



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



Concept and Agenda

The land-water nexus: improving science-policy interfaces to strengthen resilience

UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI)-Bonn Water Network (BWN) Joint Session

9:00-11:00 (CET), 22 March 2024

MET 2116, Langer Eugen Building, UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

[Online \(registration\)](#)

Context

Sustainable management of land and water is the key to food security and the health of human beings and ecosystems. It is also central to building resilience to droughts, floods, and other natural disasters. Climate change and land use changes and the interactions among both are accelerating the degradation of land, making it more susceptible to the impacts of droughts and floods. These dynamics can contribute to resource competition, civil unrest and forced migration. In the celebration of the World Water Day 2024, UNCCD and the Bonn Water Network is organizing a joint event to explore the role of the science-policy interface in the land-water nexus.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the global vision and voice for sustaining land and water resources. Beyond, as an international legal instrument entered into effect in 197 parties, it unites countries, business, and all other stakeholders to work together to combat desertification, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought; maintain ecosystem health, and improve the living conditions for people. The Convention's [Science Policy Interface \(SPI\)](#) has been working to translate scientific findings into policy options for enhancing land restoration, sustainable land and water management and drought resilience building to advise the [Committee on Science and Technology \(CST\)](#) of the Convention to guide the parties towards the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030.

Founded in 2020, the [Bonn Water Network](#) (BWN) bundles the Bonn-based expertise in water-related research, training and practice. Its eleven members composed of research institutes, UN institutions and civil society organizations are active in Bonn and worldwide. BWN is a knowledge-hub, rooted in the city of Bonn's international sustainability environment and working on a broad range of water topics from different scientific and stakeholders' perspectives to achieve sustainable and inclusive water solutions.

Objective

This joint session will provide a chance for the SPI and the BWN to share relevant activities, research results and case studies that may benefit future SPI work as well as the activities of BWN institutions. Contributions will focus on the role of science-policy interfaces in understanding and governing the land-water nexus.

Agenda

09:00-09:10 **Opening remarks** (Echo to the theme of the World Water Day 2024-water for peace)
Moderated by Mr. Jara Diego, the Co-speaker of the BWN, Legal officer of the IUCN-Environmental Law Center.

- Remarks from Dr. Barron Joseph Orr, Chief Scientist, Science Technology and Innovation (STI), UNCCD (5 minutes)



- Remarks from Mr. Stefan Wagner, Head of Department for international Affairs & Global Sustainability, City of Bonn (5 minutes)

09:15-10:55 Thematic Session: The role of science-policy interfaces in understanding and governing the land-water nexus.

Presentations:

- **The work of UNCCD-SPI and Bonn Water Network** (8 minutes for each)
 - Overview of UNCCD SPI and its Work Programme by Dr. Nichole Barger, SPI co-Chair
 - Overview of Bonn Water Network and its activities by Dr. Annabelle Houdret, Speaker of the BWN, Senior researcher at German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
- **Presentations from form the members of the SPI** (Total: 8 minutes for each)
 - Sustainable land use systems by Dr. Annette Cowie, Co-lead of the SPI Objective 1 working group)
 - Aridity trends, projection and its impacts by Mr. Sergio Vicente-Serrano, Co-lead of the SPI objective 2 working group)
- **Presentations from members of BWN** (8 minutes for each)
 - Responsible governance of interlinked water and land tenures: challenges and options in the Awash River Basin, Ethiopia by Dr. Srinivasa Reddy Srigiri from IDOS
 - “Water for peace” – The importance of transboundary water governance and diplomacy, by Mr. Diego Jara, Legal Officer IUCN
 - What role for operators in sustainable water resource management? by Dr. Anne Bousquet, Regional Coordinator for Africa and Asia. UN-HABITAT, Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA/UN-Habitat)

Open Discussion:

Lessons learned on and perspectives for the science-policy interface: how can we strengthen collaboration? (44 minutes)

10:55-11:00 Wrap-up and Closing

- Dr. Annabelle Houdret, Speaker of the BWN (3 minutes),
- Mr. Johns Muleso Kharika, Chief of the UNCCD STI (2 Minutes)

11:00-11:30 Refreshment



Annex I: List of BWN Member and Partner Institutions

1. Bonn International Center for Conflict studies (BICC)
2. Center for Development Research University of Bonn (ZEF)
3. Department of Geography at the University of Bonn (GIUB)
4. German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
5. Institute of Hygiene and Public Health University Bonn (IHPH)
6. IUCN-Environmental Law Center
7. UN-Habitat/ GWOPA (Global Water Operation's Partnership Alliance)
8. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
9. United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
10. International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC)
11. Water Integrity Network (WIN)

IDOS and IUCN are serving as the speakers of the network in 2024.

Annex II: Tentative list of the SPI/CST Bureau participants

1. Nicole Barger, SPI co-chair, Deputy Chief scientist, Nature Conservancy, United States
2. Jorge Luis Garciar, CST chair and SPI co-chair, Regional Director of the National Commission for Arid Zones (CONAZA) in the Central West Region of Mexico
3. Annette Cowie, Senior Principal Research Scientist, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Adjunct Professor, University of New England, Australia
4. Sergio Vicente Serrano, Scientific Researcher, Pyrenean Institute of Ecology, Research Centre of the Spanish National Research Council
5. Dolors Armenteros, Biologist, University of Barcelona
6. Emma Rosa Mary Archer, Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Pretoria.
7. Nijavalli H. Ravindranath, Professor from Centre for Sustainable Technologies of Indian Institute, Bangalore, India
8. Anahi Ocampo-Melgar, Assistant professor at the University of Chile, Faculty of Forest Sciences and Environmental Conservation
9. Abdule Hamid, CST vice-chair, Director General, Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh
10. Ali Ahmed Abdelati, CST vice-chair, Professor of Agronomy and Head of the Plant Production Department of Ecology and Dry lands Agriculture at the Desert Research Center, Egypt
11. Hamid Čustović, CST vice-chair, Professor of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Sarajevo, President of the Soil Science Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina
12. Jeffery Ewing Herrick, CST vice-chair, Soil scientist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, based at the Jornada Experimental Range in the southwestern United States
13. Vera Boerger, SPI observer, Senior Land and Water Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
