



**Final Report**

**Of the meeting in celebration of the**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DESERTS AND  
DESERTIFICATION (IYDD)**

**And for the  
consideration of the proposal for an environmental  
rehabilitation programme with the participation of youth in  
the Caribbean States and the development of a Sub-regional  
Action Programme for the Caribbean**

**Meliá Havana Hotel  
Havana, Cuba 2006, 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006**



## **I. Background**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/Res/58/211 declaring 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification to highlight the serious threats that land degradation poses to sustainable development. In celebration of the same the Caribbean country Parties to the UNCCD are implementing a series of activities approved during the X UNCCD LAC Regional meeting held in Sao Luis, Brazil in August 2005, as well as those adopted at COP 7 held in Nairobi, Kenya during October of the same year.

The promotion of the establishment of an environmental rehabilitation program with the participation of youth in the Caribbean States (Y&E Caribbean) is a sub-regional initiative within the framework of the UNCCD, designed to promote youth involvement in environmental issues while contributing to the formulation of a SRAP for UNCCD implementation in the Caribbean. It focuses on sustainable agro forestry and land management issues to address land degradation, drought and poverty with a view to foster youth employment and capacity building while addressing these pressing environmental issues. The proposal allows for systematic linkages between public and private institutions, academic and scientific centres, non-governmental and community based organisations, cooperation partners and international agencies, which through use of their respective capacities and comparative advantages can facilitate its implementation.

The countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean region have always seen the need to promote sustainable forest and land management as effective tools for sustainable development. This is being done through the design and application of concrete programmes to address severe social and economic problems in particularly affected areas and among affected population including the youth.

The present initiative is in keeping with the current efforts to develop and implement the National Action Programmes (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation and Drought in the countries of the Caribbean sub-region. This is a process in which includes sub-regional bodies, like CARICOM and CARIFORUM, the national governments and numerous civil society organizations including those representing the interests of youth.

The main objectives of the proposed project is to share information and technical expertise, as well as to promote the development and implementation of instruments to combat land degradation and drought through a network of activities covering reforestation, forestation and land management in the Caribbean states parties to the UNCCD, by creating an enabling environment to Establish a network of Youth Environmental Groups, to manage communal forests in order to prevent further land degradation and to contribute to the creation of jobs for young people and at the same time promote environmental awareness and education, facilitating effective mobilization and support of the NGOs, the local communities and the private sector.



The network proposed in the project could also constitute an essential component of a strategy to mobilize national and international support (horizontal cooperation among others) that would allow for the sustainable development and rational management of the natural resources of the sub-region. The UNCCD Secretariat will also facilitate the design of the Sub-Regional Action Programme for the Caribbean under this framework.

## **II. Objectives of the meeting in Havana**

The UNCCD Secretariat has been requested to facilitate and support in co-operation with the host country, the organisation and holding of a meeting on the project, through the harmonisation of all existing information and the provision of technical and financial assistance. The meeting is a significant event for the future implementation of the as aimed at realising the following activities:

1. Clear identification of the network's operational structure and linkages with existing networks;
2. Proposal of an appropriate institutional framework and arrangement for setting up the network and for the implementation of the project;
3. Determination of concrete activities (national projects) for participating countries, in accordance with their respective capacities and comparative advantages;
4. Establishment an effective mechanism to ensure the timely sharing of useful information among all the participants in the project, including linkages with DESELAC;
5. Agreement on the overall programme of work, specifying short and long-term objectives, timetable and schedules;
6. Identification of cross-cutting issues among other regional and sub-regional initiatives included in the LAC Regional Action Programme in particular the thematic programme networks, as well as activities emanating from the relevant COP and CRIC decisions, with the aim of ensuring effective synergies among the same at all levels;
7. Identification of potential donors and co-operation partners involved in bilateral and/or multilateral funding to which specific proposals will need to be tailored in the appropriate manner;
8. Defining an effective mechanism for provision of the necessary assistance for preparing pilot projects, which ensure the integration of agro-forestry and soil conservation components, along with sustainable water management and poverty eradication as well as other related issues that maybe address through the implementation of the project.



### **III. Participation**

All the Caribbean country Parties to the UNCCD as well as co-operation country partners and relevant regional, sub-regional, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and agencies of the United Nations system were invited to the Meeting. Ten country Parties attended the meeting while there were representatives from nine international, regional and or nongovernmental organizations. The list of participants is attached as Annex II of the present report.

