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MINISTRY  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC




## ***Cross-Cutting Report***

NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-ASSESSMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
FOR FULFILMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS







# Identification of Priorities for Development and Increasing Capacities for Implementation of the “Rio Conventions” in the CR Cross-cutting report for the NCSA project

Prepared for the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic in Cooperation with  
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A capacity-building initiative was announced in 1999 by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and the GEF (Global Environmental Facility). This initiative was based on the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – the Earth Summit – held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. On the basis of the announced initiative, the Czech Republic commenced a project of National Capacity Self-Assessment in 2003 in relation to implementing international UN Conventions intended to improve the quality of the environment. The submitted evaluation is the result of the work of the cross-cutting working group, which evaluated the level of preparation of the Czech Republic in fulfilling the objectives of the Rio de Janeiro Conventions, i.e. the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD).

Capacity analysis included the current state of implementation of the Conventions; the requirements and potential for development of capacities in meeting the Conventions' objectives were determined at an individual, institutional and systemic level.

Key requirements of the individual Conventions were evaluated using the method of analysis of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis), taking into account proposals for increasing and developing capacities.

The results of the work of special task forces for the individual Conventions were compared at joint meetings and it was found that the input information and results of the specialized task forces overlap; this fact was employed successfully in cross-cutting analysis of capacities.

Identified cross-cutting weak points and opportunities are reflected in the recommendations of the cross-cutting working group and further elaborated in formulation of tasks in the action plan for development of capacities in meeting of obligations of the Czech Republic following from accession to the Conventions.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

### Technical abbreviations and abbreviations of institutions

**ANCLP CR** – Agency for Protection of Nature and the Landscape CR  
**APLA CR** – Administration of Protected Landscape Areas of the CR  
**AS CR** – Academy of Science of the Czech Republic  
**CEA** – Czech Energy Agency  
**CEI** – The Czech Environment Inspection  
**CENIA** – Czech Environmental Information Agency  
**CHM** – Clearing-House Mechanism  
**CHMCD** – Clearing-House Mechanism to Combat Desertification  
**CHMI** – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute  
**COP** – Conference of Parties  
**CRIC** – Committee on Reporting on Implementation of the Convention  
**CST** – Committee on Science and Technology  
**DER** – Department of External Relations  
**DIF** – Department of Integrated Financing  
**EEA** – European Environment Agency  
**EEEA** – Environmental Education, Enlightenment and Public Awareness  
**EIA** – Environmental Impact Assessment  
**ERD** – Environmental Risks Department of the ME  
**EU** – European Union  
**FDA** – Foreign Development Assistance  
**GEF** – Global Environmental Facility  
**GMO** – Genetically Modified Organisms  
**IP** – Implementation Plan for the Area of the Environment  
**JI** – Joint implementation  
**KRNAP** – Krkonoše National Park  
**MA** – Ministry of Agriculture  
**ME** – Ministry of the Environment  
**MEYS** – Minister of Education, Youth and Sports  
**MF** – Ministry of Finance  
**MFA** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**MH** – Ministry of Health  
**MI** – Ministry of Interior  
**MIT** – Ministry of Industry and Trade  
**MRD** – Ministry for Regional Development  
**MT** – Ministry of Transport  
**MUAF** – Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry  
**NFP** – National Forestry Programme  
**NGO** – Non-governmental Organization  
**OECD** – Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation  
**RES** – Renewable Energy Sources  
**RIASC** – Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation  
**RICP** – Research Institute of Crop Production, Prague- Ruzyně  
**SBI** – Subsidiary Body for Implementation  
**SBSTTA** – Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technology Advice

**SEA** – Strategic Environmental Assessment

**SEF** – State Environmental Fund

**SWOT** – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

**UNDP** – United Nations Development Programme

In 2003, the Ministry of the Environment accepted the opportunity to participate in a project coordinated by the UNDP (UN Development Programme), financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), entitled **“National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management”**, whose main goal consisted improvement of management in the area of the environment and increasing existing national capacities so as to enable work on related tasks in a more effective manner.

**The project is concerned with 3 key international conventions:**

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

**Activities in the project were concentrated mainly on the following tasks:**

- Determine and analyze the current state of implementation of the Conventions
- Define their synergy and interconnections with broader emphasis on management of the environment and sustainable development
- Determine the requirements and potentials for capacity development in the Czech Republic for these 3 Conventions at an individual, institutional and systemic level
- Prepare a proposal for a Strategic Action Plan for national capacity building for management in the area of the environment

**During analysis and evaluation, emphasis was placed on:**

- Existing capacities, their effectiveness and efficiency
- Analysis of gaps or inadequacies in existing capacities in implementing the Conventions
- Proposals for optimizing existing capacities
- The potential for developing new capacities
- Political support for the development of capacities.

## 1.1. Working group for the project

The fourth, **cross-cutting group** based its work on the outputs of the three **specialized working groups**, which evaluated the capacities for implementation of the individual Conventions at a systemic, institutional and individual level. They were concerned with the existing legal framework for implementation, listing of on-going projects and the institutional framework. In the framework of SWOT analysis, they evaluated the strengths and weaknesses in the available capacities for implementation of the Conventions and defined opportunities for more effective implementation. SWOT analysis became the basis for formulation of recommendations for the individual Conventions. The outputs of the individual, specialized groups were discussed with responsible workers of the state administration and with the professional public at seminars.

## Compositions of the specialized groups

### The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc., Institute of Vertebrate Biology AS CR, Head of the Group  
Doc. RNDr. Jan Kischner, CSc., Institute of Botany AS CR  
Ing. Petr Ráb, DrSc., Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics AS CR  
Ing. Milena Roudná, CSc., Independent Consultant ME CR in the area of the CBD and GMO  
Mgr. Jindřiška Staňková, Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic  
Doc. RNDr. Jitka Vilímová, CSc., Faculty of Science, Charles University

### The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Ing. M. Šafařík, PhD., Porsenna,o.p.s., Head of the Group  
Ing. J. Koubal, Consultant  
Ing. J. Gemrich, Federation of Cement Producers  
Ing. M. Malý, Enviros, s.r.o.  
RNDr. R. Tolasz, CHMI  
Ing. F. Bečvařík, CEA  
Ing. V. Vacek, Consultant

### The Convention on Desertification (UNCCD):

Prof.RNDr. Marta Tesařová,CSc., MUAF Brno, Head of the Group  
Ing. Jaromír Kubát,CSc., RICP Prague – Ruzyně  
Ing. Pavel Novák,CSc., RIASC Prague – Zbraslav  
Ing. Lubomír Šálek,CSc., Forests of the Czech Republic, Hradec Králové  
Prof.Ing. Bořivoj Šarapatka, CSc., PU Olomouc

### Cross-cutting group:

**Ing. Zuzana Drhová, PhD., Zelený kruh (Green Circle), o.s., Head of the Group**  
**Mgr. Klára Sutlovičová, Centre for Transport and Energy, o.s.**  
**Ing. Vladana Gotvaldová, Pelamis, s.r.o.**  
**Prof.RNDr. Marta Tesařová,CSc., MUAF Brno**  
**Ing. Miroslav Šafařík, PhD., Porsenna,o.p.s.**  
**Prof. RNDr. Jan Zima, DrSc., Institute of Vertebrate Biology AS CR, Head of the Group**

## 1.2. Methodology

### 1.2.1. Objective

**The target of the cross-cutting group consisted in defining, on the basis of analysis of the specialized reports:**

- areas of potential synergic action;
- a joint approach in implementation of the Conventions;
- specific recommendations for improved implementation of all three Conventions of interest at a systemic, institutional and individual level.

### 1.2.2. **Emphasis**

The activities of the cross-cutting group were concentrated on selection of areas with a potential for a joint approach in implementation, definition of current capacity inadequacies and formulation of recommendations for increasing current capacities.

### 1.2.3. **Scope**

The activities of the cross-cutting group were performed on the basis of the recommendations of the UNDP methodology and included workshops, document analysis, and conversations with persons responsible for implementing the Conventions and with representatives of the professional public.

#### **Amongst other things, implementation encompasses the following activities:**

1. establishment of priorities in implementing the Conventions
2. adaptation of the Articles of the Convention and the requirements of the Convention to the conditions in the Czech Republic – preparation and formulation of policies, laws, strategies and programmes
3. cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention, meeting its requirements
4. meeting the reporting obligations of each Convention
5. participation in professional and political meetings to emphasize the interests of the CR
6. informing the public of the obligations that the CR has accepted through accession to the particular Convention
7. implementation of policies, laws and strategies in mobilization and management of all capacities
8. creation of a consensus and partnership amongst “stakeholders”
9. dissemination of the necessary information and knowledge
10. introduction of monitoring and evaluation as feed-back for management.

#### **The individual capacities were assessed at three levels:**

1. **systemic** (creation of a suitable environment – policies, laws, division of competence, communication amongst institutions, processes for public participation, etc.)
2. **institutional** (jobs, prepared instruments, methodologies, management of information flows, etc.)
3. **individual** (personal attitudes, knowledge and skills, motivation, etc.).

#### **Preparation of the cross-section reports progressed in the following steps:**

1. Establishment of the team of the working group
2. Analysis of specialized reports
3. Determining the scope of the cross-cutting report, overlap between the Conventions and joint needs in the area of capacities
4. Elaborating a draft report
5. Preparation of working seminars and consultations (collection of expert comments)
6. Preparing a draft report
7. Presentation at seminars, collection of comments.

#### 1.2.4. Progress

The cross-sectional working group commenced its activity in April 2005. The Head of the Group, Ing. Zuzana Drhová (coordination of the group and contacts for the CBD), was entrusted with establishing the group. Its members included the heads of the specialized working groups (Prof. J. Zima, Ing. M. Šafařík, PhD, Prof. M. Tesařová) and also Mgr. K. Sutlovičová (contact for UNFCCC) and Ing. V. Gotvaldová (contact for UNCCD). The cross-cutting working group began its work before the specialized reports were completed and participated in their final form and presentation before the professional public (participation in two-day workshops, commentaries on the curricula of the specialized reports).

Three working seminars were prepared in June and July 2005 in cooperation between the cross-cutting working group and the heads of the specialized groups, each for one Convention, where the conclusions of the specialized groups were presented and, simultaneously, areas were pointed out that had insufficient capacity with potential overlap with another Convention. Members of the specialized working groups and of the cross-cutting working group, representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and invited independent professionals attended these seminars. At the instigation of the cross-cutting working group, the creation of a web site was requested, where the specialized reports were published during August at the web site of the project: [www.ncsa.cz](http://www.ncsa.cz)

A seminar was held in September of 2005 for the professional public, where an outline of the final cross-cutting report was presented. In addition, discussions were held on subjects that the cross-cutting group proposed, as key themes on the basis of previous consultations (seminars) and analysis of the specialized reports, as key areas for elaboration for the final cross-cutting report. These consisted in the area of coordination and management, education and public awareness, research, monitoring and inclusion of the obligations of the Conventions in specific decisions, especially in the framework of regional development.

On the basis of the conclusions and comments at this seminar, work was begun on the cross-cutting report, which was regularly consulted and presented to the management of the project in November. A broader commentary process on the draft cross-cutting report by members of the specialized groups and independent professionals was also held in November. The cross-cutting report was submitted to the management of the project following incorporation of the comments.

The cross-cutting report is concerned with assessment of the capacities required for successful implementation of the Conventions and formulation of reserves required for all the Conventions in question at the **systemic, institutional and individual levels**.

It is the purpose of the cross-cutting report, on the basis of analysis of the specialized reports, to indicate their **overlapping features** (common for all the Conventions) – **joint obstacles, barriers and requirements** in the area of capacities, to point out their interconnections and to formulate proposals for better **synergic action**, where the greatest emphasis is placed on the systemic area.

The recommendations of the available UNDP methodology were taken into consideration in the preparation. The cross-cutting report forms a basis for preparation of the **action plan**, which lays down the specific steps (and responsibilities) for implementation of the final recommendations.

The specialized reports are concerned with description of the state of institutional, human and financial, etc. resources available for the individual evaluated Conventions. It also emphasizes the obstacles, barriers and requirements at the systemic, institutional and individual levels that prevent or, on the other hand, can assist in successful implementation of the individual Conventions. SWOT analysis was used to prepare the specialized reports and recommendations for the individual Conventions were made on this basis. The cross-cutting working group based its work on SWOT analysis and the recommendations of the specialized reports.

In the framework of analysis of the specialized reports, attention was focused on identification of cross-cutting and common areas, evaluation of the available capacities and formulation of inadequacies at the systemic, institutional and individual levels.

