



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 multi-year workplan for the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (2012–2015)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By decision 3/COP.8, Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and requested the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to formulate a multi-year (four year) workplan, complemented by a costed draft two-year work programme. Both should take a results-based management approach and be consistent with the objectives and outcomes of the 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).

The draft multi-year workplan of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (2012–2015), contained in this document, presents the expected accomplishments of the Committee, together with related performance indicators and targets. The draft workplan is structured according to the mandate given to the Committee in its terms of reference, as well as the additional tasks derived from the implementation of the mid-term evaluation which, according to the same terms of reference, the CRIC will evaluate. Information contained in this document is complemented by the costed draft two-year work programme (2012–2013) that is contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/8.

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List of abbreviations

COP	Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism
PRAIS	performance review and assessment of implementation system
RBM	results-based management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

I. Introduction

1. By decision 3/COP.8, Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) requested the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies to formulate multi-year (four-year) workplans in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), according to results-based management (RBM) principles, for integration into the comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention. These multi-year workplans are to be regularly updated for each Conference of the Parties (COP) to cover the two subsequent intersessional periods. In addition, biennial cost estimates relating to the work programme are to be developed in costed two-year work programmes.

2. The present document contains the draft four-year workplan for the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) (2012–2015) as endorsed by the CRIC Bureau at its meeting on 19–20 May 2011. At the same meeting, the CRIC Bureau requested the secretariat to develop the two-year costed work programme (2012–2013), along the lines of the present workplan. The former is contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/8.

3. The draft 2012–2015 workplan for the CRIC presented in this document primarily takes into consideration the terms of reference of the Committee as contained in the annex to decision 11/COP.9, as well as provisions contained in decision 3/COP.8 on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy and other provisions relevant to the programme of work of the CRIC such as decision 3/COP.9 on regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs) and decision 8/COP.9 on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. As such, and compared to the previous workplan of the CRIC as adopted by the ninth session of the COP (COP 9), its structure reflects the terms of reference and the other abovementioned provisions.

4. Given the close interlinkages between the CRIC workplan and the corresponding documents of other Convention institutions and bodies, as well as the documentation concerning the budget of the Convention, the present document should be read in conjunction with documents ICCD/CRIC(10)/2–5, ICCD/CRIC(10)/7 - ICCD/COP(10)/CST/10 and documents ICCD/COP(10)/7 and ICCD/COP(10)/8, in addition to the document ICCD/CRIC(10)/17.

II. Draft 2012–2015 workplan of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

A. Assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy

1. Strategic objectives 1–4 of The Strategy

5. In line with decision 3/COP.8, Parties have adopted four strategic objectives that will guide the actions of all stakeholders and partners of the UNCCD in the period 2008–2018. Meeting these long-term objectives is expected to contribute to achieving the vision of The Strategy.

6. Following decisions 11/COP.9 and 12/COP.9 and related decisions brought forward by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) in fine-tuning impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, the first baseline assessment of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be undertaken in 2012. Decision 12/COP.9 directs

the CST to contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

7. Given that the nature of impact indicators allows for monitoring and evaluation of the situation and trends in the medium to long-term, it is not expected that the mid-term evaluation will bring about changes or amendments to the provisionally adopted impact indicators, while work on related methodologies will probably be continued at the level of the CST.

Table 1
Strategic objectives 1–4 of The Strategy

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	<p>CRIC draft decisions on further steps to be taken to meet the strategic objectives, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term evaluation that deals with strategic objectives 1–4</p> <p>Strategic objectives 1–3 analysed by the CST and integrated into PRAIS</p> <p><i>Target for 2012</i></p> <p>Second assessment of implementation (2010–2011) undertaken, including against impact indicators</p> <p><i>Target for 2013</i></p> <p>Targets for strategic objectives 1–4 adopted, including input by the CST</p>

2. Operational objectives 1–5 of The Strategy

8. By decision 3/COP.8, Parties adopted five operational objectives and related outcome areas that are expected to guide the actions of UNCCD stakeholders in the short- and medium-term, with a view to supporting the attainment of the strategic objectives of The Strategy. At COP 9 Parties provisionally adopted a set of performance indicators, including targets to measure performance against the operational objectives. At the ninth session of the CRIC (CRIC 9), Parties undertook the first baseline review as part of the fourth reporting cycle. Parties will continue to report against the operational objectives in subsequent reporting cycles. This information allows the CRIC to perform the function of assessing the implementation of the Convention. Since reporting against performance indicators and the related iterative process will have advanced by the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy in 2013, the same mid-term evaluation will probably bring about changes or amendments to the provisionally adopted performance indicators, including to their targets.

