



Midterm evaluation of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework

Report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group 18-20 November 2023

Background

At its fifteenth session in 2022, the UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP) launched a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. The evaluation process is overseen by a dedicated Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG-MTE) supported by the UNCCD secretariat. It is built on three main documents: an evidence-based independent assessment on the progress made, a report to the COP, submitted by the IWG-MTE, presenting the findings and recommendations of the Group, and a COP decision on enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Framework in 2025-2030.

The IWG-MTE consists of three representatives nominated by each UN region. The group is supported by seven observers: two members of the Science-Policy Interface, one representative each from three major international organizations (FAO, GEF secretariat and IUCN) and two representatives from the civil society. The secretariat and, where feasible, the GM will support the work of IWG-MTE and service its meetings.

Unless otherwise agreed by the IWG-MTE and depending on the availability of resources, the group has three in-person meetings: the first one was held in February 2023, the second one took place immediately after the intersessional CRIC session in November 2023, and the third one is planned for June 2024. In addition, the group meets online when needed.

Current status of the midterm evaluation process

Following the guidance given by the IWG-MTE at its first meeting, the independent assessment was prepared by a team of external consultants in April-October 2023. The preparation of the report included an extensive study of documentation, an online survey and interviews involving close to 200 respondents, and an online exchange with the IWG-MTE on the provisional findings. The resulting report is a large substantive document that looks at the Strategic Framework from seven perspectives: its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, progress to impact, sustainability and gender responsiveness; and recommends potential improvements. The full report in English, together with informal translations in Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, can be accessed here: [Independent assessment](#). It is meant to serve as evidence-based background information for the IWG-MTE in its preparation of its report for the UNCCD COP 16 in 2024.

In line with the terms of reference for the midterm evaluation, the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment were considered in participatory consultations, held on 16 November as part of the programme of work of the CRIC. As the independent assessment report is a long and detailed document, its main points were translated for the consultations into a shorter and more focused conference room paper¹, which was made available as part of the CRIC official documents. The consultations were structured along five focus areas and twelve recommendations, in line with the conclusions of the independent assessment. The focus areas are (1) Political and financial commitment,

¹ [CRP for participatory consultations](#)



(2) Action at larger scale on the ground, (3) Linkages between the Rio Conventions, (4) Science-policy update, and (5) Monitoring and reporting.

Most interventions made at the participatory consultations represented regional positions and views around the five focus areas. Their main points were compiled into a note that is in annex 2 of this report. They were also used as part of the background information for the IWG-MTE meeting.

Although the participatory consultations were organised during the CRIC, they were not, formally speaking, part of the CRIC agenda. Therefore they are not mentioned in the CRIC report.

Second in-person meeting of IWG-MTE

The IWG-MTE held its second in-person meeting immediately after the CRIC, from 18 to 20 November, in Samarkand. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Daniel Van Assche, and as the other co-chair, Mr. Luis Constantino, had informed that he had to leave the IWG, the Group decided that Mr. Van Assche would continue as the sole chair. As also the Algerian representative, Ms. Saliha Fortas, had had to leave the IWG, the IWG welcomed the nomination of the new representatives of the Africa region, Mr. Stephen Muwaya (Uganda) and Ms. Sabrina Rachedi (Algeria), who will replace Mr. Constantino and Ms. Fortas.

The main purpose of this second IWG meeting was to establish the basis for the IWG report to COP 16, including the main content and the structure of the report. The agenda of the meeting is contained in annex 1 of this report.

Building the content of the report

For the content, the lead consultant of the independent assessment, supported by the secretariat, provided brief background papers and presentations on eight topics:

1. Political commitment and visibility
2. LDN and action on the ground
3. Restoration industry and private sector engagement
4. Gender responsiveness
5. Synergies and coherence
6. Science and policy
7. Resource mobilization
8. Monitoring and reporting

The papers combined the respective points of the independent assessment with feedback received at the participatory consultations and the CRIC exchanges, with the aim to present for each topic (a) what is going well, (b) what is not going so well and (c) what could be potential measures for improvement in the future. The IWG discussed on the list of topics as well as the content of each paper and decided to slightly modify the list. The new list of topics is as follows:

1. Political commitment and visibility
2. LDN and action on the ground
3. "Restoration industry"
4. Gender responsiveness
5. Synergies and coherence
6. Science, education and policy
7. Resource mobilization
8. Monitoring and reporting
9. Stakeholder engagement
10. Effectiveness and efficiency of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism



As next steps, the secretariat will insert the comments made by the IWG into each paper and provide by mid-December two versions of them: a long version with all comments and inputs inserted, and a one-pager that summarizes the main points for each topic. These documents will be also uploaded on the midterm evaluation Teams group, together with other relevant documents (statements made and a related summary note concerning the participatory consultations), and the secretariat will update the invitations to the members and observers to that online repository, to ensure that everyone has access. The IWG members and observers will then be asked to provide in writing by 26 January 2024 any further comments/direction they have on each topic. These comments will be sent to the secretariat, and also shared through the Teams group.

