



19th Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

Date : 19-21 March 2024

Venue : UN Campus - Langer Eugen
Meeting Room : 2116
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1 53113 Bonn, Germany

Working languages : English

Working hours : **Tuesday, 19 March 2024, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET), SPI meeting**
Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET), SPI meeting
Thursday, 21 March 2024, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 (CET), SPI meeting

SPI Co-Chair : Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez, CST Chair
Nichole Barger, Independent Scientist

– PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA –

I. Welcome address

The UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw will welcome all participants and present views regarding the Science-Policy interface (SPI), followed by a welcome statement(s) from the SPI co-Chairs.

II. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work

The agenda and organization of the work will be proposed by the SPI co-Chairs for adoption. The secretariat will introduce the agenda of the SPI meeting. The schedule of work is presented in Annex 1.

III. Proposals for possible candidates from the independent scientist pool to shadow the current co-Chair.

Following a recommendation on the report of the past SPI independent scientist co-Chair and deliberations by the CST Bureau on the same, the SPI co-Chairs will invite nominations among its members for candidates to shadow the current independent scientist co-Chair over the final months of his or her term of office. These names will be forwarded for consideration of the next SPI cohort and its leadership election process.

SPI group photo

A group photo of the members and observers of the SPI will be taken.



IV. Update of the SPI coordination activities – Plenary

The secretariat will provide an overview of the work and timelines for each of the SPI coordination activities followed by open discussion.

1. Global Land Outlook (GLO)
2. Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES)
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
4. Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) of FAO
5. International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP)
6. Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of UN-Habitat
7. Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)

V. The SPI’s approach to the analysis of the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report – Plenary

The SPI has been tasked with the analysis of the IPCC’s Working Group II (AR6 (WGII)¹ and Working Group III (AR6 WGIII)² contributions to its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), leading to the development of key messages and a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations relevant to the UNCCD (decision 18/COP.15).

The SPI co-Leads will update the SPI on the approach to provide a summary of policy proposals and introduce the participatory and formative approach employed in the past for further analysis of the key messages.

VI. SPI coordination activity working sessions on the IPCC AR6 report (two parallel break-out groups)

The aim of the working sessions will be to finalize the process of moving from the scientific guidance provided in the IPCC AR6 reports to policy options that can be considered by UNCCD Parties at CST16/COP16 in December 2024.

The SPI will thereafter split into two working sessions, each dedicated to one of the IPCC AR6 reports. Each working group will nominate a facilitator and a scribe (see *Annex III* for the composition of these breakout groups).

VII. Report back to Plenary on the SPI’s IPCC coordination activity work

The co-Leads will report back to the plenary, highlighting progress made, including updates on the working group timelines and key milestones. The co-Chairs will facilitate a wrap-up discussion with respect to the work programme objectives.

¹ The Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

² The Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on mitigation of climate change: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-3/>



VIII. SPI Work Programme 2022-2024: Status and next steps – Plenary

The SPI co-Leads of objective 1 and objective 2, supported by the secretariat will introduce progress made and outline expected outputs of the working sessions.

- a) Objective 1: Sustainable land use systems (presentation and discussion)
- b) Objective 2: Aridity trends, projections, and impacts (presentation and discussion)

IX. Working sessions of SPI Objectives 1 and 2 (two parallel break-out groups):

Participants will join breakouts rooms for their respective SPI objective working groups. Each working group will nominate a facilitator and a scribe (see *Annex II* for the composition of these breakout groups).

X. Report back to plenary on SPI Objectives 1 and 2

The co-Leads will report back to the plenary, highlighting progress made, including updates on the working group timelines and key milestones. The co-Chairs will facilitate a wrap-up discussion with respect to the work programme objectives.

XI. Draft findings and recommendations of the SPI review

COP13 in 2017 decided that the SPI will operate up to COP16, at which time another review of the SPI will be presented. COP15 in 2022 further decided that the next CST session should focus on, *inter alia*, the review of the work conducted by the SPI, including its overall achievements since the last review completed at COP13, in order to decide on the future functioning of the SPI. As background information for that review, the secretariat has commissioned an external evaluation of the SPI, with the aim to systematically assess the work of the SPI and its overall achievements during the period 2018-2022. This evaluation is now close to completion. The external evaluator, Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, will present to the SPI her main findings, key messages and draft recommendations, and the SPI members and observers are invited to provide their feedback and thoughts.

