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**Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda**

**Programme and budget**

**Financial performance for the Convention trust funds**

**Financial performance for the Convention trust funds**

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

By its decision 1/COP.ES-1, Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on the status of the trust funds established under its financial rules. This document responds to that request by reporting on actual income and expenditure of all Convention funds for the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009. For the core budget, the expenditures estimated to be incurred by 31 December 2009 are also presented.

In addition to the financial performance level, this document gives information on the implementation of the 2008–2009 work programmes of the secretariat, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Following a results-based management (RBM) approach, this report presents performance primarily by focusing on results achieved according to the information available. Parties may note that the work programmes which form the basis of the present performance assessment were not costed according to results-based budgeting, and their conceptual approach had not been fully evolved, which has affected the application of the RBM approach in some sections of the report.

## CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Abbreviations.....		4
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1–5	5
A. Mandate.....	1	5
B. Scope of the note.....	2–5	5
II. BACKGROUND .....	6–13	6
A. Performance reporting in results-based management .....	6–8	6
B. Characteristics of the 2008–2009 performance report .....	9–13	6
III. OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE IN 2008–2009.....	14–21	7
A. Report on income .....	14–17	7
B. Report on expenditure .....	18	9
C. Staffing .....		11
D. Working capital reserve.....	19	11
E. Special Fund for participation.....		12
F. The “Bonn Fund” .....	20–21	12
IV. REPORT ON 2008–2009 PERFORMANCE OF THE SECRETARIAT	22–79	13
A. Overview .....	22–24	13
B. Performance by subprogramme .....	25–79	14
V. REPORT ON 2008–2009 PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....	80–88	33
VI. REPORT ON 2008–2009 PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION .....	89–92	34
VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	93–94	35

List of tables

	<u>Page</u>
1. Summary of income in the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009.....	8
2. Analysis of contributions received to the General fund for the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009 .....	9
3. Summary of expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 by object of expenditure.....	10
4. Summary of staff resources per grade, source of funding, gender and geographical distribution. ....	11
5. Expenditure in 2008–2009 from the Special Fund for Participation as at 30 June 2009 .....	12
6. Expenditure in 2008–2009 from the Bonn Fund as at 30 June 2009 .....	12
7. Summary of expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 by subprogramme as at 30 June 2009 .....	13
8. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 1 as at 30 June 2009 .....	16
9. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 2 as at 30 June 2009 .....	20
10. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 3 as at 30 June 2009 .....	24
11. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 4 as at 30 June 2009 .....	27
12. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 5 as at 30 June 2009 .....	29
13. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (a) Executive Direction and Management as at 30 June 2009 .....	31
14. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (b) Conference Services as at 30 June 2009.....	31
15. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (c) Administration and Finance Services at at 30 June 2009 .....	32

## ABBREVIATIONS

CB	core budget
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CSO	civil society organization
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DLDD	desertification/land degradation and drought
EB	extrabudgetary resources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism
IATF	inter-agency task force
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
JWP	joint work programme
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project
NAP	national action programme
NAPA	national adaptation programme of action
NBSAP	national biodiversity strategy and action plan
NCSA	national capacity self-assessment
PRAIS	performance review and assessment of implementation system
RBM	results-based management
SLM	sustainable land management
STC	science and technology correspondent
The Strategy	10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UN-DESA	United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## I. Introduction

### A. Mandate

1. Rule 10 (d) of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP)<sup>1</sup> provides that the provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the COP shall include, as appropriate, the proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements. By its decision 1/COP.ES-1, Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its ninth session (COP 9) on the status of the trust funds established under its financial rules.

### B. Scope of the note

2. The present document reports on actual income and expenditure of all Convention funds for the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009. For the General Fund for the core budget, the expenditures estimated to occur by 31 December 2009 are given as well. In addition to financial performance, this document also gives information on results achieved by the secretariat, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

3. According to the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by Parties in decision 3/COP.8, the Convention bodies and institutions were requested to prepare four-year workplans and two-year work programmes in line with their mandates, following a results-based management (RBM) approach, to outline their contribution to The Strategy. The first set of these workplans and programmes was prepared for the biennium 2008–2009; they provide the basis for the performance assessments contained in this document.

4. The 2008–2009 work programmes of the CST and the CRIC did not involve the specification of resources. Instead, following decision 1/COP.ES-1, the implementation of their work programmes during the biennium was based on the budget allocated to the secretariat. It is expected that from the biennium 2010–2011 onwards, a budget allocation will be made for the implementation of the work programmes of the CST and the CRIC, and that thereafter the reporting on their performance would include financial details. Consequently, this report does not specify CST or CRIC related expenditures within the utilization of the budget of the secretariat. However, substantive reports on progress made by the CST and the CRIC towards achieving the expected accomplishments are contained in the present document.

5. This document should be read in conjunction with the performance report concerning the joint work programme (JWP) between the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat, and that on the GM, which are contained in addenda 1 and 2 to this document respectively, and also in conjunction with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011, contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/5 and Add. 1, 3 and 4.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/COP.1.

## **II. Background**

### **A. Performance reporting in results-based management**

6. Periodic monitoring and evaluation are essential aspects of RBM. They provide up-to-date information on progress against planned results and related schedule, budget and quality assumptions. They also set the basis for reporting on performance by producing analytical information on the level of achievement of each expected accomplishment. A performance report summarizes and further analyses this information through a comprehensive overview of progress in implementation of the organization's work programme.

7. Performance reporting of UNCCD bodies and institutions to Parties at the COP is an obligation under the Convention, tied to each budget biennium. It seeks to provide a basis for Parties' assessment of how well the Convention bodies and institutions have met the expectations that were laid down in the work programmes, what are the strengths of the process and the main challenges, and what the next steps should be in order both to meet the objectives of the Convention implementation processes and to maximize benefits and cost-efficiency.

8. In addition to the formal performance reporting to Parties, the secretariat carries out a regularized internal monitoring and evaluation process, with the aims of maintaining its focus on the agreed expected accomplishments, making mid-course corrections in the work programme as needed, and refining the strategic planning for future bienniums.

### **B. Characteristics of the 2008–2009 performance report**

9. RBM was gradually applied to the work of UNCCD bodies and institutions during the 2008–2009 biennium, and consequently both the planning of work and the reporting on performance represent pilot approaches in this area. The work programme of the secretariat, as well as those for the CST and the CRIC, were prepared according to the guidance of The Strategy and decision 3/COP.8, and in addition the secretariat's structure was revised accordingly. The changing approach was anticipated in the 2008–2009 budget decision through flexibility in the allocation of core budget resources, allocation being defined only per item of expenditure.

10. The COP decision on the 2008–2009 budget took place earlier than preparation of the related work programmes, and thus it could not be based on the RBM planning of the Convention bodies and institutions. Likewise, the 2008–2009 work programmes did not include a detailed allocation of resources from the budget, as would be the case with fully-fledged RBM. Instead, during this pilot biennium the "old" budget process and the new programme planning and implementation process were carried out in parallel, which was enabled by the above-mentioned flexibility in budget allocation.

