

**UNFCCC Workshops on Synergies and
Cooperation with other Conventions
Espoo, Finland, 2-4 July 2003**

Biological Diversity Perspectives

David Cooper, CBD Secretariat



Convention on Biological Diversity

Objectives:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources



Ecosystem Approach - framework for implementation

Operational guidance:

- Focus on functional relationships and processes in ecosystems
- Enhance benefit sharing
- Use adaptive management practices
- Carry out actions at the appropriate scale
- Ensure inter-sectoral cooperation



2010 target (COP-6/WSSD)

A significant reduction of the current rate of loss of biological diversity.



CBD cooperation

Joint work programmes:

- Ramsar Convention
- UNCCD

Cooperation on work programmes:

- FAO on agricultural biodiversity

Recognition of role of other agreements:

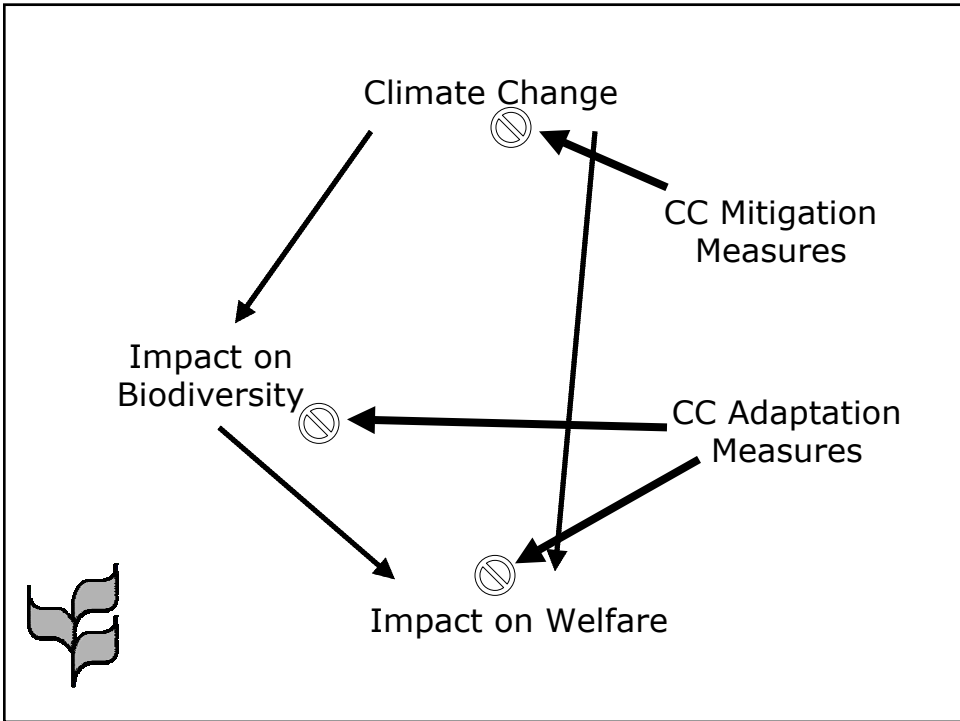
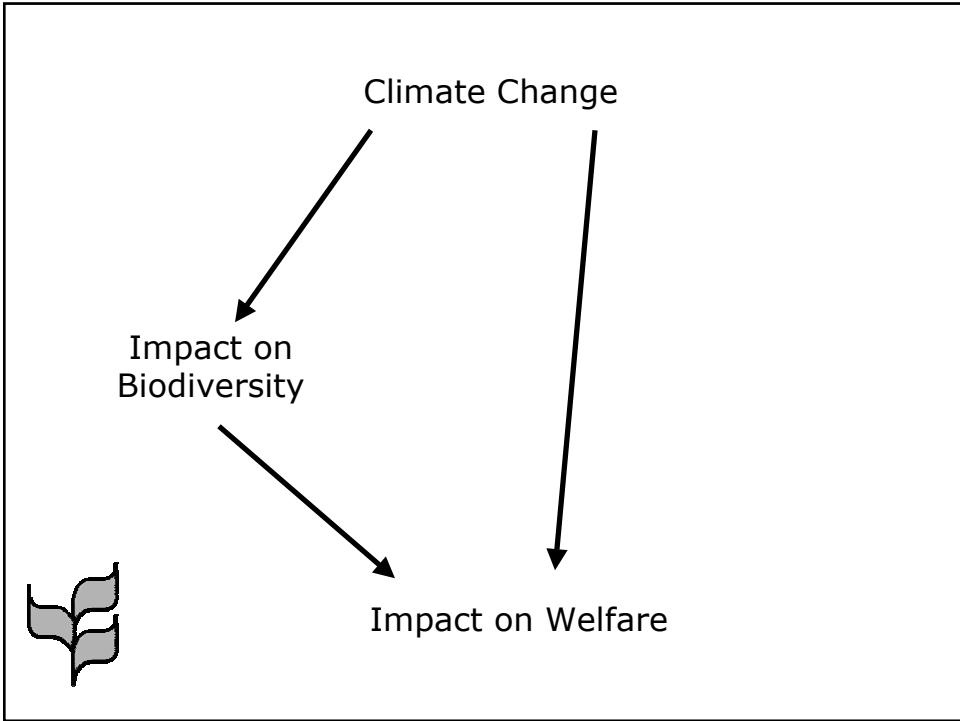
- International Treaty on PGRFA
- International Plant Protection Convention