## **Day 1 Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **IV. Official opening of the Meeting**

The opening ceremony of the official segment of the meeting took place on Monday, May 8 2006 at the Hotel Melia Havana, Havana, Cuba. It was chaired by Mr. Sergio Zelaya, Coordinator of the LAC Unit of UNCCD Secretariat who took the opportunity to welcome the participants and to give a brief outline of the objectives of the meeting. He indicated that this was the major event in celebration of the IYDD in the Caribbean, and that the ensuing discussions were fundamental to the further implementation of the UNCCD in the region. Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, UNCCD Executive Secretary, Mr. Roberto Arias Milla, Acting Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Cuba, H.E. Adan Chaves Frias, Ambassador of Venezuela to Cuba and the Hon. Fernando Gonzalez Bermudez, Acting Minister of Science, Information, Technology and Environment of Cuba, delivered addresses at this official opening.

The executive Secretary in his address focused on two major themes, namely the importance of the IYDD to the Convention process and the future implementation of the Youth and Environment project in the Caribbean. Mr. Roberto Arias Milla underlined the global importance of the UNCCD while H.E. Adan Chaves Frias stressed his country's commitment to the UNCCD process and to the Youth and Environment project.

The feature address was delivered by the Hon. Fernando Gonzales Bermudez, Acting Minister of Science, Information, Technology and Environment of Cuba who also declared the meeting opened. He underlined his country's commitment to effective implementation of the UNCCD and to playing its part in the global fight against desertification.

### **V. Presentation on IYDD<sup>1</sup>**

Following on the official addresses the UNCCD Secretariat, made a presentation as to the major activities on the agenda for the celebration of the IYDD. Detailed activities such as the Beijing

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<sup>1</sup> All presentations made at the meeting are included in the Presentations at the Youth and Environment Meeting Havana 8th to 10th May 2006 posted on the DESLAC website at <http://www.unccd-deselac.org/index.htm> under "Important Links", IYDD and the Caribbean.



Conference on Women and Desertification as well as other major actions to be carried out throughout the year were mentioned.

## **VI. General presentation on the implementation of the UNCCD in the Caribbean**

The UNCCD Secretariat also made a presentation on the implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean states from the date of its entry into force to the present. In his presentation the LAC Unit Coordinator informed of the process of implementation over ten years highlighting all the major successes achieved and the difficulties that are still to be overcome.

The floor was then opened for questions, comments and general discussion on the implementation process. Midway through this session, the Chairmanship and overall direction of the meeting was passed to Dr. Jose Antonio Diaz Duke, deputy Minister of Science, Information, Technology and Environment of Cuba.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD raised the question of the completion of the NAP by some countries of the sub-region and wanted to know how much longer it was going to take, as the process has been well on the way and that the countries concerned, were for the most part making some strides in the process.

On the issue of the possibility of the NAP process being supported through the LDC/SIDS portfolio project the Secretariat informed that countries must take into consideration the time constraints as regards fulfilling the obligations under this project, so as to meet the deadlines stipulated for the same while trying to finalise the preparation of the NAP. A suggestion was made of how other agencies such as FAO, UNEP and UNDP could contribute in one way or another in supporting the NAP process completion as soon as possible.

The representative of Trinidad and Tobago advised the meeting that his country will be officially launching its NAP in November 2006 and it was his government intention to cover the cost of one participant per country from the Caribbean states. In this context, he inquired of the possibility of the Secretariat also providing support for the participation of one other person from each of the Caribbean states thus ensuring that each country has two representatives. The Executive Secretary welcomed the idea and indicated that once there was a request of such nature it would be given due consideration, stressing however the priority for assistance to NAP completion in the countries that have not finalised the NAP exercise.

The representative of UNEP/ROLAC informed the meeting that the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), in the Caribbean would soon be fully launched, among others with the support of the government of Trinidad and Tobago. He underlined that among its main objectives are the mobilisation of resources, capacity building and awareness raising.

## **VI. Presentations by countries**



After the lunch recess the meeting resumed with presentations marking IYYD by Mr. Kenneth Roach of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Nery Urquiza of Cuba, Ms. Haidy Aroma of Surinam and Mr. Philbert Brown of Jamaica. All the presenters detailed the process of the implementation of the Convention in their respective countries and explained what are the immediate and future plans concerning the same. The main issues addressed related to NAP launching, actions as regards implementation at the national, regional and international levels, particularly the strong voice of the Caribbean country Parties in the Convention's process.

