



**Conference of the Parties
Committee on Science and Technology**

Fifteenth session

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 11–13 May 2022

Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology.
2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021:
 - (a) Evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues;
 - (b) Evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought;
 - (c) Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies.
3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge:
 - (a) The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub
 - (b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2022–2023;
 - (c) Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.
4. Procedural matters: Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue

1. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The fifteenth session of the CST (CST 15) will therefore be convened in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, during the fifteenth session of the COP (COP 15). The CST is scheduled to meet on 11 May 2022 in the afternoon and meet from 12 to 13 May 2022.

Participants

2. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that the meetings of CST 15 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

Documentation

3. Documents relevant to the session will be made available on the website of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents>.

Opening of the session

4. CST 15 will be opened by the Chair of the CST, who was elected at COP 14.¹ In accordance with decision 25/COP.10, paragraph 1, which amended rule 22 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Chair of CST 16 shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP and shall assume office immediately.

1. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. *Background:* In accordance with decision 21/COP.14 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared, in consultation with the Chair of the CST, a provisional agenda for the Committee's session. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in the annex to this document.

Purpose of the session

6. In accordance with article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the CST is to provide the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

7. Following the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) by decision 23/COP.11, the extension of its mandate in decision 19/COP.12 and decision 19/COP.13, and in accordance with decision 21/COP.14, this session of the CST will focus on, inter alia, the objectives and coordination activities identified in the work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2020–2021. The session will be organized in such a way as to facilitate thematic dialogue between Parties and the SPI regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs and enable the formulation of concise policy-relevant recommendations. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate the activities in this respect with a view to formulating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

¹ ICCD/COP(14)/23, paragraph 12.

Organization of work

8. The CST may wish to consider the following scenario: At the opening session on 11 May 2022, the Chair of the CST will call for the adoption of the agenda and organization of work. This will be followed by the consideration of items 2 to 4 on the agenda.

9. By its decision 32/COP.14 the COP requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to COP 15 a single document with all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the COP. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a CST contact group to start the CST discussions and further negotiate on the basis of document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8, which includes all substantive draft decisions proposed by the secretariat.

10. During its concluding meeting on 13 May 2022 and following the completion of the substantive and procedural agenda items, the CST will adopt its report, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP. Finally, the Chair of the CST will call for the election of officers other than the Chair of the CST.

Times of meetings

11. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. Consistent with the working hours of the COP and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies with interpretation services to be held at any one time.

12. Action: The CST will be invited to adopt its agenda and schedule of work for the session.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
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(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

13. *Background:* Paragraph 2 of decision 25/COP.10 amended rule 31 of the rules of procedures (contained in decision 1/COP.1).

14. *Action:* The Chair of CST 15 will call for the election of officers at the final meeting of CST 15. The Vice-Chairs elected, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall assume their office immediately.

2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

15. *Background:* At its fourteenth session, the COP adopted the SPI work programme for the biennium 2020–2021 as contained in the annex to decision 18/COP.14. The work programme contained two major objectives and seven coordination activities.

16. In the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to present at CST 15 synthesis reports, including policy-oriented recommendations for each objective included in the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface, as well as those resulting from its coordination activities during the biennium 2020–2021.

(a) Evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues

17. *Background:* Objective 1 of the SPI work programme 2020–2021 was to provide science-based evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, land degradation

neutrality (LDN) and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues.

18. The SPI conducted a thematic assessment in collaboration with commissioned experts working under the supervision of the SPI. Based on this assessment, the SPI prepared a technical report titled “The Contribution of Integrated Land Use Planning and Integrated Landscape Management to Implementing Land Degradation Neutrality: Entry Points and Support Tools”. The SPI also oversaw a demonstration of how LDN can be incorporated into existing open-source land use planning and trade-off analysis tools through an international technology innovation competition organized under the Group on Earth Observation Land Degradation Neutrality (GEO-LDN) Initiative. A synthesis is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/2.

19. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss the policy implications resulting from the outcomes of objective 1 of the SPI work programme for the biennium 2020–2021, review the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 and produce a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/2 – Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues, under objective 1 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021. Report by the Executive Secretary

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(b) Evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought

20. *Background:* Objective 2 of the SPI work programme 2020–2021 was to provide science-based evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, also considering the effect of climate change on drought risk.

21. The SPI conducted a thematic assessment in collaboration with commissioned experts working under the supervision of the SPI. Based on this assessment, the SPI prepared a technical report “Multiscale Approaches for Assessment and Monitoring the Resilience of Vulnerable Populations and Ecosystems to Drought”. A synthesis is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3.

22. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss the policy implications resulting from the outcomes of objective 2 of the SPI work programme for the biennium 2020–2021, review the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 and produce a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3 – Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, under objective 2 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021. Report by the Executive Secretary

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(c) Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies

23. *Background:* By its decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.13, the COP mandated the SPI to interact with multiple existing scientific mechanisms and, by its decision 20/COP.14,

it requested the SPI, in close collaboration with the secretariat, to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with DLDD issues. The SPI work programme for 2020–2021 includes six coordination activities with external scientific panels and bodies and the assumption by the SPI of a primary role in quality assurance for the second edition of the Global Land Outlook.

24. The coordination activities undertaken by the SPI as well as a summary of the key findings relevant to the UNCCD emerging from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land² and the first part of its Sixth Assessment Report,³ which became available in time for the SPI to complete its review, are contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4.

25. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4 as well as the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 and produce a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4 – Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies. Report by the Executive Secretary

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

(a) The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub

26. *Background:* By its decision 19/COP.13, Parties decided to continue the SPI and extend its mandate, as defined in decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12, up to the end of COP 16 and asked the CST Bureau to refine the staged renewal procedures into a single call for new members.

27. Furthermore, by its decision 19/COP.14, the COP requested the secretariat to continue the expansion and further enhancement of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub in response to the needs and priorities of country Parties to facilitate the dissemination of relevant knowledge to all stakeholders. The COP also requested the secretariat to work in coordination with other Rio conventions and relevant partners to ensure coherence and alignment in the way ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management are categorized through the UNCCD science-policy instruments and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.

28. Document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5 is a report on the renewal of SPI membership, the overall modalities of the SPI, the further development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and the accessibility of best practices on sustainable land management, and the coherence and alignment among different approaches for integrating environmental management practices.

29. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5 as well as the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 and to produce a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

² IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems.

³ Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5 – Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 –Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2022–2023

30. *Background:* By its decision 19/COP.13, paragraph 5, the COP requested the SPI to submit, through the secretariat, a proposal for its work programme at each regular session of the CST, with a focus on one or two broad, globally relevant priority topics related to DDL D.

31. The SPI discussed a range of proposals for topics to be considered for inclusion in the SPI work programme for 2021–2022 and then developed a draft work programme, which is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6.

32. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6 as well as the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 and to produce a draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP with respect to the proposed work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2022–2023.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6 – Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2022–2023). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(c) Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

33. *Background:* According to decision 15/COP.1, a function of the CST is to, inter alia, make recommendations (i) regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure the systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification; and (ii) on pertinent, quantifiable and verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with action programmes.

34. By its decision 3/COP.8, the COP requested the CST to provide advice to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on how best to measure progress on the strategic objectives. Also, by its decisions 16/COP.11 and 15/COP.13, the COP requested the collaboration of the CRIC and CST for reporting. Furthermore, by its decision 11/COP.14, paragraph 6, the COP encouraged the two subsidiary bodies of the Convention to work with their Bureaux to continue the good collaboration on topics related to methodology development for the reporting indicators.

35. Since the methodological work relating to indicators has successfully been enriched through collaboration between the CRIC and the CST, it is proposed to make sections of document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(20)/8 subject to joint negotiations during COP 15. The document provides information on the newly proposed indicators for tracking progress on the strategic objectives. Therefore, this document will be discussed by both the CST and CRIC during COP 15.

36. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review the report contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(20)/8 in the plenary session and, in a joint contact group with the CRIC, produce a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/ CRIC(20)/8 – Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(20)/10 –Draft decisions for consideration at the twentieth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat

4. Procedural matters: Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

37. In accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedure, the CST is to submit to the COP for adoption a tentative programme of work for its sixteenth session.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology

38. Relevant information on the work of the Committee during its fifteenth session will be included in the report of the COP on its fifteenth session. In this respect, the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session, including draft decisions, where necessary, is expected to be submitted for consideration by the COP and, as appropriate, adoption.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8– Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

Annex

Tentative schedule of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Wednesday, 11 May 2022	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	<p><i>Opening of the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) by the Chair of the CST</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1</i>) • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving LDN and addressing DLDD issues (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/2, ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>) - Evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/3, ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>)

Thursday, 11 May 2022	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021 (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/4, ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>) • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices, and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/5, ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>) - Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2022–2023 (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(20)/8, ICCD/CRIC(20)/10</i>)

Friday, 13 May 2022	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters: Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>) • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Closure of the session</i></p>