



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

Draft advocacy policy frameworks

Draft advocacy policy framework on climate change

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The draft advocacy policy framework on climate change (PFCC) aims to provide information to facilitate mainstreaming desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) into the climate change negotiation and implementation processes agreed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the sixteenth session of its Conference of the Parties (COP 16), which adopted the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements. This information advocates addressing DLDD as part of climate change adaptation and mitigation, it provides options for using the momentum arising from the Cancun conference and in the build-up towards the negotiations of 2011–2012, as a vehicle for actions to address DLDD, indicating possible ways to enhance cooperation with the UNFCCC.

Based on the Cancun Agreements, in particular decision 1/COP.16, the PFCC describes scenarios on why, where and how the outcomes in the different relevant streams of UNFCCC process could benefit land and soil issues. This report aims at identifying climate change mitigation and adaptation actions that also address DLDD. The PFCC focuses on the building blocks of the Bali Action Plan (UNFCCC decision 1/CP.13) and relevant outcomes from other UNFCCC bodies.

With the Cancun Agreements, adaptation has been afforded the same level of priority as mitigation; more ambitious goals for mitigation are being developed with the continuing climate change negotiations. This new adaptation-mitigation scenario lays the foundation for a more inclusive, broader approach to land and soil issues within the

UNFCCC; for example REDD-plus (reducing emissions for deforestation and degradation plus,¹ technology development/transfer, capacity-building on adaptation, and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs). These actions are expected to be carried out by developing country Parties in accordance with nationally-set definitions, circumstances and priorities. UNFCCC Parties may decide on modalities for advocating implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation action in drylands. The challenge is to identify such DLDD-related mitigation-adaptation actions at the national and local levels and to afford the proper priority to them.

The UNFCCC COP 16 decided on increased financial and technological resources for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries which could be instrumental in developing a broader approach that addresses this challenge.

Accordingly, several practical steps (including monitoring) and operational linkages with DLDD can be identified in key specific messages of the Cancun Agreements. These steps could potentially be undertaken at different levels and with different modalities, including actions that have already been agreed for implementation and those that are still pending future negotiation.

To successfully meet the challenges of integrating DLDD into the Cancun outcomes, the UNCCD Parties should create, coordinate and make operational dedicated task forces on different key issues, with set goals, milestones and partners. The action of the task forces could be instrumental in capitalizing on the expected increased financial and technological resources to drylands.

Important aspects of decision 1/COP.16, related to soil and land issues, will be completed by UNFCCC Parties in the period 2011–2012, particularly those relating to mitigation and finance. Successful completion of these aspects at the UNFCCC negotiations is crucial to ensuring benefits for UNCCD issues.

¹ REDD refers to the set of decisions adopted by the UNFCCC COP to support efforts of countries in reducing GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; REDD also advocates forest conservation, its sustainable management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD-plus (REDD+) is referred to in the Cancun Agreements to detail how developing country Parties can benefit from their forest management actions (see decision 1/CP.16, appendix I).

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I. Mandate

1. The clear interrelationship between drought, land degradation and desertification (DLDD) and climate change, reflected in the objectives of both the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provide the basis for mutual integration. Article 4, paragraph 2 (a) of the UNCCD and Article 4, paragraph 1 (e), of the UNFCCC explicitly support common actions in dryland ecosystems.

2. The UNCCD aim to address DLDD in the climate change negotiation and implementation processes, is based mainly on article 8, paragraph 1, of its Convention and on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), specifically operational objective 1, outcome 1.1 and operational objective 2, outcome 2.5. The rationale for this support is also contained in several decisions on synergy, including decision 8/COP.9 and from the current and proposed work programme of the secretariat.

II. The Cancun outcomes: main scenario for incorporating land and soil issues into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process

3. UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 reflects the result of two years of negotiations by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) following up on decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan). Other relevant decisions were adopted by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and the COP acting as Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP) in Cancun. In addition, conclusions of other subsidiary bodies, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), are also relevant.

4. UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 recognizes that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It calls for scaled-up overall mitigation efforts that allow for the achievement of desired stabilization levels and affirms that adaptation must be addressed with the same priority as mitigation.

5. This decision further recognizes that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, with a view to holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and that Parties should take urgent action to meet this long-term goal.

III. Identification of relevant scenarios² for incorporating into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process those land and soil issues already agreed upon for implementation under the Cancun Agreements³

6. **Adaptation:** Parties in Cancun established several mechanisms that might be applicable to DLDD: *The Cancun Adaptation Framework (decision 1/CP.16, para.13)) the Adaptation Committee, the enabling support process for least developed countries (LDCs) and a work programme to address loss and damage.*

7. The country-driven action on adaptation is based on specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances. Related to drylands are:

- Planning, prioritizing and implementing projects and programmes,⁴ and actions in national adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) of LDCs, national communications, technology needs assessments and other relevant national planning documents
- Enhancing climate change-related disaster risk reduction strategies, accounting for early warning systems, risk assessment and management
- Multiple actions to reduce vulnerability and build resilience in developing country Parties

8. *The process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans will build on NAPAs, for identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and for developing and implementing related strategies and programmes. Other developing country Parties can employ the NAPA approach to support their national adaptation plans.*

9. *The Adaptation Committee will provide technical support and guidance, enhancing the sharing of information, promoting synergies and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, providing recommendations to the COP on means for adaptation, finance, and information on monitoring and review⁵(decision 1/CP.16, para. 20).*

10. *The work programme to address loss and damage will be associated with adverse impacts of climate change, including impacts of extreme weather events and slow onset events.⁶ (decision 1/CP.16, para. 26)*

11. *Within the Cancun Agreements Parties can strengthen or establish regional centres and networks to facilitate and enhance national and regional adaptation actions.(decision 1/CP.16, para.30), including through an international adaptation centre. Parties may strengthen and establish or designate national level institutional arrangements. Relevant multilateral, international, regional and national organizations, including private sector and civil society were invited to support enhanced adaptation action.*

² These scenarios resulting from decision 1/CP.16 include information on frameworks and eligibility criteria for achieving benefits. For the full text of this decision, see document FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1

³ Italicized text highlights the operative elements of the decisions and conclusions.

