

Decision 21/COP.12

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 23/COP.11,

Acknowledging with appreciation the work conducted by the SPI in implementing the work programme for the biennium 2014–2015,

Recognizing the contributions of the SPI to the scoping process for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA),

Welcoming the efforts of the SPI to initialize the collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS),

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF in developing the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4,

Follow-up on collaboration activities included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2014–2015

1. *Requests* the SPI to contribute to the review process of the LDRA within the given timeframe and in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
2. *Encourages* experts included in the UNCCD roster of independent experts and other independent experts with relevant expertise and/or publications to their name to contribute to the review process of the LDRA within the given timeframe and in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to:
 - (a) Notify Parties, the SPI, experts included in the UNCCD roster of independent experts, and other scientific networks as appropriate when the call for expert reviewers for the LDRA is launched and when draft versions of the LDRA become publicly available for peer review;
 - (b) Continue to facilitate the participation of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) of the IPBES as an observer;
 - (c) Continue to facilitate the participation of the SPI as a key reviewer in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES;
 - (d) Facilitate the involvement of the SPI in the steering and reviewing of the Global Land Outlook;
 - (e) Include the SPI in the work level exchange with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
4. *Encourages* the SPI to continue the collaboration with the ITPS with a focus on the topics agreed during the joint ITPS–SPI meeting on 20 April 2015;

5. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to support the refinement and testing of the RAPTA framework in relevant projects;
6. *Encourages* the SPI to:
 - (a) Continue to collaborate with the STAP of the GEF to support the further development and pilot testing of resilience-based assessment frameworks and provide advice and guidance where relevant;
 - (b) Promote the application of resilience-based assessment frameworks as a common approach to planning, monitoring and reporting on land-based adaptation and agroecosystem resilience;
 - (c) Consider, as part of its work programme 2016–2017, how the resilience-based assessment frameworks approach can be applied in its future work on developing guidance for the UNCCD on operationalizing the voluntary land degradation neutrality target;
 - (d) Consider how the resilience-based assessment frameworks approach could contribute to the development of quantitative and narrative indicators at the national/subnational level to complement the UNCCD progress indicators;

Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017

7. *Decides* to adopt the SPI work programme for the biennium 2016–2017 as contained in the annex to this decision;
8. *Requests* the SPI to:
 - (a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations, for each objective included in its work programme for 2016–2017 at the thirteenth session of the CST;
 - (b) Report on the coordination activities conducted during the biennium 2016–2017 to the CST at its thirteenth session;
 - (c) Develop policy briefs, including policy-oriented options, on the topics covered in the work programme.

*11th plenary meeting
22 October 2015*

Annex

Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017

Table 1

Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2016–2017

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
1: Provide scientific guidance to the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) target	A user guide for implementing LDN at the country level based on a review of proposed conceptual and methodological frameworks that would scientifically underpin the implementation of LDN
2: Highlight the science-based synergistic potential of sustainable land management (SLM) practices to address DLDD, climate change mitigation and adaptation	A report that will include the following three sections as well as associated policy brief(s):
2a: Foster and facilitate the adoption of SLM practices which address DLDD while mitigating climate change	<p>Section 1 of the report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Explore the potential of SLM practices to contribute to both climate change mitigation and addressing DLDD; (ii) Review incentives and obstacles for the adoption of sustainable land use practices at different scales; (iii) Provide options for enhancing climate change mitigation (increasing carbon sequestration and/or reducing emissions) and addressing DLDD through SLM practices.
2b: Foster and facilitate the adoption of SLM practices which address DLDD while enhancing climate change adaptation	<p>Section 2 of the report will present state-of-the-art knowledge on experience in land management practices that can qualify as land-based climate change adaptation practices. The report will also summarize land users' responses to drought in affected areas over several millennia and provide information on responses to emerging occurrences of droughts. Based on this information the report will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Provide guidance for SLM practices that could increase adaptability to climate change projections in affected areas ; (ii) Provide relevant information for supporting informed policymaking and inform policy-makers, research funding bodies and the scientific community on existing knowledge gaps in terms of achieving land-based climate change adaptation; (iii) Identify existing knowledge gaps in terms of achieving land-based climate change adaptation; (iv) Review incentives and obstacles for the adoption of sustainable land use practices at different scales.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
<p>2c: Critically evaluate the conclusions of 2a and 2b to ensure the clear understanding of synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and SLM practices which reduce land degradation</p>	<p>Section 3 of the report will provide a critical analysis of the potential synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and SLM practices which reduce land degradation in different biomes and regions.</p>
<p>3: Encourage the development and implementation of specific rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands</p>	<p>A report providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An assessment of existing land management practices suitable for the rehabilitation, restoration or reclamation of degraded lands with regard to the lands' potential, including associated costs; (ii) Scientific guidance and policy options for addressing degraded lands taking into account the lands' potential and the different degrees of degradation severity in different biomes and regions, based on the assessments referred to in point (a) above and available best practice case studies.

Table 2

Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2016–2017

<i>Coordination area</i>	<i>Activity</i>
1: Follow up and contribute to the land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA) conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will contribute to the LDRA in accordance with the procedure established by the IPBES.
2: Contribute to the development of the Global Land Outlook (GLO)	SPI members should participate in the steering committee and the review process of the GLO.
3: Follow up on current collaboration with and explore further means of collaboration with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)	<p>Collaboration will be based on the topics jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Goal related to the objective of the Convention (SDG target 15.3) • Indicators serving the 3 Rio conventions • Soil organic carbon
4: Initiate and coordinate interactions between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	With the support of the secretariat, the SPI will explore the possibility for the IPCC to address the link between climate change and land degradation in its future work.