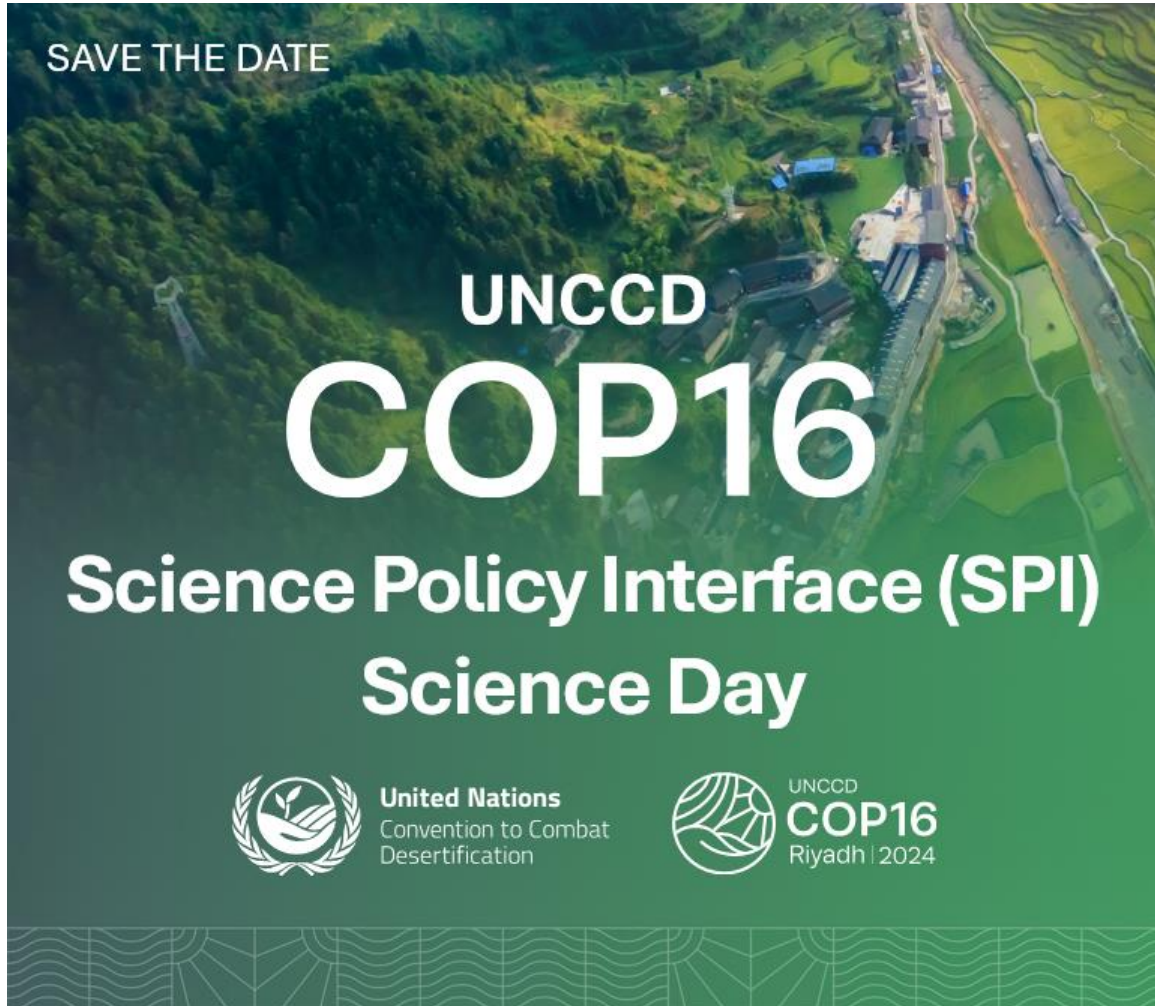


Provisional Programme



9 December 2024, 0900 – 1700 hrs
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, **MET 11**

Adapting to aridification & scaling up a systems approach to land use and management

Background

The UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Science Day has proven to be an important platform for fostering dialogue among scientists, policy makers and practitioners working to address desertification, land degradation and drought. The SPI contribution to the Science, Technology and Innovation Day at COP 16 will focus on the convergence of the critical theme of historical and future aridity trends and sustainable land use systems.