Along with the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment, the ten topics will provide the basis on which the IWG report to COP 16 will be built. Some of the topics are likely to be emphasized in the report, while others may be limited to brief suggestions on where to focus next. In general, the IWG will seek to guide the strategic orientation of the UNCCD in the coming years, and avoid creating a parallel consideration of detailed measures on topics that are covered under other COP 16 agenda items.

Once the IWG members and observers have provided their inputs to the ten papers, the secretariat will compile the first draft of the IWG report. This draft will be further discussed in an online meeting in March.

During the exchanges at the IWG meetings, the participants mentioned several interesting information materials that could greatly enrich the thinking of the IWG members and observers of the topics at hand. The secretariat will share this information by email and also store it under the Teams group.

The structure of the COP 16 report

The IWG was informed that if its report to the COP follows the UN standards for official documents, the maximum length is 8,500 words (approximately 15 pages), and the UN conference services in Geneva will conduct the translation to all UN languages. If the IWG report is longer, the secretariat will be prepared to cover the costs of translation. The IWG decided that it will aim to keep the length of the report within the limits of the UN standards.

The IWG also noted that the report should mention at the beginning the mandate and scope of the document, which in this case would be a brief introduction of the midterm evaluation process, including related decisions. It also considered that the actual substance of the report could start with a short general statement on the status of the Strategic Framework.

The main content of the report would be about the findings and related conclusions & recommendations, which would tentatively derive from the ten topic papers. As the IWG work on the topics continue, some topics may be combined, some left out and some added, depending on the eventual focus set by the Group.

Joint meeting with the intergovernmental working group on drought

The IWG-MTE meeting agenda included a joint meeting with the IWG on drought, which was organised on 19 November. In this meeting, the members of the two working groups were informed of the main topics of each group. For the most part of the joint meeting, they worked in four groups that considered approaches to enhance political commitment, action at scale, resource mobilization, and regional cooperation. Each member took a turn in all of the four groups, and thus participated in the brainstorming on all topics. The results of the working groups are summarized in annex 3 of this report.



Next steps

The following actions were agreed by the IWG as the next steps to be taken:

Soon after the meeting, the secretariat will

- Send to the Group the meeting report and annexes
- Compile the IWG comments into the ten topic papers and prepare a one-page summary for each
- Update the midterm evaluation Teams group content and send new invitations to all members and observers
- Send to the Group the links and additional information that were mentioned during the meeting
- Organise an online meeting with the evaluator of the SPI review for those that are interested

By 15 December: The ten topic papers (updated long versions and summaries) will be sent to the Group

By 26 January: The members and observers will provide their feedback to the ten papers

By the end of February: The secretariat will send to the Group a first draft of the report to COP 16

In March: An online meeting for an exchange of the draft report will be organised

In June (provisionally 16-19 June, following the climate talks on 3-13 June): the last meeting of the IWG will be organised in Bonn.

Annexes:

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| Annex 1: | Agenda of the second IWG-MTE meeting |
| Annex 2: | Summary note of the feedback received at the participatory consultations |
| Annex 3: | Joint meeting of the IWG-MTE and the IWG Drought: Results of the working groups |

Annex 1: Agenda of the second IWG-MTE meeting

Second meeting of the intersessional working group on the midterm evaluation 18-20 November 2023, Samarkand

Meeting hours:

Saturday 18 November: 2pm to 6pm

Sunday 19 November: IWG-MTE: 10am to 1pm
Joint meeting with IWG Drought: 2:30pm to 6pm
(joint dinner after the meeting)

Monday 20 November 10am to 6 pm

Venue: IWG-MTE meetings will take place in Regency Hotel room Shakrisabz (MET-15)
Joint meeting with IWG Drought: Regency Hotel Ballroom-Tashkent