XII. Science communication Media Training– Plenary

The Media training provides a unique opportunity to build lasting relationship with the SPI experts and media, educate both the media and the public on key UNCCD issues and means to address land degradation, drought, sand and dust storms, land tenure and gender (see *Annex IV* for the tentative programme).

XIII. Gender policy.

The secretariat will provide an overview of the draft UNCCD SPI Gender Policy and Implementation Plan that was developed, taking into consideration guidance from the COP in decision 19/COP.15, followed by open discussion.



XIV. Science in the Action Agenda of COP16 – Plenary

The co-Chairs, supported by the secretariat, will describe the key milestones between now and COP16, including roles and responsibilities. They will also introduce preliminary plans for a SPI Science Agenda during the COP16.

XV. Line of sight to COP16

Following an introduction provided by the secretariat, the co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion of the future work programme of the SPI.

- i. Preparation to the COP16 - way forward
- ii. SPI interactive dialogue at CST16 plenary
- iii. Next SPI work programme
- iv. Considerations for the SPI co-Chairs post COP16 report

XVI. SPI science communication strategy (discussion on writing policy position papers).

XVII. Other matters

The co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion on any other matters.

XVIII. Closing

The co-Chairs will invite the Managing Director, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, to provide closing remarks.

The co-Chairs will make an overall summary of proceedings, provide a way forward and officially close the meeting.



Annex I

Tentative schedule of SPI meeting work

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)	
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration (please come early to get through security easier)</i>
09:00 – 09:15	I. Welcome address – Plenary (rm 2116) Welcome statements from the SPI co-Chairs
09:15 – 09:30	II. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of the work
09:30 – 09:45	I. Welcome statement from the UNCCD Executive Secretary
09:45 – 10:30	III. Proposals for possible candidates from the independent scientist pool to shadow the current co-Chair – Plenary (rm 2116)
10:30 – 10:35	<i>SPI group photo</i>
10:35 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2116)</i>
11:00 – 11:30	IV. Update of the SPI coordination activities – Plenary (rm 2116)
11:30 – 12:00	V. The SPI's approach to the analysis of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report – Plenary (rm 2116)
12:00 – 13:00	VIII. SPI Work Programme 2022-2024: Status and next steps – Plenary Presentation by Objective 1 and Objective 2 co-Lead(s)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break (29th Floor)</i>
14:00 – 15:30	XI. Draft findings and recommendations of the SPI review by Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Evaluator for the SPI review
15:30 – 15:50	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2116)</i>
15:50 – 17:50	XII. Science communication Media Training – Plenary (rm 2116)
17:55 – 18:00	Logistics and organization for sessions on Wednesday, 20 March 2024
18:00 – 20:00	<i>Reception (please join us on the 13th floor for food and refreshments)</i>



Wednesday, 20 March 2024 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)	
09:00 – 09:05	Logistics Day 2 – Plenary (rm 2116)
09:05 – 10:20	IX. Working sessions of SPI Objective 1 and SPI Objective 2 (Parallel break-out groups) (rm 1330/1511 (tbc))
10:20 – 11:10	Coffee break (just outside rm 2116)
11:00 – 13:00	IX. Working sessions of SPI Objective 1 and SPI Objective 2 (Parallel break-out groups) (rm 1330/1511 (tbc))
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break (29th Floor)
14:00 – 16:30	IX. Working sessions of SPI Objective 1 and SPI Objective 2 (Parallel break-out groups) (rm 1330/1511 (tbc))
16:30 – 16:50	Coffee break (just outside rm 2116)
16:50 – 17:30	X. Report back to Plenary on SPI Objectives 1 and 2 – Plenary (rm 2116)
17:30 – 17:55	XIII. Gender policy – Plenary (rm 2116)
17:55 – 18:00	Logistics and organization for sessions on Thursday, 21 March 2024

