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## Convention to Combat Desertification

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### Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

#### Fourteenth session

Ankara, Turkey, 13–22 October 2015

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Effective implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels**

**Performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies**

## Report on the performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2014–2015)

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. This document contains a comprehensive performance report of the secretariat, GM, CST and CRIC, including information on the results achieved and resources utilized in 2014–2015.

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\* The submission of this document was delayed due to the need for internal consultations in order to provide Parties with the latest available information.

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## I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy),<sup>1</sup> 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 Conference of the Parties (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 2014–2015, building on the workplan contained in decision 1/COP.11. The focus of the report is on the extent to which the targets of the workplan have been achieved, and an overview is provided on the resulting progress made toward the expected accomplishments, as well as on resource use by both the secretariat and the GM.

3. This document should be read in conjunction with information on the financial performance for the Convention Trust Funds in 2014–2015, which is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/7.

## 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. Table 1 presents the core budget expenditure of the secretariat as at 31 May 2015 by object of expenditure. Using the ideal budget implementation rate of 70.8 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 for consultancies and training will increase in the remaining months of the year.

Table 1  
**Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism as at 31 May 2015**  
 (euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2014–2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Staff and other personnel costs	10 581 075	5 967 931	56.4
Consultants	691 496	239 424	34.6
Official travel	660 286	637 403	96.5
Training	220 879	32 766	14.8
Hospitality	22 000	9 654	43.9
General operating expenses	1 099 700	567 288	51.6

<sup>1</sup> Decision 3/COP.8.

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2014–2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Supplies and equipment	118 300	153 297	129.6
Joint administration costs (UNBONN/UNOG)	932 000	498 768	53.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 325 746</b>	<b>8 106 532</b>	<b>56.6</b>

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

5. Table 2 presents expenditure under the core budget for the CST as at 31 May 2015. These expenditures cover the arrangements for meetings of the Bureau of the CST.

Table 2

**Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the Committee on Science and Technology as at 31 May 2015**

(euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2014–2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Consultants	0.0	10 933	0.0
Official travel	68 400	52 516	76.8
Logistical arrangements	7 600	495	6.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76 000</b>	<b>63 944</b>	<b>84.1</b>

6. Table 3 provides information on expenditure under the core budget for the CRIC as at 31 May 2015. These expenditures cover the arrangements for meetings of the Bureau of the CRIC.

Table 3

**Expenditure by object of expenditure in the core budget of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as at 31 May 2015**

(euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2014–2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2015</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Official travel	68 400	26,713	39.1
Logistical arrangements	7 600	122	1.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76 000</b>	<b>26 835</b>	<b>35.3</b>

7. Tables 4 and 5 provide an overview of the distribution of posts held by staff members on fixed-term appointments. As at 31 May 2015, 47 posts were filled by secretariat staff members and 8 posts were filled by GM staff members.

Table 4  
**Comparison of established posts and filled posts by source of funding in the secretariat as at 31 May 2015**

	<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	5	0	0	0	0	3	3	10	8
P-4	7	7	0	0	0	0	3.5	3.5 <sup>a</sup>	10.5	10.5
P-3	4	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	7	7
P-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>
GS	10	9	0	0	3	3	7.5	7.5 <sup>a</sup>	20.5	19.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>

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

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

Table 5  
**Comparison of established posts and filled posts by source of funding in the Global Mechanism as at 31 May 2015**

	<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	1	0	0	2	1
P-4	3	2	0	0	3	2
P-3	0	0	1	0	1	0
P-2	2	2	0	0	2	2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
GS	4	2	0	0	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>

Abbreviations: D = Director, P = Professional, GS = General Staff.

8. Table 6 shows the geographical distribution and gender of staff members at the professional level or above appointed to the secretariat and the GM.

Table 6  
**Geographical distribution and gender of staff members as at 31 May 2015**

<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	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
D-1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
P-5	2	1	1	0	5	6	3	9
P-4	2	4	2	0	5	8	5	13
P-3	1	2	1	1	2	4	3	7
P-2	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 2014–2015

9. The main accomplishments achieved in 2014–2015 through the work carried out by the COP and its subsidiary bodies and by the secretariat and the GM include the following:

(a) The international community is increasingly recognizing the importance of establishing targets concerning the restoration of degraded land and the prevention of further degradation, which will facilitate the focusing of related action and the efficient measurement of progress;

(b) Land issues are becoming integrated into the new commitments on climate change and linked with other important global processes, which is likely to enhance political interest in and open up new funding opportunities for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD);

(c) International scientific collaboration is increasingly focusing its attention on matters that are directly relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) provisions and priorities, which will support the provision of accurate, updated information on the status of land degradation and its drivers and facilitate the development of effective means to address DLDD;

(d) The 2014 national reporting on performance concerning the operational objectives (OOs) of The Strategy engaged almost all UNCCD country Parties and proved that progress has been made toward all objectives;

(e) The UNCCD process is increasingly benefiting from the inputs from important stakeholder groups, most notably those of the civil society organizations (CSOs) and the business community; and

(f) New financing opportunities, particularly for country-level support for sustainable land management (SLM), were identified and access to these opportunities is effectively facilitated, including through the evolving, more operational role of the GM.

## IV. Accomplishments by operational objective

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

10. Under OO 1, the secretariat contributed to the increased awareness of addressing DLDD as a solution to key global challenges. The use of online DLDD information tools and social media grew effectively, and the secretariat further improved the cost-efficiency of these activities by focusing on fewer products with enhanced quality and content.

