



14th MEETING OF THE UNCCD SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE (SPI)

- Date** : 19-21 October 2021
- Venue** : UN Campus - Langer Eugen
Meeting Room: 2312
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1 53113 Bonn, Germany
- Working languages** : English
- Working hours** : Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 09:30 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
Wednesday, 20 October 2021, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
Thursday, 21 October 2021, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
- Format** : Hybrid on-site and online meeting.

- REPORT -

I. Welcome address

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw welcomed all participants (see Annex 1) to the 14th meeting of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI). In his opening speech, Mr. Thiaw emphasized the importance of the SPI's work for the Convention in producing policies that are well grounded in scientific evidence and he underlined the necessity to connect science to policy and vice-versa. Mr. Thiaw reminded the audience of the approaching UNCCD COP15 and the need to focus on two priority issues to be addressed for land: drought and restoration.

After the welcome address, the SPI co-Chairs, Ms. Nichole Barger and Mr. Bongani Simon Masuku, welcomed the participants and expressed their appreciation to the secretariat, in particular the science team of the STI unit, for the hybrid format of the meeting that allowed both on-site and remote participation. The co-Chairs confirmed both would chair different segments of the agenda throughout the three-day meeting.

II. SPI Group Photo

A group photo of all SPI members and observers present at the 14th SPI meeting was taken.

III. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work

The agenda was adopted without any changes (see Annex 1).



IV. SPI Work Programme 2020-2021: Status and next steps – Plenary

SPI co-Chair Nichole Barger introduced this agenda item and then gave the floor to SPI co-Leads of SPI objectives 1 and 2 to report on progress of their respective working groups and to outline expected outputs of the planned working sessions. This was followed by a presentation by the secretariat on the work completed to date on SPI coordination activities. (For ease of reference, all presentations are available to SPI members and observers on the SPI Extranet¹)

SPI Objective 1 plenary presentation:

Progress on SPI objective 1 was presented by co-Lead Ermias Betemariam, on behalf of the objective 1 co-Leads, Peter Verburg and Xiangzheng Deng. He started his presentation by acknowledging the support and contribution of the consultants and objective 1 working group, and appreciated the support provided by the secretariat.

The objective 1 co-Lead recalled the context of work and presented the recent progress and the SPI Objective 1 Technical Report schedule. It was emphasized that an internal scientific review by entire SPI and external independent scientific peer-review processes were completed. A total of 156 review comments were received from 13 SPI members and 1 SPI Early Career Scientist Fellow, and 337 review comments from 6 external reviewers. The participants were informed that critical review comments received from the reviewers will be discussed during the objective 1 working sessions. Following this, a brief update was given on each of the chapters of the technical report (1) Background and rationale; (2) Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP) and Integrated Landscape Management (ILM); (3) Towards a common typology of ILUP-ILM: key elements; (4) Entry points for LDN integration in ILUP-ILM; and (5) Tools and approaches to support the integration of LDN into ILUP-ILM. The co-Lead then presented the key messages and policy proposals of the technical report.

The expected outcomes of the working sessions were introduced to the SPI members as follows: Topic A: Consideration of major peer review comments; Topic B: Discussion on gender dimension of the technical report; Topic C: Design Science-Policy Brief; Topic D: Peer review publications spinning out of the technical report and; Topic E: New opportunity for SPI Objective 1.

SPI Objective 2 plenary presentation:

Progress on SPI Objective 2 was presented by Caroline King-Okumu, on behalf of the objective 2 co-Leads, Mark D. Svoboda and Armando Lopez Santos. She started her presentation by acknowledging the support and contribution of the consultants and objective 1 working group, and appreciated the support provided by the secretariat.

The presentation recalled the request of COP14 decision on SPI objective 2 as well as the decision recognizing the fundamental role of water use in connecting land and drought management. It summarized the working group efforts to take into consideration and encourage coordination across three parallel UNCCD processes on drought: (1) The SPI objective 2 work on drought resilience assessment, (2) the development of Good Practice Guidance for national reporting on UNCCD Strategic Objective 3, and (3) the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) set up to develop effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought impacts in the context of UNCCD. This was followed by progress on SPI objective 2 since 13th SPI meeting and a summary of

¹ Meeting documents and all presentations made at the 14th meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) can be accessed by SPI members and observers by clicking [here](#).



gaps and challenges to be addressed in dealing with the critical comments made received during the internal and external reviews.

The expected outcomes of the working sessions were introduced to the SPI members as follows: Topic A: Develop and refine policy recommendations; Topic B: Discuss approach to addressing reviewer comments; Topic C: Development of the science-policy brief and CST Official Document; Topic D: Summarize progress made & lessons learned and planning next steps.

Updating the status of SPI coordination activities (IPBES/IPCC/ITPS/UNEP-IRP/GLII/IDMP)

The secretariat (Barron Joseph Orr) presented¹ latest updates on the status of the coordination activities of the SPI with other intergovernmental bodies and panels (see Annex 3). These include the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), UNEP's International Resource Panel (IRP), the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), and the second edition of the UNCCD's Global Land Outlook (GLO2).

IPBES:

The presentation provided an overview of the most recent developments in the IPBES processes and it was recalled that the SPI, with the support of the secretariat, has engaged in each step of the scoping reports of the Nexus and the Transformative Change Assessments. The report summarized key entry points recommended by the SPI which were embraced in these scoping documents as well as those which were not. The final version of the two scoping reports were approved by IPBES Plenary 8 and made available in June 2021.

The SPI members were informed that, in September 2021, the UNCCD secretariat in consultation with the SPI Co-Chairs, nominated six (6) SPI members to be appointed as experts for the two assessments, for the consideration of the 17th meetings of the IPBES MEP and Bureau (October 2021). The process of selecting experts amongst the nominees is still ongoing and the results are awaited. The CST Chair and SPI Co-Chair (Bongani Simon Masuko) attended the 17th IPBES MEP and Bureau and reported on the implementation of UNCCD activities of interest to IPBES and informed them about the most important upcoming events where to possibly engage, such as the potential involvement of IPBES at the SPI Science Day at UNCCD COP 15.