Thursday, 21 March 2024 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 (CET) SPI meeting	
09:00 – 09:10	Logistics Day 4 – Plenary (rm 2116)
09:10 – 10:00	VI. SPI coordination activity working sessions on the IPCC AR6 report (Parallel break-out groups) (rm 1330/1511 (tbc))
10:00 – 10:30	VII. Report back to Plenary on the IPCC AR6 report– Plenary
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break (just outside rm 2116)
11:00 – 11:30	XVI. SPI science communication strategy (discussion on writing policy position papers) – Plenary (rm 2116)
11:30 – 13:00	XIV. Science in the Action Agenda of COP16 – Plenary (rm 2116)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break (29th Floor)
14:00 – 15:00	XIV. Science in the Action Agenda of COP16 – Plenary (rm 2116)
15:00 – 16:30	XV. Line of sight to COP16 i. Preparation to the COP16 - way forward ii. SPI interactive dialogue at CST16 plenary iii. Next SPI work programme iv. Considerations for the SPI co-Chairs post COP16 report
16:30 – 16:50	XVII. Other matters
16:50 – 17:00	XVIII. Closing i. Closing remarks from the Managing Director, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD ii. The SPI co-Chairs will close the meeting



Annex II – Working sessions on the objectives of the SPI Work Programme 2022-2024

	Objective 1	Objective 2
Venue		
Room	1330 (tbc)	1511 (tbc)
Facilitators	Annette Cowie Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald Felicia Akinyemi	Sergio Vicente Andrea Toreti Narcisa Pricope
Participants	Sarah Alibakhshi Dolors Armenteras Pascual Nichole Barger Vera Boerger Hamid Čustović Xiangzheng Deng Helene Gichenje Jeffery Herrick Robert Lewis Lettington Adesola Olaeye Tungalag Ulambayar Manon Albagnac	Ahmed Abdelati Emma Archer Arona Diedhiou Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez Abdul Hamid Loretta Hieber Girardet Jiajia Luo* Anahí Ocampo Melgar Tayebe Mesbahzadeh Roger Pulwarty Nijavalli “Ravi” Ravindranath Robert Stefanski *possibly joined virtually
Secretariat support: Roving:	Olga Andreeva	Jia Xiaoxia
	Johns Muleso Kharika, Barron Joseph Orr, Peter Christie	



Annex III – Working sessions on IPCC 6th Assessment Report

	AR6 WGII (Adaptation)	AR6 WGIII (Mitigation)
Venue		
Room	1511 (tbc)	1330 (tbc)
Facilitators	Emma Archer Anahí Ocampo Melgar	Nijavalli Ravindranath Dolors Armenteras Pascual
Participants	Abdul Hamid Felicia Akinyemi Nichole Barger Vera Boerger Hamid Čustović Xiangzheng Deng Arona Diedhiou Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez Helene Gichenje Jeffery Herrick Loretta Hieber Girardet Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald Jiajia Luo Andrea Toreti Tungalag Ulambayar Sergio Vicente	Ahmed Abdelati Sarah Alibakhshi Annette Cowie Tayebe Mesbahzadeh Narcisa Pricope Roger Pulwarty Robert Stefanski Manon Albagnac
Secretariat support: Roving:	Jia Xiaoxia	Olga Andreeva
	Johns Muleso Kharika, Barron Joseph Orr, Peter Christie	



Annex IV.

Science Media Communications Training (tentative programme)
Tuesday, 19 March 2024, 15:50 -17:50
Plenary (rm 2116)

15:50 – 16:00	Welcome and brief introduction by moderator of how the training will be conducted
16:00-16:15	Firestarter talk by Marlowe Howe, AFP e.g. “Lost in translation? Bridging the gap between media and scientists”
16:15-16:30	Interactive session with participants including some tips on how to prepare for and nail media interviews (handouts will be provided)
16:30-17:30	Hands-on session of SPI members being interviewed on camera (split into two groups, each doing a specific topic relevant to COP16 e.g. land restoration or drought resilience) – group and trainers provide feedback to interviewees
17:30-17:50	Wrap up session with the entire group – what they learned, what they found challenging/helpful, any other feedback on the training