⁴ Including in the areas, inter alia, of water resources, agriculture and food security, and terrestrial ecosystems.

⁵ Established by the COP at its seventeenth session.

⁶ Including salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

12. **Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs):** *Parties agreed that developing country Parties would take NAMAs supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, aimed at achieving a deviation in emissions relative to ‘business as usual’ emissions in 2020. Developing countries can voluntarily inform the COP of their intention to implement NAMAs and to submit information on those actions.*

13. *The UNFCCC secretariat was requested to organize workshops on the diversity of submissions on mitigation, underlying assumptions, and any support needed for implementation, noting national circumstances and respective capabilities of developing countries (para. 38).*

14. *A registry was set up to record NAMAs seeking international support and to facilitate matching of finance, technology and capacity-building support for these actions. Also, facilitating support modalities through the registry will be developed, including any functional relationship with the financial mechanism.*

15. *A decision on the four-year reporting of national communications includes greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and the prompt provision of financial resources to cover the full costs of preparation of national communications. Developing countries, consistent with their capabilities and the level of support provided for reporting, should also submit biennial update reports, containing GHG inventories.*

16. *A process for international consultations and analysis of biennial reports will be set in place by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), for consideration of information, including information on mitigation actions, the national GHG inventory report, a description, analysis of impacts and associated methodologies and assumptions.*

17. *It was also decided that internationally supported NAMAs will be measured, reported and verified (MRV) domestically and will be subject to international MRV in accordance with COP guidelines. Agreement was also reached on a work programme to develop relevant modalities and guidelines (para 61).*

18. **Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD):** *Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse loss of forest cover and of carbon (decision I/CP.16, section C, first preambular paragraph).*

19. *Developing countries could contribute to mitigation action in the forest sector by: (a) reducing emissions from deforestation; (b) reducing emissions from forest degradation; (c) conservation of forest carbon stocks; (d) sustainable management of forest; and (e) enhancement of forest carbon stocks. These activities can be implemented in accordance with relevant guidance and safeguards that should promote and support:*

- Country-driven and availability to Parties
- Consistency with the objective of environmental integrity accounting for the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems
- Undertaken in accordance with national development priorities, objectives, circumstances and capabilities, while respecting sovereignty
- Implemented in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty, while responding to climate change
- Consistent with the adaptation needs of the country
- Promote sustainable forest management
- Actions complement and are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements

20. The REDD-plus agreement allows countries, on the basis of its established country-driven character, to decide upon the type of forests to be included in and to benefit from the regime.
21. *REDD-plus activities contain three phases: (1) Readiness: development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, (2) Readiness: implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans including further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and (3) Implementation: evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified.*
22. A country may include considerations on how to address DLDD within their REDD-plus, including soil carbon enhancement in, for instance, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and, in particular, enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
23. Independent of the definition of forest adopted, countries with low forest cover and tropical dryland forests could include them in the REDD-plus and in the monitoring systems, thus minimizing monitoring costs and facilitating DLDD-planning activities. These types of forests can benefit from full implementation of REDD-plus through the readiness actions phases 1 and 2.
24. Under REDD, developing country Parties are requested to advance on the following:
- A national strategy or action plan
 - A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level
 - A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of REDD activities
 - A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed
25. *Implementing REDD depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country and the level of support received. Parties, in particular developed countries, were urged to support actions mentioned in paragraph 24 above.*
26. *The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) was requested to develop a work programme (decision 1/CP.16, para. 75) on methodological REDD matters, such as (a) identifying land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) linked to deforestation and forest degradation and associated methodological issues; (b) developing modalities on national reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels and on forest monitoring systems, and (c) developing modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related GHG emissions, forest carbon stocks and forest area change.*
27. *International organizations and stakeholders were invited to contribute to REDD activities.*
28. **Finance:** Fast-start finance. *Developed countries made a collective commitment to provide new and additional resources of USD 30 billion for the period 2010–2012, with a balanced allocation adaptation-mitigation; adaptation funding to be prioritized for the most vulnerable developing countries such as LDCs, small island developing States (SIDS) and Africa (decision 1/CP.16, para. 95).*
29. *Long-term finance. Scaled-up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding shall be provided to developing country Parties (decision 1/CP.16, para 97). Under the commitment goal starting 2020, developed country Parties would annually*

jointly mobilize USD 100 billion to address demands of developing countries. A significant share of new multilateral funding for adaptation should flow through the Green Climate Fund.

