



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Review of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy:

Performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies

Report on the performance of the Convention secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (2012–2013)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), the secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) plan, carry out and monitor progress in their work by using four-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes. These workplans and work programmes follow a results-based management (RBM) approach, and their content has been approved by the Conference of the Parties. The above-mentioned Convention entities submit a report on their performance in delivering the workplans and work programmes at the end of each biennium following an RBM approach. The present document contains a comprehensive performance report of the secretariat, GM, CST and CRIC, including information on the results achieved and resources utilized in 2012–2013.

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1–3	3
II. Overview of expenditures	4–10	3
III. Main accomplishments in 2012–2013.....	11	7
IV. Accomplishments by operational objective.....	12–28	8
A. Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education	12–16	8
B. Operational objective 2: policy framework	17–20	11
C. Operational objective 3: science, technology and knowledge	21–24	14
D. Operational objective 4: capacity-building	25–26	19
E. Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer	27–28	19
V. Management and services	29–39	23
A. Secretariat	29–32	23
B. Global Mechanism.....	33–39	26
VI. Conclusions and recommendations.....	40	28

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),¹ the secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) plan, carry out and monitor progress in their work by using four-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes. These workplans and work programmes follow a results-based management (RBM) approach, and have been approved by the COP. The above-mentioned Convention entities submit a report on their performance in delivering the work programmes at the end of each biennium following a RBM approach.

2. This comprehensive performance report seeks to present the results achieved and resources utilized by the secretariat, the GM, the CST and the CRIC in 2012–2013. Detailed information is provided on the delivery of the workplan/work programme and resource use by both the secretariat and the GM.

3. Due to the financial monitoring cycle of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which administered the resources of the GM during the 2012–2013 biennium, the cut-off date for financial information in this document was set to 31 March 2013. The information on the level of achievement of the set results is correspondingly dated to the end of March 2013, but complementary information is presented where feasible so as to provide Parties with the most up-to-date status of achievements.

II. Overview of expenditures

4. This document presents the progress made in achieving expected accomplishments in comparison with the commitments set out in the approved programme budget. An overview of expenditures is presented by object of expenditure. Further information on expenditures is provided in document ICCD/COP(11)/8 on the financial performance for the Convention trust funds.

5. Table 1a presents the core budget expenditure of the secretariat as at 31 March 2013 by object of expenditure. Using the ideal budget implementation rate of 62.5 per cent for this point in time in the biennium as a guide, most objects of expenditure remained within planned resources. It is anticipated that expenditure under training and supplies and equipment will increase in the remaining months of the year. By 31 May 2013, the secretariat had an overall budget implementation rate of 69.9 per cent against an ideal implementation rate of 70.8 per cent, which implies that the approved core budget will be fully utilized by the end of the biennium.

¹ Decision 3/COP.8.

Table 1a
Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the secretariat as at 31 March 2013
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2012–2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 March 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Staff and other personnel costs	7 478 375	4 095 340	54.8
Consultants	596 000	645 921	108.4
Official travel	599 000	486 039	81.1
Training	300 100	19 188	6.4
Hospitality	22 000	3 083	14.0
General operating expenses	908 700	491 828	54.1
Supplies and equipment	114 300	39 606	34.7
Joint administration costs (UNBONN/UNOG)	670 500	498 944	74.4
TOTAL	10 688 975	6 279 949	58.8

Abbreviations: UNBONN = United Nations in Bonn, UNOG = United Nations Office at Geneva.

6. Table 1b presents expenditure under the core budget of the GM as at 31 March 2013.² The expenditure under general operating expenses includes contracts and charges for services.

Table 1b
Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the Global Mechanism as at 31 March 2013
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2012–2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 March 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Staff and other personnel costs	3 495 172	1 702 843	48.7
Consultants		59 469	0.0
Official travel	74 000	26 078	35.2
General operating expenses	62 000	274 691 ^a	443.1
TOTAL	3 631 172	2 063 082	56.8

^a For the GM, this category of expenditure includes operational expenses, institutional contracts, the provision of receivables and service charges.

² Most of the budget of the GM was devoted to OO 5 (55 per cent), followed by the Executive Direction and Management Office (30 per cent), and OOs 1 and 2 (15 per cent), with most of these expenditures (30 per cent) targeting Africa, followed by Asia (20 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (15 per cent). Thirty-five per cent of the budget was allocated for the implementation of activities at global level, with a focus on South–South cooperation and inter-regional capacity enhancement initiatives. Most extrabudgetary funds were used to support work at country level (e.g. situation analyses, workshops, etc.).

7. Table 1c presents expenditure under the core budget for the CST as at 31 March 2013. These expenditures cover the arrangements for meetings of the Bureau of the CST.

Table 1c
Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the Committee on Science and Technology as at 31 March 2013
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2012–2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 March 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Consultants		6 321	0.0
Official travel	68 400	34 112	49.9
Logistical arrangements	7 600	1 149	15.1
TOTAL	76 000	41 581	54.8

8. Table 1d provides information on expenditure under the core budget for the CRIC as at 31 March 2013. These expenditures cover the arrangements for meetings of the Bureau of the CRIC, and the low expenditure rate for this time in the biennium is a result of funding fewer participants than was originally planned.

Table 1d
Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as at 31 March 2013
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2012–2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 March 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Official travel	68 400	16 971	24.8
Logistical arrangements	7 600	671	8.9
TOTAL	76 000	17 642	23.2

9. Tables 2a and 2b provide an overview of the distribution of posts held by staff members on fixed-term appointments. As at 1 April 2013, 49.5 posts were filled by secretariat staff members and 14 posts were filled by GM staff members.

Table 2a
Comparison of established posts and filled posts by source of funding in the secretariat as at 1 April 2013

	<i>Core</i>		<i>Supplementary</i>		<i>Bonn Fund</i>		<i>Programme support cost</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>
ASG	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
D-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
P-5	7	7	0	0	0	0	3	3	10	10
P-4	7	7	0	0	0	0	3.5	3.5 ^a	10.5	10.5
P-3	4	4	3	3	1	1	2	0	10	8
P-2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Subtotal	21	20	4	4	1	1	8.5	6.5	34.5	31.5
GS	10	9	0	0	3	3	6	6	19	18
Total	31	29	4	4	4	4	14.5	12.5	53.5	49.5

Abbreviations: ASG = Assistant Secretary-General, D = Director, P = Professional, GS = General Staff.

