



United Nations

ICCD/COP(13)/19



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
3 July 2017

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Thirteenth session

Ordos, China, 6–16 September 2017

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

Draft advocacy policy frameworks: Gender, Drought, and Sand and Dust Storms

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 9/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary to formulate an additional advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought, in consultation with national focal points, taking gender-sensitive approaches into account; to advise on emerging issues and strategic approaches that require an advocacy policy framework; to collaborate with relevant institutions in preparing the drafts; and to undertake the advocacy with Parties.

By its decision 9/COP.11, the COP urged the secretariat to increase efforts in policy advocacy, in order to ensure harmonization, alignment and mutual reinforcement of thematic advocacy policy frameworks in line with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and to facilitate gender mainstreaming.

In response to the above, this document proposes a gender plan of action to support gender mainstreaming during implementation in the context of the future strategic framework (2018–2030). It presents a revised advocacy policy framework on drought, and proposes an advocacy policy framework on the emerging issue of sand and dust storms. The report concludes with recommendations for action for consideration by Parties at the thirteenth session of the COP.

GE.17-11042(E)



* 1 7 1 1 0 4 2 *

Please recycle 



Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Background	1–5	3
II. Gender plan of action	6–21	3
A. Context	6–9	3
B. Rationale	10–13	4
C. Potential intervention measures	14–16	6
D. Priorities for action	17	6
E. Mechanisms for implementation	18–21	8
III. Drought resilience, adaptation and management policy framework	22–32	9
A. Preamble	22–24	9
B. Rationale	25	9
C. Potential intervention measures	26–28	10
D. Priorities for action	29–32	12
IV. Policy framework for sand and dust storms	33–65	14
A. Preamble	33–36	14
B. Rationale	37–41	14
C. Potential key policy intervention measures	42–47	15
D. Priorities for action	48–65	17
V. Conclusions and recommendations	66	19

I. Background

1. By its decision 8/COP.9, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to generate advocacy policy frameworks on thematic issues in order to address the adverse impacts of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and to regularly inform affected countries and other key stakeholders on such proceedings that may be useful in the implementation of action programmes.

2. By its decision 9/COP.10, the COP requested the secretariat: (i) to undertake advocacy with Parties in order to increase ecosystem resilience in the drylands and to improve the livelihood conditions of affected populations, noting that framework development is an iterative process; (ii) to develop a standard approach and process to ensure consistency of advocacy policy frameworks; (iii) to advise on any other emerging issues and strategic approaches that require an advocacy policy framework; and (iv) to collaborate closely with other relevant institutions when preparing draft advocacy policy frameworks.

3. By its decision 9/COP.11, the COP welcomed the process for the formulation of future advocacy policy frameworks and the advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought, including water scarcity. It encouraged the secretariat: (i) to identify and formulate, as appropriate and subject to availability of resources, additional advocacy policy frameworks, in consultation with Parties; (ii) to increase efforts in undertaking policy advocacy, and to ensure harmonization, alignment and mutual reinforcement of thematic advocacy policy frameworks in line with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and (iii) to foster dialogue amongst stakeholders.

4. By its decision 9/COP.12, the COP requested the secretariat to participate, within the mandate and scope of the Convention, in partnerships fostering development of the capacity to respond to floods and to sand and dust storms (SDS). The secretariat was also requested to continue improving partnerships fostering capacity development for national drought preparedness planning, drought early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, and enhanced drought risk mitigation.

5. Building on these actions, this report proposes: elements for further action to support the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender; elements for the advocacy policy framework on drought and supportive actions; and elements and actions for an advocacy policy framework on the emerging issue of SDS. The secretariat proposes consideration of the policy frameworks in the light of: (i) the planned adoption of a new strategic plan for 2018–2030; and (ii) the collective commitments of the Parties to Agenda 2030.

II. Gender plan of action

A. Context

6. The Convention recognizes the importance of women in the implementation of the Convention, and identifies critical areas for their engagement: (i) awareness-raising, and participation in the design and implementation of programmes; (ii) decision-making processes that men and women adopt at the local level in the governance of development, implementation and review of regional and national action programmes (RAPs and NAPs); and (iii) capacity-building, education and public awareness, particularly at local level through the support of local organizations.

7. Since 1998, UNCCD Parties and stakeholders have taken action on gender. Parties have regularly called for an improved gender balance within the roster of independent experts and in civil society organization (CSO) participation. The advocacy policy framework of 2013 focused primarily on the policy process. Parties focused mostly on activities with women on the ground, as reflected in 80 of the 335 reports that covered gender.¹ But calls to mainstream gender and empower women in the implementation of the Convention persist.²

8. The development of a future strategic framework (2018–2030) to implement the Convention is an opportunity to address the weaknesses of the gender advocacy policy framework. An action plan with a focused agenda for women’s empowerment to complement the gender advocacy policy framework (decision 9/COP.10) by mainstreaming gender (decision 9/COP.11), in order to address the gender inequalities that disproportionately undermine women’s effectiveness as agents of change in the implementation of the Convention, would enhance the achievement of land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets.³

9. The proposals are drawn from: (i) lessons learned from the activities undertaken by affected Parties; (ii) a review of relevant literature;⁴ (iii) lessons learned when developing the gender plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and ongoing development of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); (iv) consultations with gender experts.⁵ The proposed gender plan of action benefitted from substantive feedback received from seven Parties, three international organizations and two CSOs.

B. Rationale

10. Women are strategic agents of change⁶ and play a central role in the use and care of land resources, in particular in land-dependent communities. Women rely on land resources to provide the household needs for food, water and energy, which makes them more dependent on natural resources than men; yet most women neither own nor have control over these resources. Less than 20 per cent of land holders worldwide are women⁷ and only 13 per cent of the land users who make the major decisions on agricultural land are women.⁸ On the other hand, women are a significant labour force and are guardians of valuable traditional and indigenous knowledge on land use.⁹ But these advantages do not

¹ A detailed report on gender mainstreaming during this period is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CRP.1.

