

Fact Sheet

Seeking Synergies during NAPA Implementation

The important linkages between climate change, land degradation and biodiversity, as well as the interconnectedness between development and vulnerability, provide a strong rationale for seeking synergies when implementing NAPAs. Synergies are a means of addressing complementary goals while also potentially generating increased resources for implementation.

A number of the issues that figure most prominently in NAPAs are also found under other Conventions and multilateral agreements. In all cases, adaptation goals are closely tied to development goals. Promoting synergies involves building on the capacity that exists within a country, regardless of sectoral “boundaries” or Convention “lines”.

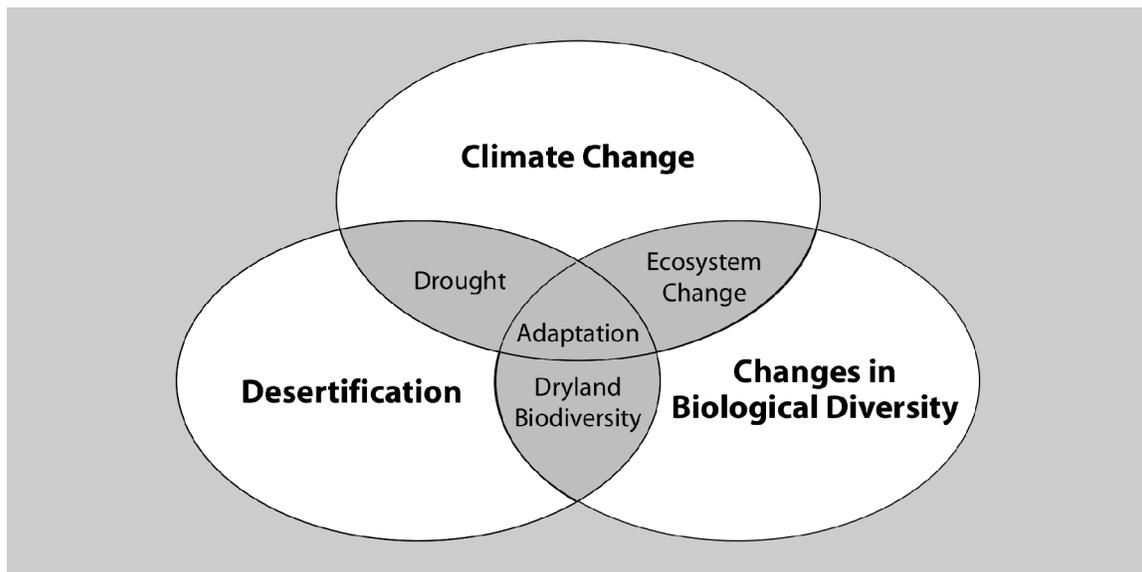


Figure 1: interconnections between climate change, desertification and changes in biological diversity (from LEG guidelines for NAPA preparation)

NAPA implementation provides a new set of opportunities to seek concrete synergies, through the development of common projects and programmes, or by pooling resources and building on existing structures and institutions.

Synergies can be identified at various stages during the NAPA implementation phase:

- During the development of an implementation strategy: The NAPA implementation strategy could take on board other environmental or development objectives in order to generate additional benefits and to take advantage of broader funding opportunities.

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- During the baseline analysis: by identifying ongoing project and programmes that may present a relevance to adaptation.
- During the project development phase: by identifying specific activities or sites that present opportunities for joint action or for achieving multiple objectives.

Most importantly, taking advantage of synergies requires the development of broader networks and institutional coordinating mechanisms that cut across sectors.

Table 1: Possible adaptation strategies and the benefits they bring to each MEA

	UNCCD	CBD	UNFCCC
Disaster planning framework: early warning systems; emergency measures to respond to floods, droughts, etc.	Help ensure protection of vulnerable communities (e.g., creating food and water reserves, cattle protection schemes).	Identification of fragile ecosystems and species prior to a crisis, to maximize protection during and following a disaster.	Determine priority measures to minimize loss of life and damage to livelihoods as a result of extreme weather events.
Integrated watershed management: agroforestry (firewood, fodder, annual crops), run-off harvesting for trees and range.	No over-exploitation of local water hence low salinization risk; run-off harvesting, terraces and trees conserve soil.	Conserves much of the watershed's biological diversity, utilizes parts of it thus contributing to overall sustainability.	Increases water retention and hence its availability in times of drought. Slows water movement, reducing the risk of flash floods. Maintains vegetation as carbon sink and reservoir.
Intensive greenhouse agriculture and aquaculture (cash crops, fish, industrial materials from algae).	High income per unit soil and water used, thus economizing on land and water resources.	Reduced pressure on land leaves habitats for in-situ biodiversity conservation, thus promoting its utilization.	Reduced pressure on land (a) allows conservation of biodiversity resistant to climate change; (b) maintains carbon sink and reservoir.
In-situ conservation of biological resources, wildlife conservation.	Potential for economic exploitation as an alternative livelihood; promotion of ecotourism.	Global benefits from dryland biodiversity assets.	Conservation of genetic diversity instrumental in restoring climate change damaged ecosystems.

Adapted from: "Review of Activities for the Promotion and Strengthening of Relationships with other Relevant Conventions and Relevant International Organizations, Institutions and Agencies." ICCD/COP3/9. 1999.

Figure 2: Synergies between adaptation measures and other MEAs (from LEG guidelines on NAPA development)