Upcoming events: IPBES Plenary 9 will take place from 3 to 9 July 2022, Bonn (Germany)

IPCC:

The major SPI contributions to the scientific reviews of two IPCC AR6 working groups which are Working Group II (WGII) on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability and Working Group III (WGIII) on Mitigation of Climate Change. For WG II, the SPI submitted 89 and 136 comments on the first and second order drafts, respectively. For WG III, the SPI submitted 93 and 129 comments on the first and second order drafts, respectively.

The relevant upcoming events related to the approval of the IPCC AR6 were presented. It was reminded that the SPI and the UNCCD secretariat no longer have opportunities to comment on this process until the approval sessions for the report.

Upcoming events:

- IPCC AR6 Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability
 - 14-18 February 2022, location tbd: 55th Session of the IPCC and IPCC AR6 WG II Approval Plenary (WGII-12).



- IPCC AR6 Working Group III: Mitigation of Climate Change
 - 29 Nov-30 Jan 2022: WGIII- AR6 Final Government Distribution (FGD) and Government review of SPM.
 - 21-25 March, location tbd: 56th Session of the IPCC and IPCC AR6 WG III Approval Plenary (WGIII-14).

ITPS:

Following up on the decision 16/COP.14, in collaboration with the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), ITPS and FAO, the SPI, in work co-led by Rattan Lal and Marijana Kapovic Solomun, contributed to the scientific review of all six volumes of the ITPS's Recarbonizing Global Soils – A Technical Manual of Recommended Management Practices².

The SPI also collaborated with ITPS in their development of a framework for the management of soil organic carbon for land degradation neutrality to support investment decisions by contributing to the scientific review of the *GSOC MRV Protocol: A Protocol for Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Soil Organic Carbon in Agricultural Landscapes*, as requested in decision 16/COP.14³.

The SPI, with support from the secretariat and under the leadership of FAO, co-organized (1) the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity⁴ (19-22 April 2021) where Rattan Lal, Nichole Barger and Ermias Betemariam represented the SPI and made presentations; (2) also co-organized, under the leadership of FAO, the Global Symposium on Salt-affected Soils⁵ (20-22 October 2021), where the SPI was represented in the scientific committee by Zahurul Karim. And 3 SPI members supported the organization of the Symposium. Zahurul Karim, Ermias Betemariam and German Kust (former SPI member) reviewed the abstracts submitted to the Symposium. UNCCD Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs) from all UNCCD Parties were also encouraged to register and consider submitting abstracts. As a result, 8 abstracts were submitted to the Symposium.

Also requested in decision 16/COP.14, the SPI continues to support ITPS, under the leadership of FAO and the GSP, in their development of soil organic carbon estimation tools/models on sites useful where detailed measurements of soil organic carbon are not available or are not cost-effective of by contributing to the scientific review of the technical specifications for the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map, which is now online at <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/gsocseq-map/en>.

UNEP-IRP:

The presentation gave an overview of the latest SPI activities related the International Resources Panel. The SPI has contributed to:

- The development and review of Building Resilient Societies after the COVID-19 Pandemic Report. The SPI cooperated with the IRP and shared key messages from the report;
- An evaluation of the Assessments on Environmental Conflicts and Migration report where the SPI co-chair and UNCCD staff (UNCCD-ERPA) participated in IRP working group

² See <<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb6386en>>

³ See decision 16/COP.14. <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-11/16-cop14.pdf>

⁴ Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI21). <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-biodiversity-symposium/en/>

⁵ Global Symposium on Salt-affected Soils (GSAS21). <https://www.fao.org/events/global-symposium-on-salt-affected-soils/en>



meetings and contributed the joint IMO-UNCCD publication on Land Degradation and Migration;

- Input to the report Mineral Resource Governance in the 21st Century: Gearing Extractive Industries Towards Sustainable Development, which maps over 80 existing international governance frameworks and initiatives that focus on delivering the SDGs, where the SPI co-Chair, Nichole Barger, participated the regional Global consultation virtual meeting.

GLII:

The presentation gave an overview of the current status of Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII). It was underlined that, on behalf of the SPI, Everlyne Nairesiae has conducted several reviews to ensure that land tenure and gender are sufficiently included reflected in the UNCCD reporting process, including the challenges of linking gender data with environmental data so that the latter can be disaggregated along gender lines.

WMO-IDMP:

The presentation gave an overview on the contribution of the SPI in the production of two knowledge publications: (1) IDMP integrated water management report and (2) IDMP brochure on drought and water scarcity.

V. Working sessions of SPI Objectives 1 and 2 (Parallel break-out groups)

SPI objective 1 working sessions

The working session of objective 1 focused on the 5 main topics below.

Topic A: Consideration of major peer review comments

Based on the comments received from the external reviewers, Ermias Betemariam facilitated a discussion on 1) Selection and application of tools; 2) Definition of ‘landscape approaches’; 3) Writing quality and report editing; 4) Explanation of LDN and; 5) Examples and boxes in the report.

The SPI objective 1 working group decided:

- to consider further in the technical report the capacities of end users;
- to illustrate more explicitly how the tools can be used by planner- practitioner- policymaker groups;
- to explore how the report might be adjusted to help policy makers see more directly how the different tools and approaches may be useful in their countries.
- to consider synergies with other sectors where land is important- e.g. agriculture sector, building sector etc.;
- to consider introducing a decision tree to help guide readers on “which category of tool or approach, and for whom?” without going into details into individual tools and approaches;
- to settle upon a broader definition of landscape and landscape approach that can correspond not only to SLM, but also ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions; and
- the current graphical illustrations are a valuable part of the report.

Pedro Lara Almuedo, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, expressed the GM’s interest to review the report and to ensure what is learned from it be considered in the ongoing development of a GEF enabling activity, which could, for example lead to the SPI report being further translated into a technical guide for countries. The GM offered to give feedback on the technical report and the science-policy brief.



