Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands
Objective 3 of the SPI work programme 2016–2017

“to encourage the development and implementation of specific rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands”

SPI approach to this objective:

“... work should complement and add value to existing ongoing assessments such as the IPBES Land Degradation Restoration Assessment and the UNEP-IRP on land restoration, ecosystem resilience and their contributions to poverty eradication”

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4
Expectations from this session:
clear guidance on how to enhance the relevance of these on-going activities related to land degradation and restoration so that UNCCD policy and decision making can benefit from their outcomes.

1. The mandate of the UNCCD and the SPI
2. The request of the UNCCD to the IPBES
3. The basic requirements of products and processes the SPI engages with to fulfil its mandate.
4. Conclusions and proposals to the CST.
Mandate from the Parties: A request for UNCCD leadership in addressing Land Degradation

Parties direct the Secretariat of the UNCCD, as the lead organization for DLDD, to take the initiative and invite other relevant agencies and stakeholders such as United Nations agencies, international organizations, … to seek cooperation to [strive to] achieve SDG target 15.3”

http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/ICCD_COP12_20_Add.1/20add1eng.pdf)
Science Policy Interface:
established to

delivery of policy relevant informa
tion, knowledge and advice on
desertification/land degradation and
drought”.

and mandated, interalia, to:

“….analyse, synthesize and translate
relevant scientific findings and
recommendations from desertification/land
degradation and drought ….”
“.interact with existing multiple
mechanisms (IPBES, IPCC, ITPS).
CST Bureau requested the IPBES to consider undertaking an: “Assessment and valuation of Sustainable Land Management in maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity by combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought”

Input reflected in the document IPBES/2/INF/9 page 29

“How SLM contributes to conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services”

Decision IPBES-3/1: **A thematic assessment on Land Degradation and Restoration (LDRA)**

The UNCCCD is recognized as a key user of and a key contributor to the LDRA

IPBES-3/1 Annex VIII
SPI contribution to the IPBES LDRA:

LDRA Scoping by IPBES expert Group UNCCD: Observer / Comments from CST-SPI to the Scoping & Framework

IBPES-LDRA approved

Dec 2013

Sep 2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

SPI Comments on Chapters & SPM
SPM FOD: 97 comments
Chapters SOD: 186 comments

FOD Chapters 1-8
176 SPI comments

Final Report

• Ca. 900 pages
• 8 chapters
• 1 SPMs (40 pp.)
“Lens” used by SPI for comments on IPBES-LDRA:

Members of the SPI evaluated the LDRA to determine if:

It will be relevant to the UNCCD process and the needs of its Parties;

It will be consistent with the SPI mandate of delivering **policy-relevant information and knowledge on desertification, land degradation and drought**
Essential considerations of the SPI for implementing its mandate:

• **Inputs** that are credible, legitimate and salient; as well

• **Processes** that engage with mechanisms following established principles of stakeholder engagement
The sources used by the SPI need to support UNCCD concepts of land, land degradation, degraded lands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNCCD - SPI</th>
<th>IPBES LDRA</th>
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| **Land degradation**
**UNCCD** | reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of ..., ... resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as (i) soil erosion ....; (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation | refers to the many processes that drive the decline or loss of biodiversity, ecosystem functions or services and includes the degradation of all terrestrial ecosystems. (IPBES /3/18, Annex VIII) |
| **Land LDN CF** | multifunctional ecological system, whose natural capital, soil and biodiversity, interacting with water and atmosphere, generate the flow of ecosystem services that support human wellbeing by securing the life and livelihood of individuals and communities. |
Sources need to support or complement UNCCD-SPI science-based approaches for delivering policy relevant information and advice.

The LDN Conceptual Framework is being used by the Parties in setting the SDG 15.3 target.

Approaches to baseline setting need to support the baseline methodology adopted by the LDN CF.

LDN CF guided by a definition of land that **focus on human well being and uses a time-bound baseline** (ie. a recent baseline) as a reliable way forward to combating LD and supporting recovery of land’s productivity.
Credibility of synthesis:

"the SPI mandate of delivering policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification, land degradation and drought"

Interpretation:

synthesise in a clear, policy-relevant language
Other needs for legitimacy and salience

Involvement of the SPI and UNCCD Secretariat as core stakeholder **early in the processes**, including in scoping and framework definition maximises the possibility of the outputs being relevant to the mandate and PoW of the UNCCD.
Conclusion and proposals to the CST

• Continued cooperation with the UNEP (UN Environment) International Resource Panel on issues related to the SPI work programme 2018–2019.

• The SPI to review the approved Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment of the IPBES; analyse its key messages in regards to their relevance to the UNCCD and its Parties and present an analysis at the 14th session of the CST.
Relevant documents

Document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5