11. The 2014 and 2015 World Days to Combat Desertification (WDCDs), organized at the World Bank Headquarters and the Milan Expo, respectively, engaged several high level authorities as well as celebrities, and attracted good media attention to the UNCCD. Other UNCCD campaigns such as the Land for Life Award, the writing contest and the cartoon contest were highly popular. The Drylands Ambassadors actively promoted UNCCD priorities as UNCCD representatives in various high level events and through their personal agendas and networks. A total of 35 national Dryland Champions from five countries were recognized.

12. The provisions of the Convention featured prominently in many international processes, demonstrated by, in particular, the inclusion of the land degradation neutrality target in the sustainable development goals. Within the limits of their resources, the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) promoted the implementation of the UNCCD in major meetings and events in each region.

13. The secretariat facilitated civil society contributions to meetings and processes of the Convention, resulting in a significantly more active role of CSOs in various aspects of the UNCCD process compared to previous years. Voluntary contributions enabled the CSO panel, which was initially established to select the CSO representatives that will receive financial support to attend the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, to meet regularly and prepare coordinated CSO inputs to several key activities under the UNCCD. These activities included the CSO reporting process, Science-Policy Interface (SPI) work, and the completion of the UNCCD Business Engagement Strategy. The Panel also facilitated the involvement of new CSOs and key groups, such as youth and indigenous communities, in the UNCCD process and participated in the organization of various events and meetings, most notably the CSO meeting Desertif'actions 2015 that focused on the issues of land and climate and served as a preparatory CSO conference for both the twelfth session of the COP (COP 12) and the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

14. The interest in GM products relating to financing opportunities, methods and tools for addressing DLDD indicates that the GM succeeded in increasing awareness of these important topics. The GM actively promoted DLDD and the UNCCD through liaison with Rome-based agencies, private sector outreach and participation in events such as the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). The GM liaison office in Rome also had an important role in organizing the 2015 WDCD.

15. In order to further leverage attention to the UNCCD and motivate country Parties to take action, the GM actively linked with the information dissemination channels of its partners. The distribution of GM information on economic valuation through the website and social media tools of the Offering Sustainable Land-use Options (OSLO) consortium and the development of the knowledge platform for the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI) are good examples of this. Another factor for increased outreach was the further development of cooperation between the GM and the secretariat in the area of knowledge management, which resulted in several jointly prepared inputs and

messages to meetings and processes, as well as the sharing of some information delivery tools.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
1(a) Increased awareness of the importance of addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) as a solution to many global challenges	<p>The extent to which online DLDD information tools and social media of the Convention are used</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics on the UNCCD website, social media and other tools show a positive trend in the number of visitors, downloads and other aspects related to use.</li> </ul>	<p>The average monthly UNCCD website visits continued to increase: from 24,000 in 2011 to 56,000 in 2013 to over 57,000 in 2015. The Facebook ‘likes’ increased by nearly 80%. The in-house media database reached around 4,300 entries in 2015. The number of LandScan subscribers increased from 735 in 2013 to 1,544 in 2015.</p> <p>The multimedia approach of linking the website to/from e-mail newsletters (UNCCD Alert, Capacity Building Marketplace) and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Weibo) contributed to the increased number of visitors.</p> <p>Media outreach intensified, with the Executive Secretary interviewed by major news providers including the BBC and Al-Jazeera, and op-eds published by outlets including China Daily, Devex, Guardian, Huffington Post, Reuters and Xinhua.</p>
1(b) Increased awareness of financing opportunities, methods and tools for addressing DLDD	<p>The extent to which the Global Mechanism (GM) online information and tools on DLDD financing are used</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics on the GM website, social media and other tools show a positive trend in the number of visitors, downloads and other aspects related to use</li> <li>- Forty printed publications and 160 online publications</li> </ul>	<p>The GM website visitor rates remained stable. GM information material was also distributed through the knowledge platforms of some of its partners, including GGWSSI and the Offering Sustainable Land-use Options (OSLO) consortium. The GM prepared numerous brochures, papers, flyers and online news pieces on key topics for sustainable land management financing, including economic valuation, land degradation neutrality funding and migration. GM also organized the World Day to Combat Desertification event in Rome and contributed to many awareness-raising activities of the secretariat.</p>
1(c) The Convention process is increasingly recognized as a normative reference for addressing DLDD issues in decisions concerning land	<p>The extent to which messages from the UNCCD process are integrated in major global processes relevant to UNCCD implementation</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DLDD issues within the mandate of the Convention are included in the outcomes of 80 % of those major global processes or high-level events that the secretariat or the GM has addressed</li> </ul>	<p>The Executive Secretary participated as a keynote speaker or panellist in 19 high-level meetings, many of which were the culmination point of major global processes, and UNCCD priorities were included in the outcomes of 18 of these meetings (95%).</p> <p>The GM participated actively in many intergovernmental meetings, processes and events of the Rome-based agencies and initiatives as well as in global processes such as the Bonn Challenge, the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration and United Nations Forum on Forests.</p>