## **VII. Discussion on UNCCD implementation in the Caribbean**

The Ambassador of Venezuela to Canada, H.E Jesús Pérez made an intervention in which he indicated *inter alia* his country's commitment to the UNCCD process in general and to the project in particular, due to concerns with the spread of desertification and accompanying poverty. He stressed that Venezuela's support for the project was also a further demonstration of its intention to build a sound partnership with the Caribbean states as evidenced also by the Petro-Caribe agreement. He underlined that his country had suffered from land degradation and also from natural disasters, which have made it more sensitive to the suffering of others, in particular the poor.

Representatives of the Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and from UNEP/ROLAC made interventions on several issues ranging from endorsing the Youth and Environment project, informing on various ongoing youth exercises in the countries, which can benefit from the same, and comments on the GEF concept "Resource Allocation Framework", which could have consequences for the SIDS that might be useful to discuss on this so that there is a clearer understanding of the same. He said that irrespective of this general discussion. Other comments referred to the current social problems faced in some countries of the sub-region with a section of its youth and that exercises like this project would go a long way in helping to address some of these problems. The role of training and helping young people to realise their potential was also underlined.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that it was necessary that these issues of youth be solved as quickly as possible, and that the respective governments must take the lead in trying to deal with these problems and that the implementation of this project could contribute to that effect.

The UNEP/ROLAC delegate informed on the official meeting of the ministers of the Environment of CARICOM, to be held sometime in June, suggesting that this might be an opportune time to launch the project as much could be gained by doing so at such an important occasion.

The Chair then wrapped up the day's proceedings by thanking all the participants for their inputs and cooperation on this session to celebrate the IYDD in the Caribbean.



## **Day 2 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

The day began with the adoption of the draft agenda for the remainder of the meeting, which addressed the operational aspects and functioning of the Youth and the Environment Project proposal for the Caribbean. The participants agreed on the selection of Cuba as Chair and Antigua/Barbuda as rapporteur for the remainder of the meeting. The approved agenda forms part of this report as Annex III.

### **VIII. General presentation on the status of the project**

The UNCCD Secretariat made a general presentation on the status of the Youth and Environment project in which he cover three main areas namely, the genesis of the project, it present status and the issue of its finalisation.

#### **Questions and answers session**

The Cuban delegation informed that the country is fully committed to the project and will do whatever it can in support the same. The delegation also raised the issue of the name of the project indicating that the document as stands speaks only of the Eastern Caribbean and whether the name should not be changed as the whole Caribbean is involved. The delegate also expressed the view that the project should place more emphasis on south - south cooperation and in this sense called for all countries involved to provide support to the project. He also called for a reduction in areas of expenditure in the project such as consultants. In this regard he suggested that Cuba might be able to provide some of these services free of cost.

In response to the issues raised by the Cuban delegate, the UNCCD Executive Secretary explained that the project now covers the entire Caribbean and so changing the name to reflect this was the right thing to do. He concurred with the ideas expressed on south - south cooperation and the Caribbean countries contributing to the project, expressing that this was the main principle of the proposal; he also stressed the expectation of support from agencies such as the GEF, UNEP and others to this initiative.

The participant from UNEP/ROLAC while expressing that organisation's support for the project pointed out that the project document refers to the PISLM as a project but that it was in reality a framework for dealing with land degradation in the Caribbean, and suggested that the Youth and Environment project should be realised and implemented through this framework. In response

The Executive Secretary indicated that reworking the entire text of the project was not the way to make progress in this proposal, as this would apart from creating other difficulties, delay its implementation.

In answering a request from the Cuban delegation to be informed of what really was the PISLM and what exactly was UNEP/ROLAC proposing, the UNEP/ROLAC delegate informed on the



development of the PISLM indicating that it had resulted from a decision by the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and could serve as a mechanism for the implementation of the Youth and Environment project.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD expressed the view that if the meeting got tied up in discussing institutions it will stray from its original objective, he therefore suggested that it remained focus on the project. This position was supported by the delegation of Cuba and the Bahamas, since there was a clear need to determine the mechanism for implementation whether through the PISLM of another framework, but that it was important that the project development move forward and that all the countries must be involved.

The Jamaican delegation asked about the eligibility for a country to be assigned a pilot project within the framework of the Youth and Environment project. In response the Secretariat through the LAC Unit Co-ordinator described the modality of participation through endorsement of the proposal, and that to date the Secretariat had received 9 endorsements of the same.

