



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

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Review of the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

Multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies

Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2012–2015)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2007, Parties adopted the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). The Strategy guides the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners. While Parties carry the main responsibility for implementing The Strategy, the UNCCD institutions and subsidiary bodies have been assigned specific tasks in support to the work to be carried out by the Parties. They are further requested to operationalize their contribution to The Strategy by preparing results-oriented multi-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes.

By decision 1/COP.9, the COP requested the secretariat to integrate the 2012–2015 workplans of the Convention institutions and bodies into a comprehensive multi-year work plan for the Convention, for consideration at the tenth session of the COP. Such integrated workplan is presented in this document.

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I. Introduction

1. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2007 adopted the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). The Strategy addresses the Convention's key challenges at strategic and operational levels and offers a revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders.

2. The Strategy contains the following four strategic objectives:

1. To improve the living conditions of affected populations
2. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems
3. To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
4. To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

3. With a view to supporting the attainment of the strategic objectives, The Strategy also contains five operational objectives, which focus on:

1. Advocacy, awareness-raising and education
2. Policy framework
3. Science, technology and knowledge
4. Capacity-building
5. Financing and technology transfer.

4. The strategic and operational objectives will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners. While Parties carry the main responsibility for implementing The Strategy, the UNCCD institutions and subsidiary bodies have been assigned specific tasks in support to the work to be carried out by the Parties.

5. In The Strategy, the secretariat of the Convention was assigned a lead role for operational objective 1 and for specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 and 3, as well as a support role in the achievement of other operational objectives. The Global Mechanism (GM) was assigned a central responsibility in contributing to operational objective 5 and a support role for operational objectives 1 and 2. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) was given primary responsibility to fulfil operational objective 3 as well as a support role for implementing operational objective 1. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) was assigned to play a central role in reviewing the implementation of The Strategy.

6. The above mentioned Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies were each requested to operationalize their contribution to The Strategy by preparing results-oriented multi-year (four-year) work plans and costed two-year work programmes. In addition, the secretariat and the GM were requested to prepare two-year joint work programmes (JWPs). The workplans for 2010–2013 and the work programmes for 2010–2011 were considered at COP 9 in October 2009, and related guidance of the COP is contained in decisions 1/COP.9 and 9/COP.9.¹

¹ ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1.

7. By decision 1/COP.9, the COP requested the secretariat to integrate the 2012–2015 workplans into a comprehensive multi-year work plan for the Convention, in line with decision 3/COP.8 and The Strategy, for consideration at COP 10. Such integrated workplan is presented in this document.

II. The comprehensive 2012–2015 workplan of the Convention

8. The integrated workplan is organised according to the operational objectives and related outcomes of The Strategy, as this is the method by which also the individual workplans are constructed, with the exception of the CRIC workplan. At the beginning of each section, the outcomes under the operational objective in concern, as they are in The Strategy, are presented. In the context of the outcomes, the planned contributions of each UNCCD institution and subsidiary body are presented. These contributions are the expected accomplishments of the respective workplans, which are formulated to describe the anticipated benefits or changes resulting from the work carried out by the Convention institution/body in concern, together with Parties and other stakeholders, provided that the required resources are available.² After the five operational objectives, the plans of the secretariat and the GM concerning management and direction, conference servicing and administration are presented.

Operational objective of The Strategy

Operational objective 1 – Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.

Related outcomes, as contained in The Strategy

Outcome 1.1: Desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.

Outcome 1.2: Desertification/land degradation and drought issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Outcome 1.3: Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and desertification/land degradation and drought are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.

² For more information on the results-based management terminology under the UNCCD, please consult document ICCD/CRIC(10)/5.

What the secretariat aims to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of addressing DLDD as one of the solutions to key global challenges increased through the Convention’s communication and awareness-raising activities - The Convention process is increasingly recognized as a normative reference and the Convention secretariat nominated a global focal point for DLDD issues - CSO contributions to the meetings and processes of the Convention are effectively facilitated
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What the secretariat and GM aim to deliver jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of financing sustainable land management (SLM) is communicated to relevant forums and processes
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What GM aims to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance for SLM is addressed in relevant international forums - CSOs engaged in integrated financing strategies (IFSs) and integrated investment frameworks (IIFs) - The scientific community is engaged to collect economic evidence for increasing investments in SLM
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Operational objective of The Strategy	<p>Operational objective 2 – Policy framework</p> <p><i>To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.</i></p>
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Related outcomes, as contained in The Strategy	<p>Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties revise their national action programmes (NAPs) into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.</p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.</p> <p>Outcome 2.4: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.</p> <p>Outcome 2.5: Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.</p>
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What the secretariat aims to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affected country Parties have increased support from major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes in devising their NAPs and SLM, and addressing DLDD - SLM/DLDD issues are mainstreamed into development agendas - Improved understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM in addressing climate change and biodiversity - Improved understanding of the interlinkages between implementation of the Convention and addressing food security, water scarcity and drought, forestry, gender issues and migration
What the secretariat and GM aim to deliver jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional cooperation and coordination to address DLDD and advance SLM is effectively supported - Increased effectiveness of servicing countries in NAP alignment and mainstreaming
What GM aims to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development of SLM IFSs contributes to the alignment of NAPs to The Strategy - IFSs identify investment opportunities for NAP priorities in national development processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies - SLM mainstreamed into developed country Parties development policies - Increased SLM financing through synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions
Operational objective of The Strategy	<p>Operational objective 3 – Science, technology and knowledge</p> <p><i>To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.</i></p>
Related outcomes, as contained in The Strategy	<p>Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.</p> <p>Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio-economic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.</p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.</p> <p>Outcome 3.4: Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.</p>

Outcome 3.5: Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge,³ are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.

