



The Climate Classroom

Synergies between the Rio
Conventions

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June 8 | 10:00 - 11:30



Class Rules



Keep your microphone off.



Present yourself in
the chat.



Be polite with the other
participants in the chat.

Content

01

Synergies between the Rio Conventions:
Context and key concepts

02

Integrated planning processes

03

Accessing and Mobilizing Finance for
Synergistic Projects

04

Enhancing the Role of Local and Indigenous
Knowledge in Supporting Synergies Amongst
the Rio Conventions





Photo: Panos Pictures

Slido question (1)

What do you expect to learn to increase synergies between Rio conventions?



1. Synergies between the Rio Conventions: Context and key concepts



What are the 3 Rio Conventions?



The Rio Conventions, established during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, comprise three major international treaties aimed at sustainable development:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Aims to preserve biological diversity, promote sustainable use, and ensure fair benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

Introduced the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with 23 targets to guide global biodiversity efforts.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Seeks to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent climate change.

Facilitated significant global agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Addresses desertification, land degradation, and drought, particularly in dry regions.

Custodian of SDG target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

What are synergies?

01

Definition

Combined or cooperative effects that produce a result greater than the sum of individual contributions.

02

Essence

Understanding inter-linkages of diverse challenges, breaking down operational silos, and embracing integrated approaches.

03

Approaches to Foster Synergies

- Integrated planning of national strategies.
- Institutional coordination of implementation.
- Joint data and information sharing.
- Joint monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.
- Collaborative financing and capacity-building mechanisms.

Why synergies are important

1 Integrated Planning

- Combines different goals to avoid conflicts and overlaps.
- For example, a plan that considers climate, biodiversity, and land protection together will be more successful and beneficial than focusing on just one aspect.

2 Co-Benefits

Working together on multiple goals can save money and increase efficiency, making it easier to get funding and support.