The delegates of St. Kitts/Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic and Jamaica expressed their support to the project and that through the implementation of the envisaged national projects they would benefit from the project, in particular on the capacity building aspects, marketing and entrepreneurship, thus providing the youths with applicable skills that can be use in the implementation of the project. In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, the delegate informed that it is conceivable that all things being equal, the government could support the project up to one million dollars. The Executive Secretary welcomed these interventions and said he look forward to others supporting the project including the GEF Small Grants Programme.

The representative of UNDP Cuba informed that they found the project interesting but had not studied the proposal carefully as they only recently learned of it through the Senior Technical Advisor on Land Degradation of UNDP-GEF.

The GEF Small Grants Programme coordinator for Cuba confirmed that organisation's support for the project at Cuba's level and that they were looking at what might be the best way for them to participate in the same.

The Chairperson summarised the main proposals coming from the floor as follows:

1. The project should assist in the implementation of priorities set forth in each NAP, through providing support to concrete activities,
2. While implementing the project, synergistic action between agencies must be achieved, through strengthening networking and information exchange among participants of different countries,
3. The training element should be designed based on the concrete demands of the participating countries aiming at capacity creation among youth at the national level.



4. Other important issues are the pilot areas and activities as well as transfer of technologies; addressing in more detail the financial issues, and there is a need for more consultations with the countries.

On the completion of this discussion, the Chair proposed changes to the agenda suggesting that there be some modification as to the order in which things were discussed. In essence it was proposed that the presentation of the countries as regards their national proposals should be immediately embarked upon, as these proposals would influence all the other topics on the agenda. The participants of the meeting approved the suggested change.

### **IX: Presentation of national project concepts and discussions on the same**

The 9 participating countries from the Caribbean made presentation, which focused on the principle of involving the youths in the protection of the environment and has a number of objectives including the fostering of environmental stewardship and their empowerment and development of practical skills through gainful employment. Other aspects covered by these presentations were synergies, linkages with existing projects, reforestation, the training centre in Las Tunas, co-financing issues, stakeholder participation and the national implementing body.

After the presentation there was a plenary discussion that produced some questions like actions of the Youth and Environment project be realised through regional cooperation, particularly on agro forestry practices, on how the project proposal would be reviewed to deal with these questions, on resource allocation on a per-country bases. In general comments were made on the very impressive ideas shared by delegations as regards the development of their national projects.

The Chairman then brought the day's session to a close with a wrap up.

## **Day 3 Wednesday 10th**

The Chairman called the meeting to order and then gave the floor to the Secretariat's LAC Unit co-ordinator who answered questions posed the previous evening. He pointed out that the issue of resources for each country would be addressed and that as regards the investment plan for the project it was been prepared, with inputs from this meeting, as planned in the overall budget of the project. He also mentioned that all project proposals would be made available on the DESELAC website.

The participants exchanged on the role of regional and sub-regional institutions in the implementation of the project, particularly on the role of CARICOM, the comparative cost between agencies as all organisations had operational costs, which must be covered.



There were also indications of office representations in some but not all countries, as in the case of UNDP, UNEP, CARICOM, IADB and OAS, trying to identify viable options for all participating countries.

The Executive Secretary requested to further exchange on the different options available. He underlined that the UNDP had offices in many countries of the region. Mentions were made of cases where more than one organisation was responsible for the implementation of one project.

After the institutional issues were discussed there were exchanges on building synergies with other initiatives and a recommendation was made that other countries and international agencies should be invited to support the project.

## **X. Presentation on the concept of a Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP)**

The Secretariat introduced a short paper on the development of the Caribbean SRAP as requested in several occasions by the countries of the region.

Interventions from Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica were made as well as from youth organisations present at the meeting. These circumscribed in the issues of training in various relevant fields in Las Tunas, on the particular area of forestry and on the role of organisations like OCLAE and their programmes for youths.

## **XI. Presentation and adoption of the main points of the final report**

The Chair invited the Secretariat to advise on the status of the final report and a representative of Secretariat assisted the rapporteur and duly complied explaining that the report was completed as regards drafting and once there is agreement on its final contents it would be sent to all participants and posted on the DESELAC website.

The Rapporteur of the meeting, highlighting and pointing out key areas of the report and all substantive presentations, presented the draft report. She informed that these would be contained in a separate document and made available to all. The meeting accepted the report and moved to the consideration of the decisions based upon the exchanges that took place over the two days.

After much discussions with inputs in the form of comments, suggestions, questions and clarifications, the participants universally agreed on a final text for the decisions of the meeting. It was agreed that the UNCCD Secretariat would be responsible for the modification of style. These decisions are attached hereto as Annex I of this report.