² See various declarations at Conferences of the Parties by Parliamentarians, CSOs and Ministers.

³ See document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/17.

⁴ Nelson, V., L. Forsythe and J. Morton, Thematic Papers 1, 2 and 3 and Synthesis, in the series *Women’s empowerment in drylands* (Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Chatham, UK, 2015). Atieno Samandari, *Working Paper on Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality* (2016).

⁵ UN Women, The Global GEF Gender Partnership and the UNDP Global Policy Centre for Ecosystem Resilience.

⁶ Orr, B.J., et al. *Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality* (2017), p. 52.

⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development* (2011).

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Gender and Land Statistics: Recent Developments in FAO’s Gender and Land Rights Database* (2015).

⁹ Atieno Samandari (2016), cited. V. Nelson, L. Forsythe and J. Morton, University of Greenwich, Chatham (2015), cited.

benefit them. Globally, women make up 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force.¹⁰ In many poor countries, more than 95 per cent of all economically active women work in agriculture.¹¹ In sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, women hold 10 per cent of the credit available to smallholder agriculture.¹² Similarly, female farmers receive only 5 per cent of all agricultural extension services, and only 15 per cent of agricultural extension officers are women.¹³

11. Structural inequalities embedded in the social, political, economic and cultural institutions, norms and practices limit women's agency, undermining effective implementation of the Convention. A focused and systematic approach to bridge the gender inequalities linked to women's land use and management can improve the livelihoods of women and girls and their families and the conditions of the ecosystems that supply these needs, and enhance their resilience to drought. Their increasing exposure to extreme weather events – drought, unpredictable rainfall – accentuates their vulnerability, and compels them to take ever-greater risks to meet their needs. Women in land-dependent communities affected by the impacts of land degradation and desertification require special attention in order for them to access the resources they need to provide for their households and make communities resilient and stable.¹⁴

12. The Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality states that the drivers of land degradation are not gender neutral. It stresses that poverty is both a root cause and a consequence of land degradation, with gender inequality playing a significant role in the process, worsening the impacts on women. The UNCCD Science Policy Interface (SPI) recommends integrating gender considerations into implementation of the UNCCD, including through LDN planning and implementation, decision making, stakeholder engagement and the preliminary assessments for LDN. In particular, SPI argues that excluding gender from the analysis of preliminary assessment data for LDN activities will lead to incomplete or misleading findings.¹⁵

13. Evidence shows that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital in achieving sustainable development, and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity.¹⁶ Closing the gender gap could, for instance, create 240 million jobs by 2025 and add US\$28 trillion (26 per cent) to annual global growth (GDP).¹⁷ The global agenda for 2030¹⁸ has reignited political momentum towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Parties to the Convention have committed to achieve these goals and have

¹⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development* (2011), p. 5.

¹¹ International Organization for Migration, *Barriers to Women's Land and Property Access and Ownership in Nepal* (2016). <www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DOE/LPR/Barriers-to-Womens-Land-Property-Access-Ownership-in-Nepal.pdf>, accessed 21 December 2016.

¹² United Nations, Secretary-General's Report. *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges* (2012), cited p. 9.

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Agricultural Support System* (undated). <www.fao.org/docrep/005/y3969e/y3969e05.htm>.

¹⁴ Nelson, V., L. Forsythe and J. Morton, *Achieving Dryland Women's Empowerment: Environmental resilience and social transformation imperatives* (2015).

¹⁵ Orr, B.J., et al. *Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality* (2017). <www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/LDN%20Scientific%20Conceptual%20Framework_FINAL.pdf>.

¹⁶ United Nations, Addis Ababa Agenda Action, p. 6–7 (2014).

¹⁷ McKinsey and Company, *The Power of Parity: How Advancing Women's Equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth* (2015).

¹⁸ Includes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/RES/69/313) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (A/RES/70/1).

a responsibility to uphold and support their achievement, as recognized in decision 3/COP.12, and thus need to identify and agree on policies and actions to reduce gender inequalities, and enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Convention. As gender becomes a core target of development finance, including in major public environmental and climate change financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF), a clear action plan offers the means properly to assess gender responsiveness in actions to implement the Convention.

C. Potential intervention measures

1. Goal

14. The purpose of the gender plan of action is to make the implementation of the Convention and the future strategic framework gender-responsive and transformative, and thus more effective, efficient and successful, by providing guidance to Parties and other actors on policies and measures to mainstream gender and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

2. Objectives

15. The objectives are:

- (a) To enhance women's role as agents of change by addressing the gender inequalities they face;
- (b) To build the capacities of women and girls to access the resources they need to improve their livelihoods, manage land sustainably and become resilient to drought;
- (c) To build the technical capacities of UNCCD stakeholders at all levels to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programmes, including in LDN interventions;
- (d) To develop a baseline on gender-related issues in land degradation and desertification, and monitor, report and regularly review progress in the implementation and achievement of objectives;
- (e) To mobilize adequate resources to achieve these objectives.

3. Principles

16. Key principles needed to guide action on the ground:

- (a) Interventions do not increase women's burden. They decrease it;
- (b) Women not only contribute to, but also benefit from, the interventions.