### 2.1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

#### 2.1.1. Brief information on the CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was first opened for signature in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) on June 5, 1992 and came into effect on December 29, 1993. The Convention was signed in the name of the Czech Republic on June 4, 1993 in accordance with Government resolution No. 293 of June 2, 1993. The Convention came into force for the CR on March 3, 1994 and is promulgated in the Collection of Laws under No. 134/1999 Coll.; the Czech Republic thus pledged to implement the three main objectives of the Convention:

1. Protect biological diversity.
2. Enforce the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
3. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

At the present time, the Convention has seven thematic areas of activity, concerned with the main types of ecosystems (marine and coastal biological diversity, forest and agricultural biodiversity, biodiversity of inland fresh-water ecosystems, biodiversity of dryland areas and subhumid ecosystems, and island biodiversity). In addition, 19 cross-cutting activities related to aspects concerned with all the thematic programmes have been defined. These include an ecosystem approach, invasion of alien species, motivation measures, taxonomy, public awareness and provision of information, etc.

Meetings of the conference of parties are usually attended by a delegation from the CR, mostly consisting of representatives of ME and MA; the Minister of the Environment heads the delegation. Experts from scientific institutions, sectoral organizations and also research institutes and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic have been nominated for a number of activities in the framework of the CBD.

#### **Representation in selected bodies of the Convention is as follows:**

- RNDr. Jan Plesník, CSc. (ANCLP ČR) now co-chairs a group of experts for an ecosystem approach and is a member of the Consulting Commission for the Information System of the Convention on

Biological Diversity and the informal CEPA group. He actively participated in preparation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, where he was active in the committee for revision of the document.

- RNDr. Jiří Flousek (Deputy Director, KRNAP Administration) acts as the representative for Central and Eastern Europe in the Ad Hoc professional group of experts for alpine biodiversity.
- Mgr. David Vačkář, as a member of the Ad Hoc professional group of experts for indicators, is concerned with the aspect of biodiversity indicators.

### **2.1.2. Responsibility for implementation in the CR and participation of target groups**

On the basis of Government Resolution No. 293 of June 3, 1993, **the Ministry of the Environment (ME) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MA)** were entrusted with supervision of implementation of the requirements of the Convention. On the basis of this Resolution, the Government requires that the Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Minister of the Environment provide for implementation of the Convention. The Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity was established in 1997 to provide for intersectoral cooperation and is complemented by a scientific advisory council to deal with professional aspects. The role of the MA and the other sectors in meeting the requirements of the Convention is based on the competence of the sectors specified in Act No. 2/1969 Coll., as amended (Competence Act).

#### **National focal point for the Convention in the Czech Republic:**

RNDr. Petr Roth, CSc., Director of the Department of International Biodiversity Protection of the ME  
Mgr. Jana Brožová, Department of International Biodiversity Protection of the ME

#### **National focal point for the Convention information system – the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM):**

Mgr. Jindřiška Staňková (ANCLP CR)

#### **National focal point for SBSTTA - Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**

RNDr. Jan Plesník, CSc., National focal point for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

#### **The following persons were nominated for the Access and Benefit Sharing Competent National Authorities (organization responsible for certain genetic resources) as of April 14, 2006:**

RNDr. Václav Buriánek, Forestry and Game Management research Institute, Jíloviště – Strnady  
Ing. Vladimír Brenner, Institute of Microbiology, AS CR  
Ing. Ladislav Dotlačil, CSc., Research Institute of Crop Production  
Ing. Věra Mátlová, Research Institute of Animal Production  
RNDr. Evžen Kůs, Prague ZOO  
Ing. Petr Hanzelka, Ph.D. Prague Botanical Garden.



## **National focal point for the aspect of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing:**

Ing. Milena Roudná, CSc. – ME Consultant

Ing. Karel Jan Štolc., CSc. – MA (from April 14, 2006).

## **National focal point for the Cartagena Protocol and its information system** ([www.biosafety.cz](http://www.biosafety.cz))

RNDr. Miloš Němec, CSc., Department of Environmental Risks ME

The **Czech Committee for the CBD** was established as an intersectoral body in 1997 through a regulation of the Minister of the Environment. The work of the committee follows from the up-dated statute of the Committee issued in an instruction of the Minister of the Environment No. 21/2004 of August 17, 2004. This includes, amongst other things, coordination of the procedures of the individual sectors in providing for obligations following from the CBD; it is concerned with current aspects and tasks for fulfilling the CBD in the Czech Republic, which follow from meetings of the Conference of Parties, such as discussion of documents submitted at the Conference of Parties and preparation of the documents and procedure of the Czech Republic at meetings of the CBD Conference of Parties. In cooperation with the members of the Scientific Consulting Committee, it prepares documents required by the bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, on this basis, submits its recommendations to the Ministry, and participates in the preparation of national reports, case studies, other materials and other strategic documents for implementing the Convention and provision of information related to the CBD for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention.

### **Composition of the Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Deputy Minister - the Director of the Section of Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection is the Chairman of the Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity. The members include representatives of the sector of the environment (Departments of International Biodiversity Protection, of Environmental Risks), agriculture, foreign affairs, informatics, transportation, finance, education, youth and sports, industry and trade, health and regional development. Representatives of the Botanical Institute of the AS CR and the Society for Sustainable Development and are also members of the Committee.

The Minister of the Environment names and recalls the chair and members of the Committee, including the Secretary. Membership in the Committee is terminated by withdrawal of a member of the committee and delivery of a deed of removal from office from the Minister of the Environment or death of a member. Membership in the Committee is voluntary and honorary. The rights (competence) and obligations of members are not specified in detail.

A **Scientific Advisory Council**, consisting of two representatives of the ME and representatives of 20 research institutes and professional agencies, is active in the Committee for the Convention. These include, e.g., the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection CR, the Microbiological Institute of the AS CR, the Research Institute of Crop Production, the Research Institute of Animal Production, the Fish Breeding and Hydrobiological Research Institute of the South Bohemian University, the Department of Botany of the Faculty of Science of Charles University, the Forestry Faculty of the Czech Agricultural University in Prague, etc. Members of the Advisory Council were named for their parent organizations, whose role consists in providing professional consultations in the framework of its specialization.

The **Strategy of Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR** is the basic strategic document for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity; this document was approved by the Government on May 25, 2005. Government Resolution No. 620/2005 on the Strategy of Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR requires that the Minister of the Environment, in cooperation with the Minister of Agriculture, **create an action plan for the Strategy by May 25, 2008**. It further requires: - preparation of a system of implementation evaluation indicators and a time plan for evaluation of the implementation of the targets of the Strategy, provision for a permanent information campaign and presentation of the importance of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, updating of the Strategy after 10 years of its legal force and submission of an evaluation of the Strategy and implementation of its targets by December 31, 2015. (For the full wording, see [www.chm.nature.cz](http://www.chm.nature.cz)). It further requires that the Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport, the Ministers of the Environment, of Agriculture, of Foreign Affairs, for Regional development, of Industry and Trade, of Computer Science and of Education, Youth and Sports to take into account the targets of the Strategy in programme and sectoral documents, policies, strategies, conceptions and legal regulations. However, participation of the sectors in implementation of the Convention is not specified in detail.

Particularly the Ministry of the Environment is working on implementation of the Convention (work of the national focal points, preparation of national reports, implementation of the Strategy of Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR, etc.). The role of other sectors is based on their activities and competences. They express their opinions on documents related to the Convention in the framework of external commentary procedures. Implementation in the sector of the ME encompasses particularly the Departments of International Biodiversity Protection, Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations, Specially Protected Parts of Nature, Environmental Risks, Environmental Economy and also sectoral organizations, such as the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the CR. Greater involvement of other departments (Department of External Relations, of Integrated Finances, etc.) should also be considered. Provision of information on the Convention to the regions, universities and professional institutions is not clearly defined.

### 2.1.3. Strategic or legal framework for implementation of the CBD in the CR

Particularly the following laws and policies are related to implementation of the obligations of the Convention:

- Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on protection of nature and the landscape, as amended, and the related Decree No. 395/1992 Coll., on implementation of the Act on protection of nature and the landscape
- The Strategy of Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR (approved in Government Resolution No. 620/2005).

Further legislation, policies and programmes are also related to the subject and requirements of the Convention. These are, for example: the Strategy of Sustainable Development of the CR, the State Environmental Policy and the State Programme for Protection of Nature and the Landscape of the CR, the National Programme of Protection, Conservation and Use of Genetic Resources of Plants, Animals and Micro-organisms, the Conception of Agrarian Policy of the CR for the Period following Accession to the EU (2004–2013), etc. As the scope of the Convention is very broad, this also includes legislation in the area of waters, tourism, forest management, agriculture, climate change, the Act on the right to environmental information, and the Action Plan for the State Programme of Environmental Education, Enlightenment and Public Awareness for 2004 – 2006.

From the standpoint of the strategic and legislative framework, it can be stated that the Czech Republic fulfils the basic legal conditions for successful implementation of the individual objectives of the Convention. The specialized report points out, e.g., the absence of legislation on control of the spreading of invasive alien species, including specification of penalty, especially for introduction through negligence.

### **List of Acts and Decrees related to the requirements of the Convention:**

Act No. 102/1963 Coll., on fishing  
No. 44/1988 Coll., the Mining Act  
Act No. 17/1992 Coll., on the environment.  
Act No. 334/1992 Coll., on protection of the agricultural land fund  
Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on forests, as amended  
Act No. 123/1998 Coll., on the right to environmental information  
Act No. 154/2000 Coll., on improvement, breeding and records of farm animals  
Act No. 254/2001 Coll., on waters  
Act No. 449/2001 Coll., on gamekeeping, as amended  
Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on support for research and development from public funds  
Act No. 148/2003 Coll., on conservation and utilization of the genetic sources of plants and micro-organisms important for nutrition and agriculture  
Act No. 162/2003 Coll., on conditions for the operation of zoological gardens and amending some Acts  
Act No. 78/2004 Coll., on management of genetically modified organisms and genetic products  
Act No 99/2004 Coll., on fish breeding in fish ponds  
Act No. 100/2004 Coll., on protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulation of trade in these species (the Act on Trading in Endangered Species)  
Act No. 326/2004 Coll., on plant medicinal care  
Act No. 695/2004 Coll., on conditions for trading in allowances for emissions of greenhouse gases and amending some laws  
Act No. 149/2003 Coll., on putting into circulation of reproductive material of forest tree species important for forestry and of artificial cross-species, intended for renewal of forests and afforestation, and on amending some related Acts (Act on trade in reproductive material of forest tree species)  
Decree of ME No. 330/2004 Coll., on protection against the introduction of harmful organisms during import, transit and export of plants and plant products and against the spreading thereof in the territory of the Czech Republic and on consistent plant medicinal control  
Decree of MA No. 140/2003 Coll., on planning in the area of waters

#### **2.1.4. Availability of information on the Convention**

The information system on the Convention on Biological Diversity – the Clearing-House Mechanism – has been created for the Convention and its implementation, and is available at the web site [www.chm.nature.cz](http://www.chm.nature.cz). This site has a reference to the site of the Ministry of the Environment.

It provides information on the Convention, projects that are related to it, references to international documents, etc. The site has the drawback of being less understandable for the general public, including navigation in the English version. However, in 2005, the work of the expert group for the CHM was commenced and this group should participate in up-dating the site to make it more accessible for the professional and general public. The web site will be completely redesigned and, in addition to the present information, will also contain information on implementation of the individual relevant articles of the Convention in this country.

### 2.1.5. Results of SWOT analysis according to the specialized report

The specialized report gives a detailed survey of activities related to implementation of the CBD and evaluates the available capacities. It concludes that the Czech Republic has the basic capacities required to fulfil the obligations following from accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The authors of the specialized evaluation report pointed out the following **strengths** in the existing capacities for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

#### Individual capacities

- suitable capacity to provide for a national focal point for the Convention
- suitable individual capacities in the area of research, well-educated professionals capable of employing advanced technology
- accessible knowledge and appropriate infrastructure in ensuring conservation *ex situ*
- the tradition of an ecosystem approach and extensive ecological knowledge base

#### Institutional capacities

- favourable institutional base for implementation of the Convention
- creation of a network of various types of protected areas
- satisfactory institutional research infrastructure and scientific work tradition

#### Systemic capacities

- satisfactory general legislative environment for basic implementation of the Convention
- creation of a CBD Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)
- accessible long-term data on biodiversity monitoring
- well-developed research and records of genetic resources

In spite of the existing already-created infrastructure for implementation of the CBD, the authors of the specialized report mentioned the following **reserves** in the current capacities and potential for improvement of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the CR:

#### Individual capacities

- Low awareness of the public and professional community.
- Low implementation of an ecosystem approach, as defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity, in programmes of management of the environment and in individual practical measures. Lack of professionals in the field of taxonomy. (The key to this problem lies in cooperation with universities in the creation of fields of study, study plans and research, ...).
- Lack of motivation and interest on the part of the members of the Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Scientific Advisory Committee.

#### Institutional capacities

- Reserves in the work of the Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Scientific Advisory Committee.

- Reserves in communication and financial support for universities in education and preparation of professionals.
- Reserves in incorporation of the requirements of the Convention into practical measures (e.g. an ecosystem approach as defined by the Convention in the programmes of care for the environment and in regional planning).
- Reserves in coordination of the requirements of the Convention and research on biodiversity.
- Reserves in methodical instructions for monitoring changes in forest biological diversity.
- Reserves in use of the Clearing-House Mechanism in CR for the Convention in participation of target groups in implementation of the Convention.
- Reserves in coordination between the individual types of activities in the areas of monitoring, indicators, and in the area of data sources and existing databases.