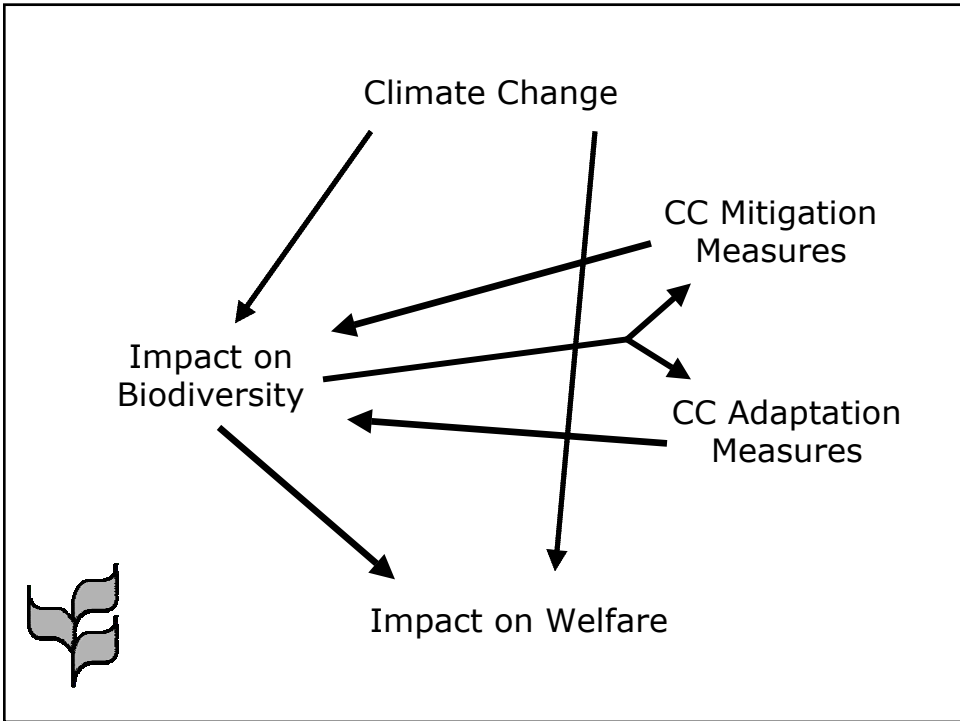
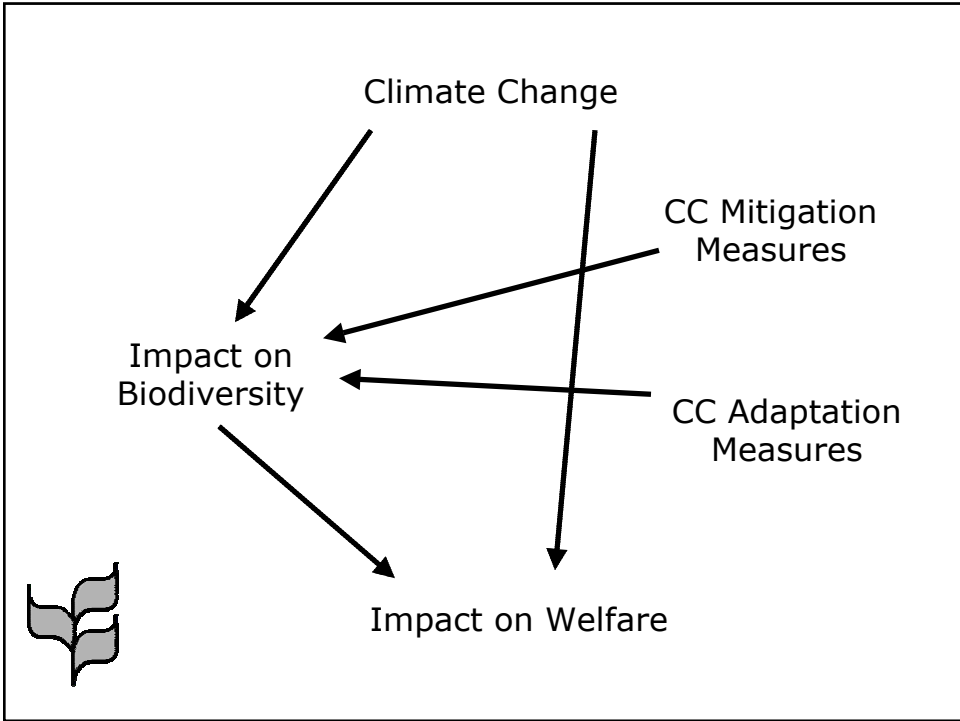