^a The funding for one P-4 post is shared between the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Table 2b
Comparison of established posts and filled posts by source of funding in the Global Mechanism as at 1 April 2013

	<i>Core</i>		<i>Supplementary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>
D-2	1	0	0	0	1	0
D-1	1	1	0	0	1	1
P-5	2	2	0	0	2	2
P-4	3	2	0	0	3	2
P-3	0	0	2	2	2	2
P-2	2	2	0	0	2	2
Subtotal	9	7	2	2	11	9
GS	5	4	1	1	6	5
Total	14	11	3	3	17	14

Abbreviations: ASG = Assistant Secretary-General, D = Director, P = Professional, GS = General Staff.

10. Table 3 shows the geographical distribution and gender of staff members at the professional level or above appointed to the secretariat and the GM.

Table 3
Geographical distribution and gender of staff members as at 1 April 2013

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>LAC</i>	<i>CEE</i>	<i>WEOG</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Filled</i>
ASG	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
D-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
P-5	4	1	1	0	6	9	3	12
P-4	2	4	2	0	5	8	5	13
P-3	1	2	1	1	5	5	5	10
P-2	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	4
Subtotal	8	7	4	1	21	24	17	41
Percentage of total	19.5	17.1	9.8	2.4	51.2	58.5	41.5	100.0

Abbreviations: ASG = Assistant Secretary-General, CEE = Central and Eastern Europe, D = Director, LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean, P = Professional, WEOG = Western European and Others Group.

III. Main accomplishments in 2012–2013

11. The main accomplishments achieved in 2012–2013 through the work carried out by the COP and its subsidiary bodies and by the secretariat and the GM include the following:

(a) The importance of addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) is increasingly recognized at the highest level, and among a widening group of stakeholders;

(b) Many key cooperation partners, such as major United Nations system organizations and agencies, scientific institutions and donor countries, are launching initiatives that contribute to achieving the objectives of The Strategy;

(c) The involvement of the scientific community in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) process has increased considerably, notably through the UNCCD Scientific Conferences;

(d) The first round of reporting on progress made toward fulfilling The Strategy, covering both impact monitoring and the performance indicators for the operational objectives (OOs), has provided information on progress made and guided the further development of monitoring and reporting under the UNCCD;

(e) Organized support is provided to facilitate regional cooperation;

(f) Affected countries are increasingly supported in aligning their action programmes with The Strategy and establishing and implementing integrated investment frameworks (IIFs); and

(g) New financing opportunities, particularly for country-level support for sustainable land management (SLM), have been identified and access to these opportunities facilitated.

IV. Accomplishments by operational objective

A. Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

12. Under OO 1, the secretariat contributed to the increased awareness of addressing DLDD as one of the solutions to key global challenges. The use of the information-sharing tools of the secretariat grew significantly. Most flagship events and campaigns, such as the Land for Life Award and Land Day, were highly popular, and the Dryland Champions and Dryland Ambassadors, particularly the 2012 Miss Universe Ms. Leila Lopez, attracted unforeseen media attention to the UNCCD.

13. The provisions of the Convention featured prominently in many international processes; the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is a good example of this. Within the limit of their resources, the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) promoted the implementation of the UNCCD in major meetings and events in each region.

14. Support for balanced participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) improved through the use of its selection mechanism, although limited availability of financing for CSO participation continues to be a problem. The secretariat maintained active information-sharing with CSOs using online tools.

15. The GM mainstreamed financing issues related to UNCCD implementation in 12 global forums, including the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. It also led the preparation of chapter 4 of the 2012 AGF study on barriers to sustainable financing for forests. A decision on finance, which included language on barriers to finance, was adopted at UNFF 10 in 2013.

16. A key element of GM work at national, regional and global level is the active involvement and participation of CSOs and scientific institutions in the development of integrated financing strategies (IFSs) and IIFs, and in the workshops on designing IFSs.

Outcome 1.1: 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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 1.1.1 Awareness of addressing DLDD as one of the solutions to key global challenges is increased.	The extent to which Parties and other stakeholders use the Convention's awareness-raising programmes and material <i>Targets for 2013</i> <i>Increase from 2011 in UNCCD website visits, number of articles published addressing DLDD or SLM, media requests and LandScan subscribers</i>	The secretariat focused on communication products that were targeted to a specific theme or event. Compared to 2010-2011, campaigns and outreach events were larger and involved more high-level personalities or other factors of high media value. The average monthly UNCCD website visits increased from 24,000 in 2011 to 56,000 in 2013. The in-house media database increased from 1,500 entries in 2010 to more than 4,300 in 2012. The number of LandScan subscribers increased from 112 in 2011 to 735 in 2013. The Dryland Ambassadors promoted the Convention actively. First Land for Life Awards were given in 2012. The Dryland Champions programme was launched in 2013 and it has so far awarded SLM work

Outcome 1.1: 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.

in five countries.

Two Land Day events were organized. The Rio Conventions Pavilion was set up twice. Two training events for journalists on DLDD issues were organized.

The RCUs collected information material of high media value from the regions on a regular basis and contacted potential regional partners for collaboration in awareness-raising.

Outcome 1.2: DLDD 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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
<p>Secretariat: 1.2.1</p> <p>The secretariat effectively advocates the recognition of the UNCCD as a normative reference and a global focal point for DLDD issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of invitations to the secretariat to chair or speak at high-level events. - Number of references to the UNCCD in the conclusions and resolutions of United Nations meetings and/or regional and subregional processes that the secretariat has addressed. 	<p>The secretariat actively promoted the need to address DLDD during Rio+20 and its preparations, which contributed to the incorporation of UNCCD-related concerns in the outcome document of the conference. The Executive Secretary participated in 25 high-level meetings and conferences, and in all of these he made a keynote speech, chaired a session or participated as a panellist. UNCCD or DLDD was referred to in the conclusions of all of these high-level meetings.</p> <p>The number of invitations to the secretariat to speak at or chair a meeting remained at approximately 200, which is similar to that of the previous biennium.</p> <p>The RCUs promoted the Convention in several subregional or regional meetings and processes, and most referred to UNCCD or DLDD in the conclusions.</p>
<p>GM: 1.2.01 Finance for SLM is addressed in relevant forums.</p>	<p>Number of relevant global forums to which the GM contributes which address financial issues relating to SLM.</p>	<p>The GM participated in 12 global forums related to SLM finance with contributions that focused on innovative financing mechanisms, including UNFF (sustainable forest management), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD).</p>