The objective of the SPI Science Day is to share and discuss two important but generally neglected dimensions — adapting to aridification and scaling up a systems approach to land use and management — for ensuring land can deliver co-benefits into the future. Over this last biennium, the SPI conducted a scientific assessment of aridity trends, projections and impacts, and provided guidance on how these data can contribute to the design of land-based climate adaptation interventions. In a second scientific assessment, the SPI introduced the concept of sustainable land use systems to how land degradation is addressed in a systematic way across the landscape and with respect to value chains.

The SPI Science Day aims to provide a platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to enhance the resilience of land systems in the face of increasing aridity. Through panel discussions and audience engagement, the SPI Science Day sessions will explore how the findings of these two scientific assessments can help countries realize synergies across the three Rio conventions in the design and implementation of land interventions, while identifying challenges that will be faced. Following the introduction of case examples, session participants will discuss what needs to be done to upscale what works, and what more needs to be done to integrate the scientific findings into policy.

While experts will drive the discussion, significant time will be allocated to audience engagement. This inclusive approach will allow participants to voice their experiences, suggestions, and visions in an open and collaborative atmosphere, paving the way for innovative solutions to combat land degradation and enhance resilience to aridity.

Programme

Time	Sessions
09:00 – 09:15	Welcoming remarks • Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD • Hector Manuel Arias Rojo, SPI Co-Chair • Nichole Barger, SPI Co-Chair
09:15 – 10:45	I. Setting the Stage: The Science
09:15 – 09:45	Outcomes of SPI scientific assessments on aridification and sustainable land use systems <u>Speakers:</u> • Obj 1: Annette Cowie & Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald • Obj 2: Andrea Toreti & Narcisa Pricope Moderator: Lukwesa Burak
09:45 – 10:45	Science panel expert discussion on aridification and sustainable land use systems <u>Panelists:</u> • Nathalie Von Haren, Both Ends, Netherlands • Leigh Winowiecki, CIFOR-ICRAF, Kenya • Andre VanRooyen, ICRISAT/CGIAR, Ethiopia • German Kust, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia Moderator: Lukwesa Burak
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:45	II. Putting science into practice
11:00 – 12:00	Integrating Aridification Science and Sustainable Land Use: Insights from the ground <u>Speakers:</u> • Sara Omi, Territorial Women Leaders of Mesoamerica, Panama • Marioldy Sanchez Santivanez, AIDER, Peru • Munira Anyonge-Bashir, The Nature Conservancy, Kenya • Batkhuu Nyam-Osor, Office of the President, Mongolia Moderator: Lukwesa Burak
12:00 – 12:45	Youth engagement panel <u>Introduction:</u>

	• Ermias Betemariam, CIFOR-ICRAF, Kenya Speaker: • Sara Velandar , PhD student, Germany Panelists: • Kamanzi Claudine, Restoration Steward & YIL representative , Rwanda • Niba Colvis Ngwa GLFx Yaounde representative, Cameroon • Juliet Grace Luwedde, Global Coordinator of the Youth Constituency of UNCCD, Uganda Moderator: Lukwesa Burak
12:45 – 15:30	Lunch Break <i>(Accredited audience members will join the High-Level Policy Dialogue on STI in the Blue Zone)</i>
15:30 – 17:30	III. Scaling up to achieve multiple benefits
15:30 – 16:30	Decision maker panel discussion on upscaling approaches and experiences Panelists: • Khaled Alabdulkader, National Center for Vegetation Cover and Combating Desertification, KSA • Xiaoxia Jia, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China • Bongani Masuku, Ministry of Agriculture, Kingdom of Eswatini • Mariaelena Huambachano, Syracuse University, USA Moderator: Narcisa Pricope
16:30 – 17:00	Audience engagement and discussion Moderator: Anahi Ocampo-Melgar & Narcisa Pricope
17:00	Closing reflections • Barron Orr, UNCCD Chief Scientist