Rationale for synergies and cooperation

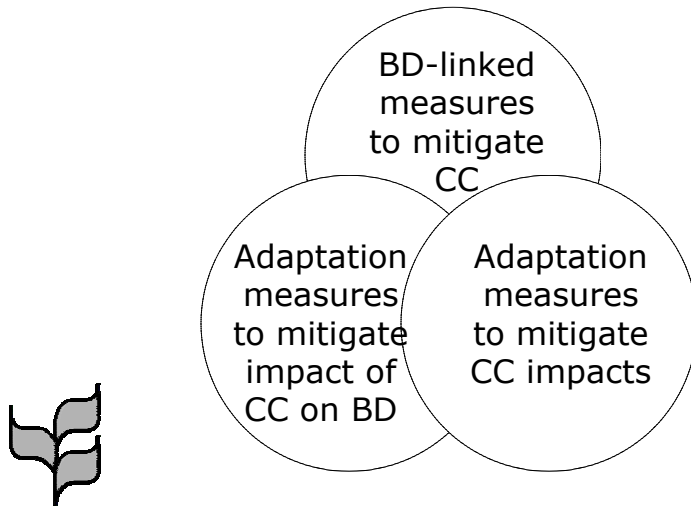
- Climate change and desertification/land degradation are major causes of biodiversity loss
- Biodiversity management can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification
- All three Conventions contribute to sustainable development







Mitigation and Adaptation Measures



Basis in UNFCCC

- Ultimate objective of UNFCCC: Stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations within a timeframe sufficient [*inter alia*] to allow ecosystems to adapt to climate change (art. 2)
- Promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems (art. 5)



CBD Provisions

- Integrate biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral activities (art. 6)
- Identify threats to biodiversity (art. 7)
- Manage threats to biodiversity (art. 8)
- Adopt incentive measures (art.11)
- Promote environmental assessments (art.14)



CBD COP-5 Decisions

Referred to interactions between climate change and biodiversity in a number of areas:

- Coral bleaching
- Forest biodiversity
- Incentive measures

Urged strengthened cooperation with UNFCCC on these matters, and on:

- Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands



CBD COP-5 Decisions

- Urges UNFCCC to take all actions to reduce effects of climate change on coral bleaching
- Urges Parties and Governments to explore how incentive measures under UNFCCC and Kyoto can support CBD objectives
- Requests SBSTTA to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol



Follow up to COP-5

- Executive Secretary:
 - Consultations with UNFCCC Secretariat and IPCC Chair
 - Assembled relevant information
 - Presented an information note to UNFCCC CP.6 and SBSTA 13(ii)
- SBSTA invited views of UNFCCC Parties
- SBSTTA-6:
 - Established AHTEG
 - Invited IPCC to prepare a Technical Paper



***Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group**

- Government nominated experts (invited through CBD and UNFCCC focal points), plus others
- Co-chairs: Outi Berghall and Robert Watson
- Three meetings
- Expert and Government Review
- Side event at SBSTA-18
- Report and Executive Summary to be presented to SBSTA-9



AHTEG Report

- Biodiversity: linkages to climate change
- Observed and projected impacts of climate change on biodiversity
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation options: links to and impact of biodiversity
- Approaches for supporting planning, decision making and public discussion
- Selected case studies



AHTEG Report - Some Conclusions

- Significant opportunities for mitigating climate change, and for adapting to climate change while enhancing the conservation of biodiversity
- LULUCF activities can play important role in reducing net emissions
- Conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem structure and function can contribute to adaptation strategies



AHTEG Report - Some Conclusions

- Clear opportunity to implement mutually beneficial activities
- These opportunities rarely realized because of lack of coordination at national and international levels
- Range of tools available to assess impacts and aid decision-making



Lessons from case studies

- 1: scope for afforestation, reforestation, improved forest management and avoided deforestation activities to be harmonized with biodiversity conservation.
- 2: linking biodiversity with community livelihood options provides a good basis for CDM projects to advance sustainable development.
- 3: The neglect and/or omission of social, environmental and economic considerations can lead to conflicts and undermine success
- 4: Countries and key stakeholders need to have the necessary information, tools and capacity to balance environment, social and development goals.
- 5: Some minimum environmental and social norms could avoid perverse outcomes.
- 6: Appropriate analytical tools and instruments can help guide decision making; adaptive management; and learning and replication
- 7: Baseline data, inventories and monitoring are required
- 8: The ecosystem approach provides a good basis to guide the formulation of climate change mitigation policies/projects and conservation of biodiversity.

