

PRESS KIT

**Fourth Special Session of the Committee on Science and
Technology/UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference 2015
9 -12 March 2015, Cancun, Mexico**

Media Services & Events



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Land productivity is falling as ground water systems in many parts of the world dry out due to receding glaciers, soil erosion, land degradation, drought and other climate related changes.

The **UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference** will focus on how to anticipate the impact of climate change and land degradation in order to promote the adaptive methods of ecosystems to, at once, reduce poverty and environmental degradation and achieve sustainable development.

During the conference, scientists will make presentations on the latest knowledge in the following three broad areas:

- understanding the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of ecosystems to climate change, including identifying new areas that are susceptible
- knowledge, practices and technologies gained for adaptation and how to improve their adoption
- the means to monitor and assess the effectiveness of these knowledge, practices and technologies in order to scale them up.

The summaries of the abstract papers to be presented at the conference will be posted online ahead of the conference. Policy recommendations will be prepared by May 2015 for presentation to the UNCCD COP12 to be held in October 2015.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Venue

Cancun Center Conventions & Exhibitions
Boulevard Kukulcan Km 9
Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún
Quintana Roo, Mexico
Tel: +52 998 881 0400
Fax: +52 998 881 0402
Email: info@cancuncenter.com
Website: <http://www.cancuncenter.com>

Media Accreditation

To cover the proceedings, journalists must be accredited through their media organizations. The following documentation is needed for the accreditation of a journalist:

- A letter from the bureau chief introducing the journalist(s)
- For foreigner journalists, a passport and for local journalists, a passport or other state issued identification card with a photograph
- One passport size color photograph (about 2cmx2cm)
- A **valid** press card
- A filled out request form for the accreditation of the journalist. The request for accreditation form can be downloaded [here](#).

A bureau chief may issue one letter for all the journalists from his/her organization attending these events. However, the names of those listed must match the photo-identity card or passport that the journalist will present. Also, the original letter from the bureau chief must be with the secretariat before any badge or registration of the journalists begins.

Media accreditation and registration can be obtained onsite during the four days, upon presentation of the documentation listed above. Passport photographs will be taken on site. On-site registration and accreditation will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please sign, scan and send your application form to: **press@unccd.int**.

For additional logistical information applicable to all Conference participants, refer to the Information for Participants available on the UNCCD website, document ICCD/CST(S-4)/INF.1. The advance copy, in English, can be downloaded from the following link. Other UN language versions will be made available [on this page](#) at least six weeks before the opening of the session:

Press Centre

The press working area located on the Ground Floor of the Cancun Center Conventions & Exhibitions is designated for use by accredited media. It has network ports.

Press Releases

Daily news bulletin featuring all press releases will be sent out to registered media. If you are covering the event remotely and wish to be on the list, please contact press@unccd.int and copy aleacock@unccd.int. Press releases will also be posted [here](#) on the UNCCD page and [here](#) on the Consortium page.

Press Conferences

The pre-planned press conferences and media events are listed in this press kit. Press conferences are expected to take place in MET-07. During the conference, the exact times and venues of the press conferences will be confirmed in the Official Journal issued every morning and downloadable from the UNCCD website. Two press conferences are prescheduled for:

Monday, 9 March 2015

Time: 12:30-13:00 hrs

Venue: MET-07 (re-confirm from the Official Journal of the day)

Title: Opening of the fourth Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-4) and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Briefing on the outcomes expected outcomes.

Thursday, 12 March 2015

Time: 14:00-14:30 hrs

Venue: MET-07 (re-confirm from the Official Journal of the day)

Title: Closing of CST S-4 and UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference.

Objectives: Report the outcomes of CST S-4/3rd Scientific Conference.

Press Briefings

Press briefings will be arranged based on need, generally between 08:30-09:45 am or during the lunch break at 13:15-14:45pm. Information will be circulated in advance at the press working area and via the Official Journal.

Internet and Computers

Free wifi is available throughout the conference venue. A number of computer work stations are available in the conference center as well as cable internet connections for laptops.