### **Systemic capacities**

- Reserves in intersectoral cooperation and communication.
- Reserves in the inter-relation of legislation, inconsistent implementation of sanctions for violation of the relevant provisions.
- Insufficient emphasis on an ecosystem approach (in the conception of the CBD) in the conceptual materials of the ME and the MA and in the Strategy of Sustainable Development of the CR. An ecosystem approach is not incorporated into the legislation and the principles of an ecosystem approach in the conception of the CBD have not been defined.
- There is insufficient emphasis on protection and renewal of ecosystems in the open landscape in the policies of the other sectors, for example: MA – National Forestry Programme, MIT – State Energy Policy, MT – State Policy of Development of the Transport Infrastructure, MRD – land-use technical documents for strategic and regional planning.
- Reserves in the area of monitoring. There is no regular evaluation of measures implemented in the landscape and their effectiveness and thus there is a lack of feedback of information on the effectiveness of expended investments.

## **2.1.6. Recommendations for strengthening the capacity for implementation of the CBD**

### **Individual capacities**

- Increase the capacities and material and technical facilities of the national focal points and Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention.
- Support specifically oriented training and education of professionals in the area of an ecosystem approach, inform the public better of the objectives and steps in conservation in situ in specific locations.
- Increase the professional qualifications of persons teaching ecological education, persons preparing EIA, the qualifications of experts, particularly in the area of risk assessment for biological safety and control of activities.
- Increase the quality and quantity of enlightenment, awareness and education in the area of the use of economic instruments for evaluating biodiversity. Attempt to achieve the broadest possible active public participation in this respect.

## Institutional capacities

- Improve intersectoral communication and cooperation and collaboration of all other stakeholders.
- Increase active participation of the Czech Committee for the CBD and its Consulting Committee in coordination procedures for all activities related to implementation of the Convention.
- Improve conservation of biodiversity in the open landscape through land-use planning, which will fully respect the requirements on conservation of biodiversity and protection of nature and the landscape.
- Provide for coordination of data registers, bio-indication and monitoring programmes and other scientific activities, including evaluation of the effectiveness of investments into protection of biodiversity.
- Introduce regular up-dating of series of data on all the protected areas, creating feedback for evaluation of their condition from the standpoint of the effects of implemented measures on altering the biodiversity.
- Increase the fraction of projects concerned with traditional farming procedures and the use of local varieties and breeds.
- Improve the network of detection laboratories of biological safety at a level corresponding to the required standards.
- Further strengthen the role and potential of the Clearing-House Mechanism for the CBD.

## Systemic capacities

- Improve the inter-relation of legal regulations. Provide for the closest possible cooperation between the participating sectors in respect to the legislation, including related laws.
- Introduce legislation on the ecosystem approach in the conception of the CBD to *in-situ* biodiversity conservation and create suitable legislation for its implementation.
- Provide for concordance and interconnection between EIA and subsequent permission procedures, systematically modify the motivations of persons preparing documents and expert reports for full utilization of their qualifications in disputable and problematic EIA cases.
- The legislative framework should be improved in the area of ownership, fair access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use.
- Create a separate legislative regulation related to the aspect of invasive alien species, including unambiguous sanctions for violation.
- Increase coordination in the decision-making process on biological safety.
- Unambiguously define partnership of public institutions with private institutions in the area of financial support for conservation of biodiversity. Support this relationship at the legislative, administrative and organizational levels.
- Increase the intensity of participation of the CR in international activities.

## 2.2. The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

### 2.2.1. Brief information on the Convention

The Czech Republic acceded to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter the "Convention") on December 7, 1993 as the thirty-sixth Party to the Convention (Government Resolution No. 323/1993). The

Kyoto Protocol (hereinafter the "Protocol") was signed in the name of the Czech Republic on November 23, 1998 (Government Resolution No. 669/1998) and approved on November 15, 2001. The Protocol came into effect for the CR and globally on February 16, 2005. The Convention and the Protocol are promulgated in the Collection of International Agreements (No. 80 and 81/2005 Coll. I.A.). The objective of the Convention consists into "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropomorphic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner." The Protocol then sets specific reduction targets for the individual countries for total greenhouse gas emissions expressed as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (in Annex B, for the CR, this consists in reduction of total greenhouse gas emissions expressed as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents by 8 % during the 2008 – 2012 period compared to the 1990 level).

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is responsible for creation of new programmes in the framework of the Convention at an international level. Newly proposed programmes and plans are subsequently approved by Conferences of Parties (COP), which are held once every year and adopt conclusions that are binding for the Contracting Parties. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) is responsible for implementation of adopted measures. On the basis of a decision by the Conference of Parties, the Contracting Parties are required to prepare National Reports on implementation of the Convention. The Fourth National Communication was prepared in 2005.

The delegation to the COP is usually headed by the Minister of the Environment or the Deputy Minister and the delegation is usually made up of employees of the ME (currently the Department of Climate Change) or other sectors (MIT, MFA). Czech professionals are also members of some working groups, acting as consulting bodies for COP in assessing specific aspects (e.g. indicators of greenhouse gas emissions and reporting). The CR does not have permanent representatives in the SBSTTA and SBI bodies.

### **Representation in selected bodies as of February 1, 2006:**

- Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention – the CR has no representatives in this body.
- Subsidiary Body for Implementation – SBI of the Convention – the CR has no representatives in this body.
- Climate Change Committee - the CR is represented by Ing. Tomáš Chmelík (ME).
- Working Group I - Inventory and Reporting – the CR is represented by Ing. Pavel Fott (CHMI).
- Working Group II - National Programmes and Projections – the CR is represented by Mgr. Marie Zahradníková.
- Working Group III - Emission Trading – the CR is represented by Bc. Jaroslav Suchý (ME).
- Expert Group on Policies and Measures – the CR is represented by Mgr. Marie Zahradníková (ME).
- Expert Group on Bunkers – the CR is represented by Ing. Pavel Fott (CHMI).
- Expert Group on Mechanisms – the CR is represented by Ing. Tomáš Chmelík (ME).
- Expert Group on Further Action – the CR is represented by Ing. Pavel Záměslický (ME).
- Annex I Expert Group - AIXG – the CR is represented by Mgr. Marie Zahradníková (ME).
- Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change - the CR is represented by RNDr. Jan Pretel, CSc. (CHMI).

## 2.2.2. Responsibility for Implementation in the CR

The **Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Industry and Trade** have been entrusted with provision for meeting the requirements of the Convention in the sense of Government Resolution No. 323/1993 Coll. The Department of Climate Change of ME, represented by Ing. Tomáš Chmelík, is the national focal point for the Convention in the CR.

The responsibilities of the individual sectors follow from Government Resolution No. 187/2004, approving the National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the Czech Republic, which replaced the Strategy to Protect the Climate System of the Earth in the Czech Republic (approved in Government Resolution No. 480/1999), and Government Resolution No. 395/2005, on information on implemented and prepared measures from the standpoint of the National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the Czech Republic.

The **Intersectoral Committee on the aspect of climate change** was established in November 1998 as an advisory body to the Minister of the Environment. The main tasks of the Commission include discussion of intersectoral materials or approaches, where the individual aspects of the given problem must be dealt with in cooperation of the affected ministries. The objective consists in utilization of this platform for qualified discussions of proposals or approaches before they are discussed in intersectoral commentary procedures or otherwise become part of the administration.

From the viewpoint of the Ministry of the Environment, the subject of climate change is a cross-cutting issue which concerns a number of professional departments. With respect to coordination of work at the ME and to the need for internal discussion of individual topics, a **Working Group on Climate Change** has been established within ME as an advisory body of the Minister of the Environment. The aforementioned ME Working Group on Climate Change replaced the National Reference Centre for the pilot phase of joint implementation projects (AIJ) and the professional commission for AIJ assessment.

Table 1.: Responsibility of the sectors in the sense of Government Resolutions No. 187/2004 and 395/2005

| Institution  | Scope of competence and responsibilities   |
|--|--|
| Ministry of the Environment<br>Ministry of Industry and Trade<br>Ministry of Transport<br>Ministry of Agriculture<br>Ministry for Regional Development<br>Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports<br>Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporate the key points of the National Programme (Chap. 10) into the activities of the sectors from the standpoint of their economic capabilities.</li><li>• Within one year of the legal force of the National Programme, submit information on implemented and prepared measures.</li><li>• Within two years of the legal force of the National Programme, prepare and discuss, with the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change, a report on progress in introducing measures (Chap. 10 of the National Programme), including economic potential and available quantitative information on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions achieved by introducing these measures.</li><li>• Within four years of the legal force of the National Programme, perform preliminary evaluation from the standpoint of the effects and economic potential of adopted measures; perform a comparison of initial conditions and reductions and, on the basis of any shifts in international negotiations on climate change, propose any necessary up-dating.</li></ul> |



| Institution                                | Scope of competence and responsibilities   |
|--|--|
| Ministry of the Environment                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorized to represent the CR in implementation of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.</li> </ul>   |
| Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss information on implemented and prepared measures.</li> <li>Cooperate with the ME in evaluation of measures adopted on the basis of the National Programme.</li> </ul> |

### **Members of the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change (as of February 1, 2006):**

JUDr. Ing. Tomáš Novotný – Chair, Ministry of the Environment  
 Ing. Tomáš Chmelík, Vice-Chair, Ministry of the Environment  
 Mgr. Marie Zahradníková, Secretary, Ministry of the Environment  
 Ing. Petra Křivánková, Ministry for Regional Development  
 Ing. Martin Veselý, Ministry of Agriculture  
 Ing. Tomáš Květoň, Ministry of Transport  
 Ing. Jaroslava Jeslíňková, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Mgr. Josef Kořán, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports  
 RNDr. Jiří Hanzlíček, Ministry of Industry and Trade  
 Ing. Ladislav Pazdera, Ministry of Industry and Trade  
 Ing. Jaromír Kálal, Ministry of Finance  
 Ing. Miroslava Ježková, Ministry of Finance  
 Doc. MUDr. Bohumír Kříž, State Health Institute  
 Ing. Miloslav Vlček, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR  
 Josef Vícha, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR  
 Ing. Iva Šedivá, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR  
 Ing. Petr Smutný, Senator, Senate of the Parliament of the CR  
 RNDr. Jitka Seitlová, Senator, Senate of the Parliament of the CR  
 RNDr. Jan Pretel, CSc., Czech Hydrometeorological Institute  
 Mgr. Klára Sutlovicová, Centre for Transport and Energy

### **Members of the ME Working Group on Climate Change (as of February 1, 2006):**

Ing. Tomáš Chmelík – Chair, ME  
 Ing. Pavel Zámyslický – Secretary, ME  
 Ing. Jan Kužel, ME  
 Ing. Miroslav Hájek, Ph.D., ME  
 Ing. Michal Pastvinský, ME  
 RNDr. Jiří Bendl, ME  
 Mgr. Marie Zahradníková, ME  
 Mgr. Dušan Vácha, CHMI  
 Ing. Jiří Míka, SEF  
 RNDr. Stanislav Bosák, CSc., CEI  
 Ing. Martin Fiala, CEA  
 Ing. Jiří Hradec, CENIA

### **2.2.3. Strategic or legal framework for implementation of the Convention in the CR**

The National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the Czech Republic, adopted in Government Resolution No. 187/2004, is the basic strategic document for meeting the obligations of the Convention.

The obligations of a Contracting Party to the Convention are also respected in the main conceptual materials related to environmental protection in the Czech Republic, such as the State Environmental Policy 2004 – 2010 and Strategy of Sustainable Development, the State Energy Policy, Act No. 86/2002 Coll., on protection of the air and amending some Acts (Act on Protection of the Air), as amended, Act on conditions for trading in allowances for greenhouse gas emissions and amending some Acts (No. 695/2004 Coll.) and the regional energy policies.

From the standpoint of the legislative regulations, it can be stated that the Czech Republic fulfils the basic legal conditions for successful implementation of the individual objectives of the Convention. However, there is no obligation of the sectors to cooperate and share information required for creation of reports according to the requirements of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and also for monitoring compliance with obligations following from them – preparation of national communications does not occur systematically, transparently and in a coordinated manner, but always as a single working task.

Although it was one of the priorities of the programme declaration of the Government, fiscally neutral environmental tax reform, as recommended in the latest OECD report on the area of the environment in the CR and identified as one of the instruments in the Strategy of Economic Growth, in general encounters a lack of political will. In the absence of obliging cooperation of the other sectors with the ME, the potential for introduction of such reforms is unrealistic.