Topic B: Discussion on gender dimension of the technical report

The working group discussed gender aspect in the technical report, particularly on 1) Glossary of key terms; 2) Key messages; 3) Policy proposals, 4) Methodology; 5) ILUP-ILM for positive transformative change; 6) Equitable and values-based people-centered approaches of ILUP-ILM for LDN; 7) Indicator-assessment tools; 8) Stakeholder negotiation and LDN implementation. A task group was formed to ensure the ideas discussed could be reflected in the final draft of the technical report.

Topic C: Designing the science-policy brief

The presentation gave an overview of the elements to be considered for the science-policy brief spinning out of the technical report. The different approaches taken in past UNCCD SPI science-policy briefs were introduced.⁶

It was noted that the discussion was collectively leaning towards:

1. A vision or larger goal that will lead to better understanding of the "hierarchy" of planning vs management and how the focus of all working on DLDD needs to expand or increase from management to encompass land use planning.
2. The target of the science-policy brief may be focused on communicating the phases of land use planning and the key aspects of LDN interlink. Several diagrams in the Technical Report explain aspects of this that might be candidates for the science-policy brief.
3. With respect to the target audience the SPI would like to produce a product that would empower UNCCD policy makers in their interactions with policy makers of other sectors (e.g., planning; development) to help all ministries better consider and navigate the tradeoffs among competing demands for land resources, and how this can be addressed through the framework of LDN in how ILUP and ILM are pursued.

Topic D: New opportunity for SPI Obj1

The draft of a potential follow-on activity building on the outcomes of the SPI objective 1 work was presented by the secretariat (Barron Joseph Orr) to the working group. The proposal focused on the challenges in implementing integrated land use planning designed to navigate potential tradeoffs among competing land, climate and biodiversity demands for land resources. The feedback provided during the discussions will be used to finetune the approach to next steps outlined by the secretariat. If funding for the activity is approved, it will begin in 2022.

SPI objective 2 working sessions

The expected outcomes of the working sessions were introduced to the SPI members as follows: Topic A: Develop and refine policy recommendations; Topic B: Discuss approach to addressing reviewer comments; Topic C: Development of the science-policy brief and CST Official Document; Topic D: Summarize progress made & lessons learned and planning next steps.

The working session of objective 2 primarily focused on developing and refining the policy recommendations in the technical report. The working group also discussed the major challenges among the gaps identified in the technical report during the internal and external reviews of the technical report.

⁶ UNCCD SPI publications can be found here: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/spi-publications>



Topic A: Development and refinement of policy recommendations.

The working group produced an outline/draft of the policy recommendations to be considered in revision of the technical report which will then be introduced into the corresponding CST Official Document. The policy recommendations cover five major themes in the technical report, and will target different stakeholders for enhancing drought risk mitigation.

Topic B: Discuss approach to addressing reviewer comments;

The working group agreed on a four-step approach to addressing the reviewer comments. First, the co-Leads would color-code the comments categorically, based on complexity (major vs. minor) and initial impression of response (e.g, agree or disagree). Second, this would then be reviewed by the co-Leads and the consultants to determine how to respond to the comments. Third, the consultants would implement the changes in the technical report. Fourth, the co-Leads would enhance/revise, where needed, those changes.

Topic C: Development of the science-policy brief and CST Official Document

A presentation was made by the secretariat (Xiaoxia Jia) on how the working group may approach developing the science-policy/brief. The secretariat also summarized how the SPI can contribute to refining the official CST document which will result from the SPI objective 2 technical report.

Topic D: Summarize progress made & lessons learned and planning next steps

The objective 2 working group decided to have a follow-up working group meeting with consultants on 1 November to communicate the strategy for addressing the external review comments and further improving the technical report, based on an overall assessment of the working group on the comments.

The general plan presented by the co-leads include a) on chapter1, Introduction and conceptual framework, to add conceptual infographic and global accepted evidence and indicators with maps and data. b) on Chapter2, Inventory and analysis, to improve methodology and results with additional review on SDGs related indicators and approaches, cases at different scales, acknowledgement of bias in literature & review); c) on Chapter 3, Technical guidance , to further improve current available guidance and assessment based on country needs to make difference in most drought areas; d) on Chapter4, Policy recommendations, made further development and refinement) based on the outcome in this meeting; e) to develop an executive summary based on the all chapters.

VI. Report back to Plenary on SPI Objectives 1 and 2

The working groups for the SPI Objectives 1 and 2 reported back to plenary the key outcomes from their respective working sessions.

SPI Objective 1:

The outcomes of the SPI objective 1 working sessions were presented by Marijana Kapovic Solomun, who co-facilitated the working sessions with Ermias Betemariam. She highlighted the general comments for SPI to consider. In particular, it was noted that the working group suggested a simple decision tree type system could help different tiers of stakeholders better understand which tools might be most appropriate for their use. Due to tight schedule, it was agreed that there is no time for adding any new tools to the report. The working group came up with an approach to definitions of a number of terms and concluded that definition of ILUP should be broad and inclusive definition, ideally based



on one already introduced to Parties.⁷ For the gender dimension of the report, it was agreed that a small task group convened by Ermias, with support from the UNCCD Gender Team, would review the document to ensure it is as gender-responsive as possible. She also explained that the Objective 1 science-policy brief will be designed to serve as a guidance for policy makers in their national efforts to influence national policy across sectors, and as a way to establish a link between global and national policy development with respect to ILUP and LDN/DLDD. Diagrams will be central to the brief, and synergies between the three Rio Conventions will be featured.

SPI Objective 2:

The outcomes of the SPI objective 2 working sessions were presented by Mark Svoboda, who co-facilitated the working sessions with Caroline King-Okumu. He highlighted in general the recommendations raised from the working group to consider in the technical report and official documents on how to further improve and apply resilience measurement and assessment, including through a) drought impact assessments, b) monitoring drought risk in managed and natural ecosystems, c) measuring, assessing and monitoring the effectiveness of sustainable land management, d) supporting future national studies on the intersection of drought and climate change, e) the application of tools and new technologies to enable land, water and meteorological information to be accessible by local land users, and f) developing triggers for preparedness investment in drought monitoring and early warning systems for decision making.