D. Priorities for action

17. Some of the key obstacles associated with DLDD are common to women and girls in the affected developing countries and offer a point of convergence for focused action. Whereas priority actions may vary across countries and regions, the expected outcomes need to be consistent. Priority thematic areas to close the gender gap are:

- (a) **Participation in decisions taken during the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to implement the UNCCD.** Women have a strong influence on most land-based livelihood systems. Their participation in local institutions for governing natural resources is critical for sustainable land, water and forest

management.¹⁹ Parties will seek to increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels in decision-making and local implementation of the UNCCD, including in drought management and SDS and LDN interventions, and aim to reach gender parity by 2030;²⁰

(b) **Integrating women’s economic empowerment in UNCCD implementation activities in order to eradicate their extreme poverty.** Nearly 40 per cent of land degradation is found in areas of high poverty,²¹ often due to a history of structural constraints, limited incomes and the lack of social safety nets, putting formidable pressure on the land to meet the population’s daily livelihood needs.²² Women’s extreme poverty is linked to multiple factors which include insecure land rights, lack of access to finance and technology, poor market conditions, and social practices²³ such as underpaid or unpaid labour. Parties will aim to promote women’s economic empowerment²⁴ by breaking down gender-related barriers and creating quality income-earning opportunities for rural women involved in implementation activities;

(c) **Strengthening women’s land rights and access to resources.** Women in developing country regions affected by DLDD are estimated to produce up to 60–80 per cent of the food in developing countries.²⁵ But a majority of the women in Africa and the Middle East lack critical land rights:²⁶ (i) they are allocated the less fertile family land; (ii) they are not the main decision makers regarding the land they use; and (iii) they do not own the land they use.²⁷ To manage land and achieve LDN and household needs sustainably, women’s land ownership is important, but security of tenure is critical.²⁸ Parties will aim to increase women’s land rights by 2030 through diverse and innovative approaches;²⁹

(d) **Enhancing women’s access to improved knowledge and technologies that relate to effective UNCCD implementation.** Indigenous and rural women hold valuable knowledge which is needed in order to increase food production, yet far fewer women than men benefit from the technologies developed from this knowledge. Studies show that woman-to-woman training can boost subsistence food production, and women’s use of

¹⁹ United Nations Secretary-General’s Report, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*, p. 85 (2015).

²⁰ SDG Target 5.5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. South Africa, for instance, has a Bill aiming for 50 per cent representation. One Party has suggested participation to be at 40 per cent. Some countries, for example Uganda, now require participation at 50 per cent for all NAP-related interventions (personal conversations).

²¹ Undated briefing note. *Issues Brief on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought*. <www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/docs/ITPS/Annex2.pdf>, accessed 21 December 2016.

²² Nelson, V., L. Forsythe and J. Morton, *Empowering Dryland Women*, cited (2015).

²³ McKinsey and Company, *The Power of Parity* (2015), p. 10.

²⁴ SDG Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

²⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ESA Working Paper No. 11-02, March 2011. *The Role of Women in Agriculture* (2011), p. 11.

²⁶ World Bank, *Women, Business and the Law* (2015).

²⁷ International Food Policy Research Institute, *Gender Inequalities in Land Ownership and Control of Land in Africa. Myths versus reality*, IFPRI Discussion Paper 01308 (2013).

²⁸ United Nations Secretary-General’s Report, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*, cited, p. 83 (2015). Referenced hereafter as Report of Beijing +20. <www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/3>.

²⁹ SDG Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

extension services increased by 600 per cent through targeted delivery.³⁰ Parties will seek to build the knowledge capacities of female land-users in the areas targeted for sustainable land management to deliver appropriate technological resources,³¹ including information technologies, sustainable land management,³² training, extension services and the education of girls.

E. Mechanisms for implementation

1. Working with and through women's organizations

18. Women's organizations (associations, cooperatives, self-help groups and so on) are powerful mechanisms for correcting gender inequalities. They are sustainable. They benefit women directly. Membership often includes men who are allies for change.³³ Parties will seek to work with and build the capacities of local women's organizations in the implementation of the Convention.

2. Developing strategic partnerships to support implementation

19. Interventions to benefit local populations are mostly channelled through regional governments and CSOs, and partnerships with them are vital for mobilizing women at ground level. Partnerships with national and regional governments that develop and design policies are also important. Parties will seek partnerships with experts, development partners, and relevant government and private sector agents which can enable women and girls to obtain resources.

3. Mobilize financial resources needed to address gender inequality in UNCCD implementation, including national action programmes and land degradation neutrality

20. Governments agreed to increase transparency and equal participation in the budgeting process, and to promote gender-responsive budgeting, by tracking and reporting resource allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment.³⁴ UNCCD Parties that have deliberately financed women's involvement or activities in implementation have reported high returns from their investment.³⁵ Parties will seek to allocate resources to support gender-related initiatives and to ensure that budget expenditures promote gender equality and/or women's empowerment in their interventions.³⁶

4. Monitoring and reporting

21. Regular reporting on the interventions of the Parties in order to assess progress, gaps and challenges as well as to capture lessons learned would ensure that interventions deliver meaningful results for women effectively in accordance with their needs and priorities,

³⁰ United Nations Secretary-General's Report, cited, p. 10 (2012).

³¹ SDG Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

³² SDG Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

³³ World Bank, *Gender and Economic Growth in Kenya. Unleashing the power of women* (2007).

³⁴ United Nations, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, p. 14, <www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf> (2015).

³⁵ Case studies of Morocco and India. See UNCCD and World Bank, *Land for Life: Create Wealth, Transform Life* (2016).

³⁶ SDG target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

contribute to sustainable land management, and do not exacerbate gender inequalities or overburden women.³⁷ In submitting their national reports, Parties will include the efforts to address gender equality and women's empowerment in UNCCD implementation and the lessons learned.