#### **Further legislation, policies and programmes are also related to the subject of the Convention:**

The Energy Act No. 458/2000 Coll., the Act on Energy Management No. 406/2000 Coll. and the related National Programme of Sound Energy Management and Use of Renewable and Secondary Energy Sources

Act No. 458/2000 Coll., on the conditions for operating business and on performance of state administration in energy sectors and on amendment to some laws

Act No. 180/2005 Coll., on promotion of the production of energy from renewable energy sources and on amendment to some laws

Act, No. 18/1997 Coll., regulating operation of nuclear facilities including nuclear power plants

Act No. 189/1999 Coll., on emergency crude oil reserves

Act No. 76/2002 Coll., on integrated pollution prevention

Act No. 185/2001 Coll., on wastes and Act No. 477/2001 Coll. on packaging

Integrated National Programme to Reduce Emissions of Pollutants

National Programme of Promotion of Alternative Fuels for Transport

National Forestry Programme (NFP)

National Programme of Research and Development (2003)

Subsidy programmes of CEA and SEF

MRD programme of reconstruction of panel buildings

Infrastructure Operational Programme

Industry and Business Operational Programme

## **Survey of selected relevant legal acts of the EU in the area of energy production:**

Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market (OJ L 283/33, Oct. 27, 2001)

Directive 2003/30/EC on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport (OJ L 123/42, May 17, 2003)

Directive 2002/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings (OJ L 1/65, Jan. 4, 2003)

Directive 2004/8/EC on the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market and amending Directive 92/42/EEC (OJ L 52/50, Feb. 21, 2004)

Directive 2003/96/EC restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity (OJ L 283/51, Oct. 31, 2003)

Directive 2000/55/EC on energy efficiency requirements for ballasts for fluorescent lighting (OJ L 279/33, Nov. 1, 2000)

Directive 2002/40/EC implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric ovens (OJ L 128/45, May 15, 2002)

Directive 2002/31/EC implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household air-conditioners (OJ L 86/26, April 3, 2002)

Directive 2003/66/EC amending Directive 94/2/EC implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations (OJ L 170/10, July 9, 2003)

Regulation (EC) No 2422/2001 on a Community energy efficiency labelling programme for office equipment (OJ L 332/1, Dec. 15, 2001)

COM (2003)453 of 1 August 2003 on establishing a framework for the setting of Eco-design requirements for Energy-Using Products

COM (2003)739 of 10 December 2003 on energy end-use efficiency and energy services

### **2.2.4. Availability of information on the Convention**

Information on the Convention is very difficult to find on the ME web site.

### **2.2.5. Results of SWOT analysis according to the specialized report**

The basic conclusion of the specialized report is as follows: The prevailing approach in the Czech Republic to functioning and building of capacities on the national scale is currently predominantly static and formal, documented by the attempts to maintain the *status quo*, where capacity-building is at variance (taken purely formally) with the plan to “reduce the state administration” as a whole, and not to burden the State Budget by investments in cases where neglecting of unspecified requirements for minimization of emissions of all sorts is “excusable”; in this manner, it would be possible to overcome the traditional – purely legislative – framework for measures to reduce emissions.

**The specialized report pointed out the following strengths in the existing capacities for implementation of the Convention on Climate Change.**

#### **Individual capacities**

- Availability of specific workers capable of enforcing desirable orientation of research, education and public awareness

- Long-term basic emphasis in research is concerned with this aspect in the area of “Energy Sources”
- The existence of programmes of Environmental education, enlightenment and public awareness and the Methodical Instruction of MEYS on environmental education, of 2001.
- High-quality inventories of greenhouse gas emissions; qualified experts responsible for performance of the relevant requirements
- The existence of a register of allowances for the purposes of the European system of trading in allowances for greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Institutional capacities**

- Interest groups and non-governmental organizations participate in the process of preparation and implementation of strategies and conceptions
- Economic instruments exist to support reduction of the energy intensity and the use of RES
- An independent Climate Change Department has been established at the ME
- Legislative support for public participation in the decision-making process – possibility of presenting comments of the general public on strategic documents
- Long tradition of scientific, research and information-support workplaces
- Programmes (economical incentive instruments) exist for implementation of, in particular, “pilot” projects, including experience with JI projects – World Bank programmes
- Ensured legislative support for environmental monitoring and evaluation

### **Systemic capacities**

- Relatively great reduction potential for the first control period as a resource above the commitments for ensuring means for long-term implementation of the strategy
- Conceptual documents or programmes exist at many affected ministries, which indirectly include, *inter alia*, measures in the area of the climate change
- The National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the CR has been approved
- Active intersectoral cooperation in certain matters (GCSD), existence of a strategic objective of protecting the climate in the Strategy of Sustainable Development (2004)

## **Reserves in the available capacities:**

### **Individual capacities**

- Reserves in financial and personnel capacities required for dissemination of information
- Reserves in financial provision for the participation of several Czech representatives at professional international meetings
- Reserves in the capacities for research on innovations in industrial technologies
- Lack of stability of the professional staff of the state administration
- Lack of qualified workers in the area of climate change at the regional and local level
- Low awareness and motivation of the general public.

### **Institutional capacities**

- Reserves in the effectiveness of the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change (lack of competence and a professional base for all the necessary fields)

- Reserves in communication between the state administration and local governments
- Reserves in managing tasks, tendency to underestimate the financial, temporal and professional demands for their implementation.
- Reserves in institutional provision for the aspect of integrated assessment modelling in cooperation with industry and it utilizing synergic interconnections with other multilateral environmental conventions.
- Reserves in provision for all the conditions for proper functioning of the National Inventory System – systemic provision for financing for 2006 – 2008 (finances have so far been promised for 2006), lack of personnel at CHMI.
- Reserves in control of the usefulness of use of financial resources (programmes of support, research projects)
- Reserves in cooperation with research workplaces, including the workplaces of universities.

### **Systemic capacities**

- Reserves in intersectoral cooperation and communication (predominance of a component and sectoral approach, the individual institutions do not cooperate sufficiently – competition tends to predominate over a cooperative and creative environment).
- Reserves in the intensity of participation of the CR in international activities and cooperation with EU Member States
- Inadequate interconnection of the strategic priorities of the CR in the individual documents of a strategic character (economic, transport, energy and other conceptions)
- Reserves in effective use of the available financial resources
- Reserves in provision for training and education of managerial and professional workers.

## **2.2.6. Recommendations for strengthening the capacity for implementation of the UNFCCC**

### **Systemic capacities**

#### **1. Systemic support for training and education of managerial and professional workers in the area of climate change and support for science and research**

- Include the subject of the climate change and relating fields in the education and training programmes and programmes for increasing qualification; adapt the content and form of training to the positions, functions or fields of specialization of the trained employees. Provide for financial means, create a database of potential teachers.

#### **2. Performance and evaluation of policies and programmes in energy-production, transport, industry and other areas that substantially affect the climate system**

- Synergic and systemic approach to measures that deal with several related aspects (e.g. the Programme to Support the Use of Alternative Fuels, which currently encompasses only the use of natural gas, programmes for the use of biogas and biomass in the communal sphere, programmes to support energy savings, the Act on Rents, the Construction Code), more intense incorporation of the criteria of energy effectiveness in management of the sectors (regional and local authorities)

- Use the current mechanisms for implementation of requirements of the Convention – e.g. through incorporation of criteria for monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions within SEA and EIA assessment for specific projects.
- Continuously critically evaluate the effects of implementation of regional energy concepts (REC), their supplementation and improving the level of their preparation; prepare and apply action plans for their implementation at regular intervals.
- Continuously critically evaluate the effect of implementation of the National Programme of Sound Energy Management and Use of Renewable and Secondary Energy Sources and update the programme where necessary. In particular, it is necessary to link the programme with the possibility of utilizing the financial resources under the Operational Programmes for the 2007 – 2013 period.

### **3. Creation of conditions for efficient functioning and consistent fulfilment of environmental conventions and principles of sustainable development**

- Prepare a method for evaluation of the effects of policies and measures, including evaluation of the social and economic consequences and environmental externalities, consistently monitor and evaluate real progress and the effects of implementation of strategies, programmes and legislation.
- Prepare initial quantitative estimates of the necessary personnel and financial resources required for consistent performance of the neglected commitments following from the Conventions, in particular, ensure capacity for overcoming systemic obstacles (intersectoral interaction, cooperation with “stakeholders”).
- Monitor and remedy consequences of the fact that priorities for the future development of the CR have not been interconnected in the basic strategic documents and consistently utilize any possible synergies.
- Monitor the process of creation and the potential for use of the prepared and presented reports and ensure a feedback thereto, i.e., for example, evaluate their relevance and consequent fulfilment of the recommendations of international institutions.
- Provide for full participation of representatives of the Czech professional public in the work of Convention bodies, with a priority aim to ensure efficient interaction of the Czech professional public and professional working groups.

### **Institutional and individual capacities**

The following measures are recommended at institutional and individual levels, although it is difficult to specify tasks at the individual level:

#### **1. Development of a long-term national campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of climate change and of the necessity to mitigate its impact, including adaptation measures.**

- Provide for an efficient information system and educational system (centre) to support education - awareness - and ensure the potential for individual specialized consultations, analyses, expert assessments and studies for the benefit of local governments and regional and city authorities and organizations and institutions managed by the regional and city authorities.
- Raise awareness of international activities aimed at a common objective – a decreasing the energy intensity, material savings and use of RSE.
- Provide access to the relevant documents and basic information in the Czech language on the ME web site or special web site created for this purpose.
- Create a separate section for the subject of climate change within the necessary reconstruction of the ME information portal, linked to other relevant areas (energy production, transport etc.).

## **2. Increase in operability and coordination (strengthening) of the current capacities and establishment of a national expert training team.**

- Create capacities at the regional and local levels, evaluate outputs from the intersectoral commission, local (regional) groups and other relevant bodies.
- Clearly identify the NFP within the State administration and extend its competence beyond a mere administrative centre.
- Strengthen the importance of the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change.

## **3. Administration and management of the current programmes, which should take into account the Convention, as modified, supplemented and adapted.**

- Review management of the existing programmes in terms of fulfilment of the requirements of the Conventions and, if appropriate, their modification, supplementation and adaptation, at least until evaluation from the viewpoint of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and measures to reduce emissions become an integral part of such programmes.
- Set appropriate criteria for projects financed from the Operational Programmes, namely the Industry and Business Operational Programme (Energy Savings and Renewable Energy Sources), the Programme for Development of Rural Areas and Multifunctional Agriculture, and the Infrastructure Programme.

## **4. Provision for control and utilization of the mutual links amongst the global conventions UNFCCC-CBD-UNCCD at regional and local levels.**

- At the regional level, provide for the transfer or adoption and application of the acquired findings and know-how in all relevant areas where these can be used at the regional and local levels.

## **2.3. The UN Convention on Desertification (UNCCD)**

### **2.3.1. Brief information on the Convention**

Options to address desertification were *inter alia* the subject of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This conference supported a new integrated approach in addressing aspects of desertification and summoned the UN General Assembly to establish an international negotiation commission to prepare the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The United Nations General Assembly accepted the appeal and the text of the "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (hereinafter the "Convention") was submitted by the relevant negotiation commission on June 17, 1994 in Paris. The Convention came into effect on December 26, 1996, and it had been ratified by 191 countries as of January 1, 2006. It came into force for the CR on April 24, 2000. The Czech Republic acceded to the Convention in the awareness that the Czech Republic is not a country that is directly affected by desertification. From the point of view of the Czech Republic, accession to the Convention was an expression of solidarity with the affected parties, particularly with developing countries, and of its willingness to collaborate in addressing global environmental issues. The Convention was promulgated in the Czech Republic in 2002 in the Collection of International Agreements under number 53/2002.

## **The main tasks following from the Convention for the Czech Republic:**

The Czech Republic is not a country affected by desertification according to the definition given in Art. 1 of the Convention. Consequently, it is not obliged to prepare a national action programme according to Art. 9-15 of the Convention and according to Art. 3, 4 and 5 of Annex V of the Convention.

The Czech Republic has also acceded to the fifth regional Annex to the Convention for Central and Eastern Europe, which came into force on September 6, 2001 and provides guidelines and arrangements for the effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of the Central and Eastern European region and promotes subregional collaboration between affected and unaffected country Parties of the region. The obligation to submit national reports is lacking.

The Czech Republic regularly participates in meetings of the supreme body of the Convention – the Conference of Parties (COP). Representatives of the CR have been repeatedly elected to the governing structures of the COP (*inter alia*, at the 4th, 5th and 7th and meetings of the COP).

- COP 5 – Mgr. Dagmar Kubínová was a Member of the Bureau and Reporter.
- COP 4 – JUDr. Jiří Hlaváček was elected Vice-President and Member of the Bureau.
- COP 7 – JUDr. Jiří Hlaváček was elected Vice-President and Member of the Bureau.

The CR also regularly sends its representatives to meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) which was established by the COP as a supporting body and which meets concurrently with the meetings of the COP. The CR is also represented in the 25-member Group of Experts (GoE) which has been appointed by the CST on the basis of Decision 17/COP 5 and which has been entrusted by the CST to draw up regular summaries of new findings on desertification and of their potential application in combating desertification.