He also shared three policy recommendations developed by the working group:

1. To collect, monitor, review, prioritize and assess drought impact information in order to support integrated drought risk management, contributing to vulnerability and resilience assessment, and ultimately develop, improve, implement, monitor and assess National Drought Plans and Policies. drought impact assessment,
2. To monitor and assess drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems under climate change scenarios, particularly in dry lands and regions highly vulnerable to climate change, and drought impacts, to enable development and promotion of drought impacts mitigation initiatives by means of ecosystem conservation and restoration and drought resilient water and crop management practices.
3. To build on the impact assessment to measure, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of SLM in preventing and reducing drought impacts and to increase drought resilience capacity.

It was agreed that other recommendations will be further formulated after the meeting through email exchanges, the revised full draft will be shared by the secretariat to the working group members.

A working group meeting will be held in early November to address external review comments and make further improvement of the technical report.

VII. Update on and scientific review of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO2)

The SPI co-Chair, Nichole Barger, presented the latest information and updates on the development and status of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook 2 (GLO2) including an overview of its

⁷ See the ILUP definition used in the SPI report *Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality*. https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2019-08/UNCCD_SPI_2019_Report_1.2.pdf (page 61)



possible content. SPI members were reminded of SPI's mandate set out in Decision 18/COP.14 (see Annex 3), which determines SPI's primary role in quality assurance of GLO2 and includes approval of the final version for publication. Three members of the SPI, Nichole Barger, Ermias Betemariam and Graham von Maltitz, serve on the GLO2 steering committee and they have reviewed seven GLO2 working papers. They and several other SPI members also reviewed the restoration scenarios work for the GLO2 conducted by PBL. During the SPI meeting, the three SPI steering committee members completed their review of the GLO2 main report. The current review looks at the content, style, case studies, key messages and framing of the Land Restoration Agenda.

According to the updated GLO2 timetable presented, the SPI will be involved in the review and approval of the final GLO2 draft in January 2022. The three content sections of the current GLO2 draft were presented. After the presentation, the SPI discussed how to respond to the mandate of ensuring quality assurance of the document and how to proceed. The co-Chair proposed that a possible approach could be to distribute specific chapters/ parts to SPI members that will be primarily responsible for the review of those assigned chapters. The three SPI members participating in the steering committee will discuss and agree on how to move forward.

Miriam Medel, Chief of the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit (ERPA) of the UNCCD secretariat, joined the discussion and responded to SPI questions, explaining that major goals of SPI involvement in the GLO2 are ensuring the accuracy of the scientific evidence provided in the GLO2 and helping ensure the accessibility of the messages to decision-makers and stakeholders. It was explained that the GLO2 would be shorter and more streamlined than the first edition and be made available in a paperless and more screen and environmentally friendly format. However, the secretariat will do its best to provide the files for review in the format SPI members prefer for their review. As this was the first time that COP put the approval of the GLO2 as an SPI responsibility, it was advised to rethink and improve this process in view of the next COP and GLO edition.

VIII. Plenary and working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity: Refining policy recommendations on the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)

The SPI IPCC coordination activity co-Leads Nijavalli Ravindranath and Graham von Maltitz presented the policy-oriented conclusions and recommendations⁸ resulting from the analysis of the SPI on those aspects of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land⁹ (SRCCL) and the recently published Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report¹⁰ (AR6 WGI) which are relevant to the UNCCD.

The secretariat presented what has been accomplished since the last IPCC working group meeting. It was highlighted that (1) the SPI IPCC working group analyzed the IPCC SRCCL SPM, the Technical Summary and the underlying report during 2020; (2) the co-Leads organized the resulting analysis into five major categories and drafted example conclusions/recommendations (early 2021); (3) In five

⁸ The draft policy-oriented conclusions and recommendations can be found in the SPI Extranet: <https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/14th%20SPI%20meeting/IPCC%20coordination%20activity%20presentations?csf=1&web=1&e=ikxwpc>

⁹ IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (IPCC SRCCL). <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl>

¹⁰ The IPCC Working Group I contribution Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis to the Sixth Assessment Report (IPCC AR6 WGI). <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>



SPI Meeting breakout groups, a collaboratively generated list of preliminary conclusions/recommendations for each of five categories was developed (April 2021); (4) The co-Leads refined this work and added to it based on the WGI contribution to AR6 “The Physical Basis for Climate Change (which was negotiated and launched in August 2021) (May-Aug 2021); (5) the secretariat formatted these policy-oriented conclusions and recommendations and placed them in the draft UNCCD Official Document⁸ which was shared with the SPI just before the 14th SPI meeting. The presentation gave an overview of the entire document and how it is structured.

It was pointed out that the focus of SPI during IPCC working sessions during the 14th SPI meeting would be the refinement of the policy recommendations resulting from SPI inputs provided at the last meeting, further analysis and drafting by the co-Leads, and preliminary suggestions on wording and format for each.

IX. Report back to Plenary on the SPI’s IPCC coordination activity work

The SPI IPCC coordination activity co-Leads Nijavalli Ravindranath and Graham von Maltitz facilitated the substantive work of two breakout groups (see Annex II for the composition of these groups). Collectively, this resulted in a refinement of the 23 draft policy recommendations into 13. The results of the IPCC breakout groups can be found in the SPI Extranet¹¹.

It was agreed that the co-Leads will now revise the conclusions section of the Official Document to ensure that it covers all recommendations, with clear line of sight to the key messages in the IPCC reports. They plan to propose a refined draft of the Official Document for the consideration of the secretariat and the SPI co-Chairs by mid-November. If time permits, the secretariat will share the penultimate draft with the SPI for any final suggestions. The secretariat will then make any necessary adjustments before the document is reviewed by the Executive Secretary and the CST Bureau.

X. Introduction to CST 15 / COP 15

Roadmap

This agenda item is focused on the roadmap to COP 15, including work on the preliminary design of the SPI Science Day. The secretariat recalled that the COP15 is scheduled to be held on 9 – 20 May 2021, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and shared some information about the host country and Abidjan. The preliminary schedule of work for the COP and its subsidiary bodies (see the Master 14th SPI Meeting Day 3 Presentation¹⁴) was shared with the SPI. It was noted that the SPI has been allocated the opportunity to meet all day on Monday, 9 May 2021, and the CST15 will be held on 10-13 May 2021.

