Decision 12/COP.17

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

The *Conference of the Parties*,

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

Also noting decision 11/COP.17,

Noting with interest the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the 2025–2026 biennium,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/5,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the 2027–2030 quadrennium, as contained in the annex to this decision, according to decision 11/COP.17, and in line with the following priorities:

(a) The Science-Policy Interface scientifically leads the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, including the scoping, in accordance with approved procedures, and contributes to the proposal of themes for thematic assessments, if appropriate;

(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 on matters directly relevant to the implementation of the Convention, within their respective mandates and without prejudice to their governance, procedures, work programmes or conclusions;

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 agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention an item for the consideration of a scoping report setting out the proposed outline of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook prepared by the Science-Policy Interface for scoping recommendations by Parties;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to include in the agenda of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology an item for the consideration of the refined scoping report of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook of the Science-Policy Interface for approval;

5. *Further requests* the secretariat to include in the agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention 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 the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the agenda of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology an item for the consideration of the draft Summary for Policymakers of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook for approval;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to present a synthesis report as an information document on the activities of the Science-Policy Interface at both the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology, including:

(a) A summary of the development of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, as well as contributions to relevant thematic reports, as appropriate;

(b) A list and, where relevant and appropriate, links to fast-track assessments and information products;

(c) A summary report on the Science-Policy Interface coordination activities, including, where appropriate, a summary of key messages directly 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;

8. *Invites* other intergovernmental bodies and panels, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, to consider key messages and findings from the Science-Policy Interface products on desertification, land degradation and drought in their assessments through the activities listed in table 2 of the annex to this decision.

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026

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

Objective/Deliverable	*Activities*
1. Contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 4) following the procedures in decision 11/COP.17.	With respect to GLO 4, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will, inter alia: (a) Prepare and refine its scoping; (b) Serve as its authors; (c) Ensure its quality assurance and scientific integrity; (d) Serve as its review editor; and (e) Contribute to its communications planning and promotion.
2. Produce fast-track assessments and information products following the procedures in decision 11/COP.17.	The SPI will respond to requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice resulting from the requests 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

Activity	*Sub-activities*
1. Engage 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 may, through established IPBES review procedures, contribute to the scientific review of drafts directly relevant to the UNCCD and may conduct analysis of relevant key messages for information to the CST, without implying endorsement by the UNCCD of the IPBES findings 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.

Activity	*Sub-activities*
2. Engage 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 in line with the UNCCD mandate: (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. Engage 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.
4. Engage 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. Engage 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. Engage 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.