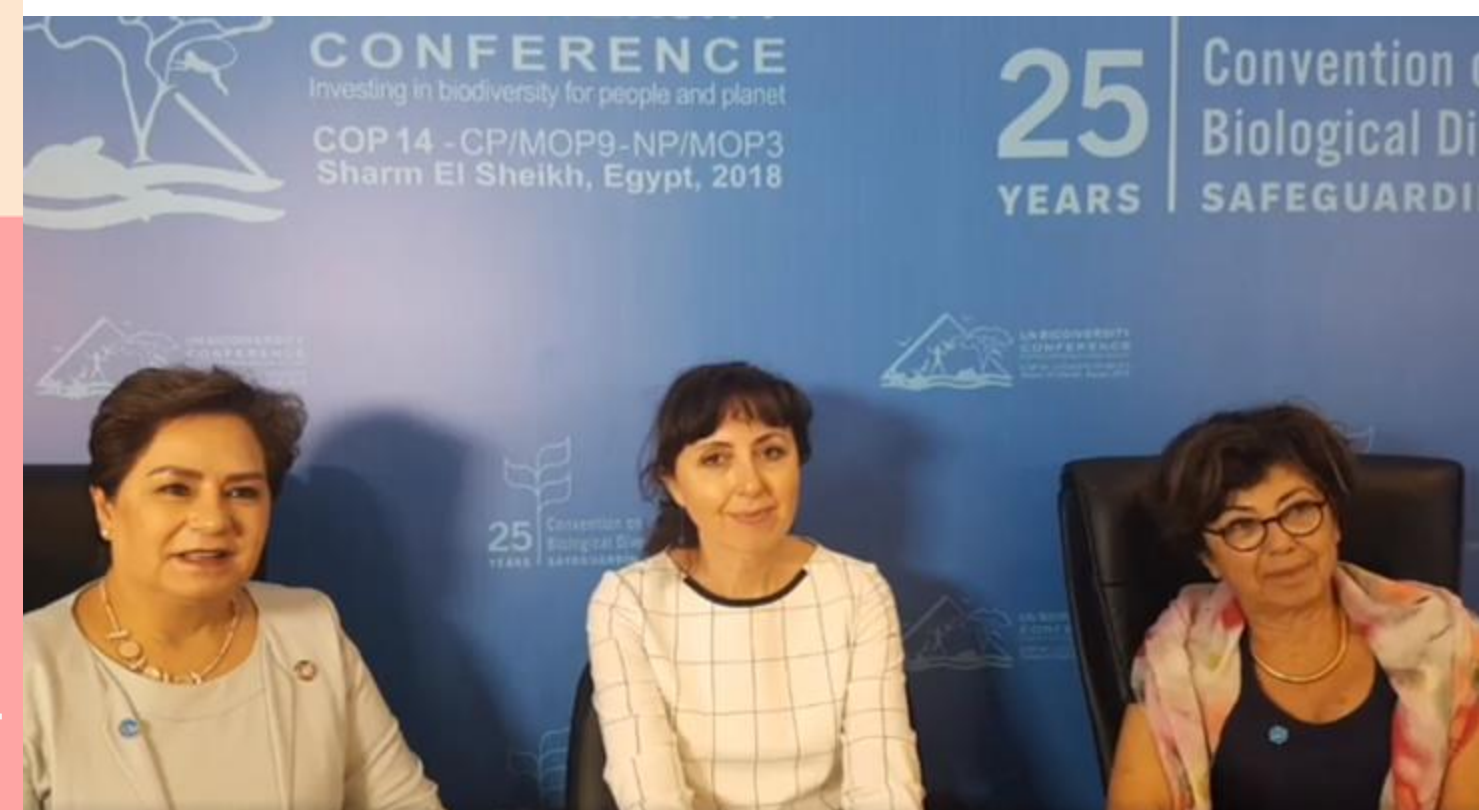
3

Stakeholder Mobilization

Involves various groups, especially indigenous communities, bringing together different ideas and expertise to improve the overall efforts.

Joint Liaison Group (JLG)

The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) was formed in 2001 by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to collect, share information, and coordinate work. The JLG ToRs outline specific areas of cooperation.



Subsidiary bodies, science policy interfaces & capacity-building initiatives of the Rio Conventions



Science Policy Interfaces

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

Capacity-building portals

UNFCCC Capacity-building portal

Biodiversity E-Learning Platform

UNCCD Data & Knowledge resources

Subsidiary bodies, science policy interfaces & capacity-building initiatives of the Rio Conventions



Subsidiary
bodies

Subsidiary Body
for Scientific and
Technological
Advice (SBSTA)

Subsidiary Body
for
Implementation
(SBI)

Subsidiary
Body on
Scientific,
Technical and
Technological
Advice
(SBSTTA)

Committee on
Science and
Technology (CST)

Committee for
the Review of the
Implementation
of the
Convention
(CRIC)

COPs calling for synergies

UN promoting synergies

United Nations General Assembly:

- Notes the need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions (Dec. 2009)
- Adopts "The Future We Want", encouraging coordination and cooperation among MEAs (July 2012)



Multiple COP Decisions calling for synergies

XII/20 – decision on climate change – requests the SE to collaborate with the UNFCCC (among others) to promote ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to climate change adaptation

XI/21 – Decision on Climate Change – Encourages Parties to promote synergies between actions and policies on biodiversity and climate change

X/35 – Decision on Dry and Sub-Humid Lands – Para 5. Calls upon Parties to support activities that promote synergies among the Rio conventions at the subnational, national and regional levels



2023

Joint Statement of the Presidents of CBD COP15, UNCCD COP15 and UNFCCC COP27

Calls on Parties to the three Rio Conventions to collectively work to advance the intertwined objectives of the Rio Conventions in accordance with respective mandates of each Convention to ensure a sustainable future for humanity and the planet.



2024

Resolution on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments (UNEP/EA.6/L.7)
Encourages Member States to enhance synergies, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of national environmental policies and actions, delivering global environmental benefits, contributing to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



UNEA-
6

Critical role of national focal points (NFPs) to build synergies

Key Roles of NFPs

- Coordination and communication
- Policy integration and mainstreaming
- Facilitation of national reporting
- Capacity-building and awareness-raising

01

Current Status (as of March 2024)

- 153 out of 198 Parties have NFPs for two or all three Conventions within the same ministry.
- 53 Parties have a single individual representing NFPs for multiple Conventions.