The secretariat described the nature of the official processes and the negotiations (the CST Plenary, CST contact group, the High Level Segment), and how the SPI will make a brief presentation on each objective and the work related to the IPCC reports in Plenary. The focus of the SPI meeting on 9 May will be final preparations for those presentations as well as preparation for the SPI Science Day.

The road to CST15/COP15 was then explored in greater detail with a presentation of updated work schedules for the work of the SPI objectives 1 and 2 and the SPI’s IPCC SRCCL & AR6 work schedule. The secretariat then reviewed the schedule for CST official document preparation,

¹¹ The draft policy-oriented conclusions and recommendations can be found in the SPI Extranet: <https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/14th%20SPI%20meeting/IPCC%20coordination%20activity%20presentations?csf=1&web=1&e=ikxwpc>



something that is based on the outputs of the SPI. These schedules and all critical deadlines can be found in the Master 14th SPI Meeting Day 3 Presentation in the SPI extranet¹.

To ensure for the secretariat to have enough time to produce the Official Documents resulting from the work of the SPI, the SPI co-Chair requested all SPI working groups firmly commit to a completion date of the final drafts of the technical reports and the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the SPI analysis of the IPCC reports for as early as possible in November. The co-Leads of both objectives and the IPCC work agreed on a 15 November 2021 deadline.

The COP Bureau review was then scheduled for 16 November to 12 December 2021. This means that any substantive changes in the technical reports will then need to be made by the SPI between 12-17 December 2021. The secretariat will complete the official documents between 18 December and 15 January, relying on input from the SPI as needed.

In a parallel process to the development of the Official Documents, the SPI Objective 1 and 2 technical reports and science-policy briefs will undergo copyediting/proofreading and graphic designers will work on all graphics (tables, figures, images) as well as the overall layout of the reports. The aim will be to have the reports in a format ready for online publication as early as possible before CST 15. All SPI products will be published in digital format in English.

Following the secretariat's presentation, the SPI co-Chair opened the floor for a discussion. It was made clear that following the review period, no additional substantive changes will be made to the technical reports, though editorial changes may occur to improve the language during the copy editing and proofreading phases. In response to a question about official notification / invitations for SPI to attend CST15, the secretariat explained that the SPI will be considered at the same time as all other participants, with the STI monitoring the process to try and ensure the communications are sent as early as possible.

Science day at COP15

The co-Chair and the secretariat gave a joint presentation that provided an overview of the COP14 Science Day and the nature of the Rio Conventions Pavilion¹² (RCP), which is a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings linking biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management. The SPI's past approach to Science Day was presented which are:

- Full day event at the Rio Conventions Pavilion to provide a forum for brief presentations, expert statements and interactive discussions to stimulate and equip policy, the science community, land managers and civil society organisations with practical ideas for progressing LDN for multiple benefits.
- Networking and discussions with UNCCD-SPI-relevant partners (which at COP14 included IPCC, IPBES, GEO, WAD, IRP, CSOs) and the broader UNCCD-stakeholder community to discuss SPI findings and the UNCCD-relevant scientific findings of other organisations.
- Interaction with the traditional media organized by the UNCCD COMMS unit in support of the secretariat to 'spread the message' (enable interviews with experts on site)
- Compilation of Key Messages (initiated two months before COP, and refined based on interactive inputs from the Science Day), and the transmission of these in a policy-relevant format to the High-Level Segment to fast-track action.
- At COP14, organisational responsibility lay with the SPI led by a small, dedicated team consisting of the SPI co-Chairs and four committed SPI members.

¹² The Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) website: <http://www.riopavilion.org/>



- Technical and organisational support of the UNCCD secretariat.
- SPI members to provide their expertise from different fields (over half the contributions).
- SPI members worked with the secretariat to recruit the partner organizations, define their role and extend invitations (all were self-funded)
- Speakers were asked to share their presentations so that the SPI Science Day team could assess all contributions in advance to avoid repetition and ensure a focused message was given in the allocated time.
- SPI invited UNCCD Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary to give welcome and closing remark addresses.
- The Science Day was designed to move steadily from science to policy and practice on the broader theme of addressing DLDD/achieving LDN in order to achieve multiple social, economic and environmental (rather than a series of sessions on different scientific topics) Several sessions were defined along this common narrative, principally chaired by SPI members. SPI relevant partners in the biennium 2018-2019 were also invited to chair sessions.
- SPI members developed Key Messages for the High-Level Segment (Process coordinated by English speaking SPI member on behalf of SPI co-chairs to enable timely transmission of the messages).
- Session chairs were invited to develop the structure of their own session - based on the overall narrative provided by the SPI core team. Various formats were used to ensure interactive dialogue throughout the day.
- All sessions were highly interactive, something that was made possible by recruiting an expert in participatory processes to the core team, and through regular interaction the UNCCD COMMS unit who provided feedback on all proposals made by the SPI.

Science Day overall programme can be found in the Master 14th SPI Meeting Day 3 Presentation in the SPI extranet.

Wagaki Wischnewski, Public Information and Media Officer, Communications Unit of the Secretariat, expressed that the Communication team prepared to work with the SPI. She shared two more points to think about: 1) identifying potential interviewees for each of those sessions; 2) if the briefs are available early, we would be able revise these to be used by the media; 3) happy to work with SPI on the design and moderators to make the next session even more interactive.

Andre Francisco Pilon shared that in addition to information on the importance of the subject and technical aspects of "how to do it", the SPI should provide elements for the adhesion to the proposal and effectively engage the policymakers and the general audience (audience-focused communication). He also pointed out that public pressure is of the utmost importance regarding these objectives, In view of the design, formation, maintenance and failure of institutions, the role of elites and leaders in decision-making, the preponderance of economic and political coalitions, the differential responsibility and uneven production of vulnerability. Scientific reports generated by scholars rarely reach the highest levels of decision unscathed, and when this happens, decision makers tend to choose other paths, to meet the interests of political and economic groups, disqualifying studies and reports on the contrary.