<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
1(d) Civil society contributions to meetings and processes of the Convention are effectively facilitated	<p>The extent to which civil society organization (CSO) participation in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies is balanced according to criteria contained in decision 5/COP.9</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <p>- Increased involvement of the CSOs in the UNCCD at the national and regional levels</p>	<p>Through the CSO panel, coordinated civil society inputs were provided to many key UNCCD activities and processes, including the reporting exercise and the work of the Science-Policy Interface.</p> <p>48 new CSOs are provisionally accredited to the UNCCD and some 30 more are currently finalizing the process.</p> <p>The involvement of additional stakeholders in the UNCCD, including youth and indigenous peoples' organizations, was facilitated.</p> <p>The GM worked closely with CSOs through its <i>Front Local Environnemental pour une Union VertE</i> (FLEUVE) project, which aims to strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders to plan and finance sustainable development through a landscape approach.</p>

## B. Operational objective 2: Policy framework

16. The secretariat and the GM intensified their support to countries in aligning and mainstreaming national action programmes (NAPs). The assistance provided included guidance and reference material on the alignment process, capacity-building workshops, e-learning courses and awareness-raising. Also, the development of the integrated financing strategies and frameworks, which the GM supported,<sup>2</sup> contributed to NAP alignment, and the secretariat and the GM conducted joint integrated investment framework (IIF)/NAP development in Cambodia and the State of Palestine. A sub-regional workshop for the formulation and/or alignment of the NAPs was organized for all Pacific countries. In anticipation of the sustainable development goals and linking the UNCCD with their implementation, particular attention was given to support countries to use the land degradation neutrality target in their national programming for the UNCCD.

17. As a result, it is likely that the target of 80 per cent of NAPs being aligned will be met by the end of 2015. With regard to mainstreaming the NAPs into the overall national development frameworks, 11 out of the 32 recently aligned NAPs were formally adopted while the remaining ones have been integrated into national environmental and development policies and plans. Seventeen affected countries, covering all Regional Implementation Annexes have carried out pilot activities to identify national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and develop related monitoring measures.

18. The progress in aligning subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs) did not advance at the desired pace. Nevertheless, the Central and Eastern European RAP formulation took significant steps forward, and some progress was made in aligning the African and Asian RAPs. Progress was also made in the alignment of some SRAPs.

19. An important development in regional and subregional cooperation was the development of new and larger partnerships that target the UNCCD priorities and often

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please see the activities reported under OO 5.

involve the secretariat and/or the GM. The GGWSSI, the Greening Drylands projects and Initiative 20x20 are examples of such multi-stakeholder partnerships.

20. The RCUs assisted the regional groups and regional committees to coordinate and meet the UNCCD obligations by supporting the reporting exercise and alignment efforts, organizing regional preparatory meetings, providing information and feedback on request to national focal points, and providing UNCCD inputs to various regional and subregional meetings and processes.

21. During the biennium, solid support was received from many major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes for addressing DLDD. The cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other Rome-based agencies and missions and the GM evolved, as the GM's liaison office in Rome was located in the FAO premises and actively followed several cooperation processes that are chaired or hosted by FAO. The secretariat worked closely with the FAO as well, notably through the partnership to support national drought management policies that also involve the World Meteorological Organization, UN-Water and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

22. There was also active cooperation with agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), particularly on the national reporting process, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Ramsar Convention and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

23. The understanding of interlinkages between implementing the Convention and addressing global issues, such as food security, water scarcity/drought and forestry, was improved through the inputs made by the secretariat and the GM to related processes and meetings. The GM actively advocated for the case of investing in SLM with agencies including the Asian Development Bank, Conservation International the Financing for Development process, Global Landscape Forum, the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Wildlife Fund. The priorities and provisions of the UNCCD were reflected in the workplans and outcomes of many of these processes and meetings, and they will influence the work to be carried out in the coming years. The GM is also a key partner in the GGWSSI and is collaborating closely with the African Union Commission, FAO and the World Bank in fulfilling its vision.

