



Conference of the Parties
Committee on Science and Technology
Seventeenth session
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17–21 August 2026
Agenda item 4
Future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface

**Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface for the
2027–2030 quadrennium**

**Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and
Technology**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Also recalling decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface,

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 2027–2030 quadrennium,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#),

1. *Provisionally adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the 2027–2030 quadrennium, as contained in the annex to this decision, pending its update by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology with the assistance of the secretariat, according to decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface, and following these priorities:

(a) The Science-Policy Interface scientifically leads the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, including the scoping;

(b) The Science-Policy Interface supports the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice; and

(c) The Science-Policy Interface cooperates with other scientific bodies;

2. *Invites* Parties and technical and scientific institutions to provide, on a voluntary basis, data, expertise, knowledge and technical assistance to support the activities of the Science-Policy Interface for this quadrennium;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the agendas of the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology an item for the consideration of priorities for science-policy guidance, with the aim of enabling Parties to provide feedback on the work of the Science-Policy Interface, with particular attention to contributing to the content of each flagship report;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to:



- (a) Present a synthesis report on the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook at the nineteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
- (b) Also present a list and, where relevant and appropriate, links to fast-track assessments and information products, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations, at both the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology;
- (c) Further present a synthesis report of the Science-Policy Interface coordination activities, including, when appropriate, a summary of key messages relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification drawn from the assessment reports approved in the processes of other intergovernmental science bodies during the 2027–2030 quadrennium, at the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium

[English only]

Table 1
Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface 2027–2030 work programme

<i>Objective/Deliverable</i>	<i>Activities</i>
1. Contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 4) following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	With respect to GLO 4, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will, inter alia: (a) Serve on its steering committee; (b) Contribute to its scoping; (c) Contribute to its authorship; (d) Ensure its quality assurance and scientific integrity; (e) Serve as its review editor; and (f) Contribute to its communications planning and promotion.
2. Produce fast-track assessments and information products following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	The SPI will respond to requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice resulting from the work of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties, Committee on Science and Technology and Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism.

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface over the 2027–2028 biennium

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem 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 secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on developments relevant to the UNCCD regarding the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, including: (a) The methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity (spatial planning assessment); (b) The second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (second global biodiversity assessment). The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports and will conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the analysis.
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its seventh assessment cycle (AR7).	The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of two AR7 contributions: (a) The contribution of Working Group II to the AR7 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and (b) The contribution of Working Group III to the AR7 on Mitigation of Climate Change.
3. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) within the framework of its work programme.	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
4. Cooperate with the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP IRP) within the framework of its mission.	The SPI will cooperate with the UNEP IRP on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the UNEP IRP, within the framework of its mission to provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance to the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle, and to contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
5. 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.	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.
6. 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.	The SPI will collaborate with the IDMP, on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the IDMP, on efforts to support governments and other stakeholders at all levels with the implementation of integrated drought management by providing technical and management guidance and by sharing scientific knowledge and best practices.