III. Drought resilience, adaptation and management policy framework³⁸

A. Preamble

22. The Convention highlights that the objective of mitigating the effects of drought involves long-term integrated strategies that focus, inter alia, on the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.³⁹ Affected Parties are expected to address the underlying causes of desertification,⁴⁰ and NAPs may include, inter alia, (i) the establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of early warning systems, and mechanisms for assisting environmentally displaced persons; (ii) strengthening of drought preparedness and management, including drought contingency plans, which take into consideration seasonal to inter-annual climate predictions; and (iii) establishment of alternative livelihood projects that could provide incomes in drought-prone areas.

23. Recent international and regional initiatives have changed the way drought is perceived and managed. These include: the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy which called for a shift from “reactive” to “proactive” approaches (March 2013); the UN-Water collaborative initiative (March 2013–May 2015) to support countries in developing National Drought Management Policies; the 2015–2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; the Sustainable Development Goals (September 2015); and the outcomes of the African Drought Conference (August 2016).

24. The draft policy framework presented below builds on these developments, the “Advocacy policy framework on the thematic issue of drought, including water scarcity” presented at CRIC 11,⁴¹ and consultations with Parties as well as collaboration with other relevant organizations, inter alia the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CBD.

B. Rationale

25. In line with the latest developments, new approaches and mandate in decisions 8/COP.9, 9/COP.10, 9/COP.11, 3/COP.12 and 9/COP.12, the UNCCD secretariat proposes the drought resilience, adaptation and management policy (DRAMP) framework as a tool for use by Parties to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought. In line with decisions 4/COP.8, 8/COP.9 and 9/COP.12 on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with

³⁷ United Nations Secretary-General's Report on Beijing + 20, cited, p. 66. At least 105 countries monitor and collect national gender statistics, 60 of which are making efforts to use 52 gender indicators (2015).

³⁸ The document was prepared with support from Neville Crossman, an external expert to the SPI. It was circulated to all national focal points of the UNCCD and a number of United Nations agencies (WMO, FAO and CBD). The documents benefitted from relevant comments of the country Parties.

³⁹ Article 2.

⁴⁰ Article 5.

⁴¹ ICCD/CRIC(11)/17.

other relevant conventions and international organizations, the secretariat is working closely with United Nations organizations, inter alia WMO, FAO, CBD and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

C. Potential intervention measures

1. Goal

26. The DRAMP framework takes an integrated and multi-pronged approach to reducing the risks and impacts of drought at national and sub-national levels. The goal of the policy framework is to organize into logical groupings the diverse and potential approaches and actions for reducing drought risk and increasing resilience. The framework recognizes the intertwined and integrated nature of drought impacts and risks in multiple sectors, including land, water, energy, environment and agriculture.

2. Objectives

27. The objectives of the DRAMP framework are not mutually exclusive. Many of the actions for managing and adapting to drought are applicable to more than one objective. Some objectives (d–f) could also serve as sets of strategies for addressing these objectives:

(a) **Reduce exposure to drought:** Reduce the potential loss of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and resources, infrastructure and economic, social or cultural assets in places that could be adversely affected by drought. Example: The diversification of cropping 30 years ago, from a monoculture grain system to a mix of grain crops with drought-tolerant potato and corn, has reduced the potential for agricultural losses from increased drought occurrence in inner Mongolia, China;⁴²

(b) **Reduce vulnerability to drought:** Reduce the propensity or predisposition to adverse drought effects. Example: Farmers have a higher capacity to adapt to drought when they are more experienced, better educated, have secure land tenure and better access to electricity, and are more aware of climate risks;⁴³

(c) **Increase resilience to drought risk:** Strengthen the ability of communities, ecosystems and economies to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from the effects of drought in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of natural capital. Example: Conservation agriculture increases soil biodiversity and carbon stocks, regulates oxygen and nutrient cycles, and makes soil and crops more resilient to heat and drying extremes in times of drought;⁴⁴

(d) **Transformation:** Alter fundamental attributes of social, economic and ecological systems, including value systems; regulatory, legislative or bureaucratic regimes; financial institutions; and technological or biological systems. Example: Put local communities at the centre of drought decision-making processes, policy design and

⁴² Lei, Y., H. Zhang, F. Chen and L. Zhang, *How rural land use management facilitates drought risk adaptation in a changing climate – A case study in arid northern China*. *Science of the Total Environment* **550**:192–199 (2016).

⁴³ Alam, K., *Farmers' adaptation to water scarcity in drought-prone environments: A case study of Rajshahi District, Bangladesh*. *Agricultural Water Management* **148**:196–206 (2015).

⁴⁴ Lal, R., *Soil carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change*. *Geoderma* **123**:1–22 (2004).
Lipper, L., P. Thornton, B. M. Campbell, T. Baedeker, A. Braimoh, M. Bwalya, P. Caron, A. Cattaneo, D. Garrity, K. Henry, R. Hottle, L. Jackson, A. Jarvis, F. Kossam, W. Mann, N. McCarthy, A. Meybeck, H. Neufeldt, T. Remington, P. T. Sen, R. Sessa, R. Shula, A. Tibu, and E. F. Torquebiau, *Climate-smart agriculture for food security*. *Nature Climate Change* **4**:1068–1072 (2014).

planning because the social impacts of drought depend on people's capacity to live with less water during a drought period and their willingness and capability to adapt;⁴⁵

(e) **Prepare, respond and recover from drought:** The backbone of management and planning approaches to reduce risk from drought, including the development of comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems. Example: comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems (integrating multi-scale climate, soil, water and socio-economic indicators),⁴⁶ decision-support tools, and real-time drought assessment products⁴⁷ which provide key and timely information for supporting decisions;