The national focal point for desertification (at the present time Ivana Biková, Department of Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations) and other members of the delegation – usually at the level of the Deputy Minister – attend meetings of the COP. Meetings of the COP are held once every two years; the last meeting was held on October 17 – 28, 2005 in Nairobi in Kenya. Meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology are held concurrently. The Committee on Reporting on Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) was established in 2002 and its 5th meeting will be held in September 2006 in Argentina.

The procedure of the delegation at the Conference is approved by the Government, which is also informed of the progress and outputs of the meeting. A time frame is prepared for implementation of COP decisions that are relevant for the CR, containing the number and content of the decision, a description of tasks for the CR and designation of who is responsible for performance of the tasks, together with the date for implementation. The ME, Strategy and Legislation Section is responsible for most tasks.

### **2.3.2. Responsibility for Implementation in the CR**

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic is responsible for implementation of UNCCD and, in doing so, it cooperates with other relevant ministries and stakeholders at an international and national level. The aforementioned activities are directed by the **Department of Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations** (Strategy-Legislation Section), which also manages the focal point for desertification and the activities of the **“Group of Persons Interested in Desertification”**.



Following accession of the CR to the EU, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** continues to be the coordinating body for FDA pursuant to the newly approved principles (No. 40/2004 Coll.). The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for FDA projects in the area of the environment, i.e. also in combating desertification.

The representatives of the ME are in close contact with the UNCCD Secretariat and regularly attend meetings of its bodies (COP, CST, CRIC).

A number of foreign developmental assistance projects in countries experiencing drought and/or desertification are implemented by the MIT MEYS, MA, MFA and MH, in addition to the ME; these include projects of both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The focal point keeps a database of development projects related to the Convention.

Table 2 gives a list of persons interested in desertification.

Table 2.: List of persons interested in desertification (as of February 1, 2006)

| Name, title                            | Institution  |
|--|--|
| Prof. Ing. Vojtěch Dinner, CSc.        | Institute of Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Mining and Geology, Institute of Mining – Technical University, Ostrava |
| Ing. František Doležal, CSc.           | Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation, Prague - Zbraslav   |
| Mgr. L. Jirásková                      | University Department, MEYS  |
| PhDr. Petr Jelínek                     | Director, Development Centre, Institute of International Relations, Prague   |
| Dr. Ing. Olga Mikanová                 | Research Institute of Crop Production  |
| Ing. Jiří Muchka                       | Ministry of Agriculture  |
| Mgr. Libor Novák                       | Innovation and Development Centre  |
| Ing. Pavel Novák, CSc.                 | Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation  |
| Ing. Jiří Haleš                        | Czech Nature Conservation Society  |
| Ing. Jan Sokol, CSc.                   | Department of Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture  |
| Ing. Lubomír Šálek                     | State Forests of the CR  |
| Prof. Dr. Ing. Bořivoj Šarapatka, CSc. | Palacký University, Olomouc  |
| Prof. RNDr. Marta Tesařová, CSc.       | Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno  |
| Dr. Ing. Radim Vácha                   | Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation  |
| Ing. Karel Vančura, CSc.               | Department of Development of Forest Management, Ministry of Agriculture  |
| Mgr. Libuše Vlasáková                  | ME CR  |
| Doc. Ing. Miloslav Janeček, DrSc.      | Director, Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation  |

| Name, title                        | Institution  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| JUDr. Magda Kunclová               | International Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs                            |
| Mgr. Jan Lipavský, CSc.            | Director, Research Institute of Crop Production  |
| Doc. Jiří Pall, CSc.               | Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno                                    |
| Ing. Richard Slabý                 | Head of the Department of External Affairs and Consulting, Forest Management Institute |
| Ing. Petr Zahradník, CSc.          | Director, Forestry and Game Management Research Institute                              |
| Ing. Josef Zavadil, CSc.           | Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation                              |
| RNDr. Jiří Šourek, RNDr. Jiří Šíma | Goemin Jihlava a.s., AQUATEST a.s.   |
| Ing. Jaromír Kubát, CSc.           | Research Institute of Crop Production  |

### 2.3.3. Strategic and legal framework for implementation of the Convention in the CR

The Government expressed its consent to accession to the Convention in Government Resolution No. 1166 of November 8, 1999. The Convention is promulgated in the Collection of International Agreements (No. 53/2002 Coll. *inter alia*.)

Practical implementation is related to projects implemented in countries affected by desertification in the framework of foreign developmental assistance and to protection of endangered soils in the Czech Republic, including research on soil protection.

Under the conditions in the Czech Republic, a number of laws and decrees concerning the conservation of soil, water and the landscape have recently entered into effect; in full accordance with the EU legislation (see the specialized report).

### 2.3.4. Availability of information on the Convention

Information on the Convention is available at the ME web site [www.env.cz](http://www.env.cz) under international conventions in environmental protection. A travelling exhibition on combating drought and soil degradation and assistance to affected countries from the Czech Republic was opened in January of 2006.

### 2.3.5. Results of SWOT analysis according to the specialized report

**The specialized report mentions the following strengths:**

#### Systemic capacities

- Membership of the CR in the EU stimulates and directs strategies and programmes
- The existing organizational structure for the Convention on Desertification (ME – focal point – group of persons interested in desertification)

- Active cooperation of the ME CR with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Long tradition of research in the area of soil, water and landscape protection
- Inter-sectoral cooperation in the fulfilment of international obligations following from the Convention in the CR
- Governmental policy supporting training and education of foreign students and specialists in the CR

### **Institutional capacities**

- Group of persons interested in desertification under the ME CR
- Adequate representation of the CR in the bodies of the Convention to Combat Desertification
- Functioning focal point for desertification
- Representation of the CR in the Group of Experts (GoE) under UNCCD
- Good study programmes for students from countries affected by drought.

### **Individual capacities**

- Professional and management potential for formulation of strategies and policies.
- Participation of NGOs in the process of combating desertification.
- Professional base for work on research projects related to the impact of drought on the environment.

## **The specialized report mentions the following reserves in the available capacities:**

### **Systemic capacities**

- Absence of a national programme of soil conservation based on the “European Strategy for Soil Protection”.
- Reserves in implementing a national strategy to combat desertification in the framework of FDA.
- Reserves in provision for the aspect of soil degradation (and desertification) in the National Research Programme for the 2007 – 2012 period.
- Reserves in awareness of the requirements of the target countries and regions.
- Reserves in use of mechanisms of international and national support for projects concerned with combating desertification.
- Absence of a Clearing-House Mechanism in both the Czech and English languages that would provide for collection and exchange of information on drought and desertification. (CHMCD)
- Absence of legislation on the reclaiming of areas damaged by human activity.
- Reserves in coordination in the exchange of experience and the results of on-going and completed projects.
- Reserves in cooperation with NGOs and other partners in preparation of foreign cooperation programmes.
- Reserves in updating of the needs (demands) of the target countries that would be available to entities that could be involved in foreign developmental assistance.
- Inadequate subregional cooperation between countries with similar problems related to soil and landscape degradation, both with the countries of the region of Central and Eastern Europe and with other European countries.

## **Institutional capacities**

- Reserves in intersectoral cooperation and communication.
- Sectoral emphasis in the use of state funds intended for FDA (and humanitarian aid).
- Reserves in coordination among educational, research and application activities.
- Reserves in public enlightenment. Lack of awareness of the scientific community and the public with respect to on-going FDA.
- Lack of awareness in the Czech grant agencies of the relationships between research on drought/desertification and the foreign developmental assistance programme.

## **Individual capacities**

- Low level of awareness amongst the general public of basic aspects of the Convention on Desertification and of the commitments of the Czech Republic as one of the Contracting Parties. The professional community is also not sufficiently well informed.
- Reserves in motivation of qualified professionals to meet the obligations of the UNCCD.
- Reserves in cooperation of Czech experts and students with the universities and research workplaces of target countries.

### **2.3.6. Recommendations for strengthening the capacity for implementation of the UNCCD**

#### **At a systemic level:**

- Create a Clearing House Mechanism to Combat Desertification - CHMCD in the CR that will allow exchange of information and data on drought and desertification, provide a survey of the needs (demands) of target countries, on-going projects, database of experts, etc. and link governmental agencies, the private sector, NGOs, focal points of other UN Conventions, representatives of the media, representatives of self-governing bodies, research and university workers and entities managing the landscape (farmers, water managers, foresters ...)
- Prepare a national programme of soil conservation based on the "European Strategy for Soil Protection".
- Improve subregional cooperation between countries with similar problems related to soil and landscape degradation, both with the countries of the region of Central and Eastern Europe and with other European countries that do not belong to this group.
- Establish a developmental agency for coordination of foreign developmental assistance of the CR, which would contribute to overcoming sectoral emphasis and to a transition to forms of foreign developmental assistance away from the current isolated projects towards more effective long-term programmes.
- Further involve NGOs in the preparation of programmes of foreign developmental assistance and take account of the already existing programmes of the EU Member States and the European Commission.

### **At an institutional level:**

- Incorporate the subject of drought and soil degradation in the national research programme for the 2007-2012 period.
- Improve the knowledge of scientific-research institutes of the principles of foreign developmental assistance, concentrating on countries experiencing drought and/or desertification and projects implemented by governmental and private entities and NGOs.
- More effectively and intensively utilize the potential of Czech universities for preparation of experts for countries experiencing drought and desertification.
- Improve the awareness of Czech grant agencies of the relations between research on drought/desertification and the foreign developmental assistance programme.

### **At an individual level:**

- Substantially increase awareness-raising with emphasis on the consequences of drought on a global and national scale.
- Inform the public, in the long term and specifically, of the problems faced by countries experiencing drought and/or desertification.
- Publish "SUCCESS STORIES", i.e. successful projects of Czech entities in affected countries.
- Support the participation of donors, as well as active involvement of the public, in selected reign developmental assistance projects.



This chapter is based on analysis of the specialized reports, conclusions of workshops and consultations with members of the specialized working groups and other professionals. It is concerned with the search for common capacity **inadequacies (reserves)** without diminishing the results achieved. However, identification of inadequacies creates a capacity for potentially better implementation of the Conventions and formulation of concluding recommendations, which are the main output of the entire project.

Two different approaches can be adopted in the search for potential synergy in implementation of the Conventions, emphasis on synergy in content (interconnections in the subjects of the Conventions) or on synergy consisting in adoption of a joint approach in their implementation. In the light of the urgent nature of aspects related to implementation, we have chosen the second of the potential means of analysis. However, priority emphasis on synergy consisting in implementation of a joint approach in implementation of the Conventions must be seen as a short-term to medium-term goal. Long-term priority emphasizing synergy in content, which should logically follow, will allow the CR to meet the individual commitments with lower costs and will thus have the smallest possible negative effects connected with fulfilling the Conventions, e.g. in the form of reducing competitiveness.

To date, environmental conventions have mostly been approached individually in practice, in education and in awareness, although the subject areas concerned are interconnected and affect one another. Temperature changes and fluctuations, the risk of natural catastrophes and also adaptation measures affect the state of biological diversity and also the condition and quality of soils. Consideration of climate change, loss of biological diversity, desertification and soil erosion in their mutual interrelationships permits a better understanding of the direct and indirect effects and better use of the available capacities (institutional, financial, professional and other) in resolving these problems.

**The following areas were picked out in the specialized reports, as potentially involving mutual overlap and synergy in the use of the available capacities for implementation of the Conventions:**

- Science, research and development; systematic monitoring of the environment
- Research, utilization and transfer of new, environmentally sound, technologies
- Collecting and processing of data from monitoring, evaluation of the environmental changes and reporting
- Mutual exchange and utilization of information databases and expertise
- Promulgation and provision of information
- Education and public awareness
- Implementation of policies and measures with a positive impact on the monitored environmental characteristics (especially at a local and regional level)

- Evaluation of the effects of policies and measures implemented in practice (adaptation measures and the risk of drought – soil erosion, impacts on biological diversity, agriculture, etc.)
- Utilization of domestic and foreign financing mechanisms
- International cooperation and links to international organizations
- Foreign Developmental Assistance by CR.

It follows from the completed analyses of the existing capacities in the specialized reports that the strategic and legislative framework for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Strategy for Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR) and of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the Czech Republic) is basically prepared. For the UN Convention on Desertification, the Czech Republic is not a country affected by desertification and, according to the definition given in Art. 1 of the Convention, is not obliged to prepare a national action programme. A joint approach in increasing general awareness of the Conventions and of activities, research and projects related to them can contribute to greater attention being devoted to the Convention on Desertification than has been true to date, not only in connection with foreign assistance projects, but also under domestic conditions, where soil degradation is not a negligible environmental problem (high cultivation of agricultural land (72%), high fraction of the land endangered by water erosion (42%), degradation of forest soils, 36% of the area of the land in the CR can be classified as “vulnerable”).