Outcome 3.6: Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

What the secretariat aims to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective support to affected Parties in conducting assessments of implementation in meeting the five operational objectives under The Strategy - Effective support to Parties in monitoring impact, with focus on progress made in meeting the strategic objectives under The Strategy - Effective support to CRIC in reviewing and assessing progress in implementing The Strategy - Effective support to the CST to guide the development of national and global baselines for assessing progress in meeting strategic objectives 1–3 - Effective support to the CST in advancing knowledge of the biophysical and socio-economic factors of DLDD and of related interactions in affected areas - Effective support to the CST in addressing interlinkages between the agenda of the CST and the agendas of other organizations and bodies relating to the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and the restoration of degraded lands - Improved knowledge and understanding of the mutual benefits of measures to address drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land - Effective support to the CST in promoting the use of scientific knowledge to support decision-making concerning the Convention - The secretariat effectively supports the CST in improving the provisions for the engagement of scientists and scientific institutions
What the secretariat and GM aim to deliver jointly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The review by the CRIC of the status of financing for the implementation of the Convention is based on sound information
Expected results of CST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affected Parties conduct impact assessments under the UNCCD, focusing on progress made in meeting strategic objectives 1–3. - National and global baselines for assessing progress in meeting strategic objectives 1–3 are established. - The CST advances knowledge of biophysical and socio-economic factors and of their interactions in affected areas.

³ Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

- The CST increasingly cooperates with, and benefits from the work of, relevant organizations and bodies dealing with climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land.
- Parties and other stakeholders increasingly use the UNCCD knowledge management system.
- Provisions for the engagement of science and institutions are improved

Expected results of CRIC

- Parties assess the progress made in meeting operational objectives 1–5 of The Strategy and related targets, and provide guidance on further steps to be taken
 - Parties assess the progress made in meeting strategic objectives 1–4 of The Strategy and related targets, and provide guidance on further steps to be taken
 - Parties assess the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support, and provide guidance on how to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention
 - Parties adopt methods that improve communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP
 - Parties review the performance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and provide guidance on further improvements
 - Parties review the performance of the CRIC and the CST and the interaction between them, and provide guidance on further improvements
 - CRIC facilitates the compilation and dissemination of best practices
 - Parties assess the relevance and effectiveness of The Strategy, and recommend appropriate measures for improving performance and furthering its implementation
 - Parties assess the progress made with the implementation of The Strategy and recommend appropriate measures to improve efficiency
 - Parties assess the CRIC and provide guidance to improve its performance and increase its effectiveness
 - Parties assess PRAIS and provide guidance on further improvement of its effectiveness
 - Parties assess the effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements and regional coordination mechanisms, and provide guidance on further improvement of regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention
 - Parties assess the progress made in the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility, and provide guidance on further improvement in order for the GEF to serve as a financial mechanism of the Convention
 - Parties assess the progress made in the relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, and provide guidance on further promotion and strengthening of synergies
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Operational objective of The Strategy	Operational objective 4 – Capacity-building <i>To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.</i>
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Related outcomes, as contained in The Strategy	<p>Outcome 4.1: Countries which have carried out the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels⁴ to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Outcome 4.2: Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and local levels.</p>
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What the secretariat aims to deliver	- Opportunities for targeted capacity-building under the Convention are improved
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Operational objective of The Strategy	Operational objective 5 – Financing and technology transfer <i>To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.</i>
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Related outcomes, as contained in The Strategy	<p>Outcome 5.1: Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.</p> <p>Outcome 5.2: Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.</p> <p>Outcome 5.3: Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.</p>
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⁴ See the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “Resource Kit for National Capacity Self-Assessment”, 2005, page vi, for a description of the various levels at which capacity can be developed.

Outcome 5.4: Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.

Outcome 5.5: Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation.

What the secretariat aims to deliver

- Increased understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM on the part of the GEF, IFAD, the World Bank and regional banks

What the secretariat and GM aim to deliver jointly

- A policy environment that is more conducive to financing the Convention through the implementation of the common fundraising strategy
 - Improved opportunities for SLM initiatives to access innovative sources of financing
 - Regional and subregional platforms relevant to SLM financing functioning and supported by the GM
 - Affected Country Parties increasingly establish Integrated Investment Frameworks for SLM
 - Economic arguments in support of SLM investments are generated
 - Developed countries and IFIs, including the GEF, increasingly finance the SLM integrated investment frameworks
 - Country Parties are enabled to identify innovative resources and potential entry points for innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms related to SLM
 - Resources mobilized for SLM through the application of innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms
 - South-South and North-South partnerships allow affected country Parties to access knowledge on technology transfer
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Executive management and direction, conference services and administration

What the secretariat aims to deliver

- Improved integrity and coherence of the Convention process
- Parties are satisfied with improved conditions for taking informed decisions at the level of the COP and its subsidiary bodies
- Exchanges among Parties' representatives, scientific experts and/or other key stakeholders are efficiently facilitated
- The secretariat's financial and human resources are administered effectively and efficiently, and in accordance with the financial rules of the Convention and the regulations and rules of the United Nations
- Improved information and communication technology services of the secretariat

What the secretariat and GM aim to deliver jointly

- Coordination, collaboration and communication between the two institutions is substantially improved

What GM aims to deliver

- The GM is an effective partner on financing for the Convention in international dialogues, partnerships and strategy development for servicing the Convention and its Parties
- Effective and transparent management of the work programme and financial resources
- Communication to a wide audience of the services provided by the GM to the Convention

III. Conclusions

9. Parties at CRIC 10 may wish to consider the comprehensive Convention workplan in the light of the complementarity and mutual supportiveness of the proposed actions, and make related recommendations to COP 10, with a view to ensuring efficient servicing of the UNCCD process and effective support to Parties from the Convention institutions and bodies.