02

Common Ministries for NFPs

- Foreign Affairs
- Environment and Sustainability
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

03

Challenges and Recommendations

- Need for improved communication and coordination among NFPs.
- Support and encourage closer collaboration to enhance synergy with national development goals.

04

Key topics for synergies



Convention on
Biological Diversity

- **REDD+ and LULUCF**
- Climate-smart agriculture**
- Sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity**
- Ecosystem-based adaptation**
- Conservation Finance, Ecotourism**
- Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (ABS, Ethical Biotrade, etc.)**
- Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)**
- LDN implementation**
- Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)**
- Conservation and rehabilitation of wetlands, etc**

*Synergies among
the Rio Conventions*

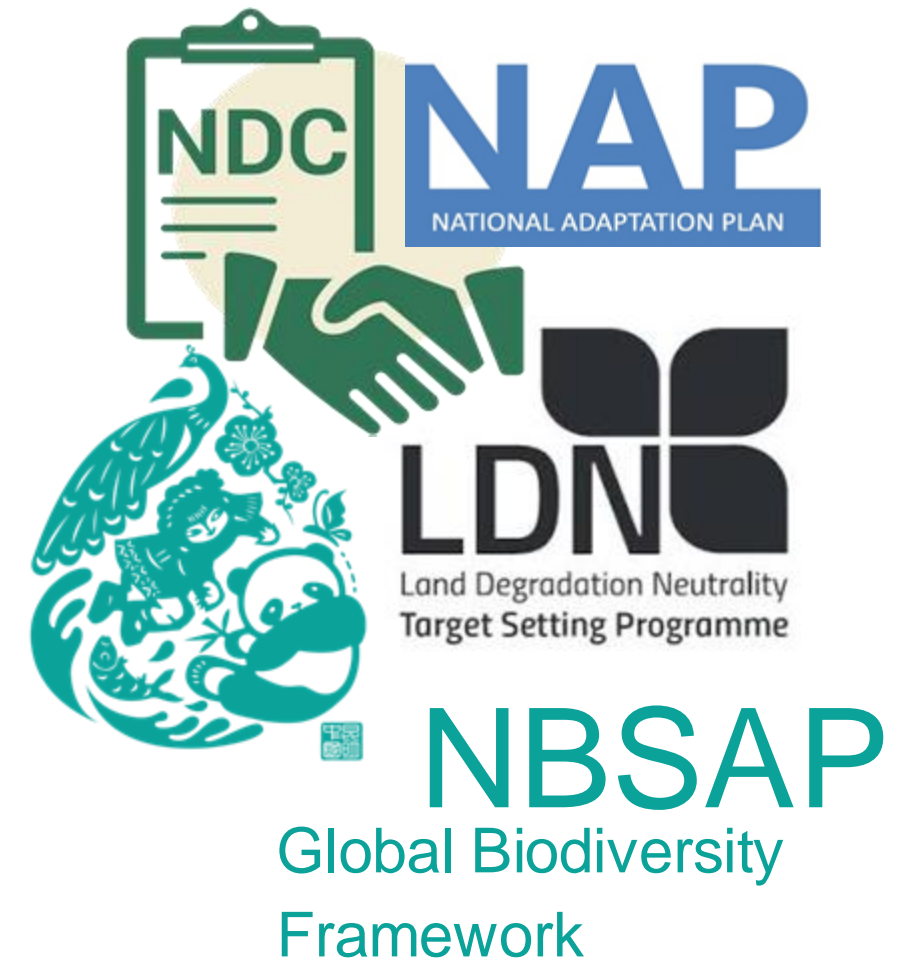


United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

2. Integrated planning processes



Context: Inter-linkages and Synergy Opportunities between the Rio Conventions



01

Rio Conventions:

- UNFCCC (Climate Change)
- CBD (Biodiversity)
- UNCCD (Desertification)



02

Commonalities and Synergies:

- Identified common commitments across the conventions
- Intertwined concerns and goals in sectors such as land use
- Integration into Sustainable Development Goals:
 - SDG 13 (Climate Action)
 - SDG 15 (Life on Land)
 - Multiple co-benefits for other SDGs

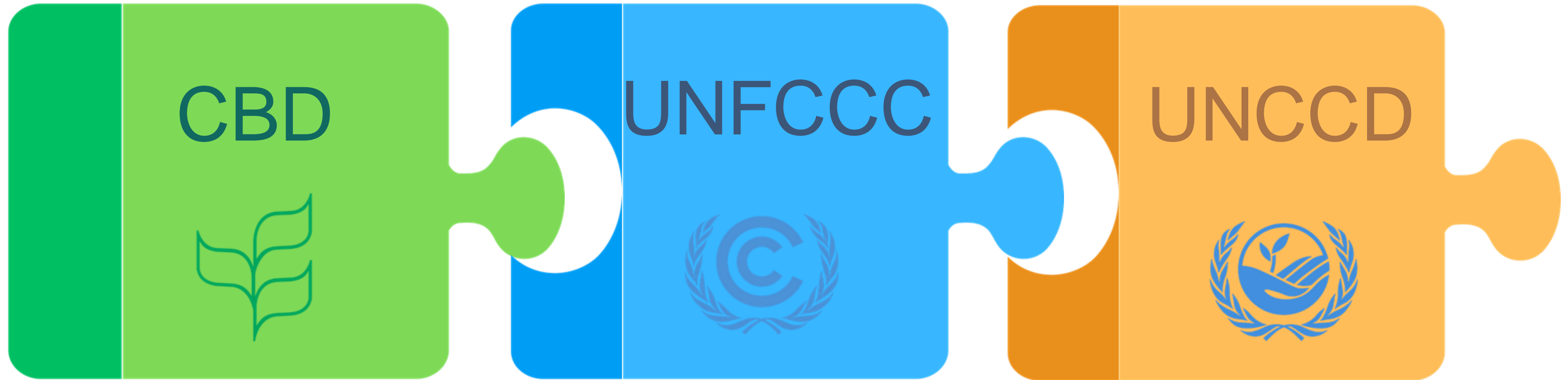


03

Importance for Sustainable Development:

- Crucial role in Agenda 2030
- Prioritizing synergies for efficient resource use and

Key international frameworks bound to the Rio Conventions



Kunming-Montréal Global

Biodiversity Framework (GBF):

Concluded in 2022, it sets targets to halt biodiversity loss, ensure ecosystem restoration and resilience, and integrate biodiversity into all sectors by 2030.

Paris Agreement:

Adopted in 2015, this agreement aims to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, striving for 1.5°C above pre-

Land Degradation Neutrality

(LDN) – SDG 15.3 Target:

Part of the UN's SDGs, it aims to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030.

National planning processes under the three Rio Conventions



NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC)

Commitments by Countries:

- Reduce national emissions
- Adapt to the impacts of climate change

Submission Cycle:

- Every five years

Central Role:

- Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement



NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAP)

Objective:

- Reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts
- Build adaptive capacity and resilience

Integration:

- Incorporate climate change adaptation into new and existing policies
- Applicable at all levels of governance



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAP)

Objective:

- Conserve biodiversity
- Promote sustainable use of biodiversity
- Equitably distribute biodiversity benefits

Alignment:

- National policies with global biodiversity goals

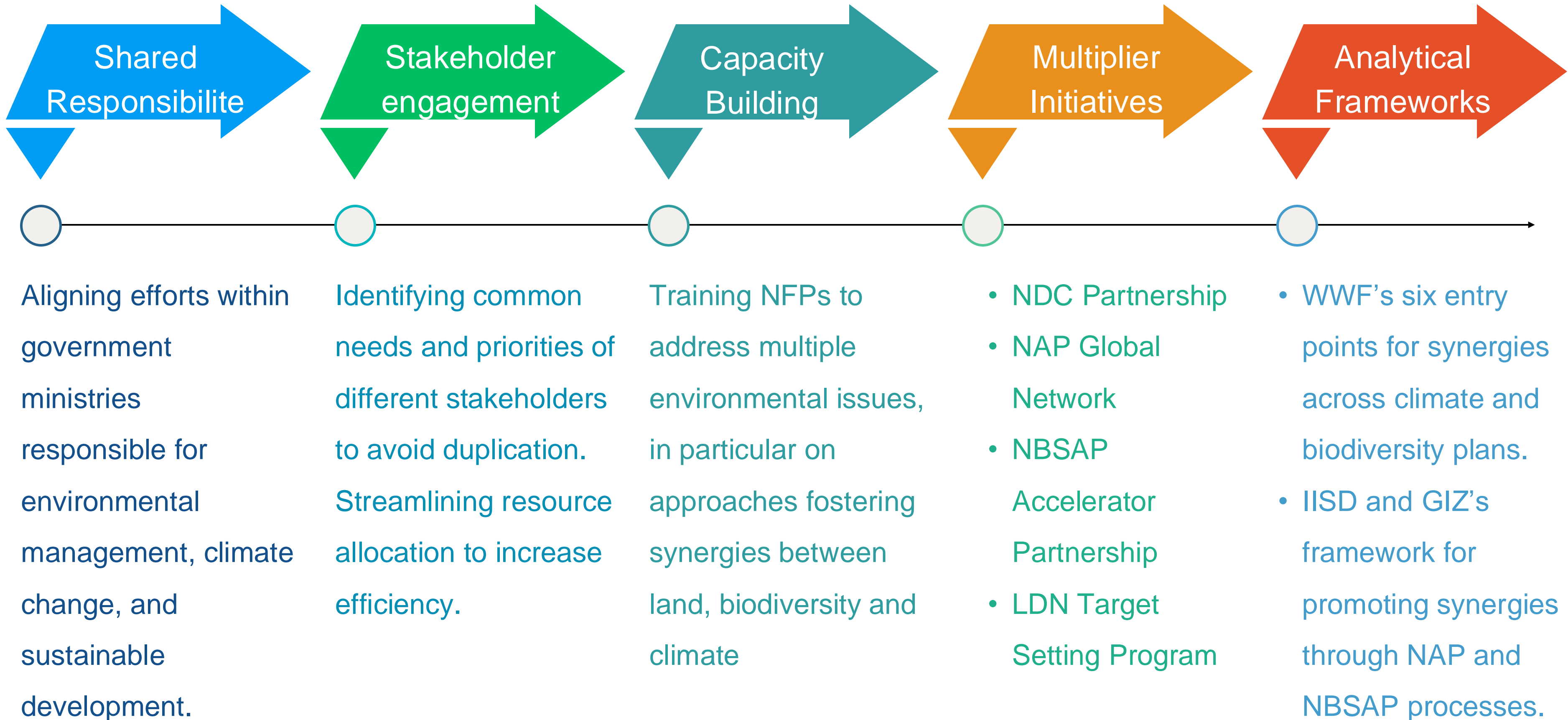


LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY (LDN) TARGET SETTING

Objective:

- Set actionable targets to halt and reverse land degradation
- Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
- Maintain or increase healthy and productive land resources

Key Opportunities to Promote Integrated Planning



Initiatives to support Rio Conventions' planning processes





Synergies in practice:

Case studies of Rwanda, Grenada, & Benin

Rwanda: Revising NBSAP and Leveraging Land-focused Targets of LDN and NDC

Overlapping Targets

- LDN: Conserve, sustainably manage, and restore 1,069,476 hectares of land.
- NDC: 805,000 hectares under sustainable management.
- NBSAP: Safeguard and reduce degradation of at least 50% of natural ecosystems.

Current Opportunity

- NBSAP Revision: Align with the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- Leverage Related Agendas: Enhance coherence, synergies, and efficiency.

Economic Efficiency

- ELD Initiative Study Findings:
- Coordinated implementation can reduce transaction costs of land restoration by nearly 56%.
 - Estimated annual savings: \$45.6 million USD.

Proposed Mechanisms

1. Joint Inter-agency Working Group
2. Information Exchange Platform
3. Joint Monitoring and Evaluation System
4. Joint Planning and Fund Mobilization
5. Joint Research on Land Activities

Key Message

Coordinated implementation of land-focused activities under the Rio Conventions presents a significant opportunity for Rwanda to enhance economic efficiency and achieve sustainable development goals through strategic synergies.