Provisional agenda

Opening of the meeting

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Consideration of the structure of the IWG-MTE report to COP 16**
3. **Consideration of the potential content for the COP 16 report**
Presentations and discussion along eight themes, combining the findings of the independent assessment, feedback received through the participatory consultations, and matters raised at the CRIC:
 1. Political commitment and visibility
 2. LDN and action on the ground
 3. Restoration industry and private sector engagement
 4. Gender responsiveness
 5. Synergies and coherence
 6. Science and policy
 7. Resource mobilization
 8. Monitoring and reporting
5. **Joint meeting with the IWG on drought**
 - Update on the status of work in each IWG
 - Working groups on specific topics
 - Discussion
6. **Next steps**

Closing of the meeting

Annex 2: Summary note of the feedback received at the participatory consultations

Participatory consultations: Elements from the statements

Africa Group:

- The UNCCD does not influence many national budgetary processes, and in general it has less political and media attention and weaker science-policy influence than other Conventions;
- To renew political commitment of Parties and enhance the visibility of the UNCCD, focus should be on drought as a global threat. A protocol on drought would assist on that;
- The UNCCD needs a strong case for the value of financing its own key priorities (LDN, SLM and drought); not only consideration of accessing financing by activities that bring synergies with the other Rio Conventions;
- The budget of the UNCCD institutions has been frozen for the last decade;
- SPI work could be better aligned with the agendas and priorities of the CRIC and the COP;
- There is a need to engage with scientists to support the development of transformative projects, and for the exchange of experiences, lessons and best practices in the project implementation;
- Voluntary reporting by “non-affected Parties” on the indicators for Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 would enable a complete global assessment, and also offer information of their lessons and best practices to affected Parties.

Group of Latin American and the Caribbean countries:

- Policy => communication. The UNCCD profile is low, and there is a need to have goals and targets (*who will work on them, other group to create at next CoP16?*). For the goals and targets to influence policy decisions, they need to be aligned with the realities of each country;
- Further resource mobilization and commitments are needed for the countries to implement the Convention;
- The principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities needs to be respected;
- The UNCCD should further reinforce links with key technical partners, notably FAO, for work on the ground.

The Asia-Pacific Group:

- The idea of a global target is important;
- There is a need for enhanced visibility and political awareness of the Convention at all levels;
- Targeted communications should include economics;
- Among the key actions are the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, and also options for budgetary support to the secretariat;
- More weight or consideration needs to be given to drought in the implementation of current strategy and development of the post-2030 Strategy;
- More support for scientific engagement in UNCCD process (including universities) should be considered.

Annex IV for Northern Mediterranean countries:

- Robust political and financial commitments is necessary for the UNCCD's efficacy and reach;
- Establishing global targets to raise awareness and enhance political commitment for improved influence on national budgetary processes and gaining attention;
- The possibility to discuss and adopt explicit quantitative global targets on restoration as well as on sustainable land management is welcome, for fostering the achievement of land degradation neutrality targets and enhancing political engagement;
- Synergies between land restoration, climate change, and biodiversity protection are recognized, but there are difficulties of coordination even at national level, therefore the need for stronger

coordination and cooperation between the Rio Conventions. A shared repository serving all Conventions could be one solution.

- The visibility of the SPI's work should be reinforced, and the scientific community participation in the UNCCD should be boosted;
- There is a need for more robust monitoring tools beyond biophysical data; the UNCCD should include economic and social dimensions in the monitoring;
- Gender aspects should be better noted.

The European Union:

- Gender aspects should be better noted
- For the UNCCD target: the potential of the Land Degradation Neutrality target to set quantitative global commitments should be explored;
- Reporting: the support that the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism are providing to country Parties could be reinforced;
- It is essential to involve CSOs and land managers in the UNCCD process to ensure the implementation of the UNCCD's objectives;
- New funding opportunities and enhancing resource mobilization: the economic aspects of land degradation and drought should be taken more strongly into account in the UNCCD process (Economics of Land Degradation Initiative or the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies);
- Synergies: Joint Liaison Group to be proactive; Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, developed within the CBD framework, should be considered;
- Science-Policy: decision-making processes under the UNCCD are based on the best science available + not just about ensuring policy-makers and societies understand the messages, but also about generating an impact. Our messages need to raise awareness about the importance of combating DLDD and generate action. No simplification but better communication;
- Monitoring and reporting: strengthen economic and social dimensions, including gender and land tenure, within the reporting system. Critical to further improve the PRAIS 4 reporting platform, the reporting guidance, particularly regarding its linkages to Trends.Earth.

