

Decision 18/COP.15

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12,

Also recalling decision 19/COP.13 on improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface and decisions 22/COP.13 and 20/COP.14 on cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2020–2021,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the triennium 2022–2024 as contained in the annex to this decision, and decides on priorities;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (b) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (c) Present a synthesis report, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the triennium 2022–2024, at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

3rd plenary meeting

13 May 2022

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024

Table 1

Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
<p>1. Provision of science-based evidence on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions.</p>	<p>A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which provides (a) a typology of sustainable land use systems, including their capacity to enhance ecosystem goods and services, to be less vulnerable to system volatility and shocks while addressing social inequities; (b) an analysis of the potential of sustainable land use systems to reconcile different United Nations goals and targets that compete for land resources; and (c) an assessment of the contextual applicability of these land use options across the globe, including barriers and opportunities as well as the possibility for broader diffusion.</p> <p>Provision of scientific assistance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of integrated land use planning, sustainable land management and land restoration.</p>
<p>2. Provision of science-based evidence on the historical regional and global aridity trends and future projections that may contribute to expanding drylands and affected populations and the adaptation approaches that reduce risks to environmental, social and economic systems.</p>	<p>A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which provides (a) science-based evidence on the existing approaches for the quantification and assessment of hydro-climate aridity; (b) the determination of its regional and global changes and future projections; (c) the resulting historical changes and future projections in impact risk, including from extreme heat events, drought and dust storms as well as higher risk of desertification, water scarcity, soil erosion, vegetation loss, wildfire damage and food supply disruptions; and (d) an evaluation of adaptation approaches that can reduce associated risk.</p> <p>Provision of scientific assistance to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of initiatives focused on building resilience to the effects of drought.</p>

Table 2

Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2022–2024

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. As the most important objective, assume a primary role in the quality assurance of a possible third edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO3) and review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other evidence-based communications.	<p>The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will be a member of the Global Land Outlook (GLO) steering committee, contribute to and undertake a scientific review of a possible GLO3 and all related documents, approve the final versions prior to publication, and be invited to review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) evidence-based communications.</p>
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) within the framework of its rolling work programme up to 2030 and in accordance with the procedures established in the memorandum of cooperation with the UNCCD secretariat	<p>The SPI will follow up on two thematic assessments and one technical paper prioritized in the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health (nexus assessment); (b) A thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity (transformative change assessment); and (c) A technical paper on the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. <p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports. The SPI will also conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 16) if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p>
3. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its Sixth Assessment Report.	<p>The SPI will conduct, for presentation at CST 16, an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and (b) The Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on mitigation of climate change.
4. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) within the framework of its work programme.	<p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of the proposed second edition of the Status of the World’s Soil Resources report.</p> <p>The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS, including any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of past global symposia on soil organic carbon, soil erosion, soil biodiversity and soil salinity.</p> <p>The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposia relevant to the UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition, the Global Symposium on Soil and Water and the Global Symposium on Soil Sealing and Urban Soils.</p>

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
<p>5. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP) within the framework of its work programme.</p>	<p>The SPI will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the UNEP-IRP. The UNEP-IRP 2022–2025 work programme focused on current trends and future prospects for global resource use and sustainable resource management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The rapid study and assessment: Defining Sustainable Levels of Resource Use (Science-Based Targets); and (b) The Global Resources Outlook 2023 report. <p>The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports. The SPI will also conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at CST 16 if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p>
<p>6. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which aims to achieve globally comparable monitoring of land governance by 2030.</p>	<p>The SPI will provide inputs to GLII and UNCCD efforts to ensure harmonization of land governance indicators and land degradation indicators, as relevant to both GLII and the UNCCD.</p>
<p>7. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, on scientific issues related to drought.</p>	<p>The SPI will collaborate with the IDMP on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the IDMP, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The harmonization of drought resilience terminology and definitions; (b) The enhancement of methodological approaches to monitoring and assessing drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems; and (c) The systematic integration of the findings from drought resilience assessments into drought early warning systems.