24. With regard to synergies among the three Rio conventions, the growing recognition of the importance of land in addressing climate change and loss of biological diversity is well reflected in the inclusion of land sector in the new national commitments on climate change. Among the three secretariats, the focus of joint work has been on identifying possibilities for developing joint indicators, which could provide a practical way of looking at synergies in implementation. A potential starting point for the joint indicators is to use the three land-based UNCCD progress indicators.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
2(a) Increased effectiveness in servicing countries in aligning and mainstreaming national action programmes (NAPs)	<p>The number of NAPs aligned with The Strategy</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 80% of affected countries have aligned their NAPs.</li> </ul>	<p>According to reports submitted by affected country Parties in 2013, 32 countries have aligned NAPs. 82% of the affected countries have received Global Environment Facility funding for enabling activities in 2014–2015, and the majority of the countries that have not completed NAP alignment yet (64%) have indicated their plans to do so by the end of 2015. Accordingly, it seems likely the 80% target will be achieved.</p>
2(b) Effective regional cooperation and coordination in implementing the UNCCD	<p>The extent to which countries belonging to each Regional Implementation Annex participate in regional coordination activities</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 75% of countries belonging to each Annex participate in at least one regional coordination activity</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which regional and sub-regional action programmes (RAPs and SRAPs) are consistent with the objectives defined in the UNCCD process</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least two RAPs are aligned with The Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Meetings of all Regional Implementation Annexes were organized prior to the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) session in March 2015 in Bonn. These meetings involved most of the 110 countries belonging to an Annex that participated in the CRIC session.</p> <p>Regional Committees have been established for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The status and functions of these Committees vary from region to region.</p> <p>The alignment of the African and Asian RAPs have been addressed through a high-level meeting and a workshop, respectively. The CEE RAP is under preparation, with full attention to the UNCCD objectives.</p> <p>Out of the five African SRAPs, three have been aligned and the process for the alignment of another has started. The Central Asian countries revised their subregional priorities, and an alignment workshop was held for the Pacific subregion.</p>
2(c) Affected country Parties have increased support from major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD)	<p>The extent to which policies and programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reflect UNCCD objectives and activities</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNCCD provisions are increasingly reflected in national drought policies in the follow-up to the 2013 conference.</li> <li>- UNCCD provisions are increasingly reflected in international processes and initiatives related to land and soil.</li> </ul>	<p>In the follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, the partners to this process – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO, UN-Water, the UNCCD secretariat and WMO – organized six regional workshops to support drought-prone countries in policy development and implementation. The UNCCD provisions were well represented in the workshop agendas.</p> <p>Through the involvement of the secretariat or the GM, many international processes and initiatives related to land and soil reflected the current UNCCD priorities. Such processes and initiatives include the Global Soil Week, the International Land Coalition and United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
2(d) Improved understanding of interlinkages between implementing the Convention and addressing food security, water scarcity and drought, forestry and gender issues	<p>The extent to which DLDD-related elements are referred to in major international processes and meetings concerning food security, water, drought, forests and gender issues, building on inputs made by the secretariat and the GM</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNCCD provisions are reflected in the work of UN-Water and the seventh World Water Forum.</li> <li>- UNCCD provisions are increasingly reflected in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to working together on the national drought policy process, the secretariat assisted UN-Water in the elaboration of the targets on water for the sustainable development goals (SDGs).</p> <p>Through the GM participation in the Action Against Desertification project, the Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge project, CPF, the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism and the International Year of Soils, key aspects of financing for sustainable land management were integrated into international forest cooperation. CPF cooperation was also instrumental in the May 2015 UNFF session in supporting the development of debates on matters of particular importance to the UNCCD, such as the specific role and challenges of low-forest cover countries. Some of the mentioned processes also addressed food security and/or climate resilience.</p>
2(e) Improved synergies between addressing DLDD and climate change and/or biodiversity	<p>The extent to which DLDD-related elements are referred to in decisions concerning climate change and biodiversity</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts to increase ecosystem resilience, sustainable forest management and agroforestry in drylands are noted in decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</li> <li>- The importance of addressing DLDD is noted in decisions of the CBD</li> </ul>	<p>The secretariat has promoted the consideration of joint indicators, building on the three UNCCD land-based progress indicators as a starting point.</p> <p>In addition to the three Convention secretariats, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility and the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice have expressed willingness to work on joint indicators.</p> <p>The GM was a partner in the CBD-led Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.</p>

### C. Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

25. The secretariat supported Parties in assessing, through the CRIC, progress made towards the five OOs of The Strategy, building on reports submitted through PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system). Capacity-building to support UNCCD reporting was granted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the form of enabling activities for eligible countries to report, formulate and/or align their action programmes.

26. Approximately 95 per cent of affected countries and 70 per cent of developed country Parties submitted their reports through PRAIS.

27. During the biennium, progress was made also in further developing the monitoring and assessment of progress toward the strategic objectives. Taking advantage of the national-level pilot projects on land degradation neutrality, the secretariat tested the procedures established by decision 22/COP.11, particularly those relating to (a) the availability of standardized global datasets for the six adopted progress indicators; and (b) the provision of national estimates to affected country Parties. The monitoring and

assessment approach was assessed not only for its feasibility for reporting on progress in the implementation of the Convention, but also for its applicability to the LDN target. Another focus area, for which the work was largely conducted by the SPI, was to consider the use of the UNCCD progress indicators for joint monitoring among the three Rio conventions.

28. The UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on “combating desertification, land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices” was held in March 2015 in Cancun, Mexico in conjunction with the fourth special session of the CST (CST S-4). The pre-conference documentation included an impulse report entitled ‘Climate change and desertification: Anticipating, assessing & adapting to future change in drylands’ and a book of abstracts. The conference was organized by the consortium Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development under the guidance of the Bureau of the CST. The report of CST S-4 presented the key scientific findings and policy-oriented implications of the conference. The outcomes of the conference were reviewed by the SPI, which developed policy-oriented proposals for the consideration of the CST at its twelfth session.

29. The work carried out under the CST linked up with the work of scientific organizations and cooperation bodies that deal with issues relevant to DLDD perhaps more than ever before. The establishment of the SPI was an important means in this regard. The UNCCD was closely involved in the preparation of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA). The Bureau of the CST and the SPI were consulted on the exchanges on the LDRA and significantly contributed to its initial and full scoping process. The UNCCD is recognized as a strategic partner and key user of and contributor to the LDRA.

30. The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and the SPI held a joint session at the Global Soil Week and agreed on three major topics/entry points for collaboration: LDN; soil and land indicators; and soil organic carbon.

31. The SPI contributed to the development of a proposal by the UNCCD to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for a special report on climate change and land degradation.

32. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF decided to join forces with the UNCCD secretariat to develop joint indicators that could be suitable for reporting by the Rio conventions and application by the GEF. STAP organized two side events at CST S-4.

33. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC also indicated its desire to work on the issue of joint indicators. The SBSTA Chair made a keynote presentation at CST S-4 and invited the UNCCD secretariat to present its joint indicator proposal at the seventh meeting of the SBSTA research dialogue.

