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Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**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**

Conference of the Parties

Committee on Science and Technology

Tenth session

Changwon, Republic of Korea, 11–13 October 2011

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and
framework to enhance the implementation of the
Convention (2008–2018): consideration of the draft
multi-year (four-year) workplan for the Committee
on Science and Technology (2012–2015)**

Draft multi-year workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2012–2015)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 3/COP.8, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008–2018), referred to as The Strategy, and requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to formulate a multi-year (four-year) workplan, complemented by a costed draft two-year work programme. Both the four-year workplan and the two-year work programme are to take a results-based management approach and be consistent with the objectives and outcomes of The Strategy.

The draft multi-year workplan for the CST (2012–2015), contained in this document, presents the expected accomplishments of the Committee, together with related performance indicators. The draft workplan is structured according to the outcome areas for the CST as outlined in The Strategy. Information contained in this document is complemented by the costed draft two-year work programme for the CST (2012–2013) contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/8.

By its decision 11/COP.9, annex, paragraph 17 (a), the COP requests the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to assist in reviewing the multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies, including against performance indicators. This document is therefore also submitted to the CRIC for review at its tenth session.

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I. Introduction

1. By its decision 3/COP.8, the Conference of the Parties (COP) 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 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 on Science and Technology (CST) (2012–2015) as agreed by the CST Bureau at its meeting on 19 and 20 May 2011. The costed draft two-year work programme (2012–2013), which has been prepared along the lines of the present workplan, is contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/8.

3. The draft workplan for the CST (2012–2015) presented in this document is structured according to the outcome areas outlined in The Strategy and takes into consideration decisions made at the ninth session of the COP (COP 9) that are relevant to the programme of work of the CST.

4. Given the close interlinkages between the CST 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 is to be read in conjunction with documents ICCD/CRIC(10)/2–6, ICCD/COP(10)/7 and ICCD/COP(10)/8.

II. Draft multi-year workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2012–2015)

Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:
3.1 National monitoring and vulnerability assessments on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.		The political will of the Parties and low capacity in some affected countries.
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators
3.1.1	Affected Parties conduct impact assessments under the UNCCD, focusing on progress made in meeting strategic objectives 1–3.	The extent to which affected Parties report on progress made in meeting strategic objectives 1–3. A COP decision on a common approach for the reporting process on impact indicators.

Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:	
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.		The political will of the Parties and low capacity in some affected countries.	
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators	
3.2.1	National and global baselines for assessing progress in meeting strategic objectives 1–3 are established.	The extent to which affected Parties set up a baseline for assessing the progress in implementing the 10-year Strategy.	
		CST recommendations on baselines are reflected in COP decisions.	
Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:	
3.3 Knowledge of biophysical and socio-economic factors and of their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.		Engagement of the scientific community.	
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators	
3.3.1	The CST advances knowledge of biophysical and socio-economic factors and of their interactions in affected areas.	Number of CST recommendations on scientific advice delivered to the UNCCD decision-making process.	
Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:	
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.		The political will of the Parties, and the engagement of the scientific bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).	
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators	
3.4.1	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.	The extent to which CST interacts with the scientific subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD, and other relevant scientific cooperation bodies.	

Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:
3.5 Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge, ^a 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.		The political will of the Parties to continuously support the progressive development of the UNCCD knowledge management system.
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators
3.5.1	Parties and other stakeholders increasingly use the UNCCD knowledge management system.	Number of Parties and other stakeholders using the UNCCD knowledge management system.

^a Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

Outcome area:		Risks/assumptions:
3.6 Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.		The political will of the Parties to engage science and technology networks and institutions in affected countries. Engagement of the scientific community.
Expected accomplishments		Performance indicators
3.6.1	Provisions for the engagement of science and institutions are improved.	The extent to which scientific institutions participate in the work of the CST.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

5. Parties at the tenth session of the CST (CST 10) and the tenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 10) may wish to consider the substantive elements contained in the draft workplan for the CST (2012–2015), in the light of their complementarity with the workplans of the other institutions of the Convention.