11. The above-described approach supported the secretariat in moving to RBM in manageable phases and in updating the performance reporting accordingly; as performance responds to The Strategy and decision 3/COP.8, the report is structured to subprogrammes based on the operational objectives of The Strategy, instead of to administratively-defined units. For the most part, this performance reporting corresponds with the format of the Convention budget

proposal for 2010–2011, which is the first fully results-based budget for the UNCCD, while its downside is that only the financial summary tables are directly comparable to earlier performance reports.

12. The first set of multi-year workplans (2008–2011) and two-year work programmes (2008–2009) was presented to Parties at CRIC 7 in November 2008. In their feedback on these plans and programmes, Parties emphasized the need for quantitative performance indicators and baselines in order better to monitor the progress made. They also called for more precise phrases and terms, as well as more concrete, tangible and measurable outcomes, so as to generate a better basis for understanding the respective roles and focus areas of the Convention bodies and institutions in the achievement of the operational objectives contained in The Strategy. As the feedback received from Parties at CRIC 7 indicates, the RBM methodology used in the first set of workplans and programmes was not optimal for measuring progress, nor for perceiving the roles of the various Convention stakeholders.

13. Considering that the 2008–2009 work programmes represent a pilot exercise, that they were not budgeted according to RBM principles and that the conceptual approach was still evolving, this report does not fully follow the RBM methodology for assessing performance. However, a results-based approach is applied as far as possible, by focusing this report on the status of achieving the expected accomplishments and related indicators that were presented to Parties at CRIC 7, using available information to verify the assessment made. Reporting on performance during the next biennium would be fully according to RBM principles, as the 2010–2011 work programmes follow an improved RBM methodology and involve results-based budgeting.

### **III. Overview of performance in 2008–2009**

#### **A. Report on income**

14. The status of contributions to the General Fund for the core budget and the Supplementary Fund is summarized in table 1.

**Table 1. Summary of income in the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009 (in euros)**

Source	Approved budget and unpaid balance from previous years	Core budget contributions received as at 30 June 2009	%	Supplementary Fund contributions as at 30 June 2009
Balance of the General Fund brought forward <sup>2</sup>	1 623 292	268 331	16.53	
Assessed contributions from Parties	14 711 000	10 584 116	71.95	
Specific contribution from Spain	185 000	185 000	100.00	
Special contribution from Germany	1 022 584	766 938	75.00	
Balance of Supplementary Fund brought forward <sup>3</sup>				2 081 813
Voluntary contributions to the Supplementary Fund				3 247 963
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>17 541 876</b>	<b>11 804 385</b>	<b>67.29</b>	<b>5 329 776</b>
Prior year savings on obligations and interest income <sup>4</sup>		475 602		239 073
<b>Total</b>	<b>17 541 876</b>	<b>12 279 987</b>		<b>5 568 849</b>

15. As at 30 June 2009, 119 Parties had fully paid their 2008 contributions, and 76 Parties had fully paid their 2009 contributions. Contributions received represented 67 per cent of the approved budget and outstanding contributions from previous periods. Assessed contributions amounting to 5,541,003 euros, representing 33 per cent of total contributions receivable in the biennium, were outstanding. The Executive Secretary has continued to send out reminder letters inviting those Parties which have not yet paid their contributions in full to do so without further delay. In addition the secretariat reports the outstanding contributions on its website, updated on a monthly basis.

16. Parties may note that 1,414,119 euros, representing 25.5 per cent of the total outstanding contributions as at 30 June 2009, are from previous bienniums. Although the Executive Secretary has made every effort to collect these outstanding contributions, there are indications that some of them will remain unpaid. Consequently, the Executive Secretary invites Parties to consider what possible action should be taken, and to inform the secretariat of their views.

<sup>2</sup> Closing balance was US\$ 2,366,315, converted into euros by using the United Nations rate of exchange for 31 December 2007.

<sup>3</sup> As at 31 December 2007, the closing balance under the Supplementary Fund was US\$ 3,034,713, converted into euros by using the United Nations rate of exchange for 31 December 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Prior year savings on obligation and interest income reported in United States dollars were converted into euros by using the United Nations rate of exchange for 30 June 2009.

**Table 2. Analysis of contributions received to the General Fund for the biennium 2008–2009 as at 30 June 2009 (in euros)**

	From previous years	2008	2009	Total
Approved core budget		7 222 000	7 489 000	14 711 000
Specific contribution from Spain		93 000	92 000	185 000
Contributions receivable as at 31 December 2007	1 623 292			1 623 292
Unrealised exchange difference due to the revaluation of the closing balance as at 30 June 2009	59 158			59 158
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 682 450</b>	<b>7 315 000</b>	<b>7 581 000</b>	<b>16 578 450</b>
Contributions received as at 30 June 2009	268 331	6 540 071	4 229 045	11 037 447
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>67</b>
Outstanding contributions as at 30 June 2009	1 414 119	774 929	3 351 955	5 541 003
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>

17. In addition to the approved assessed contributions from Parties, a special contribution of 766,938 euros has been received from the host country, Germany, to the General Fund for the core budget of the Convention. This contribution is shown in table 3.

### **B. Report on expenditure**

18. Table 3 summarizes actual expenditures under the General and Supplementary Funds as at 30 June 2009 by object of expenditure. Total estimated expenditure for the biennium is presented for the General Fund.

**Table 3. Summary of expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 by object of expenditure (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Approved 2008–2009 budget</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>% of approved budget</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	7 529	5 316.7	70.6	2 064.3	7 381.0	98.0	1 044.4
Consultants and experts	340	106.6	31.4	230.5	337.1	99.1	552.5
Travel of participants and representatives							137.3
Official travel of staff	954	604.6	63.4	334.7	939.3	98.5	143.4
Logistics support for meetings – Bureau meetings and CRIC							135.9
General operating expenses and related costs	1 552	944.0	60.8	600.5	1 544.5	99.5	747.5
Contribution to the GM	3 456	2 503.6	72.4	952.4	3 456.0	100.0	--
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13 831</b>	<b>9 475.5</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>4 182.4</b>	<b>13 657.9</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>2 761.0</b>
Programme support costs <sup>5</sup>	1 798	1 231.8	68.5	543.7	1 775.5	98.8	358.9
Working capital reserve	290	135.0	46.6	155.0	290.0	100.0	176.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 919</b>	<b>10 842.3</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>4 881.1</b>	<b>15 723.4</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>3 295.9</b>
Less: Contribution from the host Government	1 023	766.9	75.0	255.6	1 022.5	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 896</b>	<b>10 075.4</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>4 625.5</b>	<b>14 700.9</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>3 295.9</b>

<sup>5</sup> In accordance with United Nations guidelines ST/SGB/188, paragraph 47, a 13 per cent programme support factor has been applied to expenditure on all the funds except where exemptions have been authorized by the United Nations Controller.