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 DLDD are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
<p>Secretariat: 1.3.1 Mechanisms for CSO participation are improved; sponsored CSOs undertake more awareness initiatives and financing for CSOs in meetings is improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amount of financing for CSO participation in UNCCD COPs - Number of awareness initiatives undertaken by sponsored CSOs - Extent to which COP and CRIC reports include CSO input 	<p>The mechanism for balanced CSO participation was implemented for CRIC 11. Thirty CSOs representing all affected regions attended, and seven were financed through the UNCCD secretariat. CSO representatives made 27 statements during official meetings other than the open dialogue sessions at CRIC 11</p> <p>In preparation for the eleventh session of the CRIC (CRIC 11) and the third special session of the CST (CST S-3), the secretariat provided information to CSOs on the agenda items and procedural questions. Planning and background information for preparatory meeting of CSOs for the eleventh session of the COP (COP 11) is underway.</p> <p>Regular communications were sent to accredited CSOs through online facilities. An online platform is planned for further improving communication and information-sharing among CSOs.</p> <p>The RCUs served the CSOs as regional contact points on UNCCD issues and supported regional initiatives to engage CSOs in the UNCCD process.</p> <p>The secretariat continues supporting the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum and the Business Task Force.</p>
<p>GM: 1.3.01 CSOs engaged in the development and implementation of IFSs and IIFs.</p>	<p>The number of CSOs engaged in IFS and IIF processes supported by the GM</p>	<p>The GM facilitated the involvement of CSO in all IIF processes and supported CSO networks at country and regional level, including numerous South–South cooperation activities.</p>
<p>GM: 1.3.02. The scientific community is engaged in building economic evidence for increasing investment in SLM as a direct result of GM input.</p>	<p>The number of scientific institutions engaged in SLM-related processes supported by the GM</p>	<p>The GM is engaged in 27 initiatives with scientific institutions at country and global level, including the Offering Sustainable Land-use Options (OSLO) consortium, which brings together 19 research institutions.</p>
<p>Joint work programme (JWP): joint contributions to at least four forums and processes</p>		<p>The secretariat and the GM prepared joint inputs for nine international meetings and processes.</p>

B. Operational objective 2: policy framework

17. Under OO 2, the secretariat increased support to affected countries in aligning their national action programmes (NAPs) with The Strategy. According to the latest data gathered, 11 countries have aligned NAPs, 27 have reported good progress, and a further 40 have begun or are about to begin the process. The alignment of subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs) was advanced through three subregional workshops.

18. The secretariat cooperated with major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes to further their support to various aspects in implementing the UNCCD, and promoted increased understanding of the interlinkages between the implementation of the UNCCD and addressing climate change, biodiversity, water scarcity, forestry, gender issues and migration. SLM and the importance of addressing DLDD feature increasingly in reports and decisions relating to the mentioned themes and, as a result, are being mainstreamed into the strategies development partners more and more.

19. GM support to the establishment and/or alignment of NAPs was integrated into the process of developing and implementing IFSs/IIFs and increased by almost 50 per cent in the biennium. Resource mobilization capacities of stakeholders at all levels were enhanced through the organization of thematic capacity-building workshops on NAP alignment, IFSs and innovative finance and technology transfer, in particular for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and small island developing States. This included support for mainstreaming DLDD/SLM in national and budgetary processes as well as in national SLM/UNCCD platforms or coordination mechanisms.

20. GM supported the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions through close collaboration with the CBD secretariat and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) office, particularly in relation to the economic valuation of land and biodiversity in the drylands as well as incentive mechanisms. With regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the GM co-organized a series of subregional workshops in Africa in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) and United Nations agencies (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)). The workshops involved 34 countries in order to strengthen the capacities of the UNCCD and UNFCCC national focal points (NFPs) to mobilize resources for SLM deriving from climate change financing mechanisms.

Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socioeconomic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers SLM are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
JWP: 2.1:Regional cooperation and coordination to address DLDD and advance SLM are effectively supported	-The number of regional action programmes (RAPs) and subregional action programmes (SRAPs) that are aligned with The Strategy	The RCUs supported the alignment of the Asian RAP with The Strategy and a revised RAP was prepared. Three subregional workshops resulted in the alignment of the North African and West African SRAPs.
	-The extent to which Parties use the services of the RCUs in regional coordination	In Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the roadmap for the establishment of the RAP was agreed upon. The RCUs supported the regional committees in Africa and LAC and organized the first meeting of the

Outcome 2.1: Policy, institutional, financial and socioeconomic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers SLM are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.

		regional chairs in CEE. The RCUs also organized regional meetings in preparation for CST S-3 and CRIC 11, and are preparing regional meetings for the COP.
Secretariat: 2.1.2 Affected country Parties receive increased support from major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes for the development of their NAPs, SLM and activities to address DLDD	The extent to which the policies and approaches of UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reflect the work carried out under the Convention	In the follow-up to the Global Drylands Report, the secretariat drafted an action plan to initiate multi-stakeholder cooperation targeting drylands. This draft will be submitted to the COP at its eleventh session. The secretariat collaborates with WMO, FAO and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development in supporting countries in developing national drought management policies. The secretariat worked with IUCN on mainstreaming dryland biodiversity and gender. A joint publication entitled “Conserving Dryland Biodiversity” was released in 2012 and several joint events were organized. Cooperation with UNDP and UNEP continued, and the secretariat will work with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to build synergies with IAEA soil research projects during the 2014–2015 technical cooperation cycle.
GM: 2.1.01 The development of SLM IFSs contribute to the alignment of NAPs with The Strategy	The number of IFS-related processes contributing to NAP revision and alignment	The GM ensured strong synergies between the IIF/IFS and NAP alignment processes in 28 countries.

Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socioeconomic baseline information and include them in IIFs.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
JWP: 2.2: Increased effectiveness in servicing countries in aligning and mainstreaming their NAPs	The number of NAPs aligned with The Strategy	The secretariat and the GM, together with other partners including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP and subregional organizations, organized a series of workshops focusing on capacity-building to facilitate NAP alignment. The secretariat and the GM also provided technical support and advice to countries. A joint teaching tool on integrating the NAP and IIF processes is in its final stage of preparation. The secretariat participated in regional cooperation initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) that focus on DLDD issues.

Outcome 2.3: Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and SLM and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 2.3.01 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	Number of affected country Parties supported by the GM which strategically focus on the interlinkages between development, poverty reduction and DLDD/SLM finance.	Mainstreaming of SLM into national development processes was an integral part of the IIF process and has been among the priorities of the GM in 32 countries.