34. The use of scientific knowledge to support UNCCD decision-making was facilitated during the biennium through the establishment of the SPI and further development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP). The SKBP will be used for making available best practices on SLM, among other tasks. Demonstrations of all the components of the SKBP pilot were given at CST S-4.

35. With the aim of making better use of the roster of experts, a validation process concerning the listed experts was carried out. An online version of the roster will be integrated in the SKBP as recommended by the Bureau of the CST. It is expected to be available by the end of 2015.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
3(a) Parties conduct impact assessments under the UNCCD, focusing on progress made in meeting strategic objectives (SOs) 1–4	<p>The number of affected Parties that report on progress made in meeting SOs 1–4</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approach and methodology for reporting on the impact indicators is revised in accordance with lessons learned in the first reporting cycle (2013)</li> </ul>	<p>The development of the approach and methodology for reporting on the progress indicators included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of global data sets for progress indicators and related metrics;</li> <li>- Extraction of national estimates from available global data sources;</li> <li>- Provision of national estimates to countries participating in the LDN Project.</li> </ul>
3(b) National and global baselines for assessing progress in meeting SOs 1–3 are established	<p>The extent to which Parties advance in establishing baselines for assessing progress in meeting SOs 1–3</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation methodology tested at national level in five countries</li> <li>- Agreement on whether a global baseline will be developed</li> </ul>	<p>The monitoring and assessment methodology was tested in the 16 countries participating in the LDN Project.</p>
3(c) Parties base their decisions for action towards meeting operational objectives (OOs) 1–4 on updated information of related successes and challenges experienced by affected countries and other UNCCD stakeholders	<p>The extent to which reporting entities report on progress made in meeting OOs 1–4</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase from 2013 in reports received</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which the performance review and assessment of implementation effectively leads to targeted recommendations emerging from the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CRIC at its thirteenth session makes recommendations on next steps based on reporting outcomes</li> </ul>	<p>94% (159 out of 165) affected countries submitted their report in 2014, which represents a major increase from the 2013 reporting, when the corresponding number was 42.3% (71 countries).</p> <p>The report of the thirteenth session of the CRIC contained conclusions and recommendations for further action on the five OOs, building on the findings of the reporting process. It also considered financial support for the implementation of the UNCCD and the formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 development agenda.</p>
3(d) Parties are satisfied with the methods and tools for communicating information through reporting under the UNCCD	<p>The extent to which the reports of Parties follow the reporting guidelines</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 75% of reports received follow the guidelines.</li> </ul>	<p>The reporting system was simplified for 2014 reporting in response to guidance from the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eleventh session concerning the review and assessment of implementation. The reporting templates, reporting manual, glossary and performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) manual were revised and made available in the required languages.</p> <p>All reports received were submitted through PRAIS using the reporting templates. In order to ensure the usefulness and comparability of data, a quality check protocol was established. Consequently, roughly half of the reports were revised and resubmitted by Parties.</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
3(e) The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) advances knowledge on combating desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) for poverty reduction and sustainable development, with an emphasis on the contribution of science, technology, and traditional knowledge and practices	<p>The extent to which the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference raises interest among the scientific community</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 200 abstracts submitted for the 3rd Scientific Conference</li> </ul>	<p>206 abstracts were submitted for the conference and reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee established for the conference; 9 abstracts were not accepted because they were deemed to be outside the scope of the conference. All accepted abstracts were compiled in a book and presented at the conference during poster sessions.</p>
3(f) The CST benefits from the work of scientific organizations and cooperation bodies that deal with issues relevant to DLDD, including by the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) as created by decision 23/COP.11.	<p>The extent to which the CST uses the work of other scientific cooperation bodies in its considerations</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on the work of scientific organizations and cooperation bodies is regularly delivered to the CST</li> </ul>	<p>The UNCCD was closely involved in the preparation of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) land degradation and restoration assessment.</p> <p>The SPI and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) held a joint session at the Global Soil Week and agreed on three major topics/entry points for collaboration.</p> <p>The SPI contributed to the development of a proposal by the UNCCD to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for a special report on climate change and land degradation.</p> <p>The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) joined forces with the UNCCD secretariat to develop joint indicators that may be suitable for reporting under the Rio conventions and for application by the GEF.</p> <p>The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change indicated its desire to work on the issue of joint indicators.</p>
3(g) Parties use scientific knowledge to support decision-making concerning the UNCCD	<p>The extent to which targeted scientific knowledge on DLDD is available under the Convention</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific advice is provided according to guidance from the COP at its eleventh session.</li> <li>- The SPI is successfully established and operating.</li> <li>- The number of partners participating in the SKBP doubles from 2013.</li> </ul>	<p>The SPI met three times: in June 2014, March 2015 and April 2015. The SPI has fully implemented its agreed work programme for 2014–2015, including tasks on the role of sustainable land management (SLM) in the context of the other Rio conventions, the effectiveness of UNCCD scientific conferences, the outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and cooperation with the IPBES and ITPS.</p> <p>The first component of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) pilot was launched in 2014. Since then, the work on portal architecture and search functions has continued. A full demo of all components took place at the fourth special session of the CST. The SKBP pilot has been</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
3(h) Parties use best practices to support the implementation of the UNCCD	<p>The extent to which best practices concerning DLDD are available to UNCCD stakeholders</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The SKBP facilitates access to UNCCD best practices.</li> </ul>	<p>developed in close collaboration with five partners. These partners contributed to the development of a partnership model which will be used to further expand the SKBP in the next biennium.</p> <p>The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) was selected as the recommended database on SLM best practices. WOCAT successfully participated in the SKBP pilot, making its knowledge base available through the SKBP. The SKBP will be used for easy access to the SLM best practices database, which is currently being developed by WOCAT.</p>
3(i) Provisions for the engagement of science and institutions are improved	<p>The extent to which scientific networks and institutions participate in the work of the UNCCD</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The roster of experts is revised.</li> <li>- There is an increase in the number of scientists that register for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference compared to the 2nd Scientific Conference</li> </ul>	<p>The secretariat conducted a validation process of all experts in the roster and removed from it those experts who had not been confirmed by March 2014. The total number of experts in the roster is now 1,284. Nominations have been provided by 81 Parties. A web-based system for the roster has been included in the SKBP project and is projected to be available in 2015.</p> <p>While about 450 individuals registered for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, the eventual number of participants was nearly 300 from 90 countries, including close to 130 independent scientists. This was slightly under the estimated 350 participants of the 2nd Scientific Conference, including nearly 190 independent scientists.</p>

