



Convention to Combat Desertification

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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

Draft joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (2012–2013)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) places key emphasis on the need to improve coordination and cooperation to achieve its goals. In this regard, it calls on the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines set out in The Strategy. As a specific tool for achieving this task, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the GM were requested to prepare a draft joint work programme, taking a results-based management approach. The joint work programme for 2012–2013 is contained in the present document. The joint activities included in this programme are integral parts of the two-year work programmes of the GM and the secretariat.

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I. Introduction

1. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) provides essential guidance for enhancing the implementation of the Convention for the period 2008–2018. The Strategy was developed taking account of the challenges and opportunities experienced since the Convention entered into force and, as such, seeks to orient Parties, implementing agencies and supporting bodies to enhance the achievement of the Convention's principles and objectives. By decision 3/COP.8, Parties adopted The Strategy in Madrid on the occasion of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) in September 2007.

2. The Strategy places key emphasis on the need to improve coordination and cooperation to achieve its goals. In this regard, The Strategy calls on the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat of the Convention to undertake measures in order to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services. As a specific tool for achieving this task, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the GM to prepare a draft joint work programme (JWP), taking a results-based management (RBM) approach consistent with the objectives and results of The Strategy.

3. Subsequent to COP 8, the Executive Secretary and the Managing Director discussed the approach and the main elements for strengthening cooperation. They agreed that the secretariat would first and foremost strengthen its substantive services to the COP and its subsidiary bodies and, as such, focus its actions more at the regional and international levels, while continuing to be responsive to the needs of the Parties at the subregional and national levels. The GM, on the other hand, would focus its actions mainly at the regional and subregional levels, including TerrAfrica, and the national level, and engage in strategic activities at the regional and international levels in order to induce change at the country level. On this basis, collaboration between the two entities would be strengthened and joint objectives and activities identified according to commonly agreed selection criteria and priority areas of work.

4. A joint task force was established to support JWP development and monitoring. The first JWP, for 2008–2009, was submitted to the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) in 2008. It defined the principles and modalities of cooperation, and presented a framework for joint activities. The second JWP, for 2010–2011, was further developed in terms of its RBM methodology and content. It was submitted to the ninth session of the COP (COP 9) in 2009. The JWP for 2012–2013 is contained in the present document. The joint activities included in this JWP form integral parts of the two-year work programmes of the GM and the secretariat.

5. The implementation of the JWP rests on the resources of the GM and the secretariat. Although some joint activities require funding that is additional to the resources budgeted for in the work of each of the two entities, the JWP is not expected to have its own budget. Instead, the costs related to the JWP are integrated into the costed work programmes of the GM and the secretariat for the biennium 2012–2013.

6. This document should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/CRIC(10)/2, which presents the overall context and rationale for the 2012–2015 workplans; documents ICCD/CRIC(10)/3 and ICCD/CRIC(10)/5, which present the detailed 2012–2015 workplans for the secretariat and the GM, respectively; and documents ICCD/COP(10)/8

and add ICCD/COP(10)/9, which present the costed work programmes of the secretariat and the GM, respectively.

II. Principles and modalities of collaboration

A. Guiding principles and common messages

7. The following guiding principles aim to assist the management and staff of the GM and the secretariat to better understand the value of engaging in joint activities and partnerships. These principles are intended not only to define the JWP, but also to guide the work of the two institutions in the future.

1. One Convention

8. The secretariat and the GM recognize the Convention as a single instrument under which they both function to achieve common goals while following their respective channels for reporting to the COP. Guided by The Strategy, the two entities mobilize their strengths to deliver improved and complementary services for supporting the Parties to reach the goals and objectives of the Convention. It is envisaged that a more credible implementation process will be instituted through this coordinated approach, leading, among other things, to resource use efficiencies and enhanced impacts.

2. Shared but differentiated responsibilities and complementarities

9. The Convention clearly delineates the respective mandates and functions of the secretariat and the GM, with the understanding that the two institutions work in a coherent manner to achieve the goals and objectives of the Convention. While the primary services provided to the Parties by the respective institutions differ, based on their core mandates, the complementary nature of some areas of work requires a coordinated and collaborative approach.

10. In recognition of this differentiation, The Strategy designates a lead role for the secretariat in relation to operational objective 1 and specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 and 3, as well as a supporting role in other operational objectives. Similarly, The Strategy designates that the GM has central responsibility for operational objective 5 and a supporting role in operational objectives 1 and 2.

3. Coherent messages

11. In order to comprehensively address the multifaceted characteristics of the Convention, it is imperative that both institutions develop and promote a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to its implementation. In this regard, it is proposed that both entities draw on the following elements to develop key messages to be disseminated to country Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders at all levels:

(a) The importance of land to supporting sustainable livelihoods and the need to contend with increasing threats to communities and ecosystems under current climate change scenarios;

(b) The need to enhance the enabling policy and legislative, institutional and incentive frameworks for sustainable land management (SLM);

(c) The need to use existing resources more efficiently and for increased resource flows to undertake SLM.

4. A culture of mutual support and integrity

12. The secretariat and the GM, in delivering their respective services to the Parties, shall seek high quality outcomes through synergistic implementation of activities. In order to pursue common objectives, a culture of mutual support and recognition of each other's strengths shall be championed. As a means for promoting excellence, clearly defined working modalities, including shared definitions and terminologies, shall be adopted for the JWP.

13. Every staff member in the secretariat and the GM acts as a catalyst for creating an enabling environment for the collaborative and coordinated work between the two entities. A more open environment can be attained by continual team building.