CSOs:

- Although CSOs are not specifically mentioned in the Strategic Framework, they make an important contribution to its implementation and should be included in related processes as observers;
- For broader scale action at all levels, there is a need to transfer focus to local and territorial levels, including local authorities, CSOs, general public and the private sector;
- Synergies with the other Rio Conventions are important;
- Political visibility could be enhanced by more attention to security impacts of land degradation;
- The scope of the SPI could be enhanced to assess human dimensions eg. gender, anthropology, sociology, political science etc
- On resource mobilisation : Growing commitments in terms of land restoration cannot substitute efforts to limit investments that are harmful to land (such as harmful subsidies).

Annex 3: Joint meeting of the IWG-MTE and the IWG Drought: Results of the working groups

Joint meeting of the intersessional working groups on drought and midterm evaluation

19 November 2023, Samarkand

The members and observers of the intersessional working groups (IWGs) on drought and midterm evaluation held a joint meeting on Sunday 19 November in Samarkand, with the aim to share information of the main considerations in each group and to exchange views and ideas on how they see the UNCCD in the coming years. The joint meeting started with a presentation by a co-chair of each group, followed by group work.

Four working groups serviced by the UNCCD secretariat were established, with the following topics:

- A. Political commitment
- B. Action at scale
- C. Resource mobilization
- D. Regional cooperation

Each working group was requested to identify ideal solutions that can lead to progress and achievements concerning the topic, and the necessary feasible steps to reach these solutions. The groups consisted of an equal number of representatives of both IWGs and at regular intervals, the members rotated to another group, so that each IWG member participated in all four working groups. At the end of the session, the secretariat presented the findings of the groups in a plenary form. The secretariat also compiled the main points made into this note for the information and reference of both IWGs. This note is informative and meant to enrich the IWG considerations; the members of the two IWGs are not expected to decide on or commit to any specific approaches as a result of the joint meeting.

A. Solutions to enhance political commitment

Communication

- Use of consistent and comprehensive messaging. The UNCCD should communicate clearly and strategically by, for example, avoiding acronyms and using simple language and short ideas.
- Urge UNCCD national focal points to communicate regularly and in an effective manner with their ministers on UNCCD matters. This will boost visibility of UNCCD agenda at the highest level.
- Leveraging land as a central piece - healthy land is the source for food security and ensures livable planet. Land degradation and droughts influence the availability of food, water and energy. DLDD should be considered as a national security matter.
- Changing the narrative of communicating drought: Drought is no more a slow onset phenomenon; instead the rapid onset, intensification and flash droughts are now common.
- Gender and migration issues are not adequately highlighted and the role of DLDD in addressing these issues should be strengthened.
- Develop communication tools, movies, Apps. Work with media, schools, universities, farmers and Parliamentarians.
- Come up with innovative ideas of awarding heads of states as champions of DLDD (Ex., President Ruto was awarded climate champion for Africa). Such simple but symbolic actions can elevate the political profile of UNCCD agenda to the highest level.

Awareness

- Boosting education and raising awareness of the public of DLDD will give impetus to the political commitment as the conscious society will put pressure on the government.
- Strong science assessment body (such as Intergovernmental panel on DLDD) to support the convention (the like of IPCC for climate change).
- Introduce compliance rules and education programs for bridging the science and policy interface.

- Using extreme events such as drought to gain political momentum. Extreme drought can advance resource mobilization, galvanize communication campaigns and catalyze action among diverse actors. A good example of this is the Australia future fund which was created because of such extreme droughts in the country.
- Inclusive approaches: Involvement of those directly affected including indigenous societies, farmers, youth, women, civil society and local authorities.

Economics, Business

- Drought impacts are underestimated. UNCCD should make every attempt to demonstrate the economic benefits and outcomes of land restoration and drought resilience as that raises the attention of politicians. Benefits of action versus the cost of inaction.
- The business model is missing for the DLDD agenda. The role of the private sector in DLDD and investment in DLDD and its impacts on SLM and drought resilience must be understood by politicians.

Coordination

- UNCCD should liaise and enhance synergies with the other two Rio conventions, as these two conventions are priorities for governments – identifying opportunities of synergies will benefit the UNCCD agenda.
- Break the silos and enhance national coordination mutual collaboration between government sectors at all levels including the donors (GEF, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD)

Governance

- We should explore ways to increase the link between the national programs and the UNCCD COP decisions. Many of the UNCCD Parties continue the business as usual after returning from COP and do not build direct or indirect links to COP decisions. Using stronger language in COP decisions and action oriented political declarations are needed to ensure the connection.
- Increase funding to the convention by GEF.
- Strengthen regional liaison offices. The regional offices of the UNCCD should deliver UNCCD messages, network, and communicate clearly and strategically issues of regional importance to highest levels of governments.

