

Decision 22/COP.11

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),

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 (UNCCD),

Recalling decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10; decision 17/COP.9, paragraph 5; and decision 19/COP.10, paragraphs 3 and 8,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development relevant to the UNCCD and particularly paragraph 207 of the document “The Future We Want”,

Having reviewed document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/2 and Corr.1 which contains the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts on Impact Indicator Refinement on strategic objectives 1,2 and 3 (AGTE), and document ICCD/CST(S-3)/7, containing the final report of the Committee on Science and Technology at its third special session,

Commending with appreciation the AGTE for fulfilling its mandate and delivering the recommendations and the associated implementation guidelines contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/2 and Corr.1,

Taking note of document ICCD/COP(11)/21 containing the report by the Intersessional Working Group on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy,

Aware of decision 23/COP.11 on measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought,

1. *Decides* to maintain the strategic objectives of The Strategy as they are;
2. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to continue revising the impact indicators based on, inter alia, the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts on Impact Indicator Refinement, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to reflect a plausible causal relationship between what is observed and what the implementation of the Convention is expected to influence. The revision should also take into account the need to: (1) link the indicators with any updated operational objectives; and (2) ensure that they are more easily measurable by Parties, provide reliable information and reflect changes taking place on the ground, taking into consideration national and regional specificities as well as the existing data collection systems and databases;

3. *Decides* to establish a consistent monitoring and evaluation approach consisting of: (i) indicators; (ii) a conceptual framework that allows the integration of indicators; and (iii) indicators sourcing and management mechanisms at the national/local level, needed for enhancing the assessment of progress made towards the strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy;
4. For the purpose of reporting on progress indicators affected Parties are required to delineate affected areas according to the text of the Convention;
5. *Also decides* that the term “progress indicator” be used, rather than “impact indicator”, when referring to the indicators used to track progress in the implementation of the Convention against the strategic objectives of the Strategy;
6. *Further decides* that the set of impact indicators provisionally adopted by decision 17/COP.9, refined through a scientific peer-review process, be further refined to the minimum set of progress indicators annexed to the present decision;
7. *Decides* that reporting is required for those indicators for which standardized global datasets that can be disaggregated to the subnational level exist; reporting is optional for the remaining indicators;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to provide affected country Parties with national estimates of each respective metric(s)/prox(y)(ies) of the progress indicators based on available data sources through the performance review and assessment of implementation system portal and urges affected country Parties to subsequently verify or replace these national estimates using data sourced/computed nationally/locally (aggregated where needed);
9. *Encourages* affected country Parties to complement the set of common progress indicators with formal and narrative indicators at national/local scale based on existent data collection systems and databases and from local storylines;
10. *Invites* affected country Parties to develop and implement a new indicator integration framework as part of the monitoring and evaluation approach to track progress and report at multiple scales on meeting policy objectives addressing desertification/land degradation and drought. The new integration framework, DPSheIR (Driving Force – Pressure – State – human and environmental Impact –Response), should allow the impacts on human well-being to be recorded along with impacts on ecosystem services;
11. *Recognizes* that national/local indicator selection and reporting should be fully and formally linked to national action programme alignment efforts and reiterates outcome 2.2 of The Strategy by which affected Parties were requested to revise their national action programmes into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information (as reference for monitoring), and to include them in integrated investment frameworks;
12. *Encourages* affected country Parties to establish targets using the progress indicators annexed to the present decision taking into account regional and national specificities;
13. *Also encourages* affected country Parties, based on their technical capacities and resources, to establish technical teams that manage local databases and the continually updated versions (by local input) of DPSheIR;
14. *Requests* the secretariat to improve access to and use of tools/methods and data needed by Parties to report by providing links to these resources through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and, only when these resources are not already online, making them available on a website. Sharing of best methodologies for monitoring and evaluation across scales of sustainable land management practices should be encouraged;