Outcome 2.4: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and SLM interventions into their development cooperation programmes/projects in line with their support to national sectoral and investment plans.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 2.4.01. SLM mainstreamed into developed country Parties' development policies	The number of donor platforms and individual donors that consider SLM issues in their development policies	The GM targeted developed country Parties through participation in platforms such as the GDPRD, TerrAfrica and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Development Partners Task Team.
Secretariat: 2.4.1 SLM/DLDD issues are mainstreamed into development agendas	The extent to which developed countries place DLDD issues on the agenda of multilateral policy forums	DLDD issues were included in the European Commission proposal concerning the follow-up to Rio+20, and in the G8's consideration of the Land Policy Initiative and the Land Matrix of the African Union (AU).

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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 2.5.1 Improved understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM in addressing climate change and biodiversity	The extent to which the Convention, DLDD or SLM is referred to in documents and decisions concerning climate change and biodiversity	<p>The COP to the CBD agreed on a decision on ecosystem restoration, and the secretariats of the CBD and the UNCCD will intensify collaboration on this issue. A joint CBD–UNCCD workshop on synergies took place in April 2013.</p> <p>Opportunities for integrating DLDD issues were identified in the REDD negotiations and in the consideration of agriculture in the UNFCCC context.</p> <p>In 2012, the secretariats of the three Rio conventions organized joint celebrations for their 20th anniversary. In 2013, at the twelfth meeting of the</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.

		Joint Liaison Group, the three secretariats agreed upon elements for further collaboration.
Secretariat: 2.5.2: Improved understanding of the interlinkages between the implementation of the Convention and addressing food security, water scarcity and drought, forestry, gender issues and migration	The extent to which the Convention, DLDD or SLM is referred to in the documents and decisions concerning food security, water scarcity and drought, forestry, gender issues and migration, building on inputs by the secretariat	<p>The secretariat joined WMO, FAO and other United Nations agencies in organizing a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in 2013. The outcome of this meeting is consistent with the aims of the UNCCD.</p> <p>The sixth World Water Development Report is currently being prepared and the secretariat is working with UN-Water to promote UNCCD aims in this context.</p> <p>On forestry, references to the DLDD issues are in many UNFF and CFP publications/reports. Events such as the upcoming Global Landscapes Forum incorporate UNCCD concerns.</p> <p>The secretariat co-organized gender mainstreaming events at Rio+20 and the CBD COP 11, and participated in a network on gender issues and in the preparation of the Environment Gender Index.</p>
GM: 2.5.01. Increased SLM financing through the synergistic implementation of the Rio conventions	The number of relevant global and regional events related to the UNFCCC and CBD to which the GM contributes	The GM participated in the COPs of both the CBD and UNFCCC in 2012 and supported various CBD/UNFCCC initiatives, including TEEB and national and subregional workshops on SLM finance, bringing together UNFCCC and UNCCD NFPs.

C. Operational objective 3: science, technology and knowledge

21. The secretariat supported Parties in assessing, through the CRIC, progress made towards the four strategic objectives (SOs) and five OOs of The Strategy, building on reports submitted through PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system). Capacity building to support the UNCCD reporting was not granted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which instead provided for the first time enabling activities for eligible countries to report and formulate and/or align their action programmes. Consequently, and due also to the slow disbursement of GEF funding to Parties and the demanding reporting on impact indicators, the turnout of reports submitted was lower than the previous reporting, which benefited from a GEF global support programme.

22. The CRIC also considered strengthening relationships with other international processes, held an open dialogue session with CSOs and continued to guide the iterative process for the refinement of the reporting tools and methodologies.

23. Under the CST, the iterative process to refine the set of impact indicators for assessing progress in meeting strategic objectives 1–3 advanced. For the 2nd scientific conference, approximately 390 abstracts were submitted and of those, 177 were accepted for presentation. Around 500 scientists and CST representatives participated in the conference. At COP 11, Parties will further consider options for the provision of scientific advice to the UNCCD process, which will be supported by the recommendations of the Ad

Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA) hat has worked during the biennium. Another important step in developing the science–policy interface for the UNCCD was taken in 2012 as the development of a Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal advanced.

24. Under this OO, the secretariat also facilitated the work of the intersessional working group (IWG) to prepare the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy.

Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socioeconomic trends in affected countries are supported.

Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socioeconomic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
<p>Secretariat 3.1.1 Effective support to affected Parties in conducting assessments of implementation in meeting the five OOs under The Strategy</p>	<p>The extent to which the reports of Parties follow the reporting guidelines <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the reports received follow the guidelines</i></p>	<p>In preparation for reporting on OOs in 2012, the secretariat implemented numerous upgrades and new functionalities to the reporting tools, including revised and new templates, new layout for easier reporting, functionalities to reduce the need for technical support, and an offline version to facilitate data gathering and compilation at national level. Procedures were developed for data quality checks. For OO 5 and SO 4, the GM had a major role in the revision of the reporting tools.</p>
<p>JWP: 3.1 The review by the CRIC of the status of financing for implementing the Convention is based on sound information</p>	<p>At least 50% of the recommendations of the GM and the secretariat are reflected in CRIC recommendations</p>	<p>A Help Desk was developed to assist in technical and methodological issues relating to the reporting and review process.</p> <p>By the deadline, 71 affected country Parties and 9 developed country Parties submitted their national reports. The completeness level of reports submitted by affected country Parties was 90%, which is similar to the level achieved in 2010.</p> <p>For CRIC 11, the secretariat compiled and analysed the content of the reports and prepared documentation for reviewing progress in meeting the five OOs. A trend analysis on the participation of CSOs and science and technology institutions in the 2012 reporting process was also prepared.</p> <p>Feedback was collected from reporting entities on the performance and impact indicators, and the secretariat compiled and presented this information for consideration regarding the refinement of indicators.</p> <p>The RCUs prepared the preliminary region-specific analysis and data quality check on information received from reporting entities. The RCUs also supported Parties in each region to articulate the main concerns and draft regional positions relating to the OOs.</p>
<p>Secretariat: 3.1.2 Effective support to Parties in monitoring</p>	<p>The extent to which the reports of affected countries follow the</p>	<p>In 2012, affected country Parties reported for the first time on SOs 1, 2 and 3.. A module on impact monitoring was included in PRAIS, and reporting</p>

Outcome 3.1: National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socioeconomic trends in affected countries are supported.