B. Solutions to enhance action at scale

- Embrace global, binding and measurable targets (both for land and drought resilience) involving all Parties, including those currently outside the Annexes.
- This could mean making LDN and drought resilience targets obligatory (binding) and concrete (clear objectives, measurable, spatially explicit)
- Synergizing the existing land degradation and land restoration targets is also one option.
- Targets can be established at any level, from global to project level.
- Embrace a global target and delivery on it supported by
 - Sufficient resource mobilization, and/or a significant dedicated financial instrument
 - Partnerships across the three Rio conventions, the private sector, CSOs and other stakeholders
 - Systematic engagement of regional organizations to mainstream supporting the achievement of LDN and the building of drought resilience within their political and technical processes
 - Integrating into the budget and structure of the secretariat the means to support partnerships with these regional organizations as they engage with Parties, helping them support the financial, technical and scientific needs
- Other factors for action at scale include the following:
 - Political commitment
 - Realistic approaches that address all three Rio conventions, and which operationalize synergies across them at the national level
 - Stakeholder involvement including local communities

- Private sector engagement
- Capacity development and exchange
- Results-based payments based on progress
- Financial viability and economic returns based on sound economic data
- Systematic replication of successful traditional sustainable drought and land management approaches within countries and a platform to encouraging sharing among countries, emphasizing South-South exchange and cooperation.
- Actively pursue and /promote regional/transboundary actions to achieve LDN and build drought resilience.
- Promote the design of projects that meet the multiple benefits that come from healthy land and increased resilience to drought, noting the sustainable land management is central to many land-based nature-based solutions.
- Executive-level government commitment to building/improving/implementing drought plans based on the three pillars of drought management (Monitoring and early warning systems; Vulnerability and impact assessments; Drought preparedness, mitigation and response) in a cooperative process between national government, local government and industry to develop/refine the plan and empower these stakeholders to implement the plan, as appropriate.
- Support the development of strong and integrated proactive drought management plans at the national level supported by a regional framework based on the global target(s) back by high-level political commitments and declarations supported by COP decisions and national legislation.
- National drought plans and UNCCD NAPs need to be fully integrated with national strategic plans (e.g., national development plans), with corresponding links to local level engagement, governance and implementation.
- Mobilize finance (such as a significant and dedicated fund) to support joint implementation towards all global goals relevant to land and drought resilience that engages and is supported by stakeholder networks (youth, private sector, CSOs, scientific community, etc.), emphasizing that healthy land secure the future of all life on Earth, including ours.
- Explore and develop the motivations/drivers to attract more stakeholders (policy-makers, civil society, farmers, etc.) to be engaged with full-scale participation in the actions, and ensure all communication is translated from technical into more accessible language for non-experts.
- Engage the youth.
- Expand engagement of CSOs in order to support the implementation by governments (all levels) implementation of the Convention, as guided by all DLDD COP decisions.
- Develop a framework, mechanisms and partnerships to more systematically involve local governments in bringing action to scale, ensuring that local governments
 - Know/understand the UNCCD strategic framework
 - Are able to act (means, skills)
 - Contribute to the decision making in land/drought actions.
- Focus on improving science – policy communication (make it simple, focused, brief!) and science – public communication (motivational and even simpler!) through all forms of media (to help mobilize public and ultimately political support).
- Transform national economies supported by actions to create economic opportunities that come from addressing desertification/land degradation and drought.
- Engage the private sector to help accelerate the development of the restoration industry in a way that corresponds to locally relevant sustainable value chains, with a concerted focus on those sectors/industries most active on land (e.g., food, fiber, fashion, construction).
- Develop a simple decision framework in support of integrated land use planning to ensure all land use decisions and the placement of land-based interventions are the most appropriate use for each location, taking into consideration both the land potential as well as the inevitable tradeoffs inherent in balancing the competing demands for land resources across nature, food, energy, water, housing, etc.

