



Adaptation and Mitigation: Interlinkages with other Convention Processes

Many Small Voices Workshop

Belize

May 28, 2007

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London**

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Overview of Presentation

- Kinds of interlinkages
- Examples of interlinked Conventions
- Opportunities through interlinkages
- Conventions in greater depth
- Conclusion

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UNFCCC

- **Ultimate aim:** to stabilise GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents *dangerous* human interference with the climate system.
- achieved in a timeframe to
 - allow *ecosystems to adapt naturally*
 - avoid threatening food production and
 - allow economic development to proceed sustainably.



Mitigation commitments

All Parties to

- Implement national programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing *sources and removals by sinks*
- Promote processes that control, reduce or prevent emissions of GHGs in relevant sectors, e.g., energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management
- *Promote sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.*

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Adaptation commitments

All Parties to

- cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- develop and elaborate plans for *coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture*
- Develop plans for the protection and rehabilitation of *areas, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods*



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Kinds of interlinkages

- Substantive
- Scientific
- Reporting
- Funding
- Administrative
- Different regimes are intended to address/regulate different issues, be mutually supportive
- But sometimes can conflict as a result of different Parties, different mandates, different underlying interests

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Examples of interlinked Conventions

- Nature Conservation
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Ramsar Convention
 - Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Marine Pollution
 - UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
 - London Dumping Convention/London Protocol
 - MARPOL – GHG emissions from ships
 - UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement
 - Noumea Convention (SPREP Convention)
- Air Pollution
 - Montreal Protocol – Ozone depleting substances
- World Heritage Convention

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Opportunities under other Convention processes

Strategic, political, scientific opportunities

- To highlight impacts of climate change
- To assist in better understanding what level of climate change is ‘dangerous’
- To address the underlying causes of emissions
- To develop responses to impacts
- To compel/encourage mitigation efforts by global community and by countries that are delaying mitigation

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Nature Conservation

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ramsar
- CCD
- CMS
- CITES



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Convention on Biological Diversity

- **Objectives:** conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of its components; fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilisation of genetic resources.
- Majority of living and genetic resource protected by the CBD are found in the areas of the world most vulnerable to climate change
- Parties to take national action to halt the destruction of species, habitats and ecosystems
- Parties to identify processes that have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation or sustainable use of biological diversity, and then regulate and manage these processes.

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Examples of initiatives under CBD

- SBSTTA – Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice – mandated to provide guidance on integration of cc issues into CBD
- AHTEG - Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (Reports 10 and 25)
- Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, including activities relating to climate change
- Informal Consultation on the Links between the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change, including within the Framework of reducing emissions from deforestation (March 2007)
- Roundtable on interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change (March 2007)

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Adaptation issues and link to biodiversity

- conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystems can contribute to climate change adaptation strategies
- maintaining ecosystem resilience minimizes vulnerability to climate change.
- reduction of other pressures on biodiversity can therefore constitute climate change adaptation measures.

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Mitigation issues - forest-based

- Types: afforestation, reforestation, reduced emissions from deforestation, sustainable forest management
- Benefits: can reduce biodiversity loss through habitat loss, fragmentation and soil biodiversity loss
- Challenges: incentives for replacement of natural forests with planted forests w/o considering the consequences, lack of consideration of maintenance of ecosystem services in planning.
- Financial benefits: forest-based mitigation might mobilise new benefits for forest conservation or restoration and improve the policy framework.

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Emerging mitigation issues and links to biodiversity:

- Carbon plantations
 - Impacts of monoculture plantings on biodiversity
- Reducing emissions from deforestation (RED)
 - UNFCCC is considering two approaches – market options, such as emissions trading and payment for environmental services, or financial options such as ODA, contributions or levies – to discuss in December
- Liquid biofuels
 - CBD SBSTTA to consider in July how to promote production in a way that is compatible with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

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Ramsar Convention, 1971



- **Objective:** conservation and wise use of all wetlands
- Wetlands include swamps and marshes, lakes and rivers, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, fish ponds, reservoirs.
- Wetlands to be restored and rehabilitated, whenever possible
- **Wetlands reduce impacts of climate change** by holding GHGs, and serve as buffer zones for impacts of extreme events due to climate change.
- **Loss of wetlands can also contribute to climate change:** e.g., drying peatlands give off GHGs.
- Ramsar Resolution VII.3 - recognizes that climate change may substantially affect the ecological character of wetlands; calls upon Parties to manage wetlands to increase their resilience to climate change and extreme events.