### C. Staffing

**Table 4. Summary of staff resources per grade, source of funding, gender and geographical distribution**

Category	Source		Gender		Region				
	CB *	EB	F	M	Africa	Asia	LAC	WEOG	CEE
ASG	1.00			1.00	1.00				
D-1	1.00			1.00				1.00	
P-5	8.00		1.00	7.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	
P-4	4.75	1.50	2.00	4.25	2.00	1.25	1.00	1.00	
P-3	4.00	4.00	2.00	6.00	1.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	
P-2**	3.00	4.00	5.00	2.00	0.00	2.00		5.00	1.00
GS	21.00	0.00	15.00	6.00	7.00	2.00		11.00	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.75</b>	<b>9.50</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>27.25</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>9.25</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>

\* Including Programme Support Costs

\*\* Two Associate Experts at P-2 level under EB funded through the United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

### D. Working capital reserve

19. Paragraph 8 of the financial rules of the COP (decision 2/COP.1) states: “Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible.” At its extraordinary session held in 2007, the COP reaffirmed that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditures, including overhead charges. It is anticipated that at the end of 2009 the working capital reserve will be 823,835 euros including the balance brought forward from 2007. For the Supplementary Fund, the operating reserve balance brought forward from 2007 was 292,036 euros.

### E. Special Fund for participation

**Table 5. Expenditure in 2008–2009 from the Special Fund for participation as at 30 June 2009 (in euros)**

<b>Income</b>	
Interest on savings and prior year adjustments	--
Contributions received in 2008–2009	553 743
Transfer from other funds	105 645
Interest earned in 2008–2009	23 879
<b>Total income 2008–2009</b>	<b>683 267</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Travel costs for funded delegates	634 091
Operating expenses	2 756
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>636 847</b>
<b>Net excess of income over expenditure as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>46 420</b>

### F. The “Bonn Fund”

20. The Government of Germany, host to the secretariat, supports Convention-related activities and events with an annual supplementary contribution amounting to 511,292 euros. This contribution, known as the “Bonn Fund”, is transferred to the secretariat in two instalments per year. As at 30 June 2009, of the 1,022,584 euros contribution for 2008–2009, 766,938 euros had been received by the secretariat.

21. The Bonn Fund is utilized according to a cost plan which is proposed by the secretariat and accepted by the Government of Germany. As at 30 June 2009, 561,641 euros had been used according to the cost plans agreed for 2008 and 2009. An overview of this utilization is presented below.

**Table 6. Expenditure in 2008–2009 from the Bonn Fund as at 30 June 2009 (in euros)**

<b>Activities contained in the cost plans for 2008 and 2009</b>	<b>Actual expenditure</b>
Temporary assistance for the organization of UNCCD events held in Bonn: Provision of internal assistance to facilitate the planning and coordination of conferences services	346 828
Other Convention-related activities:	
Meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology	27 831
Organization of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties	40 526
Regional coordination arrangements for the implementation of the Convention	57 479
Organization of four regional meetings preparatory to COP 9	24 363
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>497 027</b>
Programme support costs (13%)	64 614
<b>Total</b>	<b>561 641</b>

## IV. Report on the 2008–2009 performance of the secretariat

### A. Overview

22. In The Strategy, the secretariat of the Convention was assigned a lead role in operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness-raising and education, and specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 on policy framework and 3 on science, technology and knowledge; it was also assigned a support role in other operational objectives. The guidance of The Strategy served as the basis for the secretariat's workplan for 2008–2011 and its work programme for 2008–2009.

23. In the biennium, the priority for the secretariat was determined to be to enhance substantive services to the COP and its subsidiary bodies and to upgrade its analytical and knowledge-brokering functions. The secretariat sought to strengthen its advocacy and awareness-raising functions, and to encourage coalition building and system-wide cooperation at all levels. It aimed to facilitate the development of regional consultation, coordination and cooperation, and to assist countries in the process of aligning their action programmes with The Strategy.

24. Presented below is the report on the secretariat's performance, deriving from its work programme for 2008–2009. In line with the work programme, the report is constructed around the five operational objectives and the outcome areas under each objective, as defined in The Strategy. In addition, a section on management support is included.

**Table 7. Summary of expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 by subprogramme as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

Subprogramme	Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009	Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009	Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009	Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009
Subprogramme 1– Advocacy, awareness-raising and education	856.7	375.1	1 231.8	159.1
Subprogramme 2 – Policy framework	1 156.4	502.3	1 658.7	973.8
Subprogramme 3 – Science, technology and knowledge	718.1	294.8	1 012.9	724.5
Subprogramme 4 – Capacity-building	307.3	144.9	452.2	218.8
Subprogramme 5 – Financing and technology transfer	318.8	181.3	500.1	337.2
Subprogramme 6 (a) – Management support/executive direction and management	1 249.6	510.1	1 759.7	143.7
Subprogramme 6 (b) – Management support/conference services	677.6	268.8	946.4	203.9

Subprogramme	Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009	Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009	Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009	Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009
Subprogramme 6 (c) – Management support/administration and finance services	1 687.4	952.7	2 640.1	--
Contribution to the GM	2 503.6	952.4	3 456.0	--
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9 475.5</b>	<b>4 182.4</b>	<b>13 657.9</b>	<b>2 761.0</b>
Programme support costs	1 231.8	543.7	1 775.5	358.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 707.3</b>	<b>4 726.1</b>	<b>15 433.4</b>	<b>3 119.9</b>
Capital reserve	135.0	155.0	290.0	176.0
Less: Contribution from the host Government	766.9	255.6	1 022.5	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 075.4</b>	<b>4 625.5</b>	<b>14 700.9</b>	<b>3 295.9</b>

### B. Performance by subprogramme

#### Subprogramme 1 – Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

<b>Outcome area:</b>
1.1 Desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.

25. UNCCD website visits have risen from an average 8,000 per month in 2007 to around 20,000 per month in 2009, which confirms an increased use of information provided by the secretariat. Key factors in the secretariat's enhanced information delivery have been various outreach activities, targeted events such as the Land Day in June 2009, and frequent website updates. It may also be noted that observance of the 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification seems to show a steady increase; 20 countries reported on events organized in 2008, while for 2009 the number is close to 30.<sup>6</sup>

26. The secretariat organised or co-organized over 30 side events and exhibitions in 2008, which is more than twice the number of corresponding events held in 2007. In 2009, by the end of June over 20 events had already been organized.

