

Decision 15/COP.11

Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),

Recalling decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10; decision 13/COP.9, annex I; and decision 19/COP.10, paragraph 3,

Recalling also document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6,

Having considered documents ICCD/CRIC(11)/19, ICCD/CRIC(11)/19/Add.1 and ICCD/CST(S-3)/7,

Recognizing that quantitative biophysical and socioeconomic information are required to support policymaking and monitoring of desertification/land degradation and drought at all scales,

Being aware that the 2012–2013 reporting and review process was the first reporting cycle under the Convention since the adoption of The Strategy in which affected country Parties were requested to provide quantitative information on impact indicators,

Recognizing that, despite the complexity of the performance review and assessment of the implementation system, as well as the limited coverage and comparability of reported national data, significant steps have been taken to monitor and assess the implementation of The Strategy and that important lessons can be learned from these endeavours,

Highlighting the importance of directing financial resources towards the implementation of the Convention on the ground,

Acknowledging the work done by the Committee on Science and Technology to refine the set of impact indicators and related methodologies for monitoring and reporting,

Aware of decision 22/COP.11 on advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy,

1. *Invites* affected country Parties to make further efforts towards increasing the coverage of spatially explicit data on affected areas;
2. *Also invites* affected country Parties to strengthen their institutional coordination at the national level with a view to improving data accessibility;
3. *Further invites* affected country Parties to make broader use of readily available and internationally recognized datasets which could be verified and enhanced, or replaced, using data sourced/computed at the national and/or local levels;
4. *Encourages* affected country Parties to build synergies with the other Rio conventions at the national level in order to reduce the cost of data collection;
5. *Also encourages* affected country Parties to submit their report and/or amend their responses on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 at any time after the official deadline for

reporting with a view to broadening baseline datasets, enabling future trend analysis and improving the robustness of analyses over time;

6. *Invites* affected country Parties to consider the establishment of targets using the progress indicators attached to decision 22/COP.11, as well as nationally and locally relevant indicators for monitoring progress made in the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy at the national level;

7. *Also invites* the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to continue collaborating closely with the Committee on Science and Technology in the harmonization of data and methodologies in order to establish a baseline for the assessment of the implementation;

8. *Further invites* global and regional organizations with expertise on monitoring and assessing desertification/land degradation and drought to support Parties by providing further guidance for compiling information and accessing data sources;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to build partnerships with global, regional and subregional organizations with expertise on monitoring and assessing desertification, land degradation and drought in order to improve guidance for reporting and access to/ harmonization of data;

10. *Also requests* the secretariat, with advice from the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and Committee on Science and Technology, welcoming additional input, as appropriate, to simplify and improve the reporting template, and further develop the reporting manual on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 by providing more detailed and indicator-specific guidance on methodologies for data collection, available sources of data and frequency of monitoring and reporting;

11. *Encourages* the technical and financial institutions, recognizing the mandate of the Global Environment Facility with regard to its focal area on land degradation, to support the implementation of the Convention to attain the strategic objectives of The Strategy;

12. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Governments, developing country Parties in a position to do so, as well as financial and technical institutions, to provide technical and financial support to affected country Parties to gather, analyse and archive quantitative biophysical and socioeconomic information.

*9th plenary meeting
26 September 2013*