Table 2
Operational objectives 1–5 of The Strategy

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	<p>CRIC draft decision(s) submitted to the eleventh session of the COP (COP 11) on further steps to be taken to meet the operational objectives</p> <p>CRIC draft decision(s) submitted to the twelfth session of the COP (COP 12) on further steps to be taken to meet operational objectives, outcome areas, performance indicators and related targets that may be adopted/amended as part of the mid-term evaluation at the performance level</p> <p><i>Target for 2012</i></p> <p>Second assessment of implementation (2010–2011) against performance indicators</p> <p><i>Target for 2014</i></p> <p>Third assessment of implementation (2012–2013) against performance indicators</p>

3. Review of financial flows

9. In accordance with the mandate and functions of the CRIC, the CRIC must assess information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing effectiveness and efficiency in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, including information from the Global Mechanism (GM).

Table 3
Review of financial flows

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	<p>CRIC draft decision(s) submitted to COP 11 on how to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of financial resources and other support</p> <p>CRIC draft decision(s) submitted to COP 12 on how to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of financial resources and other support, including on new provisions that may be adopted as part of the mid-term evaluation in this regard</p> <p><i>Target for 2012</i></p> <p>Second review of financial flows (2010–2011) based on preliminary analysis submitted by the GM to the secretariat</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
	<i>Target for 2014</i>
	Third review of financial flows (2012–2013) based on preliminary analysis submitted by the GM to the secretariat

4. Iterative process

10. Decision 13/COP.9 requests the secretariat together with the GM to use an iterative process to develop proposals for consideration by future sessions of the COP, commencing with the tenth and eleventh sessions, in order to refine the set of performance and impact indicators and associated methodologies. The same decision requests the CRIC to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions and to recommend a minimum set of performance indicators for consideration at COP 11.

Table 4

Iterative process

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties adopt methods that improve communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP	CRIC draft decision(s) submitted to COP 11 on methods to improve communication of information and the quality and formats of reports
	<i>Target for 2013</i>
	Complete the first iteration on reporting against impact indicators and the second iteration on reporting against performance indicators as part of the mid-term evaluation

B. Performance review of the Convention’s institutions and subsidiary bodies

11. Parties decided on a performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), which will allow the CRIC to effectively review the implementation of The Strategy and the Convention.¹ As an integral part of PRAIS, Parties at the tenth session of the COP (COP 10) will for the first time undertake a performance review of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention against the expected accomplishments and performance indicators contained in the related 2010–2011 work programmes. The second performance review will be undertaken in 2013, based on the reports on the 2012–2013 work programmes.

¹ Decisions 11/COP.9, 12/COP.9 and 13/COP.9.

Table 5
Performance review of the Convention's institutions

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties review the performance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and provide guidance on further improvements	CRIC draft decisions submitted to COP 11 and COP 12 on improving the performance of the institutions of the Convention <i>Target for 2013</i> Second review of performance taking an RBM approach and based on the reports on the two-year work programmes (2012–2013) submitted by the secretariat and the GM <i>Target for 2015</i> Third review of performance taking an RBM approach and based on the reports on the two-year work programmes (2014–2015) submitted by the secretariat and the GM, and taking into consideration the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

Table 6
Performance review of the Convention's subsidiary bodies

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties review the performance of the CRIC and the CST and the interaction between them, and provide guidance on further improvements	CRIC draft decisions submitted to COP 11 and COP 12 on improving the performance of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention <i>Target for 2013</i> Second review of performance taking an RBM approach and based on the reports on the two-year work programmes (2012–2013) of the CRIC and the CST <i>Target for 2015</i> Third review of performance taking an RBM approach and based on the reports on the two-year work programmes (2014–2015) of the CRIC and the CST, and taking into consideration the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

C. Compilation and dissemination of best practices

12. The Strategy establishes that one of the key functions of the CRIC is to document and disseminate best practices in the implementation of the Convention. Systematic documentation and dissemination of best practices is one of the priorities of the programme of work of the CRIC. This was confirmed in decision 11/COP.9, which states that the CRIC shall, among other functions, “review and compile best practices in the implementation of

the Convention and forward this information for consideration to the COP with a view to disseminating it”.

