

**THIRD UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS
FOR THE JOINTLY HELD CONFERENCES OF PARTIES
(COP5 OF THE NAIROBI CONVENTION & COP8 OF THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION)
SOUTH AFRICA**

It has come to the attention of the Joint Secretariat for the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions that the Ministerial segment of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will take place on the 12th and 13th September in Madrid. Consequently, there is a conflict of dates between the Ministerial segment of the COP 8 of the UNCCD and the jointly held COPs for the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions. Some countries have already indicated that their ministers will not be able to attend the jointly held COPs, because they will be attending the UNCCD meeting instead.

In light of this development, the Secretariat and the host (the Republic of South Africa) wishes to advise the contracting parties that the jointly held COP5 and COP8 of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions will be convened at a later date, but before the end of 2007. We shall confirm the new dates once there is a formal decision from South Africa, and shall inform you immediately.

We deeply regret any inconveniences that will be caused by this change of dates.

Meanwhile, we invite you to review the COP-related documents now posted on the new web site: <http://www.unep.org/nairobiconvention/>. We look forward to receiving your input. Currently, documents for both COP5 and COP8 are on this site, but we are currently working on setting up a separate site dedicated to the Abidjan Convention (www.unep.org/AbidjanConvention), and this site should be accessible in the very near future.