27. In line with decision 3/COP.8, the secretariat coordinated the development and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy with a set of core communications objectives and expected results, which is presented to COP 9. In the immediate future, the secretariat will continue strengthening its awareness-raising functions through the implementation of this strategy, further development of the website, and increased coverage, targeting and volume of outreach and related material. Another method of fostering attention and

<sup>6</sup> At the time of the preparation of this document, countries were still sending the secretariat information on their events to observe 17 June.

increasing press coverage will be the involvement of “goodwill ambassadors”, that is, well-known personalities who will help to raise awareness of DLDD issues and participate in related events. Main challenges to carrying out awareness-raising functions concern the availability of in-house capacity and the necessary partnerships and resources.

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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1.2 DLDD issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.
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28. The importance of DLDD issues was included in the reports and resolutions of several international and regional conferences and forums addressed by the secretariat, including among others the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Third World Water Forum, the International Conference on Sustainable Development and Multi-Sectoral Approaches,<sup>7</sup> the Conference of African Ministers of Environment, the 2009 Water Africa Conference, and the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The input of the secretariat to these and many other conferences and forums took various forms, such as high-level representation (keynote speeches, moderation of sessions, panel membership and statements), participation in and provision of information to meetings and preparatory processes, the organization of side events and exhibitions, and delivery of UNCCD outreach material.

29. Information on results achieved in forums and meetings concerning climate change and biodiversity is contained in paragraphs 51–54.

30. Successful advocacy and awareness-raising in international forums and conferences requires substantial input to preparatory processes, liaison with key stakeholders, participation in meetings, the formulation of documents on thematic issues and policy briefs, and the availability of information and outreach material for distribution, which cannot be adequately covered from the secretariat’s limited resources. While additional resources are sought for this purpose, the secretariat is also increasing cooperation with other international organizations, most notably the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), for the cost-efficient production of material and events.

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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1.3 Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and DLDD is addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.
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31. Financial assistance is essential for CSO participation in UNCCD processes and events, and clear and transparent criteria for selecting sponsored CSOs support resource mobilization, as well as the notion of impartial treatment among CSOs. A proposal for such criteria is submitted by the secretariat for consideration at COP 9. The criteria were prepared through broad-based

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<sup>7</sup> Organized by the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), based at Loughborough University, United Kingdom.

consultations with CSOs, and their purpose is to ensure an equitable participation of CSOs on a rotational basis, to guarantee a fair and transparent selection process, and to generate substantial contributions to the process through targeted participation. The criteria include, among other factors, geographical balance, representation of networks vis-à-vis individual organizations, experience/expertise, and gender balance. In addition to supporting resource mobilization for CSO participation, the secretariat provides CSOs with information on substantive agenda items of, and procedural questions on COP 9, CST 9 and CRIC 8.

32. The secretariat participated in a UNDP-g geared process in sub-Saharan Africa to enhance CSO coordination and joint objective-setting for sustainable land management (SLM). This process contributed to the development of a shared CSO vision on SLM in sub-Saharan Africa, the design of a CSO action plan on SLM within the TerrAfrica context, and the first steps in launching a CSO coordination mechanism for the region.

33. The secretariat's support for student groups' activities to raise awareness of DLDD increased. Particularly important in this regard was provision of material and assistance to student groups for using awareness-raising opportunities such as the World Day to Combat Desertification, and for organizing field trips in affected areas, and meetings/lectures with local farmers/stakeholders. With regard to the outreach products used, the "Teachers' kits" were in high demand; in Italy, for example, 1,500 copies of the educational kit, 500 board games and 5,000 comics on desertification were distributed to schools and universities in the eight regions involved.

34. Information on progress in engaging the scientific community is contained in paragraphs 58-62 of this document.

**Table 8. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 1 as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	719.7	306.4	1 026.1	18.4
Consultants and experts	10.1	15.3	25.4	74.3
Official travel of staff	102.5	28.5	131.0	20.7
Logistic support for meetings				--
General operating expenses	24.4	24.9	49.3	45.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>856.7</b>	<b>375.1</b>	<b>1 231.8</b>	<b>159.1</b>

	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>EB</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-4	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-3	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-2	1.00	1.00	2.00
	3.00	1.00	4.00
GS	2.00	0.00	2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>

### **Subprogramme 2 – Policy framework**

#### **Outcome area:**

2.1 Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to SLM are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

35. In the context of assessing drivers of DLDD and barriers to SLM, analytical information on selected key topics interlinked with DLDD and SLM was made available as issue papers and information sheets produced by the secretariat in cooperation with different partners. These topics include migration, security, water scarcity, human rights and various aspects of climate change. An overview publication on the benefits of SLM was also released. Further analytical work from the specific perspective of the UNCCD and requirement relating to its implementation is being carried out on drought, gender, food security, territorial governance, energy challenges and sustainable water management.

36. With regard to addressing these drivers and barriers, progress was achieved in engaging a broadening group of United Nations organizations in cooperation relating to UNCCD issues. At the level of the secretariat, this cooperation focuses on policy and thematic aspects linking the UNCCD with the relevant activities of the organizations concerned, which should ultimately translate into affected countries' receiving support on DLDD and SLM at various levels from these organizations. Enhanced cooperation is under way with UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, FAO and the United Nations University. Active cooperation continues with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Furthermore, DLDD issues and SLM were given prominent positions in the proceedings of the inter-agency Environment Management Group geared by UNEP, and the UN-Water coalition.

**Outcome areas:**

2.2 Affected country Parties revise their NAPs [national action programmes] into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.

2.3 Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and SLM and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.

37. In order to support affected country Parties in aligning their action programmes with The Strategy, the secretariat drafted a roadmap and initiated consultations with the GM on possible approaches to the alignment, with the aim of addressing the matter through the JWP. Within this framework, the secretariat commissioned consultancy services to draft guidelines on the alignment, and organized eight subregional workshops and an inter-agency meeting to discuss the draft guidelines. These guidelines seek to provide a basis for coherent action among Parties on the matter; they are submitted to COP 9 in document ICCD/COP(9)/2/Add.1 for consideration.

38. The draft guidelines describe the alignment process as an exercise in improving the quality of national, subregional and regional action programmes, as well as the conditions and modalities of their implementation, in order to achieve the vision described in The Strategy. The main objectives of the alignment process would be:

(a) To institutionalize multi-sectoral, participatory and decentralized planning of DLDD and SLM matters;

(b) To turn the action programmes into strategic documents that are mainstreamed with national and sectoral planning;

(c) To create enabling scientific, policy, legislative and investment environments and instruments which promote and support sustainable management of land resources.

39. Information on progress achieved in fostering the support of major United Nations system organizations to DLDD and SLM measures is contained in paragraphs 35 and 36 of this document.

**Outcome area:**

2.4 Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and SLM interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.

40. Mainstreaming UNCCD objectives and SLM interventions into developed countries' policies and programmes is an expression of political recognition of, and commitment to, these objectives, and is therefore an important aspect of enhanced mobilization and targeting of resources to respond to the needs of implementing The Strategy and the Convention. Strategic objective 4 of The Strategy, calling for resource mobilization through building effective partnerships, serves as the framework for related action.