C. Solutions to enhance resource mobilization

Domestic resource mobilization

- Analysis of threats to national economy caused by DLDD.
- Capacity building on the use of environmental accounting tools.
- Analysis of reasons behind limited domestic funding for DLDD.
- Establishment of national operational plans for LDN and drought mitigation, with concrete and measurable targets and detailed, scheduled actions. These plans may be built with the UN country teams and in collaboration with agencies and organizations that are active in the country; they may be funded from the GEF enabling funding.
- Integration of DLDD and related actions to different sectors and policies, and also to specific national processes and funds such as national science funds.
- Establishment of contingency funds for (drought) emergency.
- Establishment of incentives to reward action on land restoration/drought mitigation (targeting farmers, business...).
- Establishment of a compensation scheme (levy, tax, payment for ecosystem services) for actions that damage land/hinder drought mitigation, which will work through a fund. Funding from the fund will be used for land restoration/drought mitigation.
- Capacity building to improve country level skills for project preparation and management, donor planning cycle, and DLDD mainstreaming.
- Launching/participation in country level donor coordination mechanisms.

Building effective projects

- Capacity building for
 - Identification/assessment of needs and opportunities, as the basis of a project.
 - Technical details and donor requirements for project preparation, management, monitoring and reporting.
 - CSOs and local communities that have an important role in implementation.
- Specific elements that are likely to enhance project effectiveness:
 - Building large-scale, multi-country projects instead of small-scale local ones
 - Preparing for co-funding/investments from a variety of sources: public, private, bilateral, multilateral
 - Including income-generating components, which will assist in upscaling the project activities and ensuring their sustainability
 - Including profit-prone components that can attract private sector investments
 - Identification of multiple benefits as project results (synergies, multi-sector gains...)
 - Integrating traditional and local knowledge to project approach/contents
 - Defining concrete and measurable aims
 - Ensuring that the UNCCD national focal point is involved or at least informed of all projects relating to DLDD

External resource mobilization

- Establishment of an online database/search engine that assists in matching available funding with the planned projects
- Strengthening access (capacity) to existing funding sources that can be used for DLDD, such as different GEF Focal Areas, GCF, regional development banks
- Expanding the role of DLDD in existing funding sources
- Ensuring that DLDD actions are included in the new Biodiversity Fund
- Integrating drought into GEF Land Degradation Focal Area and other suitable focal areas
- Strengthen the GM to incubate new initiatives and flagships, and to assist countries in accessing funding for these initiatives and flagships from regional development banks and other major funders

Private sector engagement

- Establishment of incentives to reward good action/ compensation scheme for damaging actions (see details under domestic resource mobilization above)
- Establish risk insurance schemes
- Develop analysis and communication around combined economic returns and environment/social benefits from addressing DLDD
- Launch information campaigns targeting farmers

D. Solutions to enhance regional cooperation**Support to cross-annex regional and subregional cooperation including meetings, workshops and projects with specific topics, building on the needs of the countries:**

- Identifying specific common topic/ challenges at subregional or river basin level
- Establishing scientific task force for assessment of the current status, members state difference and similarities
- Mobilizing support to develop joint projects.
- Capacity building for implementation
- Sharing best practices and experiences
- Feedback from local communities

Supporting regional implementation:

- Establishing regional framework, priorities for regional action, regional action plans to get high level political commitment from countries.
- Regional target, application of the global targets down to the regional level.
- Regional assessment produced from PRAIS system for regional joint action.
- Coordination mechanism
- Regional science network to support the regional implementation.
 - reactivate and update the thematic programme networks
 - supporting Science-Policy-Interface work with region scientific contributions
- Regional CSO network and engagement to regional consultation
- Capacity building subregional low cost, more effective.
- Preparation for COP decision:
 - Identifying common needs of region introduced to new agenda of next COP
 - Analysis of common regional needs , regional activities

Supporting regional coordination with/among existing regional organizations:

- Under the UNCCD process: regional committee, regional coordination by the UNCCD
- External of the UNCCD process: environmental, agriculture and economic, climate change biodiversity topics and processes
- Develop framework around water management, for example with watershed focus.
- Engage regional organizations in regional meetings and actions.
- UNCCD to play an accelerator to support partnerships.

Regional communication and advocacy:

- Regional implementation webpage or web portal with regional languages
- Regional communication of the global target and concept with regional or local context, climate change week at regional level
- Regional communication alignment with SDGs
- Enhancing mainstreaming at national level
- Engagement of all stakeholders

Common challenges that need cooperation and coordination:

- Integrated regional coordination of the implementation of drought risk management and mitigation activities / services management planning

- Drought vulnerability assessment at regional level and local level
- Cross-boundary water management
- Sand and dust storms early warning and source mitigation
- Forced migration due to drought and land degradation.
- Linking with economic development goal.

Regional cooperation should be linked to resource mobilization.