Noel Oettle shared that he would like to offer an input at Science Day on the scientific findings of the AVACLIM¹³ project (Agro-ecology, ensuring food security and sustainable livelihoods in drylands

¹³ AVACLIM is an NGO-driven, GEF-funded project working in 7 countries, including 2 in the Sahel regions (Senegal and Burkina Faso). Former SPI members Martial Bernoux (FAO) and Jean-Luc Chotte



while mitigating climate change) project, scientific assessment of agroecology using a multi-criteria assessment methodology for agroecological transition initiatives.

Pablo Viegas suggested that drought issues could be a good link between the Rio Conventions, such as adaptation, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

Omer Raja expressed that expected outcome of the Science Day needs to be kept in view while deciding the topics and stakeholders to be involved.

Caroline King-Okumu raised a question about what is the meaning of science in the Rio Conventions and how is the UNCCD's particular type of science complementary but special and perhaps a bit practical to other Rio conventions, particularly in African continent.

Anna Luise suggested that the SPI could suggest a platform which can start a dialogue, for example on topics where broader input is welcome, such as indicators.

Ana Vukovic suggested that nature-based solutions (NbSs) should be one of the top priority recommendations. Marijana Kapovic Solomun supported this suggestion and noted that NbS is an umbrella concept that is resonated with audiences well-beyond policy makers, and thus must feature in the SPI Science Day and be included in the SPI reports.

Based on the feedback received from the SPI members, the SPI co-Chair noted that current list for the Science Day Committee includes (in alphabetical order): Anna Luise, Ermias Betemariam, Felicia Akinyemi, Helene Gichenje, Katrin Ehlert, Nichole Barger, Noel Oetlé and Vera Boerger.

XI. Shaping the future work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2022-2023

This agenda item is focused on helping shape the future work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2022-2023. The secretariat (Barron Joseph Orr) presented¹⁴ seven emerging issues that have been identified by the SPI and secretariat in a format that would be in work programme. Following this, the SPI co-Chair, Nichole Barger, facilitated the discussion during the session. SPI members actively participated in discussion and shared their feedback and suggestions. In response to comments raised by SPI members, the secretariat committed to capturing the topics identified in the discussion as well as the criteria proposed to be used to assess and compare them. The secretariat suggested a simple scale that could be used to help differentiate for each of the criteria. The criteria proposed by in the discussion included a) relevant impact (potential impact the issue might have by acting upon in terms of reducing land degradation), b) applicability (added value of addressing the topic from UNCCD perspective/relevance for this Convention), c) implementability (possibility for Parties to act upon the recommendations, d) limited overlap with ongoing efforts of other intergovernmental entities.

(IRD) serve on the Steering Committee. The Scientific Lead for the AVACLIM evaluation is Jean-Luc Chotte of IRD.

¹⁴ Meeting documents and all presentations made at the 14th meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) can be accessed by SPI members and observers by clicking [here](#).



XII. Other matters

The SPI co-Chair, Nichole Barger, facilitated this agenda item and opened the floor for a discussion. A proposal by Caroline King-Okumu to engage scientists in the COP 15 Science Day who are not members of SPI but still belong to the scientific community, particularly from West Africa was well-received. It was emphasized that the Science Day will require a team effort, the extent of which will become clear as the COP approaches. The participation of representatives of the scientific community in Science Day is very welcome but taking into account the procedures required to participate in the conference, their willingness to do so, and the vision and concept that host government, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, may have for the events.

Nijavalli Ravindranath requested the secretariat to look at the procedure implemented by UNEP in developing the GEO6 when rethinking the procedure to produce the third edition of the GLO.

To help ensure candid feedback, meeting participants were invited to send their feedback privately via chat to the secretariat about the organization and flow of the meeting, which was for the first time held in a hybrid format.

XIII. Closing remarks

The SPI co-Chairs made a summary of the meeting outcomes thanking all the members and the secretariat for the work done during the 14th meeting of the SPI, as well as reminding them of the need to deliver the established results. On behalf of the secretariat, Johns Muleso Kharika and Barron Joseph Orr, shared additional remarks on the meeting and the way forward.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks by UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary Tina Birmpili who recalled the uniqueness of the SPI and the importance of making SPI recommendations relevant and operational for parties and stakeholders. She thanked SPI members and secretariat staff for their efforts. The co-chairs then officially closed the 14th meeting of the SPI.



Annexes-

Annex 1 - List of Participants of the 14th Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD. Composition of the breakout groups for work on SPI Objectives 1 and 2, and meeting agenda.

	SPI Objective 1 (rm 2312)	SPI Objective 2 (rm 1511)
Participants	<p><u>On-site</u> Marijana Kapovic Solomun* Graham Paul von Maltitz * Anna Luise Omer Raja Vera Boerger Nijavalli Ravindranath (roving) Felicia Akinyemi (roving)</p> <p><u>Online</u> Ermias Betemariam Noel Oettlé Zahurul Karim André Francisco Pilon Helene Gichenje (roving)</p> <p><u>Tentative (due to prior commitment)</u> Peter Verburg (present 21 Oct only) Xiangzheng Deng Ratko Ristic Everlyne Nairesiae Robert Lewis-Lettington</p>	<p><u>On-site</u> Mark Svoboda Caroline King-Okumu Nichole Barger Bongani Simon Masuku Sergio Vicente-Serrano Nijavalli Ravindranath (roving) Felicia Akinyemi (roving) Alisher Mirzabaev (consultant)</p> <p><u>Online</u> Armando López Santos Pablo Viegas Katrin Ehlert Helene Gichenje (roving)</p> <p><u>Tentative (due to prior commitment)</u> Rattan Lal Ana Vukovic Adam Fysh Ronald Vargas Robert Stefanski</p>
Secretariat support	Furkan Dosdogru Vittoria Semplici Lawrencia Eposi (roving) Barron Joseph Orr (roving) Johns Muleso Kharika (roving) Tina Birmpili (roving)	Jia Xiaoxia Lawrencia Eposi (roving) Barron Joseph Orr (roving) Johns Muleso Kharika (roving) Tina Birmpili (roving)
Secretariat/GM staff and interns working on related topics	Miriam Medel (roving) Sasha Alexander (roving) Marcos Montoiro (roving) Rockaya Aidara (roving) Cathrine Mutambirwa Andjela Vragovic (online) Pedro Lara Almuedo Munazza Naqvi Erkan Guler	Miriam Medel (roving) Daniel Tsegai Camilla Nordheim-Larsen Sasha Alexander (roving) Marcos Montoiro (roving) Rockaya Aidara (roving) Yuanyuan Xiao Huiwen Zhang



