Important Dates

**Early ’70s - Sub-Saharan Africa**
- Drought - Over 200,000 people and millions of animals die

**September 1973 – The Sahel**
- Nine Sahelian countries establish the Inter-State Permanent Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)

**August - September 1977 - Nairobi, Kenya**
United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD)
- Desertification addressed as a worldwide problem for the first time
- Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) adopted

**June 1992 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
- The Earth Summit and Agenda 21 call on the UN General Assembly to set up an inter-governmental committee to prepare for a legally binding instrument that addresses the problem of desertification.

**June 17, 1994 - Paris, France**
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is adopted.

**December 1996**
- The UNCCD enters into force 90 days after the 50th ratification is received.

**October 1997 - Rome, Italy**
COP 1
- Rules governing the COP and its subsidiary bodies established
- The functions of the Global Mechanism set forth
- Permanent secretariat designated
**Important Dates**

**December 1998** - Senegal, Dakar

COP 2

- Consultations on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat
- Declaration of the first round table of Members of Parliaments on desertification

**January 1999** - Bonn, Germany

- Permanent secretariat of the UNCCD established.

**November 1999** - Recife, Brazil

COP 3

- "Recife Initiative" on commitments to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD launched.

**December 2000** - Bonn, Germany

COP 4

- Implementation annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V) adopted
- "Declaration on the commitments under the Convention" as follow up to the "Recife Initiative" approved.

**March - April 2001** - Bonn, Germany

Intersessional meeting of the ad hoc working group (AHWG)

- Building on a review of national and other reports, a comprehensive report on further steps in the implementation of the Convention is adopted and submitted to COP 5.

**October 2001** - Geneva, Switzerland

COP 5

- CRIC established as a subsidiary body of the COP.
- Reform of the CST is adopted and a Group of Experts is established.
Important Dates

**August - September 2002** - Johannesburg, South Africa

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

- Governments call on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to become a financial mechanism of the UNCCD

**October 2002** - Beijing, China

Second Assembly of the GEF

- A decision to designate land degradation as its fifth focal area is adopted
- The GEF will be established as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD

**November 2002** - Rome, Italy

CRIC 1

- Innovative solutions to combat desertification are identified and shared.
- A report is adopted and will be submitted to COP6.

**August - September 2003** - Havana, Cuba

COP 6

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is designated as a financial mechanism of the Convention.
- CRIC 2 recommendations on ways to improve the implementation of the Convention are endorsed.

**May 2005** - Bonn, Germany

CRIC 3

- New ways mapped to mainstream desertification.

**October 2005** - Nairobi, Kenya

- COP 7, CST 7 and CRIC 4 are held.
2006

International Year of Deserts and Desertification

March 2007 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

CRIC 5

September & November 2007 - Madrid, Spain

- COP8, CST 8 and CRIC 6 are held.
- Country Parties adopt the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018, the Strategy).
- In November, an extra session of the COP is held in New York for budget considerations.

November 2008 - Istanbul, Turkey

- CST S-1 and CRIC 7 are held.

September 2009 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

- First UNCCD scientific conference is held under the theme "Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management".

September 2009 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

- COP 9, CST 9 and CRIC 8 are held.
- Parties decide on the framework for assessing the implementation of the Strategy and further define the work of the subsidiary bodies.

February 2011 - Bonn, Germany

- CST S-2 and CRIC 9 are held.
- First review of performance towards the operational objectives of the 10-Year Strategy is carried out.
- CST continues the development of impact indicators.
Important Dates

September 2011

United Nations General Assembly high level meeting on desertification, land degradation and
drought (DLDD)

- Brings together world leaders to debate on the importance of addressing DLDD for
  sustainable development and poverty eradication.

October 2011 - Changwon, Republic of Korea

- COP 10, CST 10 and CRIC 10 are held
- Largest-ever number of participants.
- Parties agree on tools for the first UNCCD impact monitoring and continue the
  institutional reform.
- Several partnerships addressing land degradation from different aspects, including the
  “Changwon Initiative”, are launched.

September 2013 - Windhoek, Namibia

COP 11

October 2015 – Ankara, Turkey

COP 12