15. *Encourages* developed country Parties and international organizations to support a broader down-to-earth capacity-building programme that touches on the capacity issues related to the implementation of monitoring and evaluation, including on the delineation and identification of areas prone to desertification and land degradation. Capacity-building should be envisaged as a medium-term participatory process shared by all actors;
16. *Requests* the secretariat to adapt the current reporting protocol of performance review and assessment of implementation system in line with this decision while taking every opportunity to streamline and simplify both the number and complexity of required and optional fields included in performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) for the reporting of the indicators and to prepare revised reporting tools;
17. *Also requests* the secretariat to assess the feasibility of the changes included in this decision through testing and to report on the outcomes of the testing exercises to the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
18. *Further requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to regularly re-evaluate as part of the iterative process both the DPShIR integration framework and the progress indicators set out in the annex;
19. *Requests* the secretariat, when developing the revised reporting tools, to take into account the implementation guidelines contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/2 and Corr.1 which provide further advice on how the decisions included in this document can be put into practice by affected country Parties;
20. *Also requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*3rd plenary meeting
20 September 2013*

Annex

Progress indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Metrics/Proxies</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential data source/Reference methodology</i>
Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations			
Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas	Poverty severity (or squared poverty gap)	Takes account of both the distance separating the poor from the poverty line and the inequality among the poor	World Bank methodology ^{a, b}
	<i>or</i> Income inequality	Alternative to the poverty severity metric for those countries where poverty is no longer an issue; strategic objective 1 has in this sense already been reached	OECD* methodology ^c
Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	An improved drinking water source is defined as one that is protected from outside contamination through household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, rainwater, etc.	WHO/UNICEF* Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation methodology ^d
Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of ecosystems			
Trends in land cover	Vegetative land cover	Intended as the distribution of land cover types of greatest concern for land degradation (excluding artificial surfaces) by characterizing vegetative land cover; it should include and specify natural habitat classes	Sourced from products like GlobCover ^{e, f} or finer-resolution products under development (Gong et al., 2013); and following established land cover classifications (e.g. FAO/UNEP LCCS* ^g)
Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land	Land productivity dynamics	Based on long-term fluctuations and current efficiency levels of phenology and productivity factors affecting standing biomass conditions	New World Atlas of Desertification methodology; ^h update foreseen every five years
Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD			
Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground	Soil organic carbon stock <i>to be replaced by</i>	Intended as the status of topsoil and subsoil organic carbon	Sourced from e.g. the GTOS* portal ⁱ

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Metrics/Proxies</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential data source/Reference methodology</i>
	Total terrestrial system carbon stock <i>once operational</i>	Including above- and below-ground carbon	To be streamlined with the GEF* -financed UNEP* Carbon Benefits Project ^{i,k}
Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species <i>(potentially to be replaced by an indicator measuring trends in ecosystem functional diversity once system understanding and data production allows)</i>	Global Wild Bird Index	Measures average population trends of a suite of representative wild birds, as an indicator of the general health of the wider environment	Following the indicator guidance provided for and to be streamlined with the CBD* process ^{l,m}

* Abbreviations:

CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity
 FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 GEF - Global Environment Facility
 GTOS - Global Terrestrial Observing System
 LCCS - Land Cover Classification System
 OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
 UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme
 UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
 WHO - World Health Organization

^a <<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20242881~isCURL:Y~menuPK:492130~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html>>.

^b <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPA/Resources/tn_measuring_poverty_over_time.pdf>.

^c <<http://www.oecd.org/els/soc/43540354.pdf>>.

^d <<http://www.wssinfo.org/>>.

^e <<http://due.esrin.esa.int/globcover/>>.

^f <http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/sites/gofcgold_refdataportal.php>.

^g <<http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/X0596E/X0596e00.htm>>.

^h <<http://wad.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>>.

ⁱ <<http://www.fao.org/gtos/tcoDAT.html>>.

^j <<http://carbonbenefitsproject-compa.colostate.edu/>>.

^k <<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/carbon-benefits/Home/tabid/3502/Default.aspx>>.

^l <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wild-bird-index_568.html>.

^m <<http://www.bipindicators.net/WBI>>.