41. A high-level policy dialogue on the strategic orientations of the UNCCD was held in May 2008, with the aim of advancing the buy-in of The Strategy and triggering thinking and exchanges at decision-making level on practical ways forward, including the mobilization of resources. Among the key topics brought up during the dialogue were the following:

(a) The promises made in Rio (1992), Monterrey (2002) and Gleneagles (2005), and the prospects for support to affected countries from the multilateral system, must refocus priorities onto the rural scene and the 2012 horizon when the Kyoto Protocol expires;

(b) Measures for combating DLDD will benefit from the necessary return of investment into rural development and sustainable land and water use. They should thus become an integral part of national and regional policies securing the conditions for agricultural production and food sustainability. Bilateral development partners and the investment banks must proactively integrate SLM into their policies and procedures. The COP may wish to invite the secretariat and the GM to develop and propose a management matrix for such cooperation;

(c) Governments, civil society and the private sector should together devise incentive systems for market-based funding mechanisms in order to encourage the restoration of degraded land.

42. At the request of several Parties at CRIC 7, the secretariat plans to organize in the near future multi-stakeholder consultations for advancing strategic objective 4. Mainstreaming UNCCD objectives and SLM interventions into developed countries' policies and programmes will be an essential topic in these consultations. Work has also been carried out on the approach to monitoring progress in meeting strategic objective 4, in collaboration with the GM. A draft set of impact indicators was developed by the two institutions, based on the understanding of this objective as a reflection, or assumption, of institutional, policy and financial weaknesses that constrain the mobilization of resources for UNCCD implementation. In this regard, it is proposed that measuring progress towards this objective be translated into information as to whether removal of any structural impediments has taken place, focusing on two major components: "mobilization of resources" and "effective partnerships".

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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2.5 Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.
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43. Increased cooperation among the Rio Conventions was developed, including coordinated assistance for the implementation of action programmes. The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the three Conventions continued to support synergies in the implementation of NAPs, the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Two publications on related matters were released through the JLG, one focusing on forests and the other on adaptation to climate change.

44. In order to demonstrate the complementarity and convergence of NAPs and NAPAs, the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and

the UNCCD have agreed jointly to promote related pilot projects in a limited number of least-developed countries.

45. Furthermore, considering that political as well as financial aspects relating to drylands carbon sequestration, emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation and from land use and land-use change may effectively support NAP implementation, the secretariat launched cooperation with UNDP/Drylands Development Centre, UNEP and FAO on the production of conceptual as well as practical information on how to use approaches and methodologies relating to climate change in the context of the NAP. Some examples of synergy had already been presented by eleven African countries which jointly prepared a submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC in April 2009, emphasizing the potential of dryland soils in sequestering carbon.

46. With regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the work of the secretariat is built on the JWP between the CBD and the UNCCD on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, building on the CBD work programme on dry and sub-humid lands. In this context, the UNCCD secretariat envisages (a) the preparation of a proposal on cooperation with CBD in the next biennium, based on The Strategy and involving issues relevant to carbon in soils, (b) the establishment of a programme of work to address shared thematic areas and problem areas jointly, as mandated by the CBD COP decision on drylands, (c) the posting of information on CBD-UNCCD cooperation on the UNCCD website, (d) raising awareness of cooperation through joint events, and (e) the preparation of guidelines for joint reporting, for the consideration of the JLG.

**Table 9. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 2 as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	1 111.3	428.6	1 539.9	134.6
Travel of participants				3.0
Consultants and experts	13.4	18.5	31.9	118.0
Official travel of staff	31.7	55.2	86.9	38.9
Logistic support for meetings				--
General operating expenses				679.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1 156.4</b>	<b>502.3</b>	<b>1 658.7</b>	<b>973.8</b>

	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>EB</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	3.00	0.00	3.00
P-4	3.50	0.50	4.00
P-3	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-2*	0.00	1.00	1.00
	6.50	1.50	8.00
GS	2.00	0.00	2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.50</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>10.00</b>

\* Associate Expert funded through UN-DESA.

### **Subprogramme 3 – Science, technology and knowledge**

<b>Outcome areas:</b>
3.1 National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.
3.2 A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio-economic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.
3.3 Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.

47. Information on national monitoring and vulnerability assessment was provided to affected countries and other interested stakeholders. The main documents in this context are the studies on impact indicators to measure strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, and the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project report concerning national monitoring and vulnerability assessment; these documents are presented to the CST and have been posted on the UNCCD website.

48. The secretariat facilitated the work of the CST in producing advice towards measuring progress in meeting strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, which was carried out through a consultative process. Through that process, a minimum set of 11 impact indicators was identified. In order to facilitate their use by Parties, information was also provided on baselines, targets and data requirements, as well as on related capacity-building needs of Parties. In addition, the secretariat has started to prepare its support for the development of a possible methodology and process for setting baselines for the use of the impact indicators.

49. LADA is a global initiative supported by the secretariat along with a number of other stakeholders.<sup>8</sup> It has involved the development and testing of effective assessment methodologies

<sup>8</sup> The FAO is the executing agency for LADA; the other partners are the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, the GM and the UNCCD secretariat.

for land degradation in drylands through pilot projects and case studies, which have led to the preparation of the following output:

- (a) Establishment of the baseline, trends and driving forces of land degradation in drylands;
- (b) Assessment of the status of land degradation at national and sub-national scale and of the driving forces and pressures leading to resources degradation in the pilot countries;
- (c) Harmonized participatory local and national assessment tools;
- (d) An analysis identifying cause-effect relations between the different indicators of land degradation within the driving force-pressure-State-impact-response conceptual framework;
- (e) A global action plan containing all the findings of the project.

50. A report on progress in LADA, prepared by FAO, is submitted for the consideration of the CST.

51. Development of national monitoring and vulnerability assessment under the UNCCD is expected to advance at the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, to be held during the first few days of COP 9. This conference will focus on biophysical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, in order to support decision-making in land and water management. It is organized by the Dryland Science Development consortium and the CST Bureau, with support from the secretariat.

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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3.4 Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.
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52. Increased awareness on the part of key stakeholders of the importance of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded lands in affected areas was demonstrated by the decisions of the governing bodies of the UNFCCC and CBD to include this item in their agendas.

53. The issue of soil carbon was included in the negotiation document for COP 15 of the UNFCCC, to be held in Copenhagen in late 2009; and the potential of dryland soils in sequestering carbon was brought up in several developing countries' proposals to the climate change process. With regard to CBD, its COP 9 agreed on a decision entitled "Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands", which pertains directly to the UNCCD goals and objectives.

54. The secretariat has been one of the main advocates for including land and soil topics in events and processes relating to climate change and biodiversity, as well as in consultations with individual countries and organizations; in the light of the above-mentioned results, its actions in this context have been effective.

55. Progress in providing information on the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is contained in paragraphs 43–45.