#### **D. Operational objective 4: Capacity-building**

36. During the biennium, the Capacity Building Marketplace increased its role in supporting key UNCCD processes. For the 2014 reporting process, it provided a dedicated e-learning course for reporting officers. In 2015 it provided briefings on the CRIC and the CST sessions targeting all participants and e-learning courses to those who had only limited prior knowledge of the UNCCD. Also in 2015, a special information package on the NAP process and a capacity-building page on land degradation neutrality were developed. Further e-learning courses are under development. Lectures on the UNCCD process were provided, on request, at universities in Europe and Asia.

37. The services and offerings of the Capacity Building Marketplace increased to include, inter alia, fellowship opportunities, opportunities for study and project grants, an e-learning course for national focal points, exchange platform for youth, and information on crowdfunding and donations. More offerings were made available in Spanish, French and Russian. Marketplace outreach intensified, and the ‘climateproof my land’ campaign was particularly popular in social media. The Marketplace design and usability was improved based on user feedback.



<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
4(a) Opportunities for targeted capacity-building under the Convention are improved	<p>The extent to which the Capacity Building Marketplace is used</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase from 2013 in the capacity-building activities received by the affected Parties, including those offered through the Marketplace</li> <li>- Increase from 2013 in visits to the Marketplace</li> </ul>	<p>The up-to date offerings on the Marketplace increased from about 800 in January 2014 to about 2,200 in May 2015.</p> <p>The number of monthly visits to the Marketplace increased from approximately 3,900 in January 2013 (2,864 unique users) to 7,800 in May 2015 (5,743 unique users).</p>

## **E. Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer**

38. The national reports submitted in 2014 provided information on the progress made toward OO 5, and more generally on financial flows relevant to the UNCCD, which was collected in the Unified Financial Annex contained in the reporting templates. The GM analysis of this information assisted Parties in their consideration of how to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of financial resources.

39. In preparation of the reporting process, the secretariat and the GM worked with the GEF and UNEP in building a Global Support Programme (GSP), which supported affected countries in preparing the reports and in formulating/aligning their NAPs. In this project, the GM was granted for the first time the role of an executing agency, while UNEP served as the implementing agency for the GSP.

40. The secretariat represented the UNCCD in the GEF Council sessions and the fifth GEF Assembly in May 2014, in which the GEF concluded its agreement on the 6th GEF replenishment. This replenishment resulted in a close to 10 per cent increase in the GEF allocation to land degradation.

41. GM support to affected countries to use an integrated approach to mobilize resources for UNCCD implementation at the national level continued through the development of integrated financing strategies (IFS) and IIFs. During the biennium, the GM engaged with 13 countries and 2 subregions in IFS/IIF development. Many of the countries that the GM engaged with in past bienniums have now taken steps to implement their IFS/IIF, bringing the total number which the GM has supported to approximately 50 (including countries in some subregions).

42. The GM, with the aim of further developing the effectiveness and efficiency of its interventions on implementation, reviewed its approaches. Building on the feedback received from the COP and the CRIC, and on the findings received from the last two internal assessments, the GM will seek to make its resource mobilization processes lighter and less resource-intensive. This will require strong government leadership and effective mainstreaming into major global, regional and national processes, initiatives and funding mechanisms with potential for increasing public and private financing for UNCCD concerns

43. Therefore, during the biennium the GM focused on covering more innovative, sectoral finance and moving toward promoting and engaging in ‘flagship’ initiatives that could generate investments. This included support to capacity-building for accessing specific funding mechanisms as well as to project design for SLM and LDN. Examples of such initiatives include the GGWSSI through the EU-funded *Front Local Environnemental pour une Union VertE* (FLEUVE) project, the Italian-funded SLM/migration project addressing the land-migration-security nexus with the International Organisation for

Migration, and the establishment of a land degradation neutrality fund for blended finance to support land rehabilitation at scale in connection with the sustainable development goals.

