

## Decision 15/COP.12

### **Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 26 of the Convention,

*Also recalling* article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (b), of the Convention,

*Further recalling* decisions 13/COP.9, 14/COP.11, 16/COP.11 and 22/COP.11,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7, ICCD/CRIC(14)/8 and ICCD/CRIC(14)/9,

*Taking into account* the report of the SPI on objective 1 of its work programme 2014–2015, as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7,

*Bearing in mind* decision 3/COP.12,

#### **Refinement of the set of progress indicators relating to the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 and associated methodologies**

1. *Decides*, as a means to understanding the status of land degradation and the potential for land restoration, that reporting is required for the following three progress indicators: ‘trends in land cover’, ‘trends in land productivity or functioning of the land’ and ‘trends in carbon stocks above and below ground’, provided that countries have sufficient national official data/information to report or validate national estimates derived from global data sources and that reporting should be provided primarily from official national data;
2. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with relevant specialized institutions, inter alia those included in the annex I to this decision, to:
  - (a) Compile and make available to affected country Parties national estimates of the metrics/proxies associated with these indicators from the global datasets, inter alia those indicators included in the annex I to this decision, as default data for validation in accordance with the procedure established in decision 22/COP.11;
  - (b) Prepare methodological guidelines and provide technical assistance to affected country Parties on the compilation and use of such default data, including for the preparation of national voluntary targets using the progress indicators;
  - (c) Undertake measures aimed at strengthening the capacities of affected Parties to validate, replace or reject the default data;
3. *Decides*, taking into consideration national circumstances and the availability of methodological guidelines, capacity building and financing, that affected country Parties should provide timely feedback where possible on the default data and the proposed methodology to formulate national voluntary LDN targets using the monitoring and assessment indicators framework, and complete the reporting and target-setting exercise for review by the CRIC at its intersessional session that will take place after January 2018;
4. *Invites* relevant specialized institutions, inter alia those included in the annex I to this decision, to provide access to data and methodologies and assist the secretariat in the compilation and provision of global datasets, as mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a user guide for practitioners and decision-makers in order to operationalize The Strategy progress indicators with respect to national monitoring and reporting, to be submitted for consideration to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

6. *Also requests* the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the SPI, to explore options for further harmonization of progress indicators and their use across the Rio conventions, contacting relevant experts associated with the other Rio conventions with a view to creating synergies, simplifying reporting and reducing the burden on Parties, to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration;

**Refinement of the set of progress indicators relating to strategic objective 4 and associated methodologies**

7. *Approves* the refined progress indicator in the format set out in the annex II to this decision;

8. *Requests* the GM and the secretariat to:

(a) Develop a template for data collection on the financial indicator under strategic objective (SO) 4 and include it in the common reporting template along with the land cover/productivity indicators under SOs 1, 2 and 3;

(b) Develop a methodology for data analysis as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(14)/8 in order to compare and monitor trends in the land cover/productivity indicators and the financial indicator;

(c) Provide technical assistance to affected country Parties, in cooperation with relevant institutions, for the quality collection and presentation of the financial data to the UNCCD according to the reporting template;

9. *Invites* Parties to provide timely feedback and present country reports with the requested information on the financial progress indicator under SO 4 to the secretariat during the next reporting cycle;

10. *Invites* the GEF and financial institutions to provide necessary financial assistance for developing national capacities for collecting and presenting UNCCD data on the financial progress indicator under SO 4, listed in the annex II to this decision;

**Adjustment of reporting procedures, including financial support provided to reporting**

11. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the GM, where appropriate, to:

(a) Introduce improvements to the electronic template for the compilation of financial data in order to allow for the disaggregation of financial flows between internal and external funding sources, as well as other data mining functionalities, as appropriate; and facilitate the comparison and visualization of current and historical datasets;

(b) Post the proposed adjustments to performance indicators and financial flows reporting, as well as their relative tools and guidelines, on the UNCCD website and the PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system) portal in order to facilitate feedback from Parties;

12. *Decides* to make optional the next reporting exercise in the light of the need to finalize the methodological approach to reporting, until revised reporting tools have been made available to Parties;

13. *Requests* the secretariat and the GM to clarify for reporting purposes the definition of technology transfer and the criteria for the identification of technologies to address desertification/land degradation and drought;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director of the GM to report to the CRIC and the CST at their next sessions on the implementation of the present decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*23 October 2015*

## Annex I

### Availability of global datasets

<i>Indicator and related metrics</i>	<i>Global datasets</i>	<i>Disaggregation level</i>
<p><b>Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas</b></p> <p>Metric: poverty severity (or squared poverty gap), income inequality</p>	<p>Data are based on primary household survey data obtained from government statistical agencies and World Bank country departments. Data are made available by the Development Research Group of the World Bank. &lt;<a href="http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm">http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm</a>&gt;</p>	<p>National estimates only. Geographically disaggregated data is not available.</p>
<p><b>Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas</b></p> <p>Metric: proportion of population using an improved drinking water source</p>	<p>Data are based on primary household surveys and national censuses. Data are made available by the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. &lt;<a href="http://www.wssinfo.org/">http://www.wssinfo.org/</a>&gt;</p>	<p>National, rural and urban estimates. Geographically disaggregated data is not available.</p>
<p><b>Trends in land cover</b></p> <p>Metric: vegetative land cover</p>	<p>Data are based primarily on remote sensing. A review of available datasets is contained in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.<sup>6</sup> Three global land cover maps for the epochs 2000, 2005 and 2010 at 300 m spatial resolution have been released in 2014 by the Climate Change Initiative Land Cover team of the European Space Agency. The 2015 epoch is under preparation. &lt;<a href="http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/158">http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/158</a>&gt;</p>	<p>Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level</p>
<p><b>Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land</b></p> <p>Metric: land productivity dynamics</p>	<p>Data are based primarily on remote sensing databases of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and other vegetation indices/variables derived from different platforms and sensors. A global dataset of land productivity dynamics is made available by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. This dataset has been derived from a 15-year time series (1998 to 2012) of global NDVI observations composited in 10-day intervals at a spatial resolution of 1 km.</p>	<p>Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level</p>

<i>Indicator and related metrics</i>	<i>Global datasets</i>	<i>Disaggregation level</i>
<p><b>Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground</b> Metric: soil organic carbon stock</p>	<p>Data is available as the Harmonized World Soil Database, a 30 arc-second raster database with over 15,000 different soil mapping units that combines existing regional and national updates of soil information worldwide with the information contained within the 1:5,000,000 scale Soil Map of the World of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. &lt;<a href="http://webarchive.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/External-World-soil-database/HTML/">http://webarchive.iiasa.ac.at/Research/LUC/External-World-soil-database/HTML/</a>&gt;</p>	<p>Data can be disaggregated at the subnational level</p>
<p><b>Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</b> Metric: Global Wild Bird Index</p>	<p>No global datasets are available. Data for the Global Wild Bird Index are available for only 18 European countries, plus regional data for North America and Europe. Alternative biodiversity-related metrics relevant to the mandate of the UNCCD have been explored and no suitable global dataset could be found.</p>	<p>Not available</p>

<sup>a</sup> IPCC, IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Vol. 4 Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use. Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Geneva, IPCC, 2006). Available at <<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/vol4.html>>.

## Annex II

### Progress indicators under strategic objective 4

**Strategic objective (SO) 4:** To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

**Progress indicator 4.1:** Trends in public sector finance and enabling investments to implement the Convention

**Metrics:**

- SO 4-1. Trends in international bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance
- SO 4-2. Trends in domestic public resources
- SO 4-3. Trends in number of co-financing partners