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UN Convention to Combat Desertification



- Addresses degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations.
- Desertification where dryland ecosystems are over-exploited, or inappropriate land use.
- Addresses sustainable development of countries affected by drought and desertification, sustainable land use, food security
- National action programmes (NAPs), national, subregional and regional programmes.

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Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; CITES

- **CMS** applies to migratory species that cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries
- Parties have recognized that impacts of climate change could impede protected status of CMS species.
- CMS contains lists of species that are threatened with extinction and species with unfavorable conservation status
- CMS Scientific Council – working group to assess impact of climate change on migratory animals.
- **CITES** – uses trade prohibitions, regulations, sanctions to protect species threatened with extinction now or in future

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Marine Conventions

- UNCLOS
- UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement
- MARPOL
- London Convention / London Protocol
- Noumea/SPREP Convention



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UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

- Legal order for the seas and oceans, to promote equitable and efficient utilisation of resources
- Addresses all marine areas, airspace above and seabed and sub-seabed;
- Defines maritime zones, territorial waters, EEZ – hence relevant to loss of territory of small island States - jeopardizing economic rights, Statehood; changes in sea ice in Arctic likely to cause friction
- Two main environmental objectives:
 - To prevent, reduce, control marine pollution
 - To conserve and manage marine living resources

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- ‘Pollution’ defined as: introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of *substances or energy* into the marine environment. . .which is likely to result in
 - harm to living resources and marine life
 - hazards to human health
 - hindrance to marine activities, including fishing
 - impairment of quality for uses of sea water ...
- Obligations to protect the marine environment from:
 - Pollution from land-based activities, sea bed activities, dumping, vessels
 - *Pollution through the atmosphere*
- Many global and regional conventions implement UNCLOS on both marine pollution and marine living resources (fisheries)

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London Protocol, 1996

- **Objective:** protect the marine environment from all sources of pollution and to eliminate pollution caused by dumping
- Dumping includes ‘any deliberate disposal into the sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms, or other man-made structures’ or storage of wastes in the sea bed and subsoil
- CO2 now recognized to contribute to *acidification of oceans*
- CO2 waste streams now permitted for ‘dumping’ into sub-surface geological storage cavities, as a measure to reduce air pollution and acidification of the oceans (as of late 2006)
- Carbon capture and storage seen as a mitigation measure under UNFCCC
- Scientific Committee: GESAMP

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Noumea (SPREP) Convention

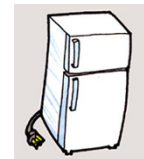
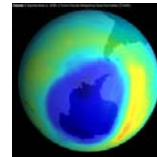
- Addresses pollution in the Pacific Region, recognizes unique ecosystems of Pacific; Parties include Pacific island countries, as well as **Australia, France, New Zealand and United States.**
- Definition of "**pollution**" similar to UNCLOS, London Convention - introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment ...which results or likely to result in harm to living resources and marine life etc
- Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution in the **Convention Area** (Pacific) resulting from discharges into the atmosphere **from activities under their jurisdiction.**
- Parties required to co-operate in adopting rules and procedures for liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the **Convention Area** (Art. 20)
- Useful for political traction with US and others?

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Air pollution - Montreal Protocol

- Aims for complete elimination of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) through phase out schedules, controls on production and consumption – many ODS have high global warming potentials.
- Despite phase-out, Kyoto Protocol creates incentives in developing countries to build HCFC-22 plants, to obtain credits for destroying HFC-23
- Parties have now proposed HCFCs for accelerated phase out to address this perverse incentive – for discussion in June.
- Accelerated phase out will advance mitigation efforts under UNFCCC
- Scientific body: TEAP



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UNESCO Convention

- Aims to preserve single, unique natural sites or objects of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view
- World Heritage List, created by submissions of Parties, includes Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Belize Barrier reef, Mt Everest, many other sites
- UNESCO has a List of World Heritage in Danger
- Petitions brought for including 3 sites on danger listing, including
 - Belize Barrier Reef
 - Huarascan National Park
 - Sagarmatha National Park in Nepal (Everest) based on climate change.
- Successful in drawing attention to vulnerabilities of these sites

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Why pay attention to interlinkages?

- Good work done under other conventions may be undone by climate change (CBD, CCD, CITES, CMS, UNESCO etc)
- At the same time, the work done by other Conventions can assist in reducing causes or impacts of climate change
 - Forest management
 - Conservation of species
 - Marine protected areas
 - Wetlands protection
 - Drylands management
 - Emissions from marine transport, air transport
- Recognition of conflicts and synergies is important
- Scientific bodies can work together
- Ability to raise issues in a range of fora to achieve greater public awareness, and achieve goals of UNFCCC

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