14. Staff members shall uphold the highest standards of professionalism, efficiency, competence and integrity. The concept of integrity includes, but is not limited to, probity, impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness in all matters affecting the work and status of staff members. These principles shall apply to the working relationships maintained between the secretariat and the GM.

B. Modalities of cooperation under the joint work programme

15. The key modalities of cooperation for the formulation and effective implementation of the JWP are based on the following:

(a) Management support tools and other necessary coordination mechanisms are implemented for enhanced consultation and collaboration between the two entities;

(b) Mechanisms for effective exchange of information in implementing commonly agreed activities are also established for working level coordination;

(c) In order to enhance levels of service delivery, joint activities are identified to maximize synergies, building on the comparative advantage and expertise of the two entities;

(d) A consultative process shall be established for monitoring, evaluating and joint reporting on JWP implementation.

16. The general criteria for the selection of activities for inclusion in the JWP are:

(a) Responsiveness to The Strategy;

(b) Specific requests by the COP;

(c) Delivery of common outputs foreseen in the respective two-year work programmes of the two institutions that would require joint planning, coordination, co-financing and a similar level of effort from the two institutions.

III. Review and assessment of the joint work programme and its implementation

17. Regular follow-up of the implementation of the JWP will take place through the RBM monitoring systems established by the GM and the secretariat for their individual work programmes. Once a year, a comprehensive assessment of the status of implementation of the JWP will be carried out jointly, in order to ensure that the planned outputs are being produced and services delivered, and that possible problems in delivery are detected and corrected. According to The Strategy, the Bureau of the COP is mandated

to oversee the implementation of the JWP. The two entities therefore inform each COP Bureau meeting of the status of implementation and seek further guidance.

18. The annual assessments will set the basis for joint reporting on performance in implementing the JWP. Reporting will take place at the end of each budget biennium alongside the performance reports of the Convention bodies and institutions, unless the COP at its tenth session decides on another approach. The GM and the secretariat will use the RBM approach to report on the status of accomplishments on the basis of the performance indicators contained in each JWP. In line with The Strategy, the GM and the secretariat will also report in a clear and transparent way on the effective share of labour and the use of core and voluntary funds relating to the JWP.

IV. The 2012–2013 joint work programme

19. The 2012–2013 joint work programme between the Global Mechanism and the secretariat focuses on two broad areas of cooperation:

(a) Joint support to affected countries to advance the implementation of The Strategy through effective regional coordination and a revamped national implementation framework; and

(b) Joint advocacy and promotion of partnerships to enhance resource mobilization.

20. In addition, the joint work programme outlines joint activities to support countries with the next cycle of reporting on performance and impact in the context of The Strategy, further development of the reporting tools, and cooperation on administrative issues.

21. The 2012–2013 joint work programme is presented below.

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

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

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
JWP 1.1. The importance of financing SLM is communicated to relevant forums and processes	Joint contributions to at least four forums and processes	Joint or shared information materials on key DLDD-related issues that have relevance for resource mobilization

Operational objective 2: Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
JWP 2.1 Regional cooperation and coordination to address DLDD and advance SLM are effectively	- The number of regional action programmes (RAPs) and subregional action programmes (SRAPs) that are aligned with The	Support to regional cooperation and coordination in the content of the five annexes, including - provision of services to the regional advisory committee

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
supported	Strategy - The extent to which Parties use the services of the Regional Coordination Units in regional coordination	according to the agreed regional work programme, - support for the alignment of regional and subregional action programmes, and - organization of regional meetings preparatory to the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies
JWP 2.2. Increased effectiveness of servicing countries in national action programme (NAP) alignment and mainstreaming	The number of NAPs aligned with The Strategy	Support for the alignment of NAPs with The Strategy, including - information products, - technical assistance, and - organization of subregional workshops on capacity-building for NAP, SRAP and RAP alignment

Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
JWP 3.1 The review by the CRIC of the status of financing for the implementation of the Convention is based on sound information	At least 50% of the recommendations of the GM and the secretariat are reflected in the recommendations of the CRIC	A CRIC document containing an analysis of financial information in the national reports Information on key issues on financing SLM for the CRIC and the COP Collaboration in the context of PRAIS, including use of the query functions on the public interface of PRAIS to allow access to data by the general public Revised templates, reporting guidelines and glossary as regards the programme and project sheets, the standard financial annex and strategic objective 4 CRIC documentation on best practices

Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

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

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
JWP 5.1 A policy environment that is more conducive to financing the Convention through the implementation of the common fundraising strategy	The extent to which the financial requirements of and flows to the Convention are clearly and transparently communicated to and understood by partners The extent to which resources are mobilized to effectively deliver the work packages of the secretariat	Material on resource needs, priorities and policy arguments for effective resource mobilization Joint or coordinated outreach to potential donors and partners
JWP 5.2 Improved opportunities for SLM initiatives to access innovative sources of financing	The number of financing channels/opportunities and initiatives for DLDD/SLM issues	Development of innovative approaches for marketing DLDD/SLM issues

EE: An enabling environment for strengthened collaboration

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Main joint outputs
JWP EE.1 Coordination, collaboration and communication between the two institutions is substantially improved	The number of coordination events held between the GM and the secretariat	Documentation on the JWP for consideration by the CRIC and the COP Coordinated approaches to various administrative issues

V. Conclusions and recommendations

22. Parties may wish to review this proposed 2012–2013 joint work programme between the GM and the secretariat with a view to approving it as the framework for cooperation in the coming biennium.