(f) **Transfer and share drought risks:** Spread risks amongst a wider section of society to include all who benefit directly and indirectly from robust drought risk management. Example: Design and implement intelligent, risk-reducing financial strategies that finance relief, reconstruction and livelihood recovery, such as micro-insurance, insurance, reinsurance and national, regional and global risk pools. An example is weather index insurance and safety nets.⁴⁸

3. Principles

28. Key principles should guide implementation of the DRAMP framework goals and strategies to ensure consistency and clarity in the development of drought management policy and plans. The principles presented below are based on the Sendai Framework, the outcomes of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy and subsequent UN-Water regional capacity-building workshops, and the new Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa strategic framework, plus other relevant sources (New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries,⁴⁹ Agriculture Victoria⁵⁰). The key principles guiding DRAMP are:

(a) Every country has the primary responsibility to prepare for and mitigate drought impacts and to reduce drought risks. This is a shared responsibility requiring partnerships, coordination and collaboration between all levels of government, individuals, local communities, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders;

(b) The aim of drought risk management is to protect human, social, cultural, environmental and economic assets;

(c) Addressing underlying drought risk factors is more cost-effective than post-drought crisis management;

(d) Local communities and authorities, social and cultural minorities and traditionally marginalized groups (women, the poor, the disabled, the young and old) must all be empowered to reduce drought risk;

⁴⁵ Logar, I., and J. C. J. M. van den Bergh, *Methods to Assess Costs of Drought Damages and Policies for Drought Mitigation and Adaptation: Review and Recommendations*. Water Resources Management **27**:1707–1720 (2013).

⁴⁶ UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (2015).

⁴⁷ UNCCD, FAO, and WMO, High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), *Science Document: Best Practices on National Drought Management Policy*. UNCCD, FAO, WMO, Geneva (2013). Tadesse, T., *Strategic Framework for Drought Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa*. Draft White Paper. National Drought Mitigation Center, Nebraska, USA (2016).

⁴⁸ Shiferaw, B., K. Tesfaye, M. Kassie, T. Abate, B.M. Prasanna and A. Menkir, *Managing vulnerability to drought and enhancing livelihood resilience in sub-Saharan Africa: Technological, institutional and policy options*. Weather and Climate Extremes **3**:67–79 (2014).

⁴⁹ <www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/14623>.

⁵⁰ <<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/drought-preparedness/victorias-drought-preparedness-and-response-framework>>.

- (e) Education, the dissemination of information, communication and raising awareness of drought risks are essential to reducing risk;
- (f) Working with nature is a key tool for reducing drought risk;
- (g) Reducing drought risk is critical for sustainable development, LDN, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food and water security, human health and biodiversity conservation;
- (h) Drought recovery and support should be prioritized to those who have taken reasonable efforts to reduce risk, and assistance is based on restoring community capacity for self-help and ensuring that recovery occurs at optimal speed;
- (i) Drought recovery and rehabilitation should be targeted at mechanisms which reduce the risk of future drought;
- (j) Vulnerable countries should develop and implement drought adaptation and management plans which employ evidence-based approaches in order to (i) improve governance of drought risk management; (ii) build better, comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems; (iii) undertake coordinated and consistent drought vulnerability and impact assessments; (iv) mitigate, prepare, and respond to drought; (v) raise awareness and share knowledge of drought; and (vi) reduce the underlying factors of drought risk.

D. Priorities for action

29. The key pillars of drought risk reduction, which are designed to guide practical actions for nations in implementing their drought policy and management plans are the following.

1. Implement comprehensive monitoring and early warning systems for drought preparedness

30. This includes (i) monitoring key indicators and indices of precipitation, temperature, soil moisture, vegetation condition, stream flow, snowpack and ground water; (ii) developing reliable seasonal forecasts and also appropriate decision-support tools for impacted sectors; (iii) monitoring the consequences of drought, especially the impacts on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, and (iv) communicating reliable warning messages and responding to the risks in a measured and timely fashion. Specific action areas to help implement early warning systems are, inter alia:

- (a) Designing participatory, tailored and comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems (by collecting high spatial and temporal resolution baseline data on climate, soil, water availability and water demand and socio-economic indicators), decision-support tools, and real-time drought assessment products that provide key and timely information for supporting decisions;
- (b) Producing consistent drought risk assessment maps and impact and loss data, and provide this data free and open to the public;
- (c) Using data from future climate change modelling to support a long-term strategy that reflects estimated transformations caused by climate change;
- (d) Collecting and disseminating better drought indicators, including indicators on impact, damage, loss and vulnerability. At a minimum calculate common drought indicators such as the Standardized Precipitation Index and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index;

(e) Using local and indigenous knowledge on drought characteristics, impacts and risks wherever feasible.

2. Assess drought vulnerability and risk

31. This entails (i) identifying drought impacts on vulnerable economic sectors including cropping and livestock, biodiversity and ecosystems, energy, tourism and health; (ii) assessing the physical, social, economic and environmental pressures on communities before, during and shortly after drought in order to identify who and what is at risk and why; (iii) assessing conditions or situations that increase the resistance or susceptibility to drought and the coping capacity of communities affected by drought; and (iv) assessing the extent of potential damage or loss in the event of drought. Specific action areas are, inter alia:

(a) Encouraging innovations in water-use efficiency, management and valuation, cropping and grazing systems and land use and land cover in drought-prone areas;

(b) Increasing and diversifying livelihood options in drought-prone areas;

(c) Encouraging the cultivation of drought-resistant species and varieties in drought-prone areas in order to improve food yields during drought;

(d) Reducing inequalities in levels of wealth and education, disability and health status, as well as gender, age, class and other social and cultural characteristics, in populations vulnerable to drought;

(e) Reducing inequalities in access to natural resources, especially agricultural water.