Although a basic legislative framework and organizational structure have been created for meeting the commitments of all three Conventions, practical implementation is frequently less successful. The existing policies, laws and strategies are not adequately enforced and there is a lack of consistent control and evaluation of their implementation. Incorporation of the individual obligations into specific policy or administrative decisions at a regional or local level is low. Causes can be found in inadequate capacities for creation of a consensus and uniform approach amongst the sectors, inadequate dissemination of the necessary information and of knowledge amongst the professional public and public administration, lack of education and awareness and low interconnection of science and research projects with the requirements following from the commitments of the Conventions and practice. Addressing these inadequacies at a systemic, institutional and individual level can employ a joint approach and the potential for synergic action for all three Conventions. The range of aspects discussed below is divided into the following areas:

- **coordination and management,**
- **communication and enlightenment,**
- **lack of professional capacities.**

### **3.1. Coordination and management,**

Coordination and management are mentioned in all three specialized reports as the main capacity inadequacies. The following can pose problems:

- intersectoral cooperation and coherence of sector policies,
- coordination within the sectors,
- the lack of systematic cooperation and coordination with “stakeholders” (science, research, public administration at a regional and local level, etc.),
- reserves can also be found in the intensity of participation of the CR in international activities.



Although coordination and management of implementation of the Convention are entrusted to the sectors, for the Convention on Biological Diversity the sectors of the ME and MA, for the Convention on Climate Change the sectors of the ME and MIT, and for desertification the ME, actual coordination of activities for the individual Conventions is performed by the **focal points**, and especially the focal points for the individual Conventions.

The activities of the focal points (rights, obligations and responsibilities of the individual sections of the ME) are described in ME Instruction No. 1/2004, on provision for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The focal points consist either in the relevant departments (Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) or the Department of Environmental Policy and Multilateral Agreements (Convention on Desertification). Their activity is concerned particularly with performance of tasks following from the meetings of the COP and of the relevant working groups, where the CR is represented, and provision for consultations within the sector and with other affected sectors. The focal points have neither the capacity nor the competence to provide for cooperation with all the stakeholders in implementation of the Convention in the CR (public administration, academic sphere, NGOs, private companies, etc.). There is also no authorization to keep a database of experts related to the content and commitments following from the Conventions. However, it should be pointed out that the range of competence specified in the internal ME instruction takes into account the present capacity of the focal points and is thus limited to activities necessary for fulfilling tasks following from the Conventions.

**Intersectoral commissions** provide for **intersectoral cooperation** for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Climate Change; these commissions were established on the basis of a Government resolution or instruction of the Minister of the Environment (for CBD). At the present time, they tend to be more of an advisory nature and are characterized by low motivation of their members. The cause for this could lie in their uncertain terms of reference and the voluntary nature of their participation. Closer examination of the statute of the commission reveals institutional inadequacies, consisting in unclear competence of their members, who represent their sectors without a clear mandate and responsibility. In addition, the purpose of the commissions, their activities and expected outputs are unclear. Thus, the commissions do not have the desirable working character, based on the ability to flexibly formulate the official standpoint of the sectors, e.g. in making comments on working documents. They tend to be advisory in nature, rather than being instruments of intersectoral management, i.e. contribute to unification of opinions, divide tasks amongst the sectors and control their fulfilment. In addition, they do not have sufficient political importance in relation to the degree to which they can actually affect matters. The low motivation of the members to participate actively in the work of the commissions then leads to a formal approach (meeting for the sake of meeting) without clear outputs. For the Convention on Desertification, only a "Group of persons interested in desertification" has been established, consisting of representatives of the academic and professional public and of the sectors, suffering from similar institutional inadequacies.

**Consequently, a change in the statute of the intersectoral commissions is proposed in the recommendations, so that the members are authorized by their sectors to state (pre-negotiate in the framework of their institution) the official standpoint of the relevant sector.**

Communication and coordination at the individual sectors, with the exception of the ME, is inadequate in relation to the Conventions and meeting their obligations. The representatives in the intersectoral commissions do not have the authorization of a sectoral focal point and, where the individual sectors express opinions on subjects and documents related to the Conventions in the framework of external commentary procedures, these are frequently communicated without the knowledge of the representatives of the sectors in the intersectoral commissions. Thus, the sense of the commissions is thrown into doubt.

Even in the sector of the ME, inadequacies are apparent in communication and in insufficient participation of all the potentially responsible departments in implementation of the Conventions. This is particularly related to cooperation with the departments that affect the external outputs of the Ministry or that mediate in contacts with “stakeholders”. For example, these include the Department of External Relations (DER), which provides for information and awareness events of the Ministry or the programme of Environmental education, enlightenment and public awareness – EEEA and the Department of Integrated Financing (DIF), which administers and established criteria at the Ministry for selection of projects financed from European Funds. While these departments have access to all the reports on outputs of the COP meetings, DER cooperates in promotion of the Conventions when the initiative comes from the focal point; nonetheless, this coordination can be improved (see the final recommendations). The regional departments of the Ministry located in the individual regions could also play a role. The role of the Czech Environmental Information Agency, CENIA, is unclear. Provision of information on the Convention to the regions, universities and professional institutions is not clearly defined.

A Scientific Advisory Council has been established for the Convention on Biological Diversity and, for the Convention on Desertification, the above-mentioned Group of persons interested in desertification. No such professional body has been established for the Convention on Climate Change. Nonetheless, the practical importance of these expert groups is limited and also follows from the limited capacities of the focal points and low motivation of their members.

**Participation of experts outside of the government sphere** in international projects and activities is at a very good level in the CR compared to other countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Nonetheless, it is necessary to further strengthen expert capacities outside of the governmental sphere and to motivate them towards more intensive participation in international projects and other activities. It is necessary to create an infrastructure and capacities for a more active approach of the Czech Republic in meeting the requirements of global conventions. To date, this fulfilment has been mostly formal and concentrated on the level of production of obligatory documents. **A more active position of the CR in an international context and more effective participation in working groups requires the utilization of more professional capacities from the academic, private or nongovernmental sphere to a greater degree than to date.**

Control of compliance with accepted obligations can be strengthened by greater participation of the professional and lay public in the preparation of national reports. To date, the national reports have been prepared without broader commentary procedures in the framework of the state administration and intersectoral commissions. Evaluation of fulfilment of obligations following from the Conventions proceeds formally without demands on initiation of the necessary changes and thus without specific tasks that would follow from the evaluation. Public participation in consultations is a tedious process and requires that the national reports be prepared further in advance on the basis of prepared annual plans (see the final recommendations).

From the standpoint of potential synergy in implementation of the “Conventions from Rio”, it is necessary to mention the **limited coordination between the focal points** for the individual Conventions. This is a consequence both of the small capacities of the focal points and also of the fact that they have so far concentrated on maintaining contacts and fulfilling tasks following from the conclusions of the Conferences of Parties and their working bodies, which are tasks specified for the individual Conventions. Personnel strengthening of the focal points and broadening of their activities will provide greater opportunities for a common approach and cooperation in the areas that are or could be common for these Conventions (e.g. enlightenment, research, evaluation of fulfilling of obligations and their benefits), which requires a greater level of coordination between the focal points and contact persons than at the present time.

## The main opportunities for strengthening capacities in the area of coordination and management are as follows:

### Systemic capacities

- Strengthening and better definition of intersectoral cooperation, establishment of clear responsibilities
- Strengthening communication within the affected sectors
- Strengthening expert capacities for participation of the CR in international activities
- Creation of capacities for control of compliance with the obligations of the Conventions

### Institutional capacities

- Strengthening the capacities of focal points to provide for the necessary cooperation and coordination
- Strengthening the importance of intersectoral commissions as instruments of management (and not only as advisory bodies)
- Establishment or strengthening of expert commissions

### Individual capacities

- Steps should be taken to remedy low motivation of experts outside of the state administration to participate in implementation of the Convention
- Remedy the lack of the necessary knowledge of the subject of the Conventions and specific obligations amongst the professional public, in the affected sectors, and in the public administration at the regional and local levels

## 3.2. Communication and enlightenment,

**Active support from the broadest possible public** constitutes a basic condition for successful enforcement of environmental protection. Consequently, an important requirement of the “Conventions from Rio” consists in education, enlightenment and increased public awareness and participation of all the stakeholders in their implementation. The specialized reports evaluating the capacity of the CR to meet these requirements all identified **inadequacies in the information flow** in the Conventions from the focal points and a narrow group of informed professionals (participants in international meetings and participating in the preparation of national reports) to the broader professional public in the academic sphere, public administration, NGOs, private companies, etc.

In addition, **communication strategy was not prepared for any of the Conventions**, to provide information on the obligations following from accession to the Conventions for the general public and to explain the environmental subjects to which the Conventions are related. A favourable step can be seen in the fact that the management of the ME has approved a proposal for a media campaign on aspects related to climate change. This campaign (so far) encompasses only part of the subject of protection of the climate system; nonetheless, it could be an inspiration for the preparation of communication strategy for the area of biological diversity and desertification. A travelling enlightenment exhibition was prepared for the Convention on Desertification for 2006 and can be an example of useful procedure. Nonetheless, in both cases, this is not a long-term systematic approach, but rather an individual event.

A substantial problem consists in the fact that **information on the Conventions is very difficult to find** and is sometimes completely lacking. For example, on the web site of the Ministry of the Environment, the procedure to be followed to find information on the Conventions is not completely clear and there is no information about on-going activities related to implementation of the Conventions, etc. For example, entering “climate change” in the search box of the Ministerial web site does not lead to any relevant information. In addition, the system of publishing information on the Ministerial web site is not flexible (publication of information can take up to 14 days), which prevents communication, e.g., in making comments on some documents, for which there is frequently very little time. The web site established for the Convention on Biological Diversity under the web site of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the CR is a step in the right direction, but it does not have an informative character and is not intended for a broader group of potential users.

From the standpoint of potential **synergy** between the Conventions, opportunities can be seen in creation of joint capacities for dissemination of the necessary information and knowledge and creation of a consensus and partnership between selected stakeholders, which partly overlap for all three Conventions (for example, educational institutions, the public administration at a regional and local level, persons preparing documents and EIA/SEA expert reports, evaluations, etc.).

## **Opportunities for improving communication and enlightenment capacities:**

### **Systemic capacities**

- Prepare a long-term “communication and enlightenment strategy” to increase the significance of the subject of biological diversity, protection of the climate and desertification, directed towards various target groups
- Establish a mechanism for consultations with the professional public, e.g. in the preparation of national reports
- Provide for greater availability of the relevant information in the Czech language (translations of professional studies)
- Establish a mechanism for exchange of information on projects in progress between the state administration, local governments, scientific workplaces, universities and NGOs

### **Institutional capacities**

- Interconnect the existing databases of information
- Make the system of publishing the necessary information on web sites more flexible
- Provide for funds and personnel capacity for the creation and transfer of the necessary information to the end users
- Provide for funds for dissemination of the necessary information

### **Individual capacities**

- Increase personal motivation, communication abilities and skills in the public administration at all levels.

### 3.3. Increasing professional capacities

Successful implementation of the Conventions in the CR also requires participation of the professional public and incorporation of obligations into specific decisions in practice.

Working teams **favourably evaluate the qualifications of the individual professionals, groups and scientific teams, but point out deficits in interconnection of professional capacities with the particular Convention** (consideration of the impact of the Conventions on a specific project remains in the background of the work) and the lack of professional methodologies, e.g., for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented measures. There is a lack of specialists and professionals in subject areas that are relatively new and are cross-cutting in nature (e.g. especially climate change and biodiversity) or constitute a new approach to dealing with the subject (ecosystem approach in the conception of CBD). Here, we also encounter the traditional separate studies in the area of the natural and social sciences.

A **lack of teaching capacities** has also been found in the sphere of education in the area of an ecosystem approach in dealing with particular policies and projects at a regional and local level, including the impacts on biodiversity, climate and soil protection (e.g. land-use planning, specific investment projects).

There is a lack of **interconnection** of the focal points of the Conventions at professional research workplaces with the potential to initiate research programmes following from international commitments and also employing synergy for all three Conventions.

It follows from the results of the specialized reports that it is necessary to better **coordinate and interconnect the information systems** and to consult the needs of all three Conventions in their further development. Inadequacies also exist in monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of individual measures in practice.

#### Division of the main inadequacies in professional capacities:

- Specialists in science and research
- Professionals for applications
- Training professional capacities

#### 3.3.1. Specialists in science and research

A number of top scientists work at universities, in the Academy of Sciences of the CR and other institutions in the CR; nonetheless, it is not always possible to utilize the results of their work in implementing the individual Conventions. This is to a considerable degree the result of inadequacies in communication and coordination in work on the individual projects and insufficient awareness of the Conventions and their obligations. As was mentioned above, there is also a lack of education and study programmes at technical institutes and universities, which would react to newly emerging subject areas and approaches and prepare professionals required for implementation of the Conventions.

Simultaneously, it follows from the government-approved priorities for the area of science and research that the priorities to which the state intended to devote a quarter of the funds for research and development from public funds also include ecology, biology, energy production, new materials, the machine industry and information systems. All these priorities also have relevant consequences for implementation of the individual Conventions.