Outcome 3.2: A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socioeconomic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.

<p>impact, with focus on progress made in meeting the SOs under The Strategy</p>	<p>reporting guidelines <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the reports received follow the guidelines</i></p>	<p>templates, guidelines and a glossary covering impact indicators were updated accordingly. The analytical framework, including methodologies for aggregating national data for regional and global assessments, was completed after COP 10.</p>
<p>Secretariat: 3.2.1 Effective support to the CST to guide the development of national and global baselines for assessing progress in meeting SOs 1–3</p>	<p>The extent to which the background information provided by the secretariat is reflected in CST recommendations <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the information provided by the secretariat is reflected in CST recommendations</i></p>	<p>The secretariat assisted Parties in reporting by using the impact indicators, and subsequently prepared a preliminary analysis of reports, including regional information, for CRIC 11. Out of 71 affected country Parties that submitted their report, 63 (89 per cent) provided a response on the two minimum indicators and 43 countries (60 per cent) used the common baselines and methodology as defined by the CST. The secretariat facilitated the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts on Impact Indicator Refinement (AGTE). . The group held two meetings and its recommendations will be presented to the CST at its eleventh session.</p>
<p>Secretariat: 3.1.3 Parties assess the relevance and effectiveness of The Strategy and progress made in its implementation, and recommend appropriate measures for improving performance and furthering its implementation</p>	<p>The extent to which the assessment of The Strategy and its implementation is conducted according to the modalities, criteria and terms of reference adopted at COP 10 <i>Targets for 2013:</i> <i>Linkages between GEF investment and the objectives of The Strategy clarified, including alignment of the sets of impact indicators of the GEF land degradation focal area and The Strategy;</i> <i>The merits of a fixed time frame (with 2018 being The Strategy’s final year) versus a rolling system (as applied in the RBM framework for the workplans of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention) should be considered.</i></p>	<p>The secretariat facilitated the work of the IWG to prepare the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy. The group held four meetings and will submit its report, including its recommendations, to the COP at its eleventh session.</p>

Outcome 3.3: Knowledge on biophysical and socioeconomic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 3.3.1: Effective support to the CST in advancing knowledge of the biophysical and socioeconomic factors of DLDD and of related interactions in affected areas	<p>The extent to which background information for and outcomes of the Scientific Conferences are disseminated in a timely manner to a large audience</p> <p><i>Target for 2013:</i> <i>The outcomes of the 2nd Scientific Conference are made available online at least three months before COP 11</i></p>	<p>The secretariat supported AGSA by organizing three meetings and facilitating consultation with Parties on the emerging recommendations. The group will present its conclusions and recommendations at the eleventh session of the CST (CST 11) regarding an integrated scenario for providing scientific advice to the UNCCD.</p> <p>The 2nd Scientific Conference took place in April 2013. In cooperation with the lead institution Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos, the secretariat facilitated the preparatory work of the steering committee and the scientific advisory committee, as well as the planning of the conference programme and involvement of speakers.</p> <p>The secretariat assisted GRF Davos and the Bureau of the CST in organizing the review of the outcomes of the conference, including arrangements for an online call for inputs and the preparation of proposals on how to maintain the momentum achieved through the conference.</p> <p>The preparations for the 3rd Scientific Conference have started with the selection of the lead consortium Scientific & Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development and the establishment of a steering committee. The establishment of a scientific advisory committee is underway.</p> <p>The secretariat continued its participation in the steering committee of the Economics of Land Degradation initiative.</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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 3.4.1: Effective support to the CST in addressing interlinkages between the agenda of the CST and those of other organizations and bodies relating to interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and the restoration of degraded	<p>The extent to which the secretariat's background information on interlinkages is reflected in CST recommendations</p> <p><i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the information provided by the secretariat is reflected in CST recommendations</i></p> <p>The extent to which the actions and</p>	<p>The secretariat participated in the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF, and the STAP actively contributed to the 2nd Scientific Conference and the impact indicator refinement process.</p> <p>The recommendations made by the AGTE on the refinement of impact indicators as well as the outcome of the 2nd Scientific Conference call for increasing synergies among climate change adaptation and mitigation, preservation of</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.

lands	needs of the CST are reflected in the work of those scientific bodies and organizations that the secretariat has addressed	biodiversity and addressing DLDD.
Secretariat: 3.4.2: Improved knowledge and understanding of the mutual benefits of measures to address drought mitigation and the restoration of degraded land	The extent to which background information on drought mitigation is reflected in CST recommendations and COP decisions <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the information provided by the secretariat is reflected in CST recommendations</i>	The secretariat participated in the organization of the HMNDP and supported regional cooperation on drought involving several institutions in each affected region.

Outcome 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

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 3.5.1: Effective support to the CST in promoting the use of scientific knowledge to support decision-making concerning the Convention	The extent to which partners support or help improve knowledge management under the Convention <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>10% increase from 2011 of partners involved</i>	The secretariat launched the development of an SKBP through a call for partners that could make their knowledge repositories on DLDD available to UNCCD stakeholders, and so far six such partners joined the initiative. The technical set-up for the portal is being designed. The roster of experts was improved through, inter alia, supporting the CST in reviewing and updating the current list of disciplines and setting up web-based facilities to ease the updating of the roster.

^a Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

Outcome 3.6: Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to DLDD are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 3.6.1: The secretariat effectively supports the CST in improving provisions for the engagement of scientists and scientific institutions	The extent to which the secretariat's background information on how to improve provisions for the engagement of scientists and scientific institutions is reflected in CST recommendations <i>Target for 2013</i> <i>At least 75% of the information provided by the secretariat is reflected in CST recommendations</i>	Through the nomination of science and technology correspondents, Scientific Conferences, the broad-based process of refining the impact indicators and the consideration of the provision of scientific advice to the UNCCD, the involvement of scientists and scientific institutions in the UNCCD process has expanded considerably, both in the number of active participants and in the scope of disciplines.

D. Operational objective 4: capacity-building

25. Most of the secretariat's capacity-building activities were conducted to help support the alignment of action programmes as well as the reporting against impact indicators and performance indicators, and these activities are reported under OO 2 and 3, respectively.

26. In the context of OO 4, the secretariat developed an online Capacity Building Marketplace, which provides resources and training opportunities for capacity-building, e-learning modules, a calendar of activities related to capacity-building within the UNCCD context, a library with a search index for documents, reports and other material, and online forums and discussions.