14th SPI meeting annotated agenda

14th Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

- Date** : 19-21 October 2021
- Venue** : UN Campus - Langer Eugen
Meeting Room: 2312, Format: Hybrid
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1 53113 Bonn, Germany
- Working languages** : English
- Working hours** : Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 09:30 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
Wednesday, 20 October 2021, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
Thursday, 21 October 2021, 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)
- Format** : Hybrid on-site and online meeting. Those travelling to Bonn will bring laptops and headsets so that they can interact with those participants joining online. This means all participants will use the Zoom meeting link:

<https://unccd-int.zoom.us/j/84144073972?pwd=cFhBVmVNejl4aXVWdHpBSWNrQnNqdz09>

Meeting ID: 841 4407 3972 Passcode: 722959

– PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA –

I. Welcome address

The UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw will welcome all participants and present views with regard to the Science-Policy interface (SPI), followed by a welcome from the SPI co-Chairs.

II. SPI group photo

A photo of the members and observers of the SPI will be taken in two steps. Since all participants will be using Zoom, both those in Bonn and those engaging online will be part of a Zoom group photo. Afterwards, all onsite participants present will gather in the Plenary room 2312 for a traditional group photo.

III. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work

The agenda and organisation of work will be proposed by the SPI co-Chairs for adoption. The secretariat will introduce the agenda as provide a brief overview of the hybrid meeting, how it is structured, how the onsite and online dimension will be bridged, and pointers that may facilitate engagement.



IV. SPI Work Programme 2020-2021: Status and next steps – Plenary

The SPI co-Leads of objective 1 and objective 2 will introduce progress made and outline expected outputs of the working sessions. This will be followed by a brief presentation by the secretariat on the work associated with SPI coordination activities.

- i. Objective 1: Integrated land use planning & landscape management and LDN (presentation and discussion)
- ii. Objective 2: Ecosystems & population resilience to drought (presentation and discussion)
- iii. Updating the status of SPI coordination activities (brief presentation on IPBES/IPCC/ITPS/UNEP-IRP/GLII/IDMP)

V. Working sessions of SPI Objectives 1 and 2 (Parallel break-out groups):

Onsite and online participants will join breakouts for their respective SPI objective working groups. Onsite SPI Objective 1 participants will remain in room 2312, while SPI Objective 2 will move to room 1511. One of the co-Leads of objective will facilitate the substance of the session, and someone from the working group will serve as scribe. See Annex I for the composition of these breakout groups.

VI. Report back to Plenary on SPI Objectives 1 and 2

The co-Chairs will facilitate a wrap-up discussion on all that has been discussed with respect to the work programme objectives. This wrap-up will begin with a report back to the plenary from each one of the working sessions (highlighting progress).

The co-Leads (who coordinated the sessions for each SPI objective) will facilitate the recap of the key points captured in the working sessions and input for way forward. The secretariat will facilitate a discussion for keeping track of timeline on each objective.

VII. Plenary: Update on and scientific review of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2)

The SPI has assumed a primary role in the quality assurance of the GLO 2 (decision 18/COP.14). A working session, to be moderated by the co-Leads and facilitated by the secretariat, will be dedicated to updates on the GLO 2 and the scientific review process.

VIII. Plenary and working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity: Refining policy recommendations on the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)

A five-hour timeslot will be dedicated to refining policy recommendations resulting from the analysis of the SPI on those aspects of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and the recently published Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report which are relevant to the UNCCD. The co-Leads will facilitate the substantive work of two breakout groups (see Annex II for the composition of these groups).

IX. Report back to Plenary on the SPI's IPCC coordination activity work



The co-Leads (who coordinated the sessions for each IPCC SRRCL) will facilitate the recap of the key points captured in the session and input for way forward.

The secretariat will facilitate a discussion for keeping track of timeline.

X. Introduction to CST 15 / COP 15

The co-Chairs, supported by the secretariat, will describe the key milestones between now and CST 15 / COP 15, including roles and responsibilities. They will also introduce preliminary plans for a SPI “Science Day” during the COP 15.

- i. Roadmap to CST 15 / COP 15
- ii. Preliminary design of SPI Science Day at COP 15

XI. Shaping the future work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2022-2023

Following an introduction provided by the secretariat, the co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion the future work programme of the SPI.

XII. Other matters

The co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion on other matters.

XIII. Closing remarks

The co-Chairs will make a summary of the meeting outcomes. The secretariat will provide remarks on the meeting and the way forward. The Deputy Executive Secretary will make closing remarks. The SPI co-Chairs will close the meeting.



Tentative schedule of work

Tuesday, 19 October 2021 09:30 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)	
09:30 – 10:00	I. Welcome address i. Warmup ii. Welcome from the Executive Secretary iii. Welcome from the SPI co-Chairs
10:00 – 10:05	II. SPI group photo
10:05 – 10:15	III. Adoption of the agenda and organisation of work
10:15 – 11:00	IV. SPI Work Programme 2020-2021: Status and next steps – Plenary i. Presentation by objective 1 co-Lead(s) ii. Presentation by objective 2 co-Lead(s) iii. Brief presentation of the status of SPI coordination activities (IPBES/IPCC/ITPS/UNEP-IRP/GLII/IDMP)
<i>11:00 – 11:15</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
11:15– 13:00	V. Working sessions of SPI Objective 1 (rm 2312) and SPI Objective 2 (rm 1511) (Parallel break-out groups)
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch break (29th Floor Canteen)</i>
14:00 – 15:00	V. Working sessions of the SPI objectives continues (Parallel break-out groups)
15:00 – 16:30	VIII. Plenary and working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity: Refining policy recommendations on the IPCC SRCCL & AR6
<i>16:30 – 16:45</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
16:45 – 17:45	VIII. Working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity continues
17:45 – 18:00	Logistics and organization for sessions on Wednesday, 20 October
Wednesday, 20 October 2021 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00 (CET)	
09:00 – 09:10	Initiating working sessions in Plenary
09:10 – 10:45	V. Working sessions of the SPI objectives continues (Parallel break-out groups)
<i>10:45 – 11:00</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
11:00 – 11:45	V. Working sessions of the SPI objectives continues (Parallel break-out groups)
11:45 – 12:15	VI. Report back to Plenary on SPI Objectives 1 and 2
12:15 – 13:00	VII. Plenary: Update on and scientific review of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2)
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch break (29th Floor Canteen)</i>
14:00 – 16:00	VIII. Working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity continues
<i>16:00 – 16:15</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
16:15 – 17:45	VIII. Working sessions of the SPI's IPCC coordination activity continues
17:45 – 18:00	IX. Report back to Plenary on the SPI's IPCC coordination activity work
Thursday, 21 October 2021 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 – 17:00 (CET)	
09:00 – 09:10	Initiating working sessions in Plenary