### 3.3.2. Professionals for applications

**In this area, it is necessary to divide the professional public into three areas:**

- Public administration and local governments
- Professionals in practice (representatives of industry, assessors and authorized persons – project planners, EIA/SEA, on the atmosphere, etc.)
- Representatives of NGOs and the general public

#### **Public administration and local governments**

Professionals who work in the area of the state administration and local governments do not have a sufficient amount of information on the individual Conventions. Knowledge of the Convention tends to be connected with professional interest on the part of the individual officials rather than attempts to provide information on the Conventions to the regions and municipalities. ME does not provide an adequate consulting service (requested and not requested) for other elements of the state administration. The conception of education of the public administration is not comprehensive.

#### **Professionals in practice**

Information on the Conventions is frequently poorly accessible (or stored in a confusing manner), similar to the results of projects and grants concerned with dealing with specific aspects following from the Conventions. There are no specialized servers for the individual Conventions.

The group of professional workers that is competent and responsible for implementing the Conventions at a national level (the focal points) is not sufficiently stable (inadequate personnel). No provision is made for continuity of implemented and submitted work when the individual professionals leave the ME.

There are also inadequacies in the area of methodology from the standpoint of assessors (e.g. persons preparing expert reports) for plans and conceptions. Authorization (EIA, air, professionally qualified persons, ...) does not include examination of knowledge of the Conventions. There is considerable disproportion amongst the individual professionals, who have very different knowledge of the individual Conventions and their impacts. Here, again, it depends on the professional interest of the individual persons.

#### **Representatives of NGOs and the general public**

The representatives of specialized NGOs and the public encounter the problems mentioned above. This is especially true of the lack of a unified web site dealing with the Conventions. It is also difficult to gain access to the results of projects prepared using public funds (or the information is stored in a confusing manner) and there is also no up-to-date list of experts concerned with this subject area. Simultaneously, the transfer of relevant and objective information was mentioned above as one of the potential opportunities. A survey of the Conventions and their implementation could provide this information to the general public. Participation of the public and NGOs is substantially dependent on the knowledge that this group has of the individual obligations following from the Conventions.

### 3.3.3. Training professional capacities

**Training capacities can also be divided into several groups for the area of analysis and evaluation of capacities for the individual Conventions:**

- Technical institutes and universities
- Professional public and the state administration
- The general public

#### **Technical institutes and universities**

Information on the individual Conventions and environmental impacts should, in general, appear in the study programmes, not only of specialists in the natural sciences, but also other specializations (technology, economy, humanities). This could lead to later better understanding and communication in dealing with specific projects in practice.

The specific area of education of foreign students is connected particularly with the aspect of desertification. It has been found useful to keep a database of foreign students and contacts for them from the standpoint of future cooperation on international projects (students from countries afflicted by drought could participate in projects together with Czech professionals).

#### **Professional public and the state administration**

There is a lack of educational programmes concerned with application of the Conventions for the professional public and the state administration. The methodical instructions for EIA lack a part concerned specifically with implementation of the Conventions for a particular project. The state administration and local governments lack methodical direction and training programmes in this area.

#### **The general public**

The subject of the Conventions is not sufficiently well known to the general public. There is a lack of projects and programmes for dissemination of awareness of the contents of the individual Conventions and of their impacts for the Czech Republic.

### 3.3.4. Principal opportunities for strengthening capacities for improving the professional base

#### **Systemic**

- Provide for contacts to universities and initiate the necessary educational programmes and scientific projects
- Improve data management, improve the interconnection of information systems
- Continuously educate professionals for applications
- Improve monitoring and evaluate the effectiveness of the individual measures

## **Institutional**

- Provide an institutional basis for coordination of professional education
- Prepare uniform monitoring methodology.

## **Individual**

- Increase the awareness of the professional and lay public of topical subjects and activities related to the Conventions and, in this connection, their participation in implementation of the Conventions.



## 4 Conclusions and recommendations

The specialized reports summarized in detail the current national capacities for implementation of the three Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa) and proposed recommendations for strengthening capacities for the individual Conventions at the systemic, institutional and individual levels. A survey is given in Chapter 2 of this report.

The cross-cutting report is concerned with analysis of common inadequacies and requirements that offer a joint approach and the potential for positive synergy for all three Conventions (see Chapter 3). Special attention was paid to coordination and management of implementation of the individual Conventions, for the following reasons:

- Although each of the Conventions has its own basic strategy and legislative framework and institutional base for implementation, coordination and management appeared in the specialized reports amongst the most important capacity inadequacies, caused by the broad range of groups that could be incorporated into implementation (intersectoral cooperation, participation of all the levels of the state administration, science, research, the professional public).
- Implementation of the individual Conventions has so far progressed separately and, if synergy and support is to be found for their joint action, it is necessary to establish a mechanism for their joint management, based on detailed analysis of current conditions.

The concept **implementation** is employed here in the sense proposed in the UNDP methodology. In addition to formulation policies, laws, strategies and programmes and their enforcement, attention is also devoted here to mobilization of all the available resources, creation of a consensus and partnership amongst stakeholders, dissemination of the necessary information and knowledge and introduction of monitoring and evaluation as back-feed for management. The latter two areas are seen as having the greatest potential for improvement and a joint approach for all the monitored Conventions.

The **following Table 3** gives a survey of current capacities for implementation of the individual Conventions, prepared on the basis of the results of the specialized reports. Explication of the term “implementation” is proposed according to the UNDP methodology. The term “capacity” means the existence of

- a system (of policies, legislation and other framework preconditions),
- institutions (with specified tasks, powers and responsibilities),
- specific resources (professionals, finances and technical facilities) that, as a whole, permit work with the purpose of fulfilling certain tasks (and not individual outputs of the “exhibition” type).

The results confirm that **reserves** exist for all the three Conventions in

- education and public awareness
- cooperation and communication amongst the stakeholders and
- professional capacities (or their management) for research, monitoring and for decision-making by the public administration.

Consequently, the cross-cutting working group concentrated on detailed analysis and formulation of recommendations in three areas with potential synergic action for all the Conventions: coordination and management (including participation by stakeholders), education and awareness and strengthening of professional capacities.

Table 3: Survey of current capacities for implementation of the “Conventions from Rio” according to the results of the specialized reports and expert assessments

|  | Convention on Biological Diversity | Convention on Climate Change | Convention on Desertification | Potential for a joint approach |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Preparation and formulation of policies, laws and strategies | • • •                              | • • •                        | • •                           | •                              |
| Implementation of policies, laws and strategies .            | • •                                | • •                          | •                             | • •                            |
| Creation of a consensus and partnership                      | •                                  | •                            | •                             | • • •                          |
| Dissemination of the necessary information and               | •                                  | •                            | •                             | • • •                          |
| Introduction of monitoring and evaluationí                   | •                                  | •                            | •                             | • • •                          |

• - the more, the better

## 4.1. Coordination and management

### 4.1.1. Basic facts

#### The availability of capacities for managing implementation of the Conventions

Tables 4-6 give a survey of the capacities available for managing implementation of the individual Conventions. They document the significant intersectoral character of the Conventions, which leads to the greatest difficulties in managing their implementation. The intersectoral commission of the Czech Committee for the CBD or the Group of persons interested in desertification should provide for intersectoral cooperation. However, these commissions have a relatively small effect on decision-making. The first part of the final recommendations emphasizes overcoming sector-specific action.

## Availability of capacities for coordination amongst the Conventions

At the present time, coordination amongst the Conventions occurs at the level of the Department of Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations, the Department of International Biodiversity Protection and the Department of Climate Change. In the framework of the analysis, areas were selected where coordination would be useful, as this is currently inadequate. These are education and enlightenment, dissemination of information and communication with stakeholders (universities, the public administration at the regional and local levels, EIA/SEA assessors), sharing of experts, developmental projects.

The focal points play a key role in providing for implementation of the Conventions and their mutual coordination. However, their current capacities are sufficient “only” to provide for coordination of activities following from the meetings of the COP and their working groups and their essential activities; consequently, we propose that their capacities be strengthened.

Table 4: Survey of capacities for management of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

|  | Authorized<br>or represented<br>institution | Description<br>of activities  |
|--|---|---|
| Government Resolution No. 293 of June 3, 1993  | ME, MA                                      | Division of competence for implementation of the Convention, without detailed specification of responsibility   |
| Government Resolution No. 620/2005 on the Strategy of Protection of Biological Diversity in the CR | ME, MA                                      | By 2008, jointly create action plans, a system of implementation indicators evaluating the progress in implementing the targets of the Strategy and a timetable for evaluation of achieving of the targets of the Strategy, provision for a permanent information campaign and presentation of the importance of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, updating of the Strategy after 10 years of its legal force and submission of an evaluation of the Strategy and implementation of its targets by December 31, 2015. Without detailed specification. |
|  | MT, ME, MA, MFA, MRD, MIT, MI, MEYS         | Take into account the targets of the Strategy in programme and sectoral documents, policies, strategies, conceptions and in legal regulations.  |

|  | <b>Authorized<br/>or represented<br/>institution</b>  | <b>Description<br/>of activities</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| Czech Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity | The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Environment – Director of the Section of Protection of Nature and the Landscape, members consist of representatives of the environmental sector (Departments of International Protection of Biodiversity, Environmental Risks, Environmental Policy and multilateral Relations), and also MA, MFA, MI, MT, MF, MEYS, MIT, MH, MRD. Members consist of representatives of the Botanical Institute of the AS CR, the Society for Sustainable Development and CUNC. | The purpose consists in coordination of the procedure of the individual sectors, responsibilities (rights and obligations) of the individual sectors and members are not specified in the statute of the Committee. The Minister of the Environment names the members. Membership in the Committee is terminated by withdrawal of a member of the committee and delivery of a deed of removal from office of the minister of the Environment or death of a member. Membership in the Committee is voluntary and honorary. |
| Focal points   | ME (Department of International Protection of Biodiversity)   | ME Instruction No. 1/2004   |
| Scientific Advisory Committee                              | Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection, Botanical Institute and other institutes of the AS CR, Research Institute of Crop Production, Fish Breeding and Hydrobiology Research Institute of the South-Bohemian University, Faculty of Science of Charles University, Forestry Faculty of the Czech Agricultural University, Prague, etc.  | Professional consultations  |
| Clearing House Mechanism                                   | ANCLP CR, the CHM “editorial board”   |   |

Table 5: Survey of capacities for management of implementation of the Convention on Climate Change

|  | <b>Authorized<br/>or represented<br/>institution</b> | <b>Description<br/>of activities (tasks)</b> |
|--|--|--|
| Government Resolution No. 323/1993, adoption of the Convention     | ME, MIT  | Provision for fulfilment of the Convention   |
| Government Resolution No. 669/1998, adoption of the Kyoto Protocol | ME, MFA, MIT, MA, MT, MF                             | Provide for implementation of the Protocol   |

|   | Authorized<br>or represented<br>institution   | Description<br>of activities (tasks)  |
|---|---|---|
| Government Resolution No. 480/1999, adoption of the Strategy of Protection of the Climate System in the CR  | Ministry of the Environment<br>Climate Change Department<br>Air Protection Department<br>Public Support Department<br>Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations Department.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organizational background for implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol,</li> <li>- coordination of activities of the Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change in the sense of Resolution of the Government of the CR No. 669/1998,</li> <li>- regular monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and the related coordination of activities</li> <li>- all in accordance with the valid methodologies and in accordance with the procedures of the European Union;- updating of forecasting of emission trends,</li> <li>- coordination of scientific and research tasks related to monitoring of risks of climate change and its impact in the territory of the CR and preparation of suitable adaptation measures</li> </ul> |
| Government Resolution No. 187/2004, adoption of the National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the CR  | ME, MIT, MT, MA, MRD, MEYS, MH, MF<br><br>ME, Intersectoral Commission<br><br>ME  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- include key aspects in the activities of the sectors</li> <li>- within 1 year, submit information on implemented and prepared measures</li> <li>- within two years, provide for evaluation and propose any up-dating</li> <li>- authorization to represent the CR in implementation of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol</li> </ul>  |
| Government Resolution No. 395/2005, on Information on implemented and prepared measures from the standpoint of the National Programme to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in the CR | ME, MIT, MT, MA, MRD, MEYS, MH, MF<br><br>ME, MIT, MT, MA, MRD, MEYS, MH, MF, Intersectoral Commission<br><br>ME, MIT, MT, MA, MRD, MEYS, MH, MF  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cancels subpar. II/2 of Government Resolution No. 187/2004</li> <li>- within two years of legal force of the National Programme, prepare information on progress in introducing measures</li> <li>- within four years, perform preliminary evaluation and propose any up-dating</li> </ul>   |
| Focal points  | Climate Change Department ME  |   |
| Intersectoral Commission on Climate Change established in 1998  | Members include representatives of the ME, MFA, MIT, MA, MT, MEYS, MF, MRD and also the Parliament of the CR, Senate of the Parliament of the CR, State Health Institute, CHMI and Centre for Transport and Energy. | Advisory body of the Minister of the Environment  |

|                                    | Authorized or represented institution   | Description of activities (tasks)                |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| ME working group on climate change | ME (Departments of Climate Change, Developmental and Project Cooperation, Environmental policy and Multilateral Relations, Air Protection, Public Support)<br>CHMI<br>SEF<br>CEI<br>CENIA, (the Czech Environmental Information Agency CEA) | Advisory body of the Minister of the Environment |

Table 6: Survey of capacities for management of implementation of the Convention on Desertification

|  | Authorized or represented institution  | Description of activities (tasks)   |
|--|--|---|
| Resolution No. 1166 of November 8, 1999        | MF, ME, MFA, MA, MEYS  | Adoption of the Convention and delegation of sectors for its implementation |
| Focal points                                   | Environmental Policy and Multilateral Relations Department of the ME   | ME Instruction No. 1/2004   |
| Group of persons interested in desertification | MA, Departments of Water Management and Development of Forest Management<br>International Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>Research Institute of Ameliorations and Soil Conservation<br>Research Institute of Crop Production<br>State Forests of the CR<br>Czech Nature Conservation Society<br>Palacký University<br>Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, etc. | Consultations and exchange of information                                   |

#### 4.1.2. Recommendations for strengthening managerial capacities

##### 1. Strengthen the personnel capacity of the focal points and extend their activities to include coordination and creation of a consensus amongst stakeholders

###### The activities of the focal points should include:

- keeping a database of experts and of on-going projects in the CR and abroad in the framework of foreign developmental assistance
- provision of information on a web site created for this purpose

- coordination of the activities of the Intersectoral Commission, including preparation and mutual consultation of annual plans amongst all three Conventions
- provision for consultations with the public on prepared national reports and other documents (the scientific community, public administration at a regional and local level, NGOs, etc.).