44. With regard to the economic valuation of land, the GM supported twelve countries and organizations in generating and using economic arguments in support of sustainable landscape management investments. In order to identify or develop and fine-tune the most appropriate methodologies for the economic valuation, the GM also collaborated with scientific institutions and experts working on the issue. Given the constraints and limitations of traditional development finance, the GM continued to explore innovative financial opportunities for the scaling up of funding for UNCCD implementation. During the biennium, the GM sought to equip affected countries with the knowledge and know how to access existing funding opportunities, including from non-traditional funding and on key topics such as forest and landscape restoration. The SLM Finance Tool Kit prepared by the GM was considered a ‘best practice’ by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit in its report on examples of information on climate change finance in the United Nations system.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
5(a) Parties base their decisions for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of financial resources on updated information on related successes and challenges experienced by affected countries and other UNCCD stakeholders	<p>The extent to which reporting entities report on progress made in meeting operational objective (OO) 5</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase from 2013 in reports received</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which Parties use the outcomes of their assessment of progress made in meeting OOs 5 in deciding on the next steps towards this objective</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At its thirteenth session, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) makes recommendations on next steps on the basis of the reporting outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>94% (159 out of 165) of affected countries submitted their report in 2014, which represents a major increase from the 2013 reporting, in which the corresponding number was 42.3% (71 countries).</p> <p>The report of the thirteenth session of the CRIC contained conclusions and recommendations for further action on the five OOs, building on the findings of the reporting process. It also considered financial support for the implementation of the UNCCD and the formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 development agenda. On the basis of a Global Mechanism (GM) document for measuring progress in achieving strategic objective 4, Parties recommended further action in this field too.</p>
5(b) Affected country Parties increasingly use an integrated approach to mobilize resources for UNCCD implementation at the national level	<p>Increase in number of integrated investment frameworks (IIFs)/integrated financial strategy (IFS) prepared with support of the GM</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thirty countries are supported by the GM in the development or implementation of IIFs and/or IFS.</li> </ul>	<p>GM supported Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ecuador, Gambia, Jordan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Niger, the State of Palestine, Pakistan, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, as well as countries belonging to the Indian Ocean Commission and Pacific countries, in developing and completing their IIF/IFS.</p> <p>Several information products and draft project proposals were developed and trainings geared towards IIF/IFS implementation were held for stakeholders.</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
5(c) Multi-stakeholder and South–South cooperation platforms/coalitions effectively contribute to financing UNCCD implementation	<p>Increase in number of platforms/coalitions that begin contributing or increase their contribution to financing UNCCD implementation with support from the GM</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thirty platforms are supported by the GM</li> </ul>	<p>The GM participates in various donor-led processes and platforms, such as the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, that deal with funding and donor policies concerning land and soil.</p> <p>Many GM activities involve platform/coalition-building. For example the <i>Front Local Environnemental pour une Union Verte</i> (FLEUVE) project has regional stakeholder platforms as well as national platforms in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Other multi-stakeholder platforms supported include the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration, the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, the International Land Coalition, the Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative and TerrAfrica.</p> <p>The activities implemented through the landscape restoration/migration project and through the FLEUVE micro-investment projects focus on innovative financing mechanisms for land-based adaptation, security and land degradation neutrality.</p>
5(d) Improved evidence to support decisions to invest in activities contributing to UNCCD implementation	<p>Increase in number of countries and organizations supported by the GM in understanding, generating and using economic arguments for investing in activities contributing to UNCCD implementation</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Twelve countries and organizations supported by the GM in understanding, generating and using economic arguments for their decisions to invest in activities contributing to UNCCD implementation</li> </ul>	<p>The GM provided direct support to six countries in preparing their Economic Valuation of Land (EVL) studies: Cambodia, Costa Rica, Panama, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Six more countries were supported through the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Jordan.</p> <p>In addition to participating in the ELD Initiative, the GM cooperated with entities such as the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Natural Capital Project, the Offering Sustainable Land-use Options (OSLO) consortium and the World Wildlife Fund in enhancing and harmonizing the valuation methodologies.</p> <p>Six capacity-building events were organized on EVL methodologies and tools, with close linkages to the development of the IFS/IIF and alignment of the national action programmes (NAPs). GM-developed methodologies are also increasingly used by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for their EVL activities.</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
5(e) Increased support from developed countries and multilateral donors in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues/UNCCD implementation	<p>The extent to which DLDD issues/UNCCD implementation feature in the sixth GEF replenishment (GEF-6)</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved allocation of funds to land degradation under the sixth GEF replenishment compared to the fifth GEF replenishment</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which developed countries and multilateral donors express commitment to supporting UNCCD implementation</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in financial resources provided by developed countries and multilateral donors to UNCCD implementation, as reported to the CRIC at its thirteenth session</li> <li>- Increase in partnerships involving the GM or the secretariat for providing financial support to UNCCD implementation</li> </ul>	<p>In accordance with the replenishment agreement, the GEF-6 envelope for land degradation amounts to approximately USD 431 million. The corresponding amount under GEF-5 was around USD 405 million.</p> <p>With regard to financial resources provided by developed countries and multilateral donors to UNCCD implementation, the data compiled from the reports submitted in 2014 indicates a commitment of USD 2.2 billion to affected non-developed country Parties for DLDD related activities in 2012–2013. The corresponding figure for 2010–2011 was USD 1.3 billion.</p> <p>The GM implemented its existing financial partnerships, and significant new funding agreements were completed with the European Union and Italy, among others.</p> <p>The GM was accepted to be an executing agency for a GEF project in 2014 and recognized in 2015 under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Annex 2 as an eligible organization for receiving climate finance. These nominations clarify the role of the GM in accessing different types of finance and unlock more opportunities to mobilize resources for UNCCD implementation.</p> <p>The secretariat’s existing financial partnerships continued, and many of them involved larger contributions than earlier. The secretariat also established several new partnerships involving the provision of financial support, including significant funding from Turkey, the World Bank and Syngenta.</p>
5(f) Private sector and innovative sources/mechanisms of financing are increasingly involved in financing sustainable land management (SLM)	<p>The extent of initiatives for increasing financing for SLM through innovative sources and mechanisms, which are generated through GM or secretariat input</p> <p>Targets for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forty organizations involved in partnerships on innovative and private finance for SLM with the GM or the secretariat</li> <li>- Forty-eight countries and subregions assisted by the GM</li> <li>- Fifteen innovative financing mechanisms explored by the GM that enable and motivate investments in SLM</li> <li>- Thirty-five knowledge and advocacy products developed and outreach/capacity-building initiatives supported by the GM on innovative and private sector finance</li> </ul>	<p>Innovative financing is part of most of GM activities and projects, and related activities involve most GM partners, including donors, participating institutions and affected countries. Financing for action for land degradation neutrality, forest and landscape restoration, remittances and best practices in public-private blended finance have been in particular focus this biennium.</p> <p>The GM explored 16 innovative financing mechanisms, including remittances, payment for ecosystem services, and forest and landscape finance.</p> <p>Knowledge products on innovative financing for SLM/land degradation neutrality were finalized. The GM organized workshops and briefings on innovative financing in the context of the FLEUVE and landscape restoration/migration projects, and provided inputs to international and</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
5(g) Improved access by affected countries to SLM technology	Increase in number of initiatives to facilitate technology transfer supported by the GM Target 2014–2015: - Eight technology transfer initiatives supported	regional meetings dealing with innovative financing.  GM has initiated cooperation on the facilitation of technology transfer with a number of initiatives and organizations/entities, such as the Mountain Partnership, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and initiatives related to water scarcity and disaster risk reduction.  Also some of the secretariat’s partnerships, notably the cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, contribute to promoting technology transfer.