CST S-4 Documents

Provisional agenda: The advance copy of the agenda of CST S-4 and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/1 can be downloaded from the UNCCD website. The annex shows the times when each session will be running. The advance copy is only in English only. Other UN language versions will be made available [on this page](#) -at least six weeks before the opening of the session:

Committee's Reports: The reports of the Committee contained in document ICCD/CST(S-4)/2 will be made available in all six UN languages [on this page](#) at least six weeks before the opening of the session:

UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference Documents

Conference Website: The official website of the conference is <http://3sc.unccd.int/>

Provisional Agenda: Click [here](#) to download the provisional agenda. Some additional information on this Conference is available from the CST S-4 documents listed above.

Pre-Conference Report: The pre-conference report is due at the end of January/beginning of February 2015. The report will be available on the conference website: <http://3sc.unccd.int/>

Executive summary: The executive summary of the pre-conference report will be released before the pre-conference report. It will be contained in the CST S-4 Committee Report, document ICCD/CST(S-4), described above. The document, in all UN languages, will be posted [here](#).

The Scientific Conference will take place in 6 sessions divided into two daily sessions in the morning and afternoon. It will start on 9 March in the morning immediately after the adjournment of the CST-S4 session and end at 1pm on Thursday afternoon, 12 March 2015.

High-Resolution Photos

High resolution photos from the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference in Bonn will be available each day for free for download and publication as long as credit is given to UNCCD as follows: ©UNCCD 2015. Inquire from press@unccd.int.

Live webcast

All plenary sessions will be webcast live. Closer to the day, the webcast link will be posted [here](#).

Social Media

Engage in the virtual conversation, get an overview of conversations and/or monitor and participate in conversations on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) all in one place.

Follow us on Twitter via [#3SciConf](#) for the CST S-4 and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Follow live tweeters [@UNCCD](#), [@globalmechanism](#).

Interviews

Exclusive and/or one-on-one interviews can be arranged. Journalists based in Germany can contact, Ms Alice FİSER, Alice.Fiser@unbonn.org, +49-(0)-170 202 1266. Journalists in Cancun, contact, Ms. Wagaki Wischnewski, wwischnewski@unccd.int, +49-173-268 7593 or Ms. Anna Leacock, aleacock@unccd.int

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), was adopted on 17 June 1994 in Paris, France, and entered into force in 1996. It has 195 Parties. Of these, 169 country Parties are affected by desertification, land degradation and/or drought. The Convention is implemented on the basis of five regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and

the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean. More information on the regional annexes is available in [Fact Sheets 11-15](#).

At the 20-year review of the Rio Conference in June 2012, world leaders called for global action in three key areas in the context of the Convention. First, to strive towards a land-degradation neutral world so that land degradation does not exceed the rates of its restoration. Second, to monitor, globally, land degradation and land restoration and third, to strengthen the scientific basis of the Convention.

What is the mandate of the Convention?

The objective of the Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought by taking effective action at all levels through international cooperation and partnership agreements in order to achieve sustainable development in the affected areas. In 2007, the Parties adopted a 10-year strategy for the period 2008-2018. The Strategy specifies the four strategic objectives and related five operational objectives to be achieved during this period. The 10-year Strategy is available here in all UN languages at: <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Pages/About-the-Convention.aspx>

What is the CST?

The Parties to the Convention meet every two years in a Conference – the Conference of the Parties (COP) – to negotiate and take key decisions. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is one of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention. It helps the Parties to prepare for the COP decisions by providing scientific advice.

Why is CST S-4 important?

The CST advises the COP on scientific matters. Its members, known as scientific and technology correspondents (STCs), are drawn from the Parties. CST is meeting in a special session for the fourth time (CST S-4) from 9-12 March 2015 in Cancun, Mexico. Following the end of the Scientific Conference, CST S-4 will agree on the policy recommendations to be sent to the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention.

What is the STK4SD Consortium?

The Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development, STK4SD, is the consortium of scientific bodies organizing the Conference. The members are Agropolis International, Argentine Institute for Arid Zone Research, CGIAR Consortium, DesertNet International and The Sahara and Sahel Observatory. Additional information on the consortium is available [here](#) on the Consortium page and [here](#) on the UNCCD page.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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