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<sup>2 2</sup> These are included in Presentations at the Youth and Environment Meeting Havana 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006.



## **XII. General wrap-up and closure of the meeting**

Before closing the meeting the Chair invited Mr. Zelaya on behalf of the UNCCD Secretariat to give some closing remarks. The latter thank everyone for participating and especially thanked the government of Cuba for its efforts as regards hosting of the meeting.

The Chair then closed the meeting by also thanking everyone for so actively and constructively participating thus making sure that the outcomes of the meeting were positive. He again restated Cuba's commitment to the UNCCD process and it wiliness to cooperate with all other parties to ensure the successful implementation of the Youth and Environment project.

The meeting ended at 18: 30 on May 10, 2006.

Havana, Cuba, May 10th, 2006



## **ANNEX I**

### **DECISIONS**

The participants attending the meeting celebrating the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), and the meeting for consideration of the proposal for an environmental rehabilitation programme with the participation of youth in the Caribbean States and the development of a Sub-regional Action Programme for the Caribbean, held in La Havana Cuba from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10 may 2006 have agreed on the following:

#### **Decision 1 on the further development and implementation of the Youth and Environment project**

*Having considered* the 9<sup>th</sup> draft of the project proposal in detailed with a view to improving the same;

*Recognising* the need to move the project process forward so that implementation of the same might begin in the near future;

*Further recognising* the need to ensure close cooperation between all the countries concerned to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the project and foster greater south/south cooperation;

*Accepting the importance* of the project as one with a genuine community approach to the implementation of the Convention;

*Recalling* that the project is to be implemented in all sixteen countries of the Caribbean;

*Bearing in mind* the two different levels of the project namely regional and national;

*Recognising* the need for the full participation and support of relevant international agencies;

*Appreciating* the need to ensure synergies with ongoing projects of a compatible nature;

*Being aware* of the need to stimulate the inclusion of the national and regional youth in the implementation of the project

**DECIDE**



1. To recommend the prompt launching of the project to be called **UNCCD Caribbean Youth Environmental Programme (CYEP)** thereby reflecting its coverage of the entire Caribbean.
2. That the project shall be opened for implementation in all sixteen Caribbean states concerned thereby ensuring that they all benefit from the same, however the 9 countries, which have endorsed the project or participated in this meeting shall have priority.
3. To request the Secretariat to:
  - a) Review the budget lines of the project with a view to ensuring that most of the finances are spent at the community level;
  - b) To review the training aspect of the project to ensure that the training provided in this framework would meet the express needs of the beneficiary in such a way that it becomes an effective tool for the sustainable development and implementation of the project;
  - c) To review the draft projects to be submitted by the countries;
  - d) That as regards an implementing agency or agencies, the UNCCD Secretariat will consider all options paying special attention to the issues of cost and implementation capacity while giving participating countries the choice of agency or agencies, then advise all the countries accordingly;
  - e) The issue of the allocation of resources among all concerned should be addressed so that countries would know how much funds they would have to provide in co-financing for the implementation of their respective national projects;
  - f) To study carefully what mechanism shall be used for the overall coordination of the project and advise all parties accordingly;
  - g) To make all adjustments to the project proposal along the lines of this decision and send the revised proposal to all concerned by 30<sup>th</sup> June for final consideration.
  - h) To take all necessary action to have the project officially launched during the first week of the month of August, 2006;
  - i) To continue developing efforts on resource mobilisation with Venezuela, China, the Basque region, Catalonia, Italian NGOs, the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and other donors.
4. The participating countries agreed to:
  - a) Finalise their national project by June 15, 2006 bearing in mind the general framework of the proposal in the shortest possible time and consequently move to the implementation stage;
  - b) That in the finalisation of their national projects countries would pay special attention to the issue of synergies between the youth and environment project and ongoing exercises;
  - c) To invite all international agencies working in the area of land degradation to provide additional resources to this project.
  - d) Appeal to private sector entities on their corporate responsibility.

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## **Decision 2 on the development of the SRAP for the Caribbean**

*Conscious* of the positions in Annex III of the Convention regarding sub-regional cooperation;

*Recalling* the relevant decisions of the UNCCD Regional meetings for the LAC Parties as regards the development of Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) for each sub-region;

*Recognising* the need to advance the process of the implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean;

*Further recognising* the necessity of a framework to facilitate sub-region cooperation in all relevant areas of UNCCD implementation,

### **DECIDE**

1. To request the Secretariat to take the necessary action to assist the Caribbean in the development of their SRAP.
2. To request all Parties of the sub-region to work closely with the Secretariat by providing all necessary information to facilitate the development of the SRAP.