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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3.5 Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge, <sup>9</sup> are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.
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56. The secretariat launched the establishment of a UNCCD knowledge management system through the commissioning of a preliminary study on the scientific knowledge brokering needs and on the possible structure of the system. Management of scientific knowledge under the UNCCD was further considered in one of the working documents for the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, and it will be among the priority matters for the secretariat during the coming few years.

57. Requirements for knowledge and information-sharing under the UNCCD touch upon numerous areas, including scientific knowledge, information from regions, specific policies and themes, statistics on reports submitted, and announcements and information relating to the Convention process, to mention only a few. The secretariat will seek to create a comprehensive, geographically and thematically proficient UNCCD knowledge-management system. This will entail broad-based partnerships and linkages with other knowledge-management systems, together with improved information and communication technology. .

58. With regard to progress in information-sharing on best practices, cooperation was initiated with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), and a common framework for the definition and selection of best practices on SLM has already been made available and submitted to COP 9 for consideration (ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5).

<b>Outcome area:</b>
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3.6 Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to DLDD are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.
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59. The participation of scientists in the UNCCD process intensified during the biennium. Of particular importance in this regard were the nomination of national science and technology correspondents (STCs), the organization of regional science meetings, and the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference. The role of the secretariat was significant in supporting these developments.

60. As at 30 June 2009, approximately 110 countries had nominated their STCs, which indicates more regularized engagement of the scientific community in the UNCCD process at the national level than was formerly the case. However, the role of the STC is not yet clearly defined. STC input to support the NAP and the national coordinating body, and his/her ability to foster the engagement of scientific institutions in UNCCD implementation, are among matters that the CST may consider further in order to bring clarity to the role of STCs.

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<sup>9</sup> Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

61. The secretariat organized regional science meetings as special segments of the regional meetings preparatory to COP 9. These segments provided STCs with a forum for information-sharing and exchange on the CST 9 agenda items. A joint session between the STCs and focal points of the region was also arranged. In future, the regional science meetings could involve more exhaustive exchange on the specific topics of the CST agenda, and thereby serve as regional scientific expert forums preparing for CST meetings.

62. The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference is presented in more detail in the section on CST performance.

63. The secretariat and the Colorado State University are jointly promoting better communication and knowledge transfer on DLDD issues within the scientific community of the United States of America. In this context, a meeting involving scientists and experts from more than 20 United States universities and specialized United Nations bodies was held in February 2009 in Washington, D.C., with the aim of considering how United States scientific experts can support, and provide scientific input to, the worldwide struggle against land degradation. The meeting resulted in a working plan for collaboration among United States-based scientists and the wider international scientific community on contributing to the CST process and to ongoing UNCCD activities in the context of The Strategy.

**Table 10. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 3 as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	680.1	222.1	902.2	521.6
Consultants and experts	7.5	39.2	46.7	145.4
Travel of representative				12.2
Official travel of staff	30.5	33.5	64.0	41.2
Logistic support for meetings				
General operating expenses				4.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>718.1</b>	<b>294.8</b>	<b>1 012.9</b>	<b>724.5</b>

	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>EB</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-4	0.00	1.00	1.00
P-3	1.00	2.00	3.00
P-2*	0.00	1.00	1.00
	2.00	4.00	6.00
GS	1.00	0.00	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>

\* Associate Expert funded through UN-DESA.

#### **Subprogramme 4 – Capacity-building**

<b>Outcome area:</b>
4.1 Countries which have carried out the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels to tackle DLDD issues at the national and local levels
4.2 Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling DLDD at the national and local levels.

64. The focus of the secretariat in the area of capacity-building in the biennium 2008–2009 was to develop a proposal for a comprehensive approach for reporting on, and review of, the implementation of The Strategy, in line with decisions 3/COP.8 and 8/COP.8, for the consideration of Parties at COP 9. This aim was met through the preparation of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) which involves tools and approaches for assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, based on indicators for the strategic and operational objectives of The Strategy. PRAIS also provides tools and approaches for review of the performance of the Convention’s institutions and bodies.

65. The PRAIS components were prepared in cooperation with relevant partners, most notably an inter-agency task force (IATF),<sup>10</sup> and through feedback from Parties and other key stakeholders. The components include the following:

(a) Indicators for measuring the impact of implementation of the Strategy (that is, progress in meeting the strategic objectives). CST has an important role in the development of these impact indicators, and more information on this is contained in section IV on CST performance;

<sup>10</sup> Following decision 8/COP.8, this task force was established to assist the UNCCD secretariat in reviewing the reporting principles and guidelines. The IATF comprises representatives of the eight organizations, in addition to the GM and the secretariat; a representative of the CST is also a member.

(b) Indicators for measuring the performance of various stakeholders in meeting the operational objectives of The Strategy. A set of 18 consolidated performance indicators was prepared;

(c) A framework for the definition and classification of good practices relating to the Convention and its implementation: identification of the providers and end-users of information relating to good practices; and formulation of the procedures for receiving such information; identification of procedures for, and a methodology to validate, good practice; and formulation of procedures for dissemination of all the above;

(d) Procedures and modalities for the reporting and the review process, including the draft terms of reference for the CRIC. Special attention would be dedicated to addressing possible problems emanating from the reporting process itself, that is, the provision of information, including collection and storage, and the analysis of information pertaining to the review process. The ultimate goals of this analysis are to share experience, draw conclusions and learn lessons, thus improving the knowledge base of the Convention.

66. After COP 9, and following any decisions taken by the COP on this matter, draft reporting guidelines will be prepared for the reporting entities: affected country Parties (including the country profile), developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and relevant international financial institutions and mechanisms, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the secretariat and the GM.

67. Parties have recognized the need for capacity-building in order to apply the new reporting requirements and procedures; as a response to this need, the secretariat has initiated a process whereby support would be provided to affected country Parties in establishing monitoring and assessment systems through UNEP, in order to conduct the first performance review at CRIC 9 in 2010.

68. In addition to supporting the reporting and review process, the secretariat's work in the area of capacity-building involved a review of the fellowship programme initiative agreed by Parties at COP 8. In the resulting proposal submitted to COP 9, the secretariat suggests that the programme be aligned more closely with The Strategy, in order to support the capacity of individual countries to implement The Strategy. According to the proposal, contracts would be signed with selected institutions in the regions/subregions, and selected fellows would be working in at least one of the scientific fields considered crucial for the implementation of The Strategy.

**Table 11. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 4 as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	244.5	100.0	344.5	165.7
Consultants and experts	15.4	15.7	31.1	49.0
Travel of participants and representatives				--
Official travel of staff	47.4	29.2	76.6	2.8
Logistic support for meetings				
General operating expenses				1.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>307.3</b>	<b>144.9</b>	<b>452.2</b>	<b>218.8</b>

	<b>CB</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>Total</b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-4	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-3	1.00	1.00	2.00
P-2	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1.00	1.00	2.00
GS	1.00	0.00	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>

69. Parties may note that in the proposed budget for 2010–2011, the secretariat's work on the reporting and review process, as well as related costs, are contained mainly under subprogrammes 2 and 3, instead of subprogramme 4. This explains the considerable difference between 2008–2009 and 2010–2011 in resources allocated to subprogramme 4.

