

**FOURTH UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS  
FOR THE JOINTLY HELD CONFERENCES OF PARTIES  
(COP 5 OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION & COP 8 OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION)  
5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

We are now pleased to announce that the host, the Republic of South Africa, has formally communicated to all Heads of Delegation that the new dates for the COP 5 of the Nairobi Convention and the COP 8 of the Abidjan Convention will be 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007, in Cape Town.

In the third update, circulated on 9<sup>th</sup> August, it was explained that the Ministerial segment of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September; therefore the joint Secretariat, in consultation with the Republic of South Africa, has agreed to convene the COP 5 and the COP 8 on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Any inconvenience caused by the change of dates is highly regretted.

The meeting documents, including the agendas, as well as information documents, are now posted on the recently completed web sites: [www.unep.org/NairobiConvention](http://www.unep.org/NairobiConvention) and [www.unep.org/AbidjanConvention](http://www.unep.org/AbidjanConvention). We invite you to visit these sites, preview the documents, in particular the Work Programmes and proposed protocols on land based activities and sources of pollution, and provide us feedback. Since the Work Programmes are collaborative endeavours, we want the formation of these documents to be interactive.

Some of the working documents have already been submitted to the Technical Steering Committees of both Conventions, and we are awaiting the input of these Committees, as well as the contributions of the National Focal Points. The remaining working documents are being finalised and should be available over the next couple of weeks. Translations are also currently underway and will be posted on the web sites as they become available.

The Conferences of Parties will be organized in four segments: parallel Stakeholder workshops for each Convention on 5<sup>th</sup> November; Experts' meetings on 6<sup>th</sup>; Heads of Delegation meetings for each Convention on 7<sup>th</sup>; and a joint meeting of the Heads of Delegations for both the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions and NEPAD on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

The Conferences will be preceded by the steering committee meeting for the project addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB project) on 5<sup>th</sup> November. In addition, there will be side events, as well as the launching of the "Consortium for Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in the Western Indian Ocean" (an NGO-led forum for the Western Indian Ocean).