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 levels^a to tackle DLDD issues at the national and local levels.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 4.1.1: Opportunities for targeted capacity-building under the Convention are improved	The extent to which Parties participate in capacity-building that addresses Convention-related needs	<p>The secretariat launched the Capacity Building Marketplace in April 2013. So far, over 550 offerings and 60 news items have been posted, more than 280 subscribers have signed up and the visitor rate has steadily increased to nearly 8,000 item views per month. Highly positive feedback on the Marketplace is continuously received through survey forms and emails.</p> <p>For the UNCCD fellowship programme, the secretariat supported the work of a steering group that involves interested institutions. This group is developing a strategy for the programme for consideration at COP 11.</p> <p>The RCUs promoted and supported regional and subregional partnerships for capacity-building activities for DLDD issues. A training course on negotiation skills was organized with support from the AU Commission and UNEP.</p>

^a See the UNDP "Resource Kit for National Capacity Self-Assessment", 2005, page vi, for a description of the various levels at which capacity can be developed.

E. Operational objective 5: financing and technology transfer

27. The secretariat continued its active cooperation with the GEF secretariat and represented the UNCCD in the GEF Council and the Land Degradation Task Force. Together with the GM, the secretariat implemented the common fundraising strategy and explored new and innovative sources of financing and partnership, notably with the private sector. Progress was made on documenting need and impact while enhancing flexibility regarding modes of delivery in order to strengthen accountability and credibility with development partners.

28. The GM has a central responsibility for supporting the achievement of OO5 and focused its support to UNCCD stakeholders in the following priority areas:

(a) Support to new and existing platforms to mainstream SLM and the relevance of UNCCD in poverty reduction into regional and subregional processes: The GM intervened at regional and subregional level to increase finance for UNCCD implementation through its engagement in governmental processes (e.g. with the RECs) and partnership initiatives (e.g. TerrAfrica), including by establishing and facilitating web-based platforms such as GGWSSI;

(b) Development and implementation of IFSs and IIFs for SLM: In the biennium 2012–2013, the GM supported the development and implementation of IFSs and IIFs in 22 countries, including by organizing 17 workshops on designing IFSs at national and subregional levels. In response to decision 1/COP.9 (annex III), the GM developed its Results and Impact Assessment Methodology (RIAM) and carried out an assessment of the IFS approach in nine countries. The main findings are available and were presented at a learning workshop held in Rome in March 2013 and at a side event during CRIC 11;

(c) Economic valuation of land: The GM, in collaboration with the OSLO consortium, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and other national and international organizations, supported 13 assessments of the total economic value of land and costs of land degradation. Furthermore, the GM organized knowledge exchange and capacity-building workshops to empower an additional 17 countries from Eastern Africa and the Mekong region to undertake assessments of the value of land and ecosystem services using the OSLO valuation approach. Key actors in land valuation and land-use planning were equipped with the capacity to understand the economic value of land and benefits from ecosystem services, as well as access to the methodologies, tools, institutions and processes that can support land valuation and SLM;

(d) Innovative finance: The identification and assessment of innovative sources of finance continued to be one of the GM priorities in the biennium 2012–2013. The number of modules and thematic reports developed on various sources of innovative finance increased from 12 in the previous biennium to 15, while the number of countries assisted by the GM in mobilizing innovative finance increased from 30 to 38. Several initiatives were undertaken to assess the potential of the private sector in preventing or reversing land degradation by engaging in SLM-smart operations as part of core business, or by supporting rehabilitation or restoration activities as part of their corporate social responsibility policies. This included the development and application of an incentive-based and market-based mechanism framework and screening tool, the development of guidelines for SLM compliance for businesses, the exploration of business assurance products, cost-benefit analyses of successful payment for ecosystem services schemes, and the establishment of enabling conditions. A Finance Info Kit was developed to outline financial sources, mechanisms and funds relevant for SLM in the areas of climate change, forestry, food security and trade;

(e) South–South cooperation: The number of South–South exchanges to boost collaboration between affected country Parties on financing opportunities for UNCCD implementation increased from 5 in 2011 to 15 in 2013. Related activities included 6 workshops on climate change finance for SLM in different regions covering a total of 38 countries and study tours in Asia and Africa focusing on sharing experiences and lessons learned in (1) SLM finance; (2) IFS development; and (3) tackling the twin challenges of land degradation and climate change. Cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic in designing innovative financing mechanisms to fit their countries' specificities was supported.

Outcome 5.1: Affected country Parties develop IIFs for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 5.1.01: Regional and subregional platforms relating to SLM financing are functioning and supported by the GM.	Number of regional and subregional platforms relating to SLM financing that are functioning and supported by the GM.	The GM supported 19 regional and subregional platforms related to SLM finance for all Regional Implementation Annexes, including CAADP and the GGWSSI in Africa, the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) in Asia and the Investment Platform for SLM (PIMAST) in Latin America.
GM: 5.1.02 Adoption by affected country Parties of SLM IFSs.	Number of IFSs devised by the GM adopted by affected country Parties.	The GM supported the development of IFSs in 22 countries (5 in LAC, 10 in Africa, 7 in Asia), which have been validated at country level. GM support was often provided in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships like TerrAfrica or CACILM.
GM: 5.1.03 Economic arguments in support of SLM investments are generated.	The number of country Parties that have assessed the economic value of land	Assessments of the economic value of land and costs of land degradation were supported in 11 countries, one province (Piura in Peru) and one subregion (Central America). Knowledge exchange and capacity-building workshops were organized by the GM to strengthen the capacity of 17 countries from Eastern Africa and the Mekong region to undertake assessments of the value of land and ecosystem services.
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	The secretariat produced material on resource needs, priorities and policy arguments for effective resource mobilization, including a brochure on financial resource requirements. The impact chain argumentation was outlined. Regular contacts were maintained with over 20 donors and new mechanisms were established for effective communication.

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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 5.2.01 Developed countries and international financial institutions (IFIs), including the GEF, increasingly finance the SLM IIFs	Rate of increase in financing volume from developed countries, IFIs and the GEF to support SLM IIFs (as per the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation and PRAIS)	USD 1.28 billion was reported by developed countries for DLDD-related activities compared to a total of USD 2.73 billion for the previous biennium (-53%). The main reported reasons for decreasing trend were reductions in the availability of resources for development cooperation and competition from other development cooperation sectors and

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.

		processes. However, only 9 developed country Parties submitted their report for 2010–2011, compared to 14 in the previous biennium (–35%).
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	The secretariat and the GM identified financing opportunities to address DLDD/SLM in a complementary way by participating in related meetings and assessing innovative financing mechanisms and instruments. The secretariat worked on an improved marketing strategy for UNCCD issues and developed a value proposition for corporate sector engagement on DLDD/SLM issues.