3. Implement drought risk mitigation measures

32. These contain interventions before, during or immediately after a drought disaster unravels. Drought mitigation comprises any structural or physical measures (such as appropriate crops, dams, engineering projects) and non-structural measures (such as policies, awareness, knowledge development, public commitment, legal frameworks and operating practices) that are undertaken to limit the adverse impacts of drought.⁵¹ It can also include the development of novel options for attracting private, philanthropic investment and finance, for example through a model comparable to the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Fund. Specific action areas are, inter alia:

(a) Developing sustainable irrigation schemes for crops and livestock, and monitoring and measuring water supply and uses;

(b) Boosting the recycling and reuse of water and wastewater;

(c) Exploring the potential of growing drought-tolerant crops;

(d) Expanding crop insurance schemes;

(e) Establishing alternative livelihood projects that provide income in drought-prone areas.

⁵¹ Tsegai, D., J. Liebe and R. Ardakanian, *Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies: Synthesis*, UNW-DPC: Bonn, Germany (2015).

IV. Policy framework for sand and dust storms

A. Preamble

33. Decision 8/COP.9 requested the secretariat to generate advocacy policy frameworks on thematic issues in order to address the adverse impacts of DLDD, and to regularly inform affected countries and other key stakeholders on such proceedings that may be useful in the implementation of action programmes.

34. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions on “Combatting sand and dust storms” adopted in 2015 (A/RES/70/195) and 2016 (A/RES/71/219), respectively, acknowledge that SDS represents a severe impediment to the sustainable development of affected developing countries and the well-being of their peoples. The UNGA resolutions emphasize the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation to mitigate and contain SDS. The UNCCD, in collaboration with WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) produced a Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms, in response to UNGA resolution A/RES/70/195.

35. Based on decisions 9/COP.10, 9/COP.11 and 9/COP.12, the secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP and WMO, developed the draft policy framework for sand and dust storms (PFSDS) below.

36. The draft PFSDS was circulated to, and benefitted from the comments by, UNCCD national focal points.

B. Rationale

37. Some 151 country Parties (77 per cent) are affected directly by SDS and 45 Parties (23 per cent) are classified as SDS source areas.⁵² Many SDS originate in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, although their impacts are frequently felt outside drylands due to long-range transport of dust.

38. SDS are not new phenomena and societies in many regions have long been exposed to SDS hazards, causing concern about the environment, economies and societies. But there is growing concern due to recent increases in the frequency and intensity of SDS in some areas and also possible future increases as a result of land-use change in source regions, and climate change.

39. Important potential drivers of future wind erosion and SDS occurrences include desertification, land degradation and climate change, especially via unsustainable land and water use, more extreme wind events, greater aridity in some areas, and greater drought frequency, severity and duration. Droughts, typically associated with vegetation decline and drier soils, frequently result in greater SDS activity. The sparse vegetation cover, in combination with dry and friable dryland soils and sediments, creates conditions amenable to SDS activity.

40. As well as these natural drivers of SDS activity, there are situations where anthropogenic mismanagement has intensified SDS source activity, and other situations where new SDS sources have arisen as a result of unsustainable resource use. The relative significance globally of natural sources versus those where land use and management practices have increased the occurrence of wind erosion is not clear, but the distinction is

⁵² Middleton, N. and U. Kang, *Sand and dust storms: impact mitigation*. Sustainability **9**, 1053 (2017).

important. The response to SDS hazards emanating from areas where human activity is a factor should concentrate on reducing dust emissions including through sustainable land and water management. When source areas naturally emit large quantities of dust it may be more prudent to focus efforts on managing the hazardous effects of SDS during transport and deposition.

41. The transboundary nature of many SDS events means that national SDS policies need to be coordinated in international and regional contexts. A policy framework could guide countries and help promote synergies among efforts to manage land sustainably and efforts to combat SDS.

C. Potential key policy intervention measures

1. Defining sand and dust storms

42. There are many sources of atmospheric particulate matter, but SDS in this draft policy framework refers to mineral sand (particle size 63 microns to 2mm) and dust (particle size range < 1–63 microns) that originates from land surfaces.

43. SDS occur when strong, turbulent winds blow over dry, unconsolidated, fine-grained surface materials where vegetation cover is sparse or absent. Most locations are in the low-latitude drylands, but SDS sources occur in almost all environments, where and when conditions are favourable, often through human influence. This includes lake beds that have been desiccated due to society's use of water, agricultural fields left bare after harvests and/or ploughing, intensive grazing by livestock, logging, the use of fire, driving on unpaved roads, and clearance for urban development.

44. The spatial extent of SDS events varies greatly. Impacts at the local level come from sand storms, blowing dust, and sand dune encroachment. Dust particles can be transported much farther from the source, bringing dust haze to distant locations often across international boundaries. Large-scale dust haze events affect areas measured in tens of thousands and sometimes hundreds of thousands of square kilometres. Such areas are not static, because dust moves in the atmosphere, but certain areas are typically affected by hazardous dust concentrations because storms occur on a relatively frequent basis with distinct seasonal patterns. The duration of SDS events varies from a few hours to several days. Their intensity is commonly expressed in terms of the atmospheric concentration of particles and the resultant reduction in visibility.

2. Goal

45. The ultimate goal is to reduce societal vulnerability to this recurrent hazard by mitigating the impacts of wind erosion and SDS.⁵³ Policy advocacy will focus on efforts under three headings: (i) post-impact crisis management (emergency response procedures); (ii) pre-impact governance to strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerability and minimize impacts (mitigation); (iii) preparedness plans and policies.

3. Objectives

46. The objectives are:

⁵³ Note that 'mitigation' is frequently used in different ways by different communities. In the natural hazards field, mitigation measures are commonly defined as actions taken in advance of SDS to lessen impacts the next time an SDS event occurs.