### **Subprogramme 5 – Financing and technology transfer**

<b>Outcome areas:</b>
5.1 Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.
5.2 Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

**Outcome areas:**

5.3 Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions (IFIs), facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/SLM agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.

5.4 Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.

5.5 Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation.

70. Progress made by the secretariat in supporting the alignment of action programmes is contained in paragraphs 37 and 38; progress in advocacy towards DLDD/SLM mainstreaming into the programmes of developed countries is contained in paragraphs 40-42; progress in engaging major United Nations System organizations to increase their support to UNCCD implementation is contained in paragraphs 43-45; and progress in promoting the potential of synergies is contained in paragraphs 43-45 and 51-54 respectively.

71. With regard to the promotion of UNCCD issues in the context of the GEF, the secretariat raised awareness in the GEF on the implementation of the Strategy, and participated in relevant working groups and meetings of the GEF secretariat.

72. On several occasions during the biennium, the GEF Council expressed support for implementation of The Strategy. It adopted a number of projects of relevance to land degradation on a stand-alone basis or covering multi-focal areas, and recommended strengthening of the concept of integrated multi-focal area approaches, including transboundary issues, and particularly adaptation to climate change and land degradation, in order to ensure maximization of global environmental benefits. The Council also called for strong collaboration between the UNCCD and GEF secretariats.

73. At the working level, the secretariat actively participated in the design of the new GEF draft strategy for the land degradation focal area as part of the GEF Technical Advisory Group and the Land Degradation Task Force. Contributions made by the secretariat highlighted The Strategy and the indicator-based approach, and the resulting potential for linkages with GEF processes. As indicated in section 4, this cooperation was also successful in finding a common understanding on how to provide capacity building to UNCCD Parties within a longer-term framework to support the monitoring of The Strategy.

**Table 12. Expenditure in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 5 as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	212.7	99.7	312.4	112.9
Consultants and experts	7.6	29.9	37.5	63.2
Travel of participants and representatives				122.1
Official travel of staff	98.5	51.7	150.2	21.9
Logistic support for meetings				--
General operating expenses				17.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>318.8</b>	<b>181.3</b>	<b>500.1</b>	<b>337.2</b>

	<b>CB</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>Total</b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-4	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-3	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-2	0.00	1.00	1.00
	1.00	1.00	2.00
GS	1.00	0.00	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>

**Subprogramme 6 - Management support for strategy implementation**

<b>Outcome area:</b>
6. Management actively supports strategy implementation.

74. During the biennium 2008–2009, the secretariat carried out an extensive corporate review process involving the move to results-based management and budgeting, and a new structure. This process included training of all staff, development and revision of the methodological approach to RBM, preparation of multi-year workplans for 2008–2011 and 2010–2013 and costed two-year work programmes for 2008–2009 and 2010–2011, preparation of the two-year JWP between the GM and the secretariat for 2008–2009 and 2010–2011, and the establishment of a performance monitoring and assessment system. Internal processes and procedures were reformed with the aim of improving coordination and information exchange and in order to conform to the RBM system, such as regularized unit and management meetings, and requests and follow-up to missions and consultancies.

75. Together with the GM, the secretariat facilitated a process of reviewing regional coordination mechanisms and proposing alternatives. Guidelines were prepared to assist Parties in the preparation of regional proposals according to a coherent approach, and the establishment and functioning of regional task forces under each regional implementation annex of the Convention was supported. On the basis of regional proposals submitted, as well as the review of the current regional coordination arrangements, the secretariat compiled evidence-based options for improving regional coordination arrangements, which are submitted to COP 9.

76. In the field of conference services, the secretariat organized the intersessional meeting of the CRIC and the special session of the CST in 2008, and the sessions of COP 9, CST 9 and CRIC 8 in 2009. Related tasks included the negotiation of host country agreements, the setting up of conference services and facilities according to United Nations standards, accreditation and registration of participants, preparation of the agendas and organization of work for the sessions, planning, coordination and organization of the preparation and processing of over one hundred official documents, and compilation of the reports of the sessions. More than ten intersessional meetings of the Bureaux of the COP, the CST and the CRIC were also organized.

77. In addition, the secretariat arranged a number of other meetings and workshops, including the regional meetings preparatory to COP 9, the high-level policy dialogue, the meetings of the IATF on reporting and those of the regional task forces working on the regional coordination mechanisms.

78. With regard to administrative services, the tasks carried out during the biennium 2008–2009 included management of the resources of the secretariat and provision of monthly financial statements, arrangements with regard to the facilities of the secretariat, including among other things premises, furniture, connectivity and office supplies, monitoring of accounts and processing of payments, adjustment of the secretariat's accounting system to the euro currency and to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, preparation of interim annual financial statements and final financial statements after closing of biennium accounts, preparation of the programme budget and performance reports and presentation of the information to Parties, organization of the travel of staff and arrangements for the travel of participants to various meetings organized by the secretariat, recruitment of temporary resource persons, pensions and health insurance and other entitlements, records of absence, training and career development, preparation of periodic requests for assessed contributions, reports on voluntary contributions to respective cooperation partners, and administrative arrangements for sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

79. The information and communication technology services included internet, e-mail, data integrity and backup and helpdesk functions, and support to knowledge management, as well as planning and provision of up-to-date hardware and software for staff, and for COP, CRIC and CST sessions the planning and purchase of hardware as required, the design of software, and design of information and communication technology network architecture and deployment for sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

**Table 13. Expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (a) Executive Direction and Management as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	999.7	359.8	1 359.5	91.2
Consultants and experts	11.9	42.9	54.8	36.1
Travel of participants and representatives				--
Official travel of staff	229.9	97.5	327.4	16.4
Logistic support for meetings				--
General operating expenses	8.1	9.9	18.0	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 249.6</b>	<b>510.1</b>	<b>1 759.7</b>	<b>143.7</b>

	<b>CB</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>Total</b>
ASG	1.00	0.00	1.00
D-1	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-5	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-4	0.25	0.00	0.25
P-3	1.00	1.00	2.00
P-2	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3.25	1.00	4.25
GS	3.00	0.00	3.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>7.25</b>

**Table 14. Expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (b) Conference Services as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual expenditures as at 30 June 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Total estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 June 2009</b>
Staff-related costs	625.0	203.4	828.4	--
Consultants and experts	24.6	32.0	56.6	66.5
Travel of participants and representatives				--
Official travel of staff	27.1	32.0	59.1	1.5
Logistic support for meetings – Bureau meetings and CRIC				135.9
General operating expenses	0.9	1.4	2.3	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>677.6</b>	<b>268.8</b>	<b>946.4</b>	<b>203.9</b>