Grenada: Integrating Rio Conventions and SDGs in Climate Resilient Agriculture Planning

Project Launch	Integrated Planning	Institutional Arrangements	Capacity-Building Efforts	Key Message
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year: 2019• Objective: Mainstream biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and increase agricultural system resilience.	<p>National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrates NBSAP, LDN, and NAP priorities and targets.• Aligns with SDGs: (SDG 5, 10, 13, 14, 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEAs Coordination Meetings• Ad-hoc Project Steering Committee	<p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of qualified technical personnel for cross-sectoral coordination.• Gaps in data collection, sharing, and management. <p>Solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive training programs• Awareness-raising initiatives• Knowledge management programs	<p>Grenada's CRA project showcases the importance of integrated planning and capacity-building to enhance synergies between Rio Conventions and sustainable development goals.</p>

Benin: Building LDN around a biosphere reserve

LDN Target Setting

Forest and Savanna Cover Reduction:

- 1990-2010: 21% decline
- 2010-2030: Aim to reduce decline to 5%

Wetland Conservation:

- Halt all conversion to other land uses

NBSAP Commitments

- Deforestation Reduction: 20% reduction by 2020
- Expansion: Increase forests and protected areas
- Soil Fertility: Promote integrated soil fertility management techniques

Synergy Initiative

Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve:

- Area: 345,000 hectares
- Location: Delta of the Mono River (Benin-Togo boundary)
- Significance: Protects endangered flora and fauna; Supports 2 million people; Addresses issues of unsustainable farming, fishing, and tree harvesting.

Current Efforts

Projects for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

- Focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Support the livelihoods of local communities