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## **Decision 3 Expression of gratitude to the supporting country partners**

*Recalling* the decisions of the X regional meeting held in Sao Luis, Brazil in August 2005,

*Recognising* the important role being played by the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a key supporter of and partner to the Youth and Environment project and recognising the efforts to widen cooperation with the Caribbean states in the interest of promoting sustainable development in the region,

*Taking note* of the support of Switzerland to regional implementation of the UNCCD,

*Appreciative* of their commitment to the process of UNCCD implementation in general and through this protect in the Caribbean in particular;

*Desirous* of placing on record their appreciation of the said efforts,



**DECIDE**

1. To express their profound appreciation to the governments of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Switzerland for the significant support provided for the implementation of the Youth and Environment and this meeting.

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**Decision 4 Expression of gratitude to the people and government of Cuba**

*Conscious* of the efforts made by the people and government of Cuba to ensure the successful organisation, hosting and conclusion of the meeting;

*Desirous* of placing on record their appreciation of the said efforts,

**DECIDE**

1. To express their profound appreciation to the people and government of Cuba for the hospitality offered during the meeting and for their contributions in making the event a success.
2. To look forward the Las Tunas training centre as an effective tool to fully implement the **UNCCD Caribbean Youth Environmental Programme (CYEP)**.



## ANNEX II List of Participants

Country / Institution	Name	Post	P/Address	Telephone	FAX	EMAIL
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## **ANNEX III**

### **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION (IYDD)**

**Meeting for consideration of the proposal for an environmental rehabilitation programme with the participation of youth in the Caribbean States and the development of a Sub-regional Action Programme for the Caribbean**

**La Havana Cuba 2006**

**8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**Draft Agenda**

**Day 1 Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Activities to mark IYDD**

08:30 – 09:30 Registration of participants

09:30 – 11:00 Official Opening Ceremony:

Welcome address CITMA - Cuba

Address by UNCCD Executive Secretary

Address by the Resident Coordinator (ag.) of the UN in Cuba.

Address by the Ambassador of China to Cuba

Address by the Ambassador of Venezuela to Cuba

Address by the Minister of CITMA and official opening of the meeting

11: 00 – 11: 25 Coffee Break

#### ***Session 1***

11:25 – 12:00 Presentation on IYDD (UNCCD)

12:30 – 13:00 General presentation on the implementation of the UNCCD in the Caribbean (UNCCD LAC Unit coordinator)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

#### ***Session 2***

14:30 – 15:00 Presentations by countries

15:00 – 16:30 Discussion on UNCCD implementation in the Caribbean

#### ***Closure Day 1***



## **Day 2 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **Technical Meeting: Consideration of the proposal for an environmental rehabilitation programme with the participation of youth in the Caribbean States and the development of a Sub-regional Action Programme for the Caribbean**

#### **Session 3**

- 09:00 – 09:10 Review and adoption of the agenda
- 09:10 – 09:40 General presentation on the status of the project
- 09:40 – 10:10 Questions and answers
- 10:10 – 10:40 Concrete suggestion as to necessary changes to the project proposal
- 10:40 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 11:40 Discussion on modalities for the creation and procedure of the function of the Coordinating Committee
- 11:40 – 12:40 Discussion on partnership with such agency as UNEP, UNDP, GM and the GEF Small Grants Programme
- 12:40 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:00 Discussion on Strategies for further resource mobilization including other possible sources of funding
- 15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:15 – 17:00 Short presentations by countries of their national component of the project
- 17:00 – 17:30 Synergies with relevant ongoing initiatives

## **Day 3 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Session 4**

- 09:00 – 10:30 Discussions on modalities for implementation at the national level (working in groups)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Plenary session
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:15 – 12:00 Identification of the first five pilot projects
- 12:00 – 12:30 Training in Las Tunas, Cuba
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

#### ***Session 5***

- 13:30 – 14:30 Presentation on the concept of a Sub-regional Action Programme (SRAP)
- 14:30 – 15:00 Specific role of the UNCCD Secretariat
- 15:00 – 15:30 General discussion on the SRAP
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:30 Presentation and adoption of the main points of the final report
- 16:30 – 17:00 General wrap-up and closure of the meeting