- (a) To develop national SDS policy based on the philosophy of risk reduction, including legislative and instrumental arrangements, and risk reduction strategies for resilience and preparedness;
- (b) To enhance north-south and south-south cooperation in SDS management and warning, and source mitigation;
- (c) To increase availability of and access to, and improve robustness of, comprehensive SDS early warning systems and risk information/communication and assessments;
- (d) To reduce the number of people affected by SDS;
- (e) To reduce the economic losses and damage caused by SDS;
- (f) To strengthen resilience and reduce SDS impacts on basic services, including transport;
- (g) To reduce erodibility and the extent of anthropogenic SDS source areas in the context of land degradation neutrality;
- (h) To enhance scientific understanding of SDS, particularly in areas such as impacts and monitoring;
- (i) To enhance coordination/cooperation among stakeholders in SDS action at national, regional and global levels for strengthened synergies;
- (j) To increase financial opportunities for comprehensive SDS early warning and source mitigation.

4. Principles

47. The PFSDS suggests principles for developing and implementing more proactive SDS policies, in particular resilience building and source mitigation. The SDS policy should:

- (a) Establish a clear set of principles or operating guidelines to govern the management of SDS and its impacts. This policy should aim to reduce risk by developing better awareness and understanding of SDS hazards and the underlying drivers of societal vulnerability, along with developing a greater understanding of how being proactive and adopting a wide range of preparedness measures can increase societal resilience;
- (b) Be consistent and equitable for all regions, population groups bearing gender in mind, and economic sectors, and be consistent with the goals of sustainable development. A successful SDS policy can advance a range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 15. Similarly, achieving sustainable development as set out in these SDGs can help reduce the occurrence and impact of SDS in affected areas;
- (c) Address dust sources occurring in various environments including drylands, agricultural fields, coastal areas and high latitudes. Further, because of the transboundary nature of many SDS events, national SDS policies should be coordinated in international and regional contexts;
- (d) Be driven by prevention rather than by crisis. Reducing the impacts of SDS requires a policy framework and action on the ground, consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

D. Priorities for action

48. The PFSDS suggests a proactive approach to addressing the negative impact of SDS in each of the three interrelated principal action areas: (i) monitoring, prediction and early warning; (ii) impact mitigation, vulnerability and resilience; and (iii) source mitigation. To implement this, crosscutting actions and a strong partnership will be needed.

1. Monitoring, prediction, early warning and preparedness

49. **Identify and map populations vulnerable to SDS for early warning, including health advisories.** The mapping of vulnerable populations and infrastructure/facilities, alongside future trend scenarios, is critical for strengthening socio-economic resilience. To enhance early warning, information needs to be collected and compiled along pathways of SDS, geographical areas affected, intensity, frequency, point sources at local level, mineral composition of dust.

50. **Implement comprehensive early warning systems at national/regional levels.** Early warning is a critical step in mitigating SDS impacts. It should enhance the ability of countries to deliver to users timely, quality SDS forecasts, observations, information and knowledge. Joint efforts for monitoring of SDS among research and operational communities is needed to contribute to early warning, taking into consideration harmonization of observation systems and data among stakeholders, including ground meteorological networks, air quality monitoring stations and the use of satellite data.

2. Impact mitigation, vulnerability and resilience

51. **Identify and scale up best-practice techniques for physical protection of assets, including infrastructure and agriculture, against SDS in affected areas.** Many appropriate techniques to reduce negative impacts of SDS (ex-ante and ex-post) exist and are implemented at national and regional levels. Knowledge of practices and techniques needs to be collected, compiled and disseminated to UNCCD Parties, inter alia, facilitated by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, as appropriate.

52. **Identify and scale up best-practice strategies to minimize negative impacts of SDS on key sectors and population groups including women.** Many appropriate strategies (reactive and proactive) to minimize negative impacts of SDS already exist and are implemented. They include actions to mitigate local aerosol concentrations (such as planting urban and peri-urban parkland to sequester dust particles as part of sustainable landscape management, and the installation of air filter systems) and emergency measures (for example, the closure of airports, distribution of face masks).

53. **Establish and implement coordinated emergency response measures and strategies across sectors based on systematic impact/vulnerability mapping/assessment.** Clear emergency procedures at national and sub-national levels are needed. Critical precursors include the mapping of vulnerable populations and future scenarios, and SDS economic impact assessments, including the costs/benefits of preventive actions.

3. Source mitigation

54. **Identify and monitor SDS source areas.** Source area mitigation strategies must be based on up-to-date scientific information on the character of source areas, particularly the nature and degree of anthropogenic influence, if any. Such information is of particular importance for appropriate specification of the nature and spatial and temporal distribution of dust sources in dust prognostic models.

55. **Identify and scale up best-practice techniques for source mitigation.** Many appropriate techniques already exist and are implemented at national and regional levels as part of sustainable land management (such as reduced tillage practices, dune stabilization schemes) and integrated land and water management approaches at landscape scales (for example, to prevent undesirable hydrological changes in potential source areas). Incentives towards (and, as importantly, barriers against) widespread adoption of good practice at the local level also need to be understood in order to avoid repetition of historical ‘technical fix failures’.

56. **Highlight synergies among the Rio Conventions and related mechanisms and initiatives for SDS source area mitigation strategies.** Sustainable land/water management and integrated landscape management practices, restoration interventions and climate change mitigation options can all contribute towards the mitigation of anthropogenic SDS source areas, taking into account the future UNCCD strategic framework (2018–2030) and within the context of LDN and relevant decisions. Examples include CBD decisions relating to ecosystem restoration and the Aichi target 15. UNFCCC provides opportunities to address SDS-related issues, including the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use framework and the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts. Actions required to tackle the drivers of SDS have to be consistent with actions recommended to tackle the three Rio Conventions and other United Nations commitments.