## V. Management and services

45. During the biennium, the secretariat sought to organize the intergovernmental UNCCD process in a manner that makes available high-quality information to support Parties’ decision-making, 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 11.

46. In the biennium, one administrative priority for the GM was managerial support of the orderly move from Rome to Bonn, Germany, including the establishment of a liaison office in Rome, hosted by FAO. It also entailed support to the administrative action as regards any outstanding issues related to the transfer of financial and human resources from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to UNCCD.

47. As a result of reviewing the documentation that had been submitted by FAO and the follow-up discussions that had taken place between the UNCCD and FAO, the outstanding invoices from the FAO Investment Centre were considered by the UNCCD to be valid. As a consequence, the Executive Secretary approved payment of the outstanding invoices owed to the FAO Investment Centre from the GM’s available resources, which included the remaining balance of funds from the UNCCD core budget of the GM from the biennium 2012–2013 and the difference funded from the financial resources of the GM in the biennium 2014–2015. In February 2014, IFAD transferred USD 645,553 to the UNCCD from the amount held in escrow by IFAD for GM liabilities.

48. With regard to the cases before the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) from current and former staff of the GM against IFAD, ILOAT issued two judgments in February 2015 (3410 and 3411). The ILOAT concluded that the GM staff did not have an expectation of an IFAD contract renewal, but did award moral damages (EUR 2,500) and legal costs (EUR 3,000) for the late notification of the non-renewal of their contracts to each of the two complainants. At the same time, the ILOAT awarded four interveners each moral damages in the amount above and collectively EUR 3,000 in legal costs. For the former Managing Director, the ILOAT decided to send this matter back to the President of IFAD who may refer this matter to IFAD’s internal dispute system. In addition, ILOAT awarded him EUR 7,000 in moral damages and legal costs. IFAD reached a final settlement in June 2015 with costs amounting to USD 73,900.

49. Out of the total amount that IFAD withheld from GM accounts (USD 4.93 million), IFAD returned USD 4.46 million to the UNCCD secretariat.

50. An external auditor is currently conducting an audit of the financial statements of the GM as at 30 September 2013, representing the final audit period under the administration of IFAD which reflect the events in the biennium 2014–2015.

51. Assessments were conducted to facilitate the move in terms of knowledge management, outreach and change management. This included the launch of a newly designed GM website.

52. With regard to conference servicing, the secretariat organized CST S-4/UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference in Mexico on 9–12 March 2015, prior to which a host country agreement was negotiated and concluded with the Government of Mexico. The intersessional meeting of the CRIC was hosted by the secretariat with generous support from the Government of Germany in Bonn on 25–27 March 2015. For both meetings, the secretariat prepared the invitations, facilitated participation and carried out related conference services and facilities plans. Twelve pre-session documents for translation were processed in time with an overall documentation submission compliance rate to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) of 100 per cent. The organization of COP 12, CRIC 14 and CST 12 is underway, and the host country agreement has been negotiated with the Government of Turkey. Twenty-six pre-session documents for translation by UNOG are being processed with an overall documentation submission compliance rate to UNOG of 92 per cent. Six Bonn-based meetings of the Bureaux of the COP, CRIC and CST were organized, and one Bureau of the COP meeting took place in the sidelines of the WDCD in Milan in June 2015. Three Adaptation Fund Board meetings were organized; a fourth will be organized at beginning of October 2015.

53. In terms of administrative functions, the secretariat for the first time prepared the 2014 financial statements based upon the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in accordance with the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, which provides increased information on actual assets and liabilities enabling in improved internal control and enhanced management of UNCCD’s total resources