09:10 – 10:45	Plenary: X. Introduction to CST 15 / COP 15 i. Roadmap to CST 15 / COP 15
<i>10:45 – 11:00</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
11:00 – 13:00	Plenary: X. Introduction to CST 15 / COP 15 ii. Preliminary design of SPI Science Day at COP 15
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch break (29th Floor Canteen)</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Plenary: XI. Shaping the future work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2022-2023
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary: XII. Other matters
<i>16:00 – 16:15</i>	<i>Coffee break (just outside rm 2312)</i>
16:15 – 16:45	Plenary: XIII. Closing remarks i. Summary of the 14 th SPI meeting by co-Chairs ii. Additional remarks on the meeting and the way forward by the secretariat
16:45 – 17:00	Plenary: XIII. Closing remarks iii. Closing remarks by the Deputy Executive Secretary



Annex 2 - SPI-IPCC SRCCL break-out groups. Composition of the breakout groups for work on the policy recommendations resulting from the SPI's analysis of two IPCC reports

	SPI-IPCC Breakout 1 (rm 2312) (draft policy recommendations 1 - 11)	SPI-IPCC Breakout 2 (rm 1511) (draft policy recommendations 12 - 23)
Participants	<p><u>On-site</u> Graham Paul von Maltitz Sergio Vicente-Serrano (scribe) Bongani Simon Masuku Anna Luise Caroline King-Okumu Vera Boerger</p> <p><u>Online</u> Ermas Betemariam Pablo Viegas Armando López Santos Zahurul Karim</p> <p><u>Tentative (due to prior commitment)</u> Rattan Lal Ratko Ristic Everlyne Nairesiae Robert Lewis-Lettington</p>	<p><u>On-site</u> Nijavalli Ravindranath Nichole Barger (scribe) Omer Raja Marijana Kapovic Solomun Mark Svoboda Felicia Akinyemi</p> <p><u>Online</u> Katrin Ehlert Noel Oettlé André Francisco Pilon Ana Vukovic Helene Gichenje</p> <p><u>Tentative (due to prior commitment)</u> Xiangzheng Deng Adam Fysh Robert Stefanski Ronald Vargas</p>
Secretariat support	Jia Xiaoxia Lawrencia Eposi Louisa Karika Johns Muleso Kharika Tina Birmpili (roving)	Furkan Dosdogru Vittoria Semplici Barron Joseph Orr Jamal Annagylyjova Camilla Nordheim-Larsen Daniele Gelz Tina Birmpili (roving)



Annex 3 - Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021

Objectives and deliverables

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
1. Provision of science-based evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues.	A technical report providing science-based evidence of how, in the context of working to achieve or exceed LDN, integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management can contribute to positive transformative change, including examples of cases where these approaches have been applied. A demonstration, resulting from an open call, of how LDN can be incorporated into existing open source land use planning and trade-off analysis tools. Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of LDN transformative initiatives.
2. Provision of science-based evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, also considering the effect of climate change on drought risk.	A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which would provide science-based guidance on approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, including understanding the influence of climate change on drought risk.

Coordination activities

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. Contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the procedures established by IPBES and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the secretariats of the IPBES and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030: (a) Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (b) Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).	The SPI will analyse the key messages of the SRCCL and AR6 relevant for the UNCCD for presentation at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
3. Follow up on current cooperation and explore future means and topics for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly confirmed by the SPI and the ITPS, bearing in mind the importance of soil organic carbon to land degradation neutrality (LDN). The SPI should be involved in any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (2017) and the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (2019). The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposiums relevant to the



	UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (2020).
4. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP) in accordance with the procedures established by UNEP-IRP and within the framework of its 2018–2021 work programme.	<p>The SPI will follow up on relevant portions of three of the prioritized topics of the UNEP-IRP 2018–2021 work programme, particularly two thematic assessments:</p> <p>Resource Implications of Environmental Conflict and Migration, and Leveraging Resources for Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Development, and the think piece, Resource Governance in Light of Fundamental Transitions in Systems of Production and Consumption, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p> <p>Furthermore, the SPI will contribute in a review capacity to work on mineral resource governance following the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/L23 on the topic, which calls for further consultation on governance structures around resource extraction.</p>
5. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of United Nations Human Settlement Programme to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII to measure tenure security globally and at country level, and land indicators used for measuring progress towards LDN.	<p>The SPI will provide inputs to the GLII to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII and land indicators used by the UNCCD on the basis of existing data sources and standards that are globally collectible and comparable.</p>
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.	<p>The SPI will ensure the coherence and relevance of SPI work on drought, particularly towards the IDMP's second pillar of drought management, which focuses on vulnerability and impact assessment, and collaborate on two planned publications: a framework document on integrated drought management and a brochure on drought and water scarcity.</p>
7. Assume a primary role in the quality assurance of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2), and review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.	<p>The SPI will be a member of the GLO steering committee, contribute to and undertake a scientific review of the GLO 2 and all related documents, will approve the final versions prior to publication, and will be invited to review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.</p>