reducing leaks or recovering methane).

13. Many of these measures will have direct socio-economic benefits apart from climate change relevant benefits.

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

http://www.unccd.int

A. Key terms and Concepts

1. **"Desertification"** means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. While land degradation occurs everywhere, it is only defined as "desertification" when it occurs in those areas. Desertification affects seventy percent of the world's drylands, amounting to one fourth of the world's land surface.

2. **Land degradation** means reduction or loss, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands. Land degradation is often linked with food insecurity and poverty, in a cause-effect relationship**.**

3. **Causes of land degradation** include natural hazards – droughts, floods– combined with human activities – notably over-tilling and overgrazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices (leading to salinization). Fertilisers, pesticides, and contamination by heavy metals, and the introduction of exotic (invasive) plant species also lead to soil degradation.

4. **Actions to combat desertification** includes activities aimed at preventing and/or reducing land degradation; rehabilitating partly degraded land and reclaiming desertified land.

5. **Actions to mitigate the effects of drought** include activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification.

B. Key features of the Convention

6. **The Convention to Combat Desertification** aims to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in affected countries, particularly in Africa, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. It recognises that achieving this objective will involve long term integrated strategies aimed at improving the productivity of land and rehabilitating, conservation and management of land and water resources, with a view to improving living conditions, especially at the community level. Under the Convention, *affected country parties* undertake to give due priority to combating desertification and allocate adequate resources, address the underlying causes of desertification, with special attention to socio-economic factors providing an enabling policy and legislative environment, and promoting increased awareness and facilitating the participation of local populations and NGOs in efforts to combat desertification and mitigating the effects of draught. *Developed country* parties are committed to promote the mobilisation of financial and other resources to combat desertification, encourage the mobilisation of private sector and non-governmental sources.

7. Under the Convention, affected developing country parties[5] are required to prepare **National Action Programmes** to combat Desertification. These plans elaborate long-term policies and strategies to combat desertification; mitigate the effects of drought; prevent the degradation of land not yet affected. These plans should be formulated within the broader context of national policies for sustainable development. Action Plans to combat desertification can be developed at the national, sub-regional or regional levels as appropriate.

C. Examples of activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effect of drought (see also the marker's definition sheet)

Direct measures

- Food security systems.
- Fixation of shifting sand dunes; erosion control; biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthening agricultural extension services, training rural organisations.
- Development and dissemination of efficient use of alternative energy sources and technologies.
- Water resources management for arid-land agriculture.
- Integrated management of international river, lake, and hydrogeological basins.
- Alternative livelihoods, (e.g.: eco-tourism).

8. These activities are often integrated as part of broader socio-economic development projects, including Integrated Local Area Development Programmes (LADPs).

Capacity development and enabling environment

- Research on the processes leading to desertification and drought and on the impact of natural and human causal factors; collection and exchange of information related to desertification.
- Strengthening hydrological and meteorological services.
- Development of environmentally sound technology relevant to combating desertification.
- Adaptation of traditional methods of agriculture to modern socio-economic conditions.
- Identification of policy and institutional factors which may hamper the fight against desertification (e.g. in the area of agriculture, water management etc).
- Strengthening of institutional and legal frameworks; including the regimes for tenure and resource harmonisation of policy and legislation.

5 An up-to date list of Parties to the Conventions and ratification status is found at http://www.unccd.int/Convention/ratif/doeif.php