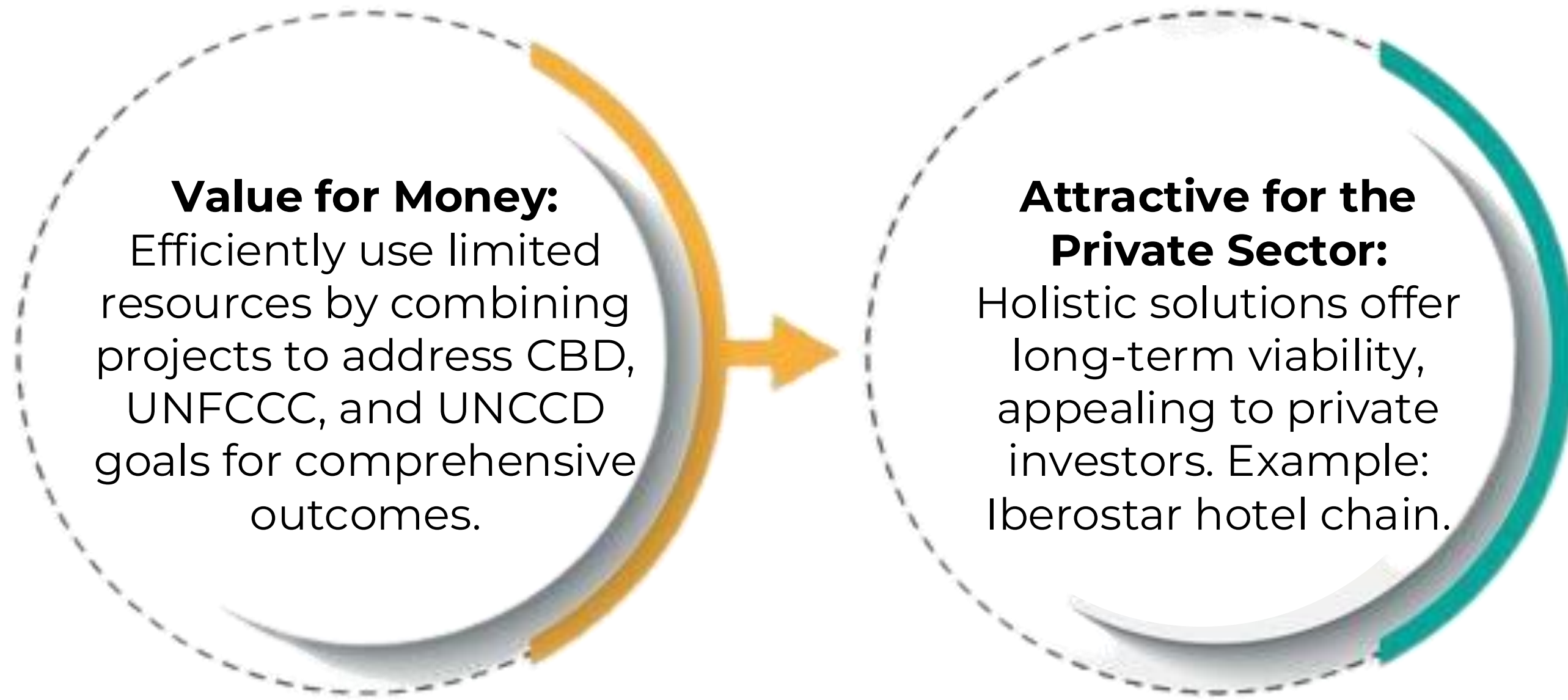
Key Message

Benin's harmonization of environmental policies through initiatives like the Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve demonstrates a commitment to sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, and community support.

3. Accessing and Mobilizing Finance for Synergistic Projects



Importance of Synergistic Projects



Entry Points for Synergies for Different Global Funds



- STAR allocations
- Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF),
- Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF),
- The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Prioritizing

- REDD+ programme
- NBS
- EbA projects



Prioritizing

- Forest Investment Program
- Nature, People, and Climate program,
- The Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries program



ADAPTATION FUND

Prioritizing

- EbA
- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA),
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR),
- Disaster risk management (DRM)
- NBS



National and Local Financing Mechanisms

1

Build domestic funding mechanisms

- Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
- FAPBM (Madagascar), BIOFUND (Mozambique), and Biodiversity and Climate Fund (Papua New Guinea).

2

Develop innovative domestic financing options

- Earmarking of fees, taxes, and royalties on the extractive industry and the tourism sector.
- Use of green bonds to address climate change, desertification, and biodiversity loss-related issues.

3

Use existing national institutions and their experience.

- Direct Access Entities of the GCF
- National Implementing Entities of the Adaptation Fund
- Example: South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

Case Study: SANBI

SANBI

South African National Biodiversity Institute



Biodiversity for Life

01



Initially established for biodiversity policy and management.

Successfully implemented GEF-funded projects.



02

03



Gained AF and GCF Accreditation, enhancing access to climate financing.

Currently working on multiple synergistic projects with GCF.



04

Example of Adaptation Fund project



A Micro-financing Facility for local climate action: directing adaptation to the field

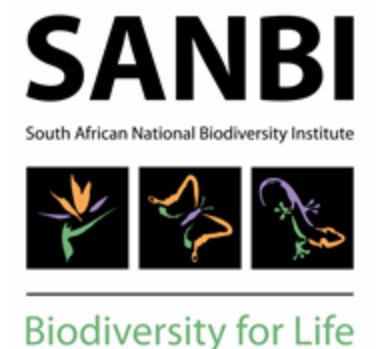
Component 1: Small grants -
Microfinancing for Vulnerable Communities

Component 2: Institutional Capacity -
Local Institutions Strengthened to Identify and Implement Adaptation Measures

Component 3: Lessons Learned - for replication and scaling of microfinance approaches

- ▶ Local adaptation funding
Implication of civil society
Direct payments to individuals/associations/companies (towards a PES approach?)
Initiation of of a regional/local climate fund?
- ▶ Multiple benefits for land, biodiversity and climate

AF grant: 2.44 M USD.
Direct access: SANBI/South Africa National Biodiversity Institute



3. Enhancing the Role of Local and Indigenous Knowledge in Supporting Synergies Amongst the Rio Conventions



Example 1

Satoyama – An Indigenous Japanese Land Use System

1 Features

- Satoyama integrates paddy fields, farmland, woodlands, grasslands, irrigation systems, and human settlements.
- Features a mosaic pattern of diverse land uses and associated plants.