## 2. Improve intersectoral cooperation by strengthening

### a) the flexibility of the intersectoral commissions

### b) discussion of basic documents at the Government Council for Sustainable Development

One of the ways of strengthening intersectoral coordination consists in establishment of special working groups in super-sectoral bodies, such as the **Government Council for Sustainable Development**. The Government Council for Sustainable Development acts to coordinate activities for implementation of sustainable development in the CR and contains representatives of all the sectors. However, transfer of coordination and managerial activities to a super-sectoral level could simultaneously mean weakening of the focal points, which are currently the main driving force for implementation of the Conventions. Consequently, we propose that inter-sectoral cooperation could be improved by improvement of the effectiveness of the intersectoral commissions and introduction of a political debate on basic documents related to the Conventions at the Government Council for Sustainable Development with the potential for formulation of tasks for the individual sectors.

The **intersectoral commissions** are managed on the basis of a Government Resolution or instruction of the Minister of the Environment as an advisory body of the Minister of the Environment for implementation of the particular Convention and the Minister of the Environment names its members on the basis of recommendations of members of the commission/council. However, the competence of the members of the commission is not defined anywhere. The recommendations of the members are advisory in nature and do not represent the official standpoints of their sectors. To increase the seriousness and influence of the commission, **it is necessary that its members be confirmed by their sectors (Ministers) as sectoral focal points for the individual Conventions with a mandate to mediate the official standpoint of the sector**. For this reason, we propose:

- Preparation of a Government Resolution to authorize the Ministers to name and delegate capacities in their sectors for the sectoral focal points for the individual Conventions, with competence to express the official standpoint of the sector in the intersectoral commission.
- Revision of the statutes and rules of procedure of the intersectoral commissions, where the naming and competence of the members of the commission will be defined and rules will be laid down for replacement of members if they leave the sector or change their working position.
- Include, in the regular activities of the intersectoral commission, the preparation and discussion of a plan of activities for the following year (official negotiations and participation of the CR, projects, enlightenment events, etc.), which will be discussed in the relevant sectors. A plan of events will be discussed with the other focal points of the "Rio Conventions", by the public relations department, integrated financing department, etc. and will be published on the web site.
- Review the statute of the Group of persons interested in desertification and expand its activities to include coordination in the area of education, enlightenment and information sharing with the other Conventions. Consider the establishment of an intersectoral working group and thus establish a sectoral contact point for the Convention on Desertification.
- Introduce the practice of discussing the national reports on implementation of the Conventions in the CR at the Government Council for Sustainable Development with adoption of recommendations

for the individual sectors The Government Council for Sustainable Development is a suitable body for control of implementation of the Conventions and can assign tasks to the individual sectors and prepare draft resolutions for the Government.

### **3. Improve communication in the framework of the sector of the ME between the focal points and the Public Relations Department, Integrated Financing Department, in contracting for R&D projects, etc.**

**Communication solely in the framework of an internal commentary process is inadequate and thus we recommend:**

- Introduction of a system of annual meetings of all the affected departments to discuss the annual plans for all three Conventions.

### **4. Encourage greater interest amongst the professional public in participation of the CR in international activities (projects, etc.)**

Participation of the CR in international activities is limited by the available professional capacities. It is in the interests of the CR to expand the range of persons participating in professional activities at various levels and to utilize all the opportunities available for strengthening capacities for implementation of the Conventions. However, it is necessary to resolve the aspect of financing of these experts at the given expert groups. It is necessary to decide whether the parent organization will pay the costs, although it frequently does not have funds for such activities, or whether they will be paid by a particular Ministry. Another aspect consists in the necessity for feed-back and communication between experts and the focal points. A basic step consists in improving the awareness of the Czech professional public of the possibility of participation in international projects, professional working groups, etc., which should be resolved by the communication strategy (see below). There is also a lack of prepared strategy for the individual Conventions for participation of the CR in selected working groups, professional discussions and projects according to the priorities and needs of the Czech Republic. In this connection, we recommend:

- On the basis of discussion with the affected sectors and professional public, establish which subjects areas will have priority for the CR in the framework of the individual Conventions and in which working bodies it will have representatives.

## **4.2. Participation of stakeholders and enlightenment**

### **4.2.1. Basic facts**

All three Conventions are characterized by the need for greater awareness and for obtaining the support and motivation of the professional and lay public to implement the obligations of the Conventions. Failure to name the stakeholders, i.e. those who could participate through their activities in implementation of obligations following from the Convention, prevents work with these groups. From the standpoint of potential synergy, we assume that there will be an overlap of the target groups to be addressed, regularly informed



and educated in subjects related to the Conventions. These consist, e.g., in representatives at a regional and local level, the academic community and educational institutions (which can further disseminate information and knowledge). There is a lack of a suitable communication instrument for this professional public, i.e. a mechanism through which they could learn about subjects and activities related to the Conventions. The web site of the Ministry of the Environment has only the texts of the Conventions, which are difficult to find and the mechanism of publishing texts on the web sites of the Ministry is inflexible.

Only the Convention on Biological Diversity has its own web site (Clearing-House Mechanism) [www.chm.nature.cz](http://www.chm.nature.cz) operated by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the CR. It provides information on the Convention, projects that are related to it, etc. Currently, these sites have English navigation and a predominance of English texts but will soon be updated (during 2006). However, locating the site outside of the official web site of the Ministry has been found preferable.

## **4.2.2. Recommendations**

### **1. Establish a web site for multilateral environmental Conventions**

Establishment of a web site should be part of the broader communication strategy of the Ministry in relation to the Conventions, based on targeted information for stakeholders. In addition to the contact sites responsible for substantive aspects, and keeping a database of experts and stakeholders, CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency (technical provision for the web site) and the Department of External Relations (enlightenment events, dissemination of information) could also participate in this communication strategy, for the necessary cooperation with the individual focal points.

We propose that a web site be established for the "Rio Conventions" that, in addition to information on the negotiation process and obligations, would also play the role of enlightenment and provision of information on subjects related to the Conventions, new knowledge, on-going projects and their evaluation, and available financial resources. It would publish records of the intersectoral commissions, submit documents for comments, etc. Operation of a web site with these goals is demanding and requires strengthening of personnel capacities and financing in this area. However, there is potential for synergy in performing some tasks jointly for all three Conventions (common graphics, common site editor), where the focal point for the individual Conventions would remain responsible for the contents of the site.

General information on the subject of the "Rio Conventions" could be on one page with separate sections for the individual Conventions or existing sites for the individual Conventions (for the Convention on Biological Diversity).

#### **In relation to the requirements of potential users, the web site should contain:**

- The relevant documents and basic information in the Czech language
- A survey of completed and on-going projects in the CR and abroad, including their outputs (research, developmental, ...)
- A survey of available financial sources
- A database of experts for the individual Conventions (professional workplaces, companies, individuals)
- A list of experts participating in international negotiations
- Reports on the activities of the intersectoral commissions and expert consulting groups
- Information on the needs for and benefits from implementation of the Conventions
- Identification of stakeholders at all levels of management

## 2. Preparation of long-term communication strategy

Communication strategy should be concentrated primarily on **targeted promotion of the web site** between stakeholders in the framework of the public administration, the academic community, NGOs and the business sphere. The stakeholders should be defined for the individual Conventions – individuals and institutions concerned with the subjects of biodiversity, climate change or desertification in the CR.

### **The communication strategy has the following targets:**

- Provision for promotion of the web site in the press, through information brochures, targeted addressing of selected groups (academic and professional workplaces)
- Targeting informing of state institutions, NGOs, research workplaces, universities and other institutions about on-going international activities (foreign developmental assistance, the results of international meetings – COP, ...)
- Provision for the flow of professional information to the relevant stakeholders (Regional Authorities, research workers, industry)
- Actively disseminate information on current aspects of the Conventions in the media, obtain the support of the public

**Implementation of the communication strategy is beyond the current capacities of the focal points. However, a joint approach can be adopted for all three Conventions with participation of other departments (Public Relations Department) and other entities. For this purpose, it will be necessary to strengthen financial capacities to provide for communication strategy in connection with the Conventions.**

## 4.3. Strengthening professional capacities

### 4.3.1. Basic facts

There is low participation of the scientific community and the professional public in implementation of the Conventions. There is a lack of information on the Conventions and on-going projects, which can be partly resolved through the communication strategy (see above). It also follows from the specialized reports that education and training of new professionals – specialists, who would be prepared to contribute to implementation of the Conventions in research and practice, lags behind requirements. Professional advisory bodies are active at the focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity (Scientific Advisory Council) and for the Convention on Desertification (Group of persons interested in desertification). No such professional body has been established for the Convention on Climate Change. However, reserves exist in the work of the professional advisory bodies, which tend to work at random without clearly formulated terms of reference and their members are in no way motivated to participate in their activities.

#### 4.3.2. Recommendations

### 1. Strengthen or establish scientific advisory bodies for the individual Conventions

**It is recommended that scientific advisory bodies for the individual Conventions be strengthened or established. For this purpose, it is necessary to:**

- Review or prepare their statute, including description of their activities and responsibilities and the rights of their members.
- To review their compositions so that they include representatives of the Ministries (ME, MEYS), the sectoral information centre CENIA, the academic communities and universities, research institutes and professional agencies, NGOs and professionals from practice.
- Provide information on the web site on the activities of these consulting bodies and their professional or enlightenment events.
- Provide for financial resources for their activities.

**The activities of these bodies should be concentrated on:**

- Provision of professional expertise for the official standpoint of the CR at international meetings and in preparation of situation reports on implementation of the Conventions.
- Analysis of the requirements in science and research (including, e.g. interconnection of data systems).
- Coordination of professional debates (through seminars or scientific conferences) cutting across scientific fields on the subjects of the Conventions.

### 2. Better use of the available financial resources for implementation of the Conventions

The Ministry of the Environment administers several financial programmes, within which it prepares or selects projects and divides up funds for their financing. These include, e.g., educational and enlightenment activities supported from EU funds or EEA financial mechanisms, developmental assistance projects and subsidy programmes for civic associations. These financial resources can consistently contribute to strengthening capacities for implementation of the Conventions.

**We recommend:**

- Ensuring that, in the preparation of tender procedures at the ME, the supported subjects and selection criteria be discussed with the focal points for the “Rio Conventions”
- Evaluation of the degree to which projects supported by the Ministry contribute to implementation of the Conventions or strengthening of capacities for their implementation (e.g. education)

### 3. Strengthen professional capacities at a national, regional and local level

Successful implementation of the Conventions depends to a considerable degree on how well it is possible to reflect this country's obligations in specific decisions with practical consequences. These consist, e.g.

in decisions on land-use planning, programmes of local development, etc. Consequently, it is necessary to regularly support an increase in professional capacities in the public administration at a regional and local level and provide for professional knowledge in relation to the Conventions for SEA/EIA assessors.

**We recommend:**

- Provision for methodical leadership for implementation of the Conventions for the public administration at the regional and local levels (through training or distribution of methodical instructions)
- Strengthening of professional capacities at a national level in the framework of the competent departments for implementation of the Conventions.
- Provision for revision of the methodical instruction for EIA assessors, taking into account the requirements of the individual Conventions and their training.
- Inclusion of knowledge of the obligations of the individual Conventions and their interconnections in examinations for obtaining SEA/EIA authorization (amendment to ME Decree No. 457/2001 Coll.).

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