57. **Integrate SDS source area mitigation practices into national efforts towards achieving SDG target 15.3 “land degradation neutrality”.** SDS source mitigation could be linked to LDN target setting and included as a voluntary sub-target in source countries.

4. Cross-cutting and integrated actions

58. **Identify best-practice policy options and policy failures at regional/national/sub-national scales.** Many SDS-relevant policies exist at national and regional levels, but could be better documented and shared.

59. **Identify key SDS knowledge gaps for focused research.** Many details of our knowledge of SDS processes and impacts are yet to be fully understood. Knowledge gaps pertinent to successful policy options need to be identified (for example by data collection, modelling of the nature and extent of SDS source regions, or impact analysis/assessment).

60. **Mainstream SDS into disaster risk reduction.** SDS should be fully integrated into multi-hazard management plans for disaster risk at all levels and across all sectors.

61. **Build institutional capacity for coordinated and harmonized SDS policy development and implementation at regional, national and sub-national levels.** SDS policies are exercised by different institutions at different levels. Coordination among institutions and sectors is imperative for successful integrated and synergistic actions at national level.

62. **Explore innovative financing opportunities and other resources needed for SDS actions.** To support the implementation of SDS policies at national and regional levels, appropriate funding is needed, including via existing financing mechanisms and opportunities such as the GEF and GCF. Integrating SDS source mitigation into current work programmes and projects on climate adaptation and impact mitigation, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction and LDN will highlight co-benefits and strengthen the implementation of integrated landscape management, and increase synergy among the Rio Conventions.

63. **Establish a coordination mechanism and partnership of relevant United Nations organizations for the consolidation of global policy around SDS in order to**

strengthen synergies and cooperation at a global level. A dialogue framework among existing instruments including UNCCD, UNEP, WMO, UNFCCC, CBD, the World Health Organization, UNOOSA, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, inter alia, can be tasked to develop a coordinated common strategy directly responding to SDS issues, considering the specific mandates and responsibilities of the relevant organizations, and to enhance the creation of synergy among the Rio Conventions in implementing SDS policies.

64. **Establish an international platform for the dissemination of critical data and the exchange of experiences.** A global SDS knowledge virtual centre involving an SDS-Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS), operated by WMO and other United Nations agencies, and interested countries and organizations, which may include: (i) a global scientific initiative, (ii) a platform for early warning and resilience, and (iii) a global platform for policy dialogue and coordination, would support global implementation.

65. **Strengthen regional and subregional cooperation.** The priority for regional cooperation includes information sharing, joint research, technology transfer and implementation of joint projects.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

66. Pursuant to the implementation of decisions 8/COP.9, 9/COP.10, 9/COP.11, 3/COP.12 and 9/COP.12, the COP at its thirteenth session may wish:

(a) With regard to the gender plan of action:

(i) To adopt the proposed gender plan of action to support implementation of the future strategic framework (2018–2030) on the ground, in order to strengthen the delivery of the advocacy policy framework on gender;

(ii) To encourage Parties and other stakeholders to incorporate gender into their activities towards implementing the Convention during the next biennium in order to field-test the action plan and contribute to its refinement;

(iii) To invite the secretariat and international partners to support country Parties in field-testing the action plan;

(iv) To invite Parties, United Nations organizations, observers, experts, the SPI and other stakeholders to consult through meetings and other forums on the effectiveness of the gender action plan based on the field experience and to communicate their feedback to the secretariat in order to facilitate the finalization of the revised gender plan of action;

(v) To request the secretariat to finalize the revised gender action plan for final adoption at COP14;

(b) With regard to the policy frameworks on drought and sand and dust storms:

(i) To adopt the draft policy frameworks;

(ii) To encourage those countries affected by drought/SDS to promote an inclusive agenda in resilience building which prioritizes vulnerable groups as potential agents of change, that have the least capacity to deal with drought and SDS, focusing on key priorities for action including early warning, vulnerability assessment and mitigation measures;

- (iii) To urge Parties to pursue a proactive approach to drought by developing national drought management policies based on the '3 key pillars' of national drought policy: (1) comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems; (2) complete vulnerability assessments for sectors, populations and regions vulnerable to drought, and (3) implementation of drought risk mitigation measures;
- (iv) To acknowledge that SDS are consequences of desertification and mismanagement of land and to highlight the importance of anthropogenic source mitigation of, and resilience building to, SDS as part of LDN (SDG target 15.3) and disaster risk reduction (SDG 11). Prioritize anthropogenic source mitigation in national voluntary LDN target setting;
- (v) To approve UNCCD engagement in a global coordination mechanism to address SDS with a view that SDS are multi-faceted phenomena and need a comprehensive approach supported by improved policy coordination among stakeholders at global level, bearing in mind that regional cooperation is essential to address transboundary concerns regarding the impact of SDS;
- (vi) To request the secretariat and the GM to assist Parties in their implementation of national policies for drought and SDS, taking into consideration the policy frameworks;
- (vii) To request the secretariat to collaborate with other relevant United Nations bodies and specialized organizations in the process of assisting Parties to implement the policy frameworks for drought and SDS;
- (viii) To invite the relevant United Nations bodies, specialized organizations and programmes, as well as other concerned parties, to collaborate with the UNCCD in assisting country Parties in developing and implementing national policies on drought and SDS;
- (c) To request the SPI to consider the issue of technical guidance on drought, SDS and gender as part of its work programme 2018–2019;
- (d) To request the secretariat to generate, as appropriate, further advocacy policy frameworks on emerging issues in order to address the adverse impacts of DLDD and to regularly inform affected countries and other key stakeholders.
