

Decision 17/COP.9

Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

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) referred to in decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, the implementation framework of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Recalling the objectives of The Strategy and, in particular, strategic objective 1 on improving the living conditions of affected populations, strategic objective 2 on improving the condition of affected ecosystems, and strategic objective 3 on generating global benefits through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10, requesting the CST to provide advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes of the ninth session of the CST,

Noting the CST document ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3 on “Elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy” and the ensuing recommendations made at the first special session of the CST (CST S-1), contained in document ICCD/CST(S-1)/5/Add.1,

Having reviewed document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4 on advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy,

Noting that allowances have been made in both the four-year workplans and the costed two-year work programmes of the CST and the secretariat for the implementation of key outputs and recommendations contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4,

Having also reviewed the report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference contained in documents ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.2 and ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.3,

Having further reviewed the report on the progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/5,

Having reviewed the report on the review of available information regarding the financing of the implementation of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility, contained in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/3,

Aware of decision 13/COP.9 on procedures for communication of information and review of implementation of the Convention,

Noting that the work on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 will require, in future bienniums, more national and regional expertise,

1. *Decides* to provisionally accept the set of impact indicators attached to the present decision to assist measurement, at the national and global levels, of progress made under national action programmes in implementing strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy:

(a) The following sub-set of impact indicators is the minimum required for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012:

- (i) Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line;
- (ii) Land cover status;

(b) The remaining impact indicators in the attached list, while recommended, are optional for inclusion in reports by affected countries;

2. *Requests* the CST, with the support of the secretariat, to continue work on methodologies for collecting data and baselines and for an effective use of the agreed set of impact indicators and to prepare a glossary in order to clarify the terminology and definitions used in the formulation of the set of impact indicators for consideration at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP);

3. *Also requests* the CST with the support of the secretariat to further assist the countries by providing an implementation plan for completion of the work and to provide assistance for pilot impact indicator tracking exercises at the national level in particular to those countries that choose to report on the entire set of impact indicators in 2012;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the CST Bureau and using an iterative process, to develop proposals for consideration by future sessions of the COP commencing with its eleventh session to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies, taking account of:

- (a) application and review of the impact indicators by affected countries;
- (b) scientific peer review of the relevance, accuracy and cost-effectiveness of the impact indicators;
- (c) possible synergies with relevant programmes, projects and institutions, including those associated with the other Rio conventions;
- (d) relevant contributions from UNCCD Scientific Conferences;

5. *Requests* the CST to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions and to recommend a minimum set of impact indicators for consideration at the eleventh session of the COP;

6. *Also requests* the CST to provide information on available sources of data and information required to implement the set of impact indicators and to facilitate access and use by Parties;
7. *Urges* Parties to use, within their existing capacity, the agreed set of impact indicators as an important element of their reporting tools, in conjunction with pragmatic baselines and targets that take account of the lifespan of the Strategy;
8. *Encourages* Parties with the capacity to do so to use additional impact indicators as long as these fit into the underlying logic of measuring the impact of activities carried out within the ambit of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy;
9. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, as part of their joint work programme and in cooperation with relevant international and/or multilateral organizations, to include the impact indicators in their comprehensive capacity-building initiative assisting affected country Parties and communicate information pursuant to the present decision, and to seek assistance from bilateral donors, relevant international organizations and financial institutions, with particular regard to the Global Environment Facility;
10. *Also requests* the CST to include on the agenda of second special session of the CST an item on how to further streamline the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility in a longer-term framework to support progress in measuring the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy;
11. *Invites* Parties, and other interested organizations with the capacity to do so, to make available the necessary funds through a variety of sources, including voluntary contributions and targeted donors to support scientific capacity-building in monitoring and assessment.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*

Annex I

**Impact indicators for reporting on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of
The Strategy**

Recommended set of impact indicators		
	National level	Global level
Objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations		
<p>Core indicator S-1: Decrease in the number of people negatively impacted by the process of desertification/land degradation and drought</p> <p>Core indicator S-2: Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.</p> <p>Core indicator S-3: Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Water availability per capita in affected areas • II. Change in land use • III. Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line^a • IV. Childhood malnutrition and/or food consumption/ calorie intake per capita in affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Water availability per capita in affected areas • III. Proportion of population in affected areas living above the poverty line • V. The Human Development Index as defined by UNDP
Objective 2: To improve the condition of ecosystems		
<p>Core indicator S-4: Reduction in the total area affected by desertification/land degradation and drought</p> <p>Core indicator S-5: Increases in net primary productivity in affected areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • II. Change in land use • VI. Level of land degradation (including salinization, water and wind erosion, etc.) • VII. Plant and animal biodiversity • VIII. The aridity index • IX. Land cover status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IX. Land cover status
Objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of UNCCD		
<p>Core indicator S-6: Increases in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas.</p> <p>Core indicator S-7: Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VII. Plant and animal biodiversity • III. Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line • X. Carbon stocks above and below ground • XI. Land under SLM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • III. Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line • XI. Land under SLM

^a The two impact indicators highlighted constitute the minimum required for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012: **i) Proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line; ii) Land cover status.** The remaining impact indicators in the list, while recommended, are optional for inclusion in reports by affected countries.