13. At CRIC 9 some Parties requested the secretariat to continue to facilitate consultations between the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST in order to develop validation and evaluation criteria for best practices and related methodologies; and to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the CRIC and the CST in the review of best practices as well as the synergies between the development of a knowledge-management system for the CST and the development of an experience-sharing platform for the CRIC, and the possible integration of the system and the platform.

14. It is expected that documents ICCD/CRIC(10)/15 and ICCD/CRIC(10)/16 on the refinement of methodologies for the review and compilation of best practices will result in further guidance from the COP to the CRIC on how to compile and disseminate best practices according to a schedule agreed by Parties.

Table 7

Best practices

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
CRIC facilitates the compilation and dissemination of best practices	<p>Best practices submitted by reporting entities on three selected thematic topics identified in decision 11/COP.9 are compiled, classified and disseminated via the PRAIS portal according to the schedule agreed at COP 10</p> <p>CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 on the possible revision of decision 13/COP.9, including clarification of the relationship between the CST and the CRIC with particular regard to issues relating to best practices and the linkages with knowledge management</p> <p><i>Target for 2013</i></p> <p>Validation and evaluation criteria compiled for selected thematic topics applied to the best practices</p>

D. Mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

15. The COP decided that The Strategy should undergo a mid-term evaluation six years after its adoption, that is, by COP 11 in 2013, based on a performance monitoring system.² The objective of the mid-term evaluation is to recommend appropriate measures for improving performance and furthering implementation.³

16. The Parties decided that the mid-term evaluation, in addition to the evaluation of The Strategy, will also entail the evaluation of its building blocks: (a) a review of progress made in implementing The Strategy; (b) a review of PRAIS; and (c) assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC. Parties also decided to add a

² Decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 42, and annex, paragraph 26.

³ Decision 3/COP.8, annex, paragraph 26.

comprehensive review of regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs) to the mid-term evaluation.⁴

17. Decision 11/COP.9 entrusted the CRIC, through its Bureau, with the preparation of appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation, which are presented in document ICCD/CRIC(10)/17. The terms of reference are to be forwarded to COP 10 for consideration and adoption, so that the CRIC can assist the COP in conducting the evaluation through a consultative process after the tenth session of the CRIC (CRIC 10) and complete the exercise in time for COP 11.

1. Evaluation of The Strategy

18. The terms of reference of the mid-term evaluation suggest that the overall relevance and effectiveness of The Strategy shall be evaluated by placing it in the context of the Convention, the implementation of which it is designed to enhance. In this context, harmonization with the programmatic tool used by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is envisaged. Furthermore, a decision may be made on the time frame of The Strategy and options to extend the framework for a longer period.

Table 8

Evaluation of The Strategy

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties assess the relevance and effectiveness of The Strategy, and recommend appropriate measures for improving performance and furthering its implementation	<p>CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 revising decision 3/COP.8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarifying the linkages between GEF investment and the objectives of The Strategy, including alignment of the sets of impact indicators of the GEF land degradation focal area and The Strategy; - considering the merits of a fixed time frame, with 2018 being the final year of The Strategy, versus a rolling system, as applied in the RBM framework of the workplans of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention. <p><i>Target for 2013</i></p> <p>Assessment of The Strategy conducted according to the modalities, criteria and terms of reference adopted at COP 10</p>

2. Review of progress made in implementing The Strategy

19. It is proposed that the efficiency of The Strategy will be evaluated by reviewing the progress made in its implementation. The baseline review undertaken at CRIC 9 (for performance indicators) and CRIC 11 (for performance and impact indicators) will serve as the basis for this review. This assessment will address the specific issues that emerge from the review of progress, including on financial flows and best practices.

