

July 2020

Rio Conventions Project Preparation Facility (PPF): For the preparation of large-scale, transformative projects that integrate actions on land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change

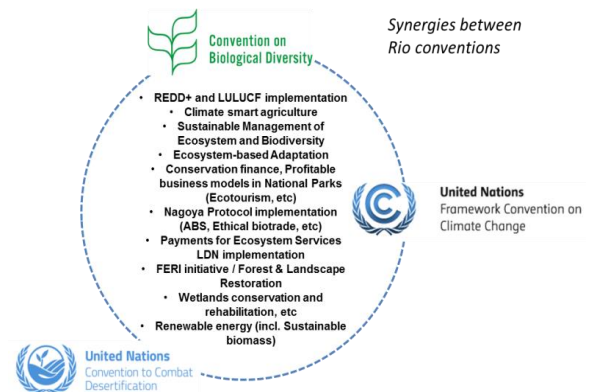
As per the call for inputs for the incoming SCF Forum on 'Financing Nature-Based Solutions,' it gives us immense pleasure to submit our inputs from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Introduction

Based on a joint statement by the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions (Annex 1), the three secretariats explored the idea of creating a dedicated project preparation facility to generate projects that contribute to achieving the common objectives of the Rio Conventions, while promoting synergy under the banner of "UN delivering as one." In particular, the three secretariats view that the envisaged facility will support the identification and preparation of integrated transformative projects that would ensure that countries, particularly less developed ones, are not at a disadvantage in accessing existing sources of financing, including climate finance.

About the Rio Conventions Project Preparation Facility

We believe the proposed facility will help minimize transaction costs and structural barriers to match proposals with existing funding sources; broaden access to financial and technical resources to prepare sound proposals; and thereby harness the synergistic implementation of the Convention objectives. We are confident that the nature-based solution will serve as a robust basis for the implementation of the facility and could function as a platform to create enabling environments for Parties to access climate finance for the nature-based solutions.



Objectives

The envisaged facility aims to

- 1) Support the identification and preparation of the projects through the financing of activities including feasibility studies and design; environmental, social and gender consultations, analysis and design; promotion of transformative projects that are innovative and at scale; facilitation of match-making with specific funders;

Inputs from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- 2) Be an “open” Facility, which will be accessible to a broad set of proponents – including countries, private sector and civil society organizations - developing projects to tap into a wide range of funding sources;
- 3) Assist project developers and financial intermediaries in the development and preparation of large-scale and financially viable integrated transformative project proposals, by focusing on the early stage of project development; *and*
- 4) Promote the design and implementation of integrated gender-responsive transformative projects, which generate multiple benefits in terms of biodiversity preservation, land degradation neutrality, climate change mitigation/adaptation, and empowerment of women, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Rio Conventions as well as attainment of multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

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**Joint Statement by the Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions
calling for the establishment of a Project Preparation Facility (PPF)
to increase financing for large-scale, transformative projects which integrate action
on land degradation, biodiversity loss, and global warming**

06 November 2017

The health and productivity of our lands and ecosystems is steadily declining. The current rate of biodiversity loss is many times higher than the naturally occurring 'background' extinction rate. This alarming trend not only contributes to climate change but is magnified by its impacts. The challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss and global warming are fundamentally intertwined. Yet too often they are addressed in isolation when implementing projects on the ground. This happens despite calls for better integrated and coordinated action to speed up implementation and make it more effective.

Paradoxically, as funding opportunities for land-based projects have generally increased significantly in recent years, there continues to be a lack of investment-ready projects in the pipeline to address these systemic issues at the appropriate scale. One reason is the persisting challenges that governments, land users and project-developers face in structuring complex, multi-purpose projects and programs that meet climate change, biodiversity and land degradation as well as other sustainable development imperatives in a synergistic way. It is a challenge to fully harness and integrate the needed technical expertise from several disciplines while presenting complex proposals in a compelling way which can attract funding from a variety of sources. Existing technical assistance facilities are typically sector-specific, narrow in scope, and not designed to simultaneously target biodiversity, land and climate related issues.

Therefore, we are calling for the establishment of a new Project Preparation Facility to bridge this gap and promote an integrated, coherent and multi-disciplinary approach to these related issues while supporting the respective mandates of the three Rio Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Rio Conventions Project Preparation Facility would specifically support the development and preparation of large-scale, financially-viable project or programme proposals on these common issues, to be funded from a variety of sources, that generate these multiple, synergistic benefits and support the combined implementation of the Rio Conventions as well as contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner.

We expect this Facility to become a key vehicle to help joint delivery on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Land Degradation Neutrality targets, and the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans to address climate change. As such, the Facility will not only contribute to filling the gap between needs and funding, but it will also act as a catalyst for more coordinated action and enhanced capacity, so that the Rio Conventions can deliver as one and support the achievement of sustainable development for all.



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