Outcome 5.3: Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from IFIs, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/SLM agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
Secretariat: 5.3.1. Increased understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM on the part of the GEF, IFAD, the World Bank and regional banks	The extent to which the policies and approaches of the GEF, IFAD and the World Bank reflect the priorities set under the Convention	The secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of the GEF Council and the GEF Land Degradation Task Force, and consulted with the GEF Secretariat on the mobilization of GEF resources for reporting, action programme alignment, and national implementation. The secretariat also consulted with the GEF Chief Executive Officer on whether the memorandum of understanding between the GEF Council and the UNCCD COP requires amendments. The secretariat chaired selected sessions in the 2012 World Bank Annual Conference on Land and Poverty.

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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 5.4.01 Country Parties are enabled to identify innovative resources and potential entry points for innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms relating to SLM.	The number of modules and approaches on innovative finance developed The number of organizations involved in partnerships with the GM related to innovative finance	The GM developed 15 modules and thematic approaches on various sources of innovative finance. Topics include innovative finance for SLM in general, climate change finance, Aid for Trade finance, forest finance, incentive and market-based mechanisms, CSOs, philanthropic foundations, ecotourism, microfinance and food security finance. The GM engaged with 23 organizations in its work on innovative finance for UNCCD implementation, including research, CSO, bilateral, multilateral and private sector organizations.
GM: 5.4.02 Resources mobilized for SLM through the application of innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms.	Number of countries and subregions assisted by the GM in mobilizing innovative finance.	The mobilization of innovative sources of finance is integrated in the IFS/IIF processes supported by the GM. Innovative sources of finance were given particular emphasis in 38 countries and (sub)regions.

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.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
GM: 5.5.01: South–South and North–South partnerships allow affected country Parties to access knowledge on technology transfer	Technology transfer in the context of DLDD/SLM is increasingly understood through a number of initiatives.	The GM supported 15 South–South exchanges including study tours and capacity enhancement workshops, in particular on climate change finance for SLM.

V. Management and services

A. Secretariat

29. During the biennium, the secretariat sought to organize the intergovernmental UNCCD process in a manner that makes high-quality information to support Parties' decision-making available, focuses the work on clear targets and links the Convention with global changes and trends. The accountability of the Convention bodies and institutions was enhanced through the use of the RBM approach by which all resources were linked to

achievements agreed by the COP. The workplan of the secretariat was largely delivered as approved at COP 10 although the available resources were not commensurate with the needs. In many instances, the lack of resources was compensated by additional effort by the secretariat, which represented a heavy personal burden to many secretariat staff.

30. To implement decision 6/COP.10, the Executive Secretary established the Senior Management Task Force (SMTF) to work on the internal rules and procedures for the relationship between the secretariat and the GM, and to coordinate and facilitate the joint implementation of workplans and programmes, among other tasks. The secretariat worked with IFAD on revising the MOU between IFAD and the COP. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the COP, undertook a process to identify a new housing arrangement for the GM and will present related recommendations to the COP at its eleventh session.

31. The secretariat organized the intersessional meeting of the CRIC and the third special session of the CST/2nd Scientific Conference in April 2013. In spite of late decision on the timing of these sessions, all services were fully functional in time with an overall documentation submission compliance rate of 100 per cent, which exceeds the United Nations benchmark.

32. In consultation with the United Nations Headquarters, the secretariat prepared the move of GM accounts and staff under one single administrative regime administered by the United Nations Office at Geneva. The move of staff involved the classification of 14 fixed-term GM posts and the recruitment of the staff to these posts, which was a major human resource management task. With regard to information and communication technology, the secretariat continued developing its knowledge management tools and services in addition to the regular maintenance and upgrade of office software and operating systems.

(a) Executive Direction and Management

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
6.1 Improved integrity and coherence of Convention process	The extent to which Parties express their satisfaction	<p>Internal planning, coordination, communication and quality assurance was organized. The status of delivery of the 2012–2013 work programme was monitored every six months.</p> <p>For COP 11, the high-level segment and the parliamentary round table are being prepared. Legal, policy and procedural action was taken in a timely manner.</p> <p>Actions concerning the transfer of accountability and legal representation of the GM from IFAD to the secretariat were undertaken.</p> <p>Knowledge management functions were coordinated and upgraded to improve their effectiveness and ensure cost-efficiency.</p>
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	The secretariat and the GM coordinated their approaches to various administrative issues.

(b) Conference services

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
6.2 Parties are satisfied with improved conditions for taking informed decisions at the level of the COP and its subsidiary bodies	<p>The extent to which arrangements to organize the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies improve</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>Feedback from Parties about the arrangements at CRIC 11 and CST S-3</i></p> <p>The number of official documents promptly and effectively submitted for consideration by Parties at sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>Increased percentage of documentation submitted on time</i></p>	<p>The invitations and logistical arrangements for CST S-3 and CRIC 11 were carried out. Twenty-two pre-session documents were processed in time with an overall documentation submission compliance rate of 100 per cent. The organization of COP 11, CRIC 12 and CST 11 sessions is currently underway. Ten Bonn-based meetings of the Bureaux of the COP, CRIC and CST were organized.</p>
6.3 Exchanges among Parties' representatives, scientific experts and/or other key stakeholders are efficiently facilitated	<p>The extent to which requested meetings, workshops and seminars are organized promptly and within the limits of the allocated budget</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>Feedback from partners in the organization of the meetings</i></p> <p>The extent to which requested publications, documentation and information materials are processed promptly and within the limits of the allocated budget</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>Feedback from units involved in the production of publications, documentation and information material</i></p>	<p>Eight Adaptation Fund Board meetings were organized. Services concerning the organization of meetings other than official UNCCD meetings and the processing of information material and publications were provided on time and cost-efficiently.</p>

(c) Administration, finance and human resources

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
6.4 The secretariat's financial and human resources are administered effectively, efficiently and in accordance with the financial rules of the Convention and the regulations and rules of	<p>- The proportion of actual expenditure compared to the approved budget</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u> 100%</p> <p>- The extent to which staff members' training requirements are</p>	<p>As of 31 May 2013, the core budget implementation rate was 69.9% against the ideal budget implementation of 70.95% for this time in the biennium.</p> <p>Forty staff members, roughly 80%, participated in training courses in the biennium.</p> <p>The secretariat received no complaints from participants of secretariat events in regard to travel</p>