30. *The Green Climate Fund was established and designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, with arrangements to ensure its accountability and functions under COP guidance. The Fund will support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries using thematic funding windows (decision I/CP.16, para. 102).*

31. *This Fund shall be governed by a board of 24 members of equal number from developing and developed country Parties (decision I/CP.16, para. 103). The Green Climate Fund shall be designed by a Transitional Committee. A Standing Committee under the COP was also established to assist the COP with respect to the financial mechanism of the Convention (decision I/CP.16, para. 112).*

32. **Technology development and transfer:** *Technology needs must be nationally determined, based on national circumstances and priorities.*

33. *On the technology cycle Parties decided to accelerate action including research and development, demonstration, deployment, diffusion and technology transfer (or technology development and transfer);*

34. *The Technology Mechanism (decision I/CP.16, para.117) created aims at facilitating implementation on this issue consisting of:*

- A Technology Executive Committee (TEC)
- A Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTC)

35. *The priority areas on technology may include, inter alia, the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties, including cooperative research, development and demonstration programmes; and the development and implementation of national technology plans for mitigation and adaptation (decision I/CP.16, para. 120).*

36. *The functions of the TEC (decision I/CP.16, para. 121) shall be:*

- To provide an overview of technological needs and analysis of policy and technical issues related to development and transfer of technology for mitigation and adaptation
- To consider and recommend actions to promote technology development and transfer in order to accelerate action on mitigation and adaptation
- To recommend actions to address the barriers to technology development and transfer in order to enable enhanced action on mitigation and adaptation
- To catalyze the development and use of technology road maps or action plans at international, regional and national levels

37. *As regards the CTC, it shall facilitate a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology networks, organizations and initiatives with a view to engaging the participants of the Network effectively in attending requests from developing countries and facilitating cooperation networks (decision I/CP.16, para. 123).*

38. *Upon request (from developing countries) the CTC shall:*

- Provide advice and support to the identification of technology needs and implementation of technologies, practices and processes

- Facilitate the provision of information, training and support for programmes that build or strengthen developing country capacities to identify technology options, choices, operations, maintenance and adaptation
- Facilitate prompt action on the deployment of existing technology in developing country Parties based on identified needs
- Foster, through collaboration with the private sector, public institutions, academia and research institutions, the development and transfer of existing and emerging environmentally sound technologies, and opportunities for North–South, South–South and triangular technology cooperation

39. *The CTC action to facilitate networks:* national, regional, sectoral and international technology centres, networks, organization and initiatives (*decision 1/CP.16*, para. 123(c)).

- Enhancing cooperation with national, regional and international technology centres and relevant national institutions
- Facilitating international partnerships among public and private stakeholders to accelerate the innovation and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing country Parties
- Providing in-country technical assistance and training to support identified technology actions

40. **Capacity-building:** Parties decided that support to developing countries should be enhanced to strengthen endogenous capacities at the subnational, national or regional levels, accounting for gender aspects, inter alia (*decision 1/CP.16*, para. 130):

- Strengthening relevant institutions at various levels, including national focal points and national coordinating bodies and organizations
- Strengthening networks for the generation, sharing and management of information and knowledge, North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation
- Supporting existing and emerging capacity-building needs identified in mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and access to financial resources

41. Financial resources for enhanced action on capacity-building should be provided by Parties included in Annex II to the UNFCCC Convention and other Parties in a position to do so through current and future operating entities of the financial mechanism, as well as through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (*decision 1/CP.16*, para. 131).

IV. Pending United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations relating to land and soils

42. Some aspects of the Bali Action Plan relating to mitigation and finance will be completed after Cancun. A success of the 2011–2012 negotiations of the Bali Action Plan is crucial for including land and soil issues into the context of climate change.

Table 1
Pending negotiating issues and possible actions to be carried out

<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Who / deadline</i>	<i>Relevance for lands -soils</i>	<i>Possible actions/elements to be promoted</i>
Shared vision	Work towards identifying a global goal for substantially reducing global emissions by 2050	AWG-LCA/COP17	Medium	Follow up/ submissions (With deeper emission cuts, more mitigation is needed)
Adaptation	Modalities and guidelines for new NAPAs	SBI/COP17	High	Follow up/submissions (Through encouraging DLDD action)
	Composition, modalities and procedures of Adaptation Committee	AWG-LCA/COP17	Medium	Idem (Options for more decision power to the Committee)
	Work programme on approaches to address loss and damage associated with adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather and slow onset events (droughts)	SBI, using workshops and expert meetings/ COP 18	High	Follow up/submissions (Encouraging DLDD action, including climate risk insurance, risk management and sharing mechanism)
Mitigation by developing countries (NAMAs)	Work programme on modalities and guidelines for NAMAs facilitation and support through the registry, MRV of supported actions, biennial reports; domestic verification of mitigation action with domestic resources and international consultation and analysis.	AWG-LCA/none specified	High	Follow up/submissions (Advancing on DLDD action and avoiding exclusion of soil mitigation)
REDD	Explore financial options for the full implementation of result-based actions (3 rd phase of REDD on actions that should be fully MRV).	AWG-LCA/COP17	High	Follow up/submissions (Advocating DLDD action and avoiding exclusion of soil mitigation)
	LULUCF Work programme linked to deforestation; methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals and on elaboration of MRV modalities.	SBSTA/COP18	High	Follow up/submissions (Awareness of rules that might allow DLDD action and develop soils-in-low-cover/ tropical-dry-forests REDD-MRV modalities)
Finance	Design of the Green Climate Fund.	Transitional Committee	High	Action only possible through the Committee members (7 Africa, Asia and LAC, 2 AOSIS, 2 LDC and 15 developed countries).