	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>EB</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-4	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-3	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-2	1.00	0.00	1.00
	2.00	0.00	2.000
GS	4.00	0.00	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>

**Table 15. Expenditures in the biennium 2008–2009 for subprogramme 6 (c)  
Administration and Finance Services as at 30 June 2009 (in thousands of euros)**

<b>Object of expenditure</b>	<b>Actual</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Supplementary Fund as at 30 Jun. 2009</b>
	<b>expenditures as at 30 Jun. 2009</b>	<b>Estimated expenditures to 31 Dec. 2009</b>	<b>estimated expenditures as at 31 Dec. 2009</b>	
Staff-related costs	723.7	344.3	1 068.0	--
Consultants and experts	16.1	37.0	53.1	--
Travel of participants and representatives				--
Official travel of staff	37.0	7.1	44.1	--
Logistic support for meetings – Bureau meetings				--
General operating expenses	910.6	564.3	1 474.9	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 687.4</b>	<b>952.7</b>	<b>2 640.1</b>	<b>--</b>

	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>EB</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-4	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-3*	1.00	0.00	1.00
P-2	1.00	0.00	1.00
	3.00	0.00	3.00
GS	7.00	0.00	7.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>

\* Position was approved and classified at P-4 level but incumbent recruited at P-3 level due to the budgetary constraint.

## **V. Report on the 2008–2009 performance of the Committee on Science and Technology**

80. Operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge is a central component of The Strategy, and by their decision 3/COP.8, Parties gave to the CST the primary responsibility for fulfilling this objective. The CST was also assigned a supporting role in implementing operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness-raising and education. The reshaping of the CST, as outlined in decisions 12/COP.8, 13/COP.8 and 14/COP.8, was to provide it with the necessary capacities and planning tools to face this challenge with enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.

81. A two-day special session of the CST was held back-to-back to CRIC 7 in November 2008. The main issues considered were the workplan of the CST, and how best to measure progress in meeting strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategy (the impact indicators).

82. Building on the above, the 2008–2009 work programme of the CST was designed to contribute to the strengthened mobilization of the scientific community for the implementation of the Convention and provision of policy-relevant advice at all levels. It further aimed to encourage scientific partnership and system-wide cooperation to deliver the objectives of The Strategy, while enhancing coordination with the CRIC in order to integrate sound scientific knowledge into the decisions of the COP and into the reporting process under the UNCCD.

83. During the biennium under consideration, the CST advanced the integration of relevant methodologies and parameters for national monitoring and vulnerability assessment within national reporting guidelines. Of particular importance in this regard was the work of the CST on impact indicators to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, on which matter Parties had requested the CST to provide advice in decision 3/COP 8. In response, the CST implemented a consultative process to identify and recommend a minimum set of impact indicators that could be used both by affected country Parties and globally to measure achievement of the three strategic objectives. Through that process, a minimum set of 11 impact indicators was laid down. These indicators are considered to be measurable, reliable, specific, applicable at the national and global levels, and cost-effective.

84. In order to facilitate the use of indicators by Parties, information on baselines, targets, tracking frequencies, data and information requirements and the potential sources for such data was prepared, as well as an assessment of related capacity-building needs of Parties. Further work is expected to take place after COP 9 in supporting the use of the indicators for the first reporting cycle, with an emphasis on methodologies and approaches supporting the provision of comparable information within and among regions through the use of the reporting guidelines.

85. A key component in facilitating exchanges on national monitoring and vulnerability assessment among the scientific community will be the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, to be held during the first week of COP 9. This conference derives from decision 13/COP 8 on the reshaping of CST operations, and is prepared by the scientific consortium Dryland Science for Development in collaboration with the CST Bureau. The priority theme selected by COP 8 for

the conference is “Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management”.

86. The purpose of the conference is to analyse and summarize leading scientific knowledge in ways that generate practical, actionable recommendations for deliberation by the COP, in order more effectively to address DLDD at national, subregional, regional and global levels. During the months leading up to the conference, a consultation phase will be organized through three globally constituted working groups that will develop analyses reflecting prevailing scientific consensus on three facets of the conference theme. The main output of the conference will include a scientific report on desertification monitoring and assessment, as well as an executive summary with policy recommendations to the CST and COP 9.

87. Further input to the CST exchanges on national monitoring and vulnerability assessment will be provided through a report on the LADA project which will be presented to CST 9. This project concerns the development and testing of effective assessment methodologies for land degradation in drylands through pilot projects and case studies.

88. This UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference will be a major milestone in reshaping the CST in order better to engage the scientific community in assessing and discussing biophysical and socio-economic trends of DLDD, and to contribute to the implementation of the Convention. It will also support the building of an interface between decision-makers and scientists, with the aims of making them aware of relevant interaction between biophysical and socio-economic factors in affected areas, and of basing COP decisions on sound, up-to-date and policy-oriented scientific knowledge.

## **VI. Report on the 2008–2009 performance of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

89. In decision 3/COP.8, Parties recognized the need to clarify the modalities of a new system for review and assessment of the implementation of the Strategy and the Convention, and requested the CRIC to finalize related proposals for discussion at COP 9. Accordingly, the priority of the CRIC during the current biennium has been to create a system for efficient monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of The Strategy, including methodology to drive the comprehensive monitoring process, to measure progress and support improvement, and to document and disseminate best practices systematically.

90. CRIC 7 was the first opportunity for Parties and observers jointly to advance The Strategy. Its focus was on the enabling environment with regard to the institutional set-up, including consideration of the future work of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies, and the methods for reviewing progress, that is, the principles for reporting on the implementation of the Strategy and its impact, and information relating to future meetings of the CRIC.

91. The conclusions and recommendations of CRIC 7 were listed in its report, as a summary compilation of suggestions and proposals offered by various delegations during CRIC 7. These recommendations concerned mainly the overall orientation and RBM methodology used in the

workplans and programmes of the Convention bodies and institutions, the monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the Strategy, and future meetings of the CRIC.

92. The preparation for CRIC 8 included the development of the methodological options for the reporting and review system described in section IV – Subprogramme 4 (capacity- building) above.

## **VII. Conclusions and recommendations**

93. The COP at its eighth session requested the Executive Secretary to report at the ninth session on the financial performance of the Convention trust funds, contained in this document. Parties may wish to review the information and advise the Executive Secretary of action to be taken.

94. The Executive Secretary has continued to send out reminders to all those Parties with outstanding contributions. In addition, the secretariat has established a web page so that Parties are able to determine the status of outstanding contributions for all Parties. The report is updated on a monthly basis. As at 30 June 2009, an amount of 1,414,119 euros (from the period 1999–2007) is still outstanding. The COP may wish to guide the secretariat on action to be taken regarding these outstanding contributions.

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