(c) Administration, finance and human resources

the United Nations	<p>met to implement the work programme of the secretariat</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>At least 30% of staff participate in training relating to their own work</i></p> <p>- Extent to which funded participants are satisfied with the travel services provided by the secretariat.</p>	<p>arrangements.</p> <p>Preparation of the move to the new management system is underway in the United Nations and the secretariat is preparing fixed assets and accounts in time for 2014.</p> <p>The GM trust fund was established and recruitments for 14 GM staff positions were completed.</p>
6.5 Improved information and communication technology (ICT) services of the secretariat	<p>The extent to which services meet the secretariat's requirements</p> <p><u>Target for 2013</u></p> <p><i>The staff recognizes improvements in ICT services</i></p> <p>The extent to which Parties and other users express their satisfaction with services at conferences</p>	<p>The improved ICT services include the new website, updated e-mail services and equipment. A new centralized database system is nearly completed. The intranet has been designed and its implementation started. The scope of ICT services has broadened to cover new knowledge management tools such as the Capacity Building Marketplace and to upgrade existing tools such as PRAIS.</p> <p>The secretariat received no complaints from conference participants in regard to IT services.</p>

B. Global Mechanism

33. The core deliverables of GM Executive Direction and Management in the last biennium included budget and administration, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), human resources management, donor relations and communications.

34. Adequate funding was secured to meet staff and administrative costs through the core budget and voluntary contributions. Results-based budgeting provided a clear overview of budget expenditures per OO, region and cost item, facilitating informed decision-making by GM management.

35. The GM strengthened its activities in applying the RBM system to strategic planning and on-going monitoring and assessment of performance, and in integrating lessons learned into planning. A results-based M&E plan with relevant templates and performance indicators was developed and used to ensure grant implementation and reporting is aligned with The Strategy. This further strengthens the links between strategic orientation and programme delivery, and enhances the operational modalities of the GM.

36. Fourteen fixed-term staff were transferred with their posts from IFAD to the secretariat (administered by UNOG), and 124 consultancy contracts were issued/renewed. Travel arrangements for staff, consultants, non-staff travellers, and for CRIC, COP and GM operations were organized in an efficient and timely manner. The changeover of administrative procedures applicable to the GM from IFAD to the secretariat/UNOG have in the transition caused some substantial delays in implementation.

37. In terms of donor relations at headquarters level, several meetings were organized with ambassadors and representatives of 26 Rome-based Parties to the UNCCD (the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Brazil, Russian Federation, India,

China and South Africa (BRICS), and donor countries) to raise awareness on the mission of the GM and the secretariat in supporting developing countries in prioritizing and investing in SLM. Several bilateral and multilateral donors have been approached to increase their voluntary contributions to the UNCCD in general and to the GM in particular.

38. The GM supported the RCUs for Africa and LAC through consultancies, while the RCUs for Asia and CEE received support from the GM office.

39. The corporate website was restructured and a new strategy for the GM presence on Twitter and other social media platforms was launched. Pursuant to decision 6/COP.10, the GM logo was revised and is now being used in all of its corporate materials. Communication support to country-level activities increased with live coverage of selected events through social media or local press exposure. A joint UNCCD/GM special initiative for the 2015 World Expo in Milan was initiated in collaboration with the Government of Italy. It aimed to promote a new “soft” certification scheme for land degradation neutrality aimed at Italian small and medium-sized enterprises and is to be spread globally after the Expo.

Outcome X.1: Executive direction and management.

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data
X.1.01. The GM is an effective financing partner for the UNCCD in international dialogues, partnerships and strategy development for servicing the Convention and its Parties.	Participation in task forces and cooperation, coordination and monitoring activities.	Status as at 31 March 2013: The GM participated in task force and coordination meetings in the context of PRAIS, RBM discussions, the preparation of CRIC 12 and COP 11, NAP alignment and IFSs. The GM participated in SMTF meetings.
	Proportion of the core budget adopted by the COP received for GM operations.	The GM core budget approved by decision 10/COP.10 was EUR 3,631,172.
	Clearance by the President of IFAD on GM input.	The administrative rules and regulations applicable to GM were amended by implementing decision 6/COP.10.
	Methodology to assess the quantitative impact of the GM on resource mobilization available and implemented (first used for COP 10 reporting).	The RIAM was developed and applied in nine countries.
	Number of initiatives on SLM finance carried out between the Facilitation Committee (FC) and the GM.	The work of the FC was suspended but cooperation with individual FC members continued at all levels.
X.2.01. Effective and transparent management of the work programme and financial resources.	Quality of and RBM performance enforced.	The M&E system of the GM was enhanced and new monitoring templates/formats are in place. A results-based budget for 2014–2015 will be proposed to the COP at its eleventh session in cooperation with the secretariat.
	Level of satisfaction of country Parties with	Survey outcomes indicate that respondents

Outcome X.1: Executive direction and management.

the support provided by the GM (survey)	found GM support to be good. The survey found that the IFS approach facilitated by the GM is (a) a highly relevant process; (b) aligned with The Strategy; (c) a useful tool for improved decision-making; (d) deficient from a sustainability perspective; (e) having a neutral to positive impact on SLM resources mobilization; and (f) only occasionally supporting NAP alignment.
Results of the IFAD audit of the GM are satisfactory.	The administrative rules and regulations applicable to GM have been amended through the implementation of decision 6/COP.10.
Amount of voluntary contributions raised from donors (euros).	In 2011–2012, the GM raised USD 7,415,928 as voluntary contributions from the European Commission, the Government of Finland, the Government of Norway, FAO and the Indian Ocean Commission.
Number of staff development and team-building initiatives undertaken.	GM staff attended training sessions on correspondence with Member States, writing clearly and concisely, and the new PeopleSoft system for itineraries concerning travel authorizations, and received e-training on WordPress.
X.3.01 Communication to a wide audience of the services provided by the GM to the Convention	Unique visitors per day to the GM website The average number of visits per day was stable at 300 visitors/day and increased when newsletters and special initiatives such as the Finance Info Kit became available.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

40. The COP may wish to consider the performance of the secretariat, the GM, the CST and the CRIC in the biennium 2012–2013 and use this information to support the considerations on the workplan, programme and budget for the coming years.