Area	Description	Who / deadline	Relevance for lands -soils	Possible actions/elements to be promoted
Technology Transfer	Technology mechanism work programme 2011 fully operational; relationship of the Technology Executive Committee with Climate Technology Centre and Network; governance and structure; linkages with the Technology and financial mechanism.	AWG-LCA with the aid of expert workshop	Medium-to-high in the future	Follow up
Capacity building	Ways to consider and enhance monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building	LCA/COP17	Medium, but might be high in the future.	Follow up
	Further modalities regarding institutional arrangements for capacity-building.	LCA/COP17	Medium, but might be high in the future	Follow up

V. Identification of scenarios arising from conclusions of other subsidiary bodies and from decisions of the Conference of the Parties acting as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

43. **SBSTA: Nairobi work programme.** *The SBSTA decided to continue its review of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change during its June 2011 session in order to define the actions to follow. Parties may decide to tap into progress made by the work programme in the new agreed structures. The Nairobi work programme could be put under the guidance of the forthcoming Adaptation Committee.*

44. **Research and systematic observation (RSO):** *The Global Climate Observation System (GCOS) and Global Terrestrial Observation System (GTOS) have been considered and strongly supported since COP15 in Copenhagen. Parties were urged (1) to work towards full implementation of the 2010 updated GCOS implementation plan and to consider to undertake national, regional and international actions to contribute to the implementation of the plan; (2) to increase the consideration of GCOS-related implementation in relevant national and regional activities, including those by regional centres and national meteorological, hydrological, terrestrial, oceanographic services and those relating to adaptation; (3) to increase the coordination of relevant activities and to build upon and enhance existing national and regional centres by Parties and relevant organizations, with the aim of facilitating implementation of regional action plans and strengthening observation networks; (4) to support and facilitate the development of terrestrial standards and to improve their terrestrial network.*

45. *The SBSTA noted the increased usefulness of terrestrial Essential Climate Variables beyond climate change observations, such as for biodiversity and desertification, and encouraged GTOS to increase synergy with ongoing relevant initiatives. GCOS and GTOS will report to SBSTA on their work progress at the thirty-fifth session (December 2011).*

*The SBSTA also emphasized the urgent need to secure funding to meet the essential needs for global climate observations.*⁷

46. **SBSTA: Water matters.** At COP 16 there was no conclusion on water matters per se; it was not until the June 2011 meetings that the issue was exchanged upon. A possible work programme on water and climate change emerged for consideration by either the SBSTA or the Nairobi work programme.

47. **Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI): LDCs.** The LDC issues allowed COP16 to adopt a decision⁸ *to extend the mandate of the LDC Expert Group (LEG) for five years, to provide technical guidance, inter alia, on:*

- Revising and updating NAPAs and facilitating integration of LDCs adaptation actions into development planning
- Identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and their integration into development planning
- The engagement of other organizations in the implementation of its work programme

48. The COP adopted an SBI-related decision on further guidance for the operation of the LDC Fund, requesting the GEF to provide funding to LDC countries to enable the update of their NAPAs and to facilitate the integration of LDC adaptation actions into development planning.

49. **SBI: Progress in the implementation of decision 1/CP.10:** The SBI continued its consideration on this matter, recommending a COP⁹ decision. It also continued work on a broad range of stakeholders in planning, preparing and implementing adaptation actions and enhancing the web-based interface, improving the availability of information on accessing existing funds for adaptation, including for the implementation of NAPAs.

50. **SBI: Development and transfer of technology:** This item was also discussed by the SBSTA. The SBI noted the progress in carrying out the GEF Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer,¹⁰ as well as the progress made in providing financial support for technology transfer pilot projects addressing mitigation. The SBI welcomed the Technology Transfer Programme for Climate Adaptation announced by the GEF as well as the updated handbook *Conducting Technology Needs Assessments for Climate Change* (TNA handbook) and encouraged Parties not included in Annex I to the UNFCCC Convention to use it in conducting or updating their technology needs assessments.

⁷ See UNFCCC document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.1, paragraph 6 (among others). Available at <<http://www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sbsta/eng/inf01>> .

⁸ See decision 6/CP.16.

⁹ The SBI 33 meeting held in Cancun agreed on holding a workshop to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change, to be held before SBI 35.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2010/25.

51. **COP/MOP: The Adaptation Fund Board (AFB):** The adaptation fund finances projects and programmes¹¹ aiming at adaptation and increased climate resilience. Decisions on the allocation of resources shall take into account the following:¹²

- *Levels of vulnerability, urgency and risks arising from delay; access to funds; lessons learned in project and programme design and implementation; securing regional co-benefits if possible; maximizing multi-sectoral or cross-sectoral benefits and adaptive capacity to adverse effects of climate change.*
- *Adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change are eligible for funding. Small size projects and programmes amount up to 1 million USD.*
- *Eligible Parties can submit proposals through a nominated national implementing entity (NIE), or use the services of multilateral implementing entities (MIE). By the end of 2010 three NIE had been accredited (Senegal, Uruguay and Jamaica). Accredited MIEs were: Asian Development Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations World Food Programme, World Bank and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).*

52. *The UNFCCC secretariat was requested¹³ to conduct up to three regional or subregional workshops¹⁴ in order to familiarize Parties with the process and accreditation requirements of national implementing entities.¹⁵*

53. **Other organizations besides the UNFCCC contributing to land and soil under climate change:** Several organizations have a long tradition in working on climate change and soil-land matters. Strengthening collaboration between them and the UNCCD at all levels could further promote integration of land and soil into the climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes: GEF, World Bank, UNDP, FAO, UNEP and the IFAD, Cooperative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the regional banks and commissions of the United Nations, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNFCCC.