2 Biodiversity and

Coexistence

- Provides habitats for various animals and insects, leading to high biodiversity.
- People coexist with different animals and native species, meeting their needs sustainably.

3 Traditional Practices

- **Coppicing:** Cutting down trees like oaks every 10-20 years for charcoal, allowing regrowth from stumps.
- Utilizes root systems for faster regeneration instead of replanting.

Rice field and adjacent woodlands in a typical satoyama landscape



Satoyama – An Indigenous Japanese Land Use System

4 Sustainable Management

- Community rules guide sustainable resource collection.
- Prevents overexploitation, maintains soil fertility, and prevents land degradation.

5 Climate Change Mitigation

- Conserves and enhances carbon sinks and forest reservoirs.
- Sustainable practices contribute to climate change mitigation.

6 Preservation and Restoration

- Satoyama systems have declined, especially after WWII.
- Japan's efforts in restoration and international initiatives like the Satoyama Initiative promote its techniques globally.

5



Example 2

Ecuador's Amazonian Chakra Agroforestry System

System Overview

- Cultivates cocoa with timber, fruit, medicinal, handicraft, edible, and ornamental species.
- Tall trees like cacao provide shade; lower layers filled with fruit trees, medicinal plants, and crops.

01

Biodiversity and Natural Pest Control

- Native plants attract pollinators and beneficial insects.
- Enriches biodiversity and promotes natural pest control.

02

Global Recognition

- Recognized by FAO as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS).

03

Chakra agroforestry system of Ecuador



Ecuador's Amazonian Chakra Agroforestry System

Climate Change Mitigation

- Diverse vegetation, especially tall trees, act as carbon sinks.
- Absorbs and stores atmospheric carbon dioxide.

04

Soil and Water Conservation

- Multi-layered vegetation minimizes soil erosion from wind and rain.
- Incorporates raised planting beds and ditch systems for soil and water conservation.

05

Resilience and Sustainability

- Supports sustainable agriculture and creates resilient communities.
- Demonstrates the significance of indigenous knowledge in addressing global challenges.

06

Entry Points to leverage and transfer Indigenous knowledge for synergies

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into Policy and Project Design

- Provide capacity-building support to community leaders.
- Ensure resources for effective knowledge sharing.
- Foster active participation in policy discussions.

Conducting Research for Ensuring Synergy

- Conduct extensive location-specific research.
- Explore realistic transfer and replicability potential between countries.
- Understand underlying interactions of ecosystem elements.
- Decode "Hidden Mechanisms" of indigenous management systems.
- Use insights to adopt synergistic processes in Rio Conventions.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in Project Monitoring

- Incorporate indigenous knowledge in the result management process.
- Use Indigenous indicators alongside scientific indicators (Ex: Tracking specific bird species)
- Complement with scientific surveys during M&E phase.
- Confirm trends and identify potential causes.

Preserving Indigenous Knowledge and Facilitate Knowledge Exchange

- Promote wider recognition and use of indigenous knowledge.
- Enable communication and knowledge exchange among Indigenous communities, Donors and Global climate funds
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among different indigenous communities and development partners.
- Foster innovative ideas.

Questions or comment





Photo: Panos Pictures

Slido question (2)

What types of action and initiatives can young people engage in to boost synergies across Rio conventions?



Open dialogue



Group discussions

- What are the roles youth can play to build synergies between Rio conventions?
- Can you think of ideas of new Ventures? Projects? Initiatives ? that would be need to help build synergies for biodiversity, climate and land benefits?



A wrap-up quiz!



Two ways to join:

(1) Scan the QR code directly, or

(2) Go to *wooclap.com*, then enter

event code

ZPXHXZ

THANK YOU!



Let us know what you think!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTX95J8>





United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

Building capacities for synergies between the three Rio Conventions

A test training

June 10th | 9:00 - 13:00 CEST

AH Lower Conference room, UN Campus
On-site & Online

**An event of Rio Conventions Joint
Capacity-building Programme hosted by**