⁴ Decision 3/COP.9, paragraph 8.

Table 9
Review of progress made in implementing The Strategy

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties assess the progress made with the implementation of The Strategy and recommend appropriate measures to improve efficiency	<p>CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 revising decision 13/COP.9 on any new or amended operational objectives, outcome areas, performance indicators and related targets that may be adopted as part of the mid-term evaluation at the performance level</p> <p><i>Target for 2013</i></p> <p>Assessment of progress made in the implementation of The Strategy undertaken primarily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by referring to the baseline assessment of CRIC 9 (as reflected in the pertinent decisions of COP 10) and the analysis of trends to be undertaken at CRIC 11; - by making use of the findings of the iterative process undertaken mainly in 2011 and 2012; - by considering how the results achieved under the operational objectives contribute to the delivery of the expected accomplishments under the strategic objectives <p><i>Targets for 2014 and 2015</i></p> <p>PRAIS is implemented according to the provisions contained in the relevant decision(s) of COP 11</p>

3. Assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC

20. The efficiency of the implementation framework of The Strategy will be evaluated by assessing and monitoring the body that is performing the core functions related to the assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy: the CRIC.⁵

Table 10
Assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties assess the CRIC and provide guidance to improve its performance and increase its effectiveness	<p>CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 revising the terms of reference of the CRIC, as contained in decision 11/COP.9, and adjusting the modalities by which the CRIC conducts its work, where necessary</p> <p><i>Target for 2013</i></p>

⁵ Decision 3/COP.8 and 11/COP.9.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
	Assessment of the relevance, impact, effectiveness, appropriateness of format and cost-effectiveness of CRIC meetings
	<i>Target for 2014 and 2015</i>
	CRIC operates under the terms of reference as modified by the relevant decision of COP 11

4. Review of the performance review and assessment of implementation system

21. The efficiency of the performance monitoring of The Strategy will be evaluated by reviewing PRAIS. The review of PRAIS will concentrate on assessing its effectiveness as a system in enabling the CRIC to monitor the implementation of COP decisions relating to the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy.

Table 11

Review of the performance review and assessment of implementation system

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
Parties assess PRAIS and provide guidance on further improvement of its effectiveness	CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 facilitating the revision of the system in enabling the CRIC to monitor the implementation of COP decisions relating to the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy
	<i>Targets for 2014 and 2015</i>
	PRAIS is implemented according to the provisions contained in the relevant decision(s) of COP 11

5. Review of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms

22. Decision 3/COP.9 requests the Executive Secretary to report to COP 10 on the process and the results achieved in facilitating regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention, and to ensure that a comprehensive review of RCMs is a component of the mid-term evaluation.

Table 12

Review of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 revising decision 3/COP.9 on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of implementation of the Convention
	<i>Target for 2013</i>
	Revision and amendment of the institutional arrangements for RCMs

E. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

23. As part of the assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the CRIC is also to review the information provided by the GEF in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the COP and the Council of the GEF. In addition, decision 10/COP.9 invites the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, which is a financial mechanism of the Convention, to report to the COP.

Table 13

Collaboration with the GEF

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	CRIC draft decision submitted to COP 11 on a revised memorandum of understanding with the GEF <i>Target for 2014</i> GEF reports according to the revised reporting requirements

F. Relationship with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

24. Decision 8/COP.9 requests the CRIC to include in its programme of work for 2011 a review and assessment of progress in the implementation of the decision on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. The same review and assessment is planned for the period 2013–2015.

Table 14

Relationship with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>
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	CRIC draft decisions submitted to COP 11 and COP 12 on strengthening the relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies <i>Target for 2013 and 2015</i> Two reports by the secretariat to be reviewed in 2013 and 2015, respectively

III. Conclusions and recommendations

25. **Parties at CRIC 10 may wish to consider the substantive elements contained in the draft 2012–2015 workplan of the CRIC, in the light of their complementarity with the workplans of the other Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies, with a view to forwarding the draft workplan to the COP for adoption.**