54. From the agricultural research perspective, the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) contributes to the scenarios mentioned above. Some of its centres specialize in drylands, such as the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Crops Research for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

¹¹ A concrete adaptation project is defined as a set of activities aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of and risks posed by climate change and can be implemented at the community, national and trans-boundary level. An adaptation programme is a process, a plan or an approach for addressing climate change impacts that is broader than the scope of an individual project.

¹² See Adaptation Fund website. Available at <<http://adaptation-fund.org/sites/default/files/AFB.B.12.5>>.

¹³ See draft decision -/CMP.6 of the COP/MOP in FCCC/KP/CMP/2010/L.6,.

¹⁴ Making use of the Adaptation Fund Accreditation toolkit. See the AFB website: <<http://adaptation-fund.org>>.

¹⁵ As complementary information on the adaptation fund, detailed Operational Policies and Guidelines for Parties to Access the Resources of the Adaptation Fund are available at: <<http://www.adaptation-fund.org>>.

55. **National funding entities:**¹⁶ Several developing countries possess national funding entities to manage expected forthcoming climate change funding suited to their national needs. Some of these are: Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF); Brazil National Fund Climate Change; China CDM Fund (CDMF); Guyana REDD Investment Fund; The Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund (ICCTF); Maldives Climate Change Trust Fund. Others are in the process of being established.

56. Since these organizations are expected to influence the forthcoming climate change financing, they *could contribute to DLDD-aware climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and projects and integrate them into national planning.*

VI. Concepts of desertification, land degradation and drought in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

57. The IPCC AR4 contains marginal information on DLDD and SLM: there is an absence of references to key conceptual UNCCD issues and a lack of scientific studies and experiences in peer-reviewed literature focusing on this crucial synergy. This situation must be corrected in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

Table 2
Number of occurrences of key UNCCD-related definitions in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)

<i>Terminology related to the UNCCD</i>	<i>Number of occurrences in the main text, technical summary and summary for policymakers</i>	
	Working Group II: Adaptation of the AR4	Working Group III: Mitigation of the AR4
Drylands as severely impacted ecosystems	8	1
Desertification	9	5
Land degradation	7	3
Drought	40	19
Sustainable land management	2	2
Sustainable water resources management	1	1
Soil restoration or restoration of degraded lands	0	0

¹⁶ See Echeverri, Luis Gomez., *National Funding Entities: their role in the transition to a new paradigm of global cooperation on climate change*. Policy report of the European Capacity Building initiative. Available at < <http://www.eurocapacity.org>>.

VII. Key messages for advocating a policy framework on climate change under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

58. Table 3 summarizes key actions to be brought from the global to national levels in the process of establishing linkages between climate change adaptation/mitigation and DLDD.

Table 3

Proposed policy actions to facilitate integration of desertification, land degradation and drought within the climate change negotiations

<i>Climate change-related theme</i>	<i>Priority actions</i>	<i>What is proposed to be advocated at the UNFCCC 2011–2012 negotiations for the inclusion of DLDD in the Cancun Agreements</i>
Adaptation	Tap into the bottom-up approach: the design and planning of actions and request of financial / technological support. It is relevant that DLDD-affected developing country Parties are able to confer the required priority on adaptation actions that also address DLDD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new round of LDC NAPAs launched and supported: these will address urgent and medium / long-term adaptation needs through strategies and programmes, favoring adaptation in drylands. • Non-LDC developing countries using similar modalities and guidelines as LDC NAPAs for adaptation plans. • Integration and synergy with UNCCD NAP implementation.
	Many SLM practices are effective for climate change adaptation in many countries and/or local communities. These can be used or be part of broader actions in adaptation projects or programmes to be supported nationally or internationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties to strengthen, establish or designate national-level institutional arrangements, to enhance the full range of adaptation actions from planning to implementation. • Regional and national centers strengthened to facilitate and enhance regional and national adaptation actions.
	Efforts should be made to provide to requesting developing countries, the necessary knowledge, enhancement of capabilities and tools for designing, planning, obtaining support and implementing adaptation action to address both, climate change and DLDD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An SBI work programme on loss and damage to address, inter alia, the consequences of drought and desertification intensified by climate change. The SBSTA will strengthen activities on water, creating new opportunities to promote adaptation that also addresses DLDD.
NAMAs	Many SLM practices that address DLDD are effective for climate change mitigation (they can be used as nationally undertaken NAMAs) to the extent that carbon is sequestered in soils or greenhouse gas emissions are limited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing countries to decide on NAMAs to undertake aimed at achieving deviation in emissions relative to business as usual" emissions in 2020. • Developing countries deciding on NAMAs to be recorded in the registry seeking international support to facilitate matching finance, technology and capacity-building support.

Climate change-related theme	Priority actions	What is proposed to be advocated at the UNFCCC 2011–2012 negotiations for the inclusion of DLDD in the Cancun Agreements
REDD	<p>Drylands have the potential to increase soil carbon stocks, an important part of mitigation portfolios for many countries.</p> <p>Availability of knowledge, enhancement of capabilities and tools for designing, planning, obtaining support and implementing soil carbon NAMAs in drylands, through developing appropriate methodologies to allow feasible and reliable MRV of sequestered carbon, sound monitoring of carbon stocks and appropriate consideration to environmental and social consequences.</p> <p>Each developing country to define “forest” according to national circumstances.</p> <p>Although the corresponding MRV modalities require substantial further development, soil organic carbon could be accounted for in forests under REDD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internationally supported NAMAs will be MRV domestically and internationally, in accordance with COP guidelines. Developing countries, consistent with their capacities and the level of support provided for reporting, to submit biannual updates, GHG inventories, description and analysis of impacts and associated assumptions of mitigation actions. • Soil carbon sequestration being recognized when lost carbon is restored in degraded soils; associated advantages, such as reclaiming productivity of soils and/or conserving water triggering environmental and social benefits. • Effective mitigation action in soils; sequestered soil carbon measured, reported and verified. • Support for technical capacities to enhance carbon storage and/or to maintain land resource practices that sequester carbon and allow for monitoring carbon stocks. • UNFCCC workshops providing opportunities to increase understanding of the importance of nationally addressing DLDD in mitigation actions. • Developing countries contribute to mitigation action in the forest sector by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) conserving forest carbon stocks; (b) sustainable management of forest; and (c) enhancement of forest carbon stocks. • The implementation of forest activities follow relevant guidance and safeguards that allow REDD activities that simultaneously address DLDD. • Drylands opportunities with different land/rainfall regimes: to carry out soil conservation (arid, semi-arid and sub-humid); agro-forestry (semi-arid and sub-humid) and plantations (sub-humid). Some activities considered REDD actions if a Party considers them appropriate. • Developing countries undertake REDD-plus activities, benefit from the considerations mentioned above, use their own definition of forest on their national strategy or action plan, also use the forest reference emission level and/or forest

Climate change-related theme	Priority actions	What is proposed to be advocated at the UNFCCC 2011–2012 negotiations for the inclusion of DLDD in the Cancun Agreements
	<p>For developing countries there is relatively high availability of financial resources under REDD-plus: approx. 4 billion USD, already committed.</p>	<p>reference level, the forest monitoring system to monitor and report on REDD activities, and the information on safeguards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building (1st phase) and the further implementation of these policies, measures and strategies (2nd phase) include DLDD priorities. • REDD-plus funding distributed through bilateral and multilateral channels; large amounts also channeled bilaterally. • Dryland developing countries benefited. • UNREDD (a joint initiative of FAO, UNDP and UNEP and other United Nations agencies) actively support REDD activities in dryland countries.
	<p>Necessary understanding provided of DLDD linkages with enhancement of capabilities and tools for designing, planning, obtaining support and implementing REDD, through further elaboration (science and advocacy) in drylands (modalities to address DLDD) and identifying national and local priorities, according to national circumstances and forest status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete REDD actions and scenarios identified and carried out by the UNCCD at national, regional and Convention secretariat levels.
<p>Finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building</p>	<p><u>Finance</u>: The fast-start finance and long-term finance provide more resources to climate change, although amounts are insufficient and it is not totally clear which amount is new and additional. This increase provides opportunities to support DLDD integration into climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation actions benefit from large increase of funding, accounting for its currently low baseline. • Dryland countries tap into these opportunities through sound adaptation and mitigation programmes and projects, meeting the requirements of new funds. • Options for enhancing possibilities for soil mitigation with sound MRV developed. • Technology development - transfer on DLDD-soil carbon and capacity-building activities benefited from the new funding schemes. • The procedures and modalities of the new Green Climate Fund are known to UNCCD Parties. • The fund development known to UNCCD, first-hand and timely information (e.g. explore website faststart.org, the Transitional Committee, etc.)
	<p><u>The new Green Climate Fund</u>, designated as an operating entity of the Convention.</p>	

Climate change-related theme	Priority actions	What is proposed to be advocated at the UNFCCC 2011–2012 negotiations for the inclusion of DLDD in the Cancun Agreements
	<p><u>Technology development and transfer</u>, nationally determined, based on national circumstances and priorities: support action on mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action at different stages of the technology cycle, including research and development, demonstration, deployment, diffusion and transfer of technology in support of action on mitigation and adaptation is accelerated; • Parties include SLM technology in their technology needs to support adaptation and/or mitigation. • SLM included in specific stages of the technological cycle, the diffusion and transfer stages; SLM included in less mature technologies in the research and development stages. • The Technology Mechanism established consisting of a Technology Executive Committee (TEC), a Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTC), and relevant supportive action to developing countries.
	<p>The role of technology entities in enhancing development and technology transfer important is recognized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Technology Mechanism established consisting of a Technology Executive Committee (TEC), a Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTC), and relevant supportive action to developing countries.
	<p>Priority areas of the Technology Mechanism developing and enhancing endogenous capacities and technologies in developing countries and national technology plans for mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLM technologies included in technology national plans in all countries where these technologies are important for national development. • More developing countries prioritize specific SLM technologies. • Inclusion of specific SLM in technology road maps or action plans at international, regional and national levels to benefit their development and transfer.
	<p>The CTC to facilitate a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology organizations and initiatives, facilitating as well in-country technical assistance and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "SLM technologies" National and regional centers actively participate in the Network.
	<p>SLM technologies to adapt to or mitigate climate change prioritized at national level in developing countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TEC and CTC are instrumental to include SLM technologies. • Entities playing an important role in enhancing development and transfer of technologies that include DLDD issues.
<p>Capacity building</p>	<p>Capacity-building support and financial resources to developing countries:</p> <p>(a) Relevant institutions at various levels, including focal points and national coordinating bodies and organizations strengthened;</p> <p>(b) Networks for generating, sharing and managing information and knowledge, including through North–South, South–South and triangular</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation - mitigation capacity-building including lands and soils. Exercises such as the National Capacity Self-Assessment Project (NCSA) identify capacity-building needs of the three Rio conventions, used and supported.

<i>Climate change-related theme</i>	<i>Priority actions</i>	<i>What is proposed to be advocated at the UNFCCC 2011–2012 negotiations for the inclusion of DLDD in the Cancun Agreements</i>
	cooperation strengthened;	
	(c) Existing and emerging capacity-building for mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and access to financial resources supported.	
Preparations for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR 5) of the IPCC	To integrate DLDD into climate change adaptation and mitigation research: climate change evidence-based data and science supporting DLDD, avoiding its omission as in AR4. The compilation of relevant peer reviewed literature on synergy actions, DLDD/SLM and climate change adaptation and mitigation, aiming at making information available during the AR5 preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AR5 facilitated by the UNCCD secretariat and Parties, to include relevant literature published on the linkages between climate change and DLDD / SLM.

VIII. Proposed action to be carried out under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the basis of the Cancun Agreements at the national, regional, and Convention secretariat levels

59. Derived from the summary in table 3, the actions described in table 4 could be supported by UNCCD with the participation of relevant organizations.

Table 4

Level of action for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the basis of the Cancun Agreements

<i>Potentiality</i>	<i>Actions to undertake</i>	<i>Level</i>		
		Convention secretariat	Regional	National
A. Adaptation (includes research and systematic observations and water issues)				
AWG-LCA outcomes	Create conditions for including relevant DLDD-adaptation actions in the enhanced adaptation framework, including development of guidance for preparing adaptation programmes and projects	X	X	X
	Create conditions to participate in the new generation of NAPAs	X		X
	Participate in the preparation of modalities/guidelines for NAPAs	X		X
	Promote giving status to NAPs as relevant national planning documents for adaptation	X		X
	Promote participation in the forthcoming Adaptation Committee	X		X

Potentiality	Actions to undertake	Level		
		Convention secretariat	Regional	National
	Promote participation in strengthened and/or new national adaptation committees			X
	Participate in the work programme to address loss and damage	X		X
	Establish programmatic working relations with regional and international centers	X		X
SBSTA/SBI outcomes (includes research and systematic observation (RSO))	Create conditions for the inclusion of relevant actions on DLDD in NAPA update/development	X		X
	Continue and expand NAPAs-NAPs synergy	X		X
	Assess synergy action potential in existing NAPAs taking into account their forthcoming updates	X		X
	Participate in LEG meetings and activities; organize focused activities with LEG members	X		X
	Continue participating in Nairobi work programme and decision 1/CP.10 workshops and other activities	X		X
Research and systematic observation	Identify relevant observational needs to be supported by GCOS, GTOS and WMO (Global Framework of Climate Services).	X	X	X
	Participation in SBSTA research dialogue, including approaching research organizations; Parties to include research on DLDD-climate change	X		X
Forthcoming SBSTA water work programme	Participate actively from the start in order to include relevant issues related to DLDD in its deliberations.	X		X
COP/MOP outcomes	Participate in AFB meetings and organize focused activities with their members	X		
	Create focused working relations with NIEs			X
	Create focused working relations with some MIEs	X		
	Promote the development of DLDD programmes / projects with adaptation action, to be supported by the AF	X		X
General	Be active in supporting enhanced adaptation action at all levels that promote DLDD actions	X	X	X

Potentiality	Actions to undertake	Level		
		Convention secretariat	Regional	National
B.	NAMAs			
	Create conditions for the inclusion of mitigation-DLDD actions in NAMAs, including development of guidance on actions to be included in NAMAs	X		X
	Work to include soil NAMAs to the UNFCCC COP reports by Parties			X
	Participate in planned NAMAs workshops	X		X
	Promote the inclusion of soil NAMAs in the registry seeking support	X		X
	Promote the participation of experts in the GHG inventory review and in the process of analysis of mitigation, particularly in soils	X		X
	Develop and consolidate MRV methods for soils NAMAs and for different soil carbon sequestration practices	X	X	X
	Follow NAMAs negotiations and the development of their operational documents	X		X
C.	REDD			
	Promote actions to halt and reverse forest carbon loss in drylands	X	X	X
	Prepare substantiated advocacy papers linking REDD-DLDD and guidance for implementing REDD	X	X	X
	Participate in developing national strategy/action plans, forest reference emission levels or forest reference levels and forest monitoring systems in dryland forests	X		X
	Prepare broader plans that facilitate support for DLDD activities in initial REDD phases (readiness)	X		X
	Share information with UNFCCC and UN-REDD to coordinate and get support for the above	X		
	Follow negotiations on REDD financing and the development of operational documents	X		X
	Follow and contribute to SBSTA programme on REDD, by promoting coordination of the national focal points of both Conventions	X		X
	Contribute to relevant REDD activities	X	X	X

Potentiality	Actions to undertake	Level		
		Convention secretariat	Regional	National
D. Finance (include work with national funding entities)				
	Carry out DLDD work on adaptation, NAMAs, REDD and technology transfer	X	X	X
	Follow the Green Climate Fund negotiations and the development of its operational documents	X		
	Participate in the Transitional Committee / Fund Board meetings, if possible, and organize focused activities with members	X		
	Follow the creation of new national funding entities and work with the existing ones, to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and DLDD			X
E. Development and transfer of technologies				
LCA outcomes	Promote the inclusion of SLM technologies supported by the Technology Mechanism, including the development of guidance for identifying and supporting relevant technologies	X		X
	Participate in the activities of the Technology Committee and of the Climate Technology Centre and related networks and organize focused activities with members	X		X
	Promote SLM technologies of relevant centres within CTC/Network	X	X	X
	Identify relevant technology needs and develop support requests of existing and emerging ones			X
	Identify relevant technical assistance needs and training			X
SBSTA/SBI outcomes	Promote SLM technologies for mitigation and adaptation into the Poznan Strategic programme on technology transfer and the Technology GEF programme on climate adaptation	X		X
	Assess the existing TNAs to promote SLM in any TNA update. The new TNA handbook is known and used by UNCCD	X		X

Potentiality	Actions to undertake	Level		
		Convention secretariat	Regional	National
F.	Capacity building			
	Prepare synergy capacity-building programmes on DLDD - climate change	X		X
	Strengthen networks for information generation, sharing and management	X	X	X
	Follow up pending negotiations	X		X

IX. Monitoring issues

60. Actions proposed herewith should be monitored periodically. Relevant performance indicators pertaining to corresponding operational objectives can be used for implementation. This does not preclude other more focused means of monitoring implementation, where necessary.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

61. UNCCD country Parties may wish to consider taking a decision at COP 10 on the interrelation of DLDD and climate change based on the Cancun Agreements.

62. The Cancun Agreements have given to adaptation the same level of priority as mitigation; more ambitious goals for mitigation are being developed in the continuing climate change negotiations. This new adaptation-mitigation scenario lays the foundation for a more inclusive, broader approach to land and soil issues within the UNFCCC.

63. The Cancun Agreements highlight the relevance of national circumstances and priorities for adaptation, NAMAs, REDD, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. This bottom-up approach is an advantage and guarantees the promotion and implementation of DLDD-climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. The challenge is to identify such actions at the national and local levels and to confer the appropriate priority on them.

64. The expected increased financial and technological resources to support developing countries in enhancing adaptation and mitigation actions will be instrumental for this broader approach in the coming years, benefiting both the UNCCD and the UNFCCC processes.

65. To successfully face the challenges that adaptation, NAMAs and REDD strategically have for UNCCD implementation, it is recommended that dedicated task forces should be created, coordinated by the UNCCD secretariat and with the engagement of key external organizations, with clear goals and fixed milestones.

66. Important aspects of decision 1/CP.16 are to be completed after Cancun. Most of these aspects are important for soil and land, indicating the need to follow up on the negotiations in order to promote the integration of DLDD into climate change adaptation and mitigation, as appropriate.

67. A broad range of SLM practices and technologies have the potential to either reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase resilience / adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change. To the extent that carbon is sequestered in soil or greenhouse gas emissions are limited, soil carbon sequestration could be used as nationally undertaken NAMAs. SLM actions can be used by themselves or as part of other broader-ranging actions on mitigation / adaptation projects or programmes to be supported nationally or internationally.

68. Drylands have the potential to increase soil carbon stocks: for countries affected by DLDD such actions could become an important part of their mitigation portfolios. Effective mitigation action in soil requires the assurances that the carbon sequestered can be measured, reported and verified (MRV). Furthermore, sufficient technical capacity is needed to enhance carbon storage and/or to maintain land resource / carbon sequestration practices as well as the ability to monitor carbon stocks. All this is relevant for NAMAs and for soil carbon sequestration financing.

69. Parts of the Cancun Agreements, now under implementation, provide scenarios in which land and soil could benefit from and/or be incorporated into the UNFCCC process. These parts arise mainly from decision 1/CP.16; many other outcomes agreed upon by the UNFCCC Parties in Cancun provide favourable scenarios or complement those arising from this decision.

70. It is of paramount importance that developing countries affected by DLDD are able to confer the required priority to DLDD in their adaptation and mitigation actions at the national and regional levels.

71. It is recommended that all relevant peer-reviewed literature on DLDD matters should be compiled in order to make it available during the preparation of the IPCC AR5, as opposed to IPCC AR4 that contained marginal information on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions that also address DLDD / SLM.

72. The Parties and the secretariat of the UNCCD on the basis of the Cancun Agreements can undertake efforts, as indicated in table 4, to advocate the necessary knowledge, enhancement of capabilities and tools for designing, planning, obtaining support and implementing adaptation actions, soil carbon NAMAs and REDD in drylands.

73. On mitigation, appropriate methodologies can be developed to allow feasible and reliable MRV of sequestered carbon in drylands, sound monitoring of related carbon stocks and appropriate consideration of the environmental and social consequences of implementing soil-related mitigation actions.

74. The REDD-plus agreement allows countries a flexible definition of "forest" in the context of national circumstances. Countries may decide on the type of forests to include in the regime, on the basis of established country-driven character (for example, low cover and tropical dryland forests, including their soil pool).

75. It is estimated that 4 billion USD already committed as funding for developing countries under REDD-plus, distributed through bilateral and multilateral channels. In addition, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) is actively supporting REDD in several countries using part of the aforementioned committed financial resources.

76. Some REDD-plus actions may include developing, through science and advocacy, REDD activities in drylands, in order to confer on them the appropriate priority according to national circumstances and forest status.

77. The agreements on fast-start and long-term finance, can increasingly provide resources and opportunities to support DLDD within climate change adaptation and mitigation. The challenge is to design sound adaptation and mitigation programmes and projects able to meet the expected requirements for the new funding.

78. Parties may decide if SLM technologies could be eligible for financial support at any stage of the technological cycle, thus enhancing opportunities for consolidated support towards drylands, by using SLM in the disseminating and transfer stages, or in less mature technologies, in their research and development stages.

79. The forthcoming Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network can be instrumental in including DLDD under adaptation and mitigation.

80. Working with international organizations will reinforce land and soil issues within the UNFCCC. The dedicated UNCCD task forces must consider these organizations as relevant partners.

81. The strategic actions given priority are to be performed nationally, including by pilot, demonstration or other synergy actions, with the collaboration of experienced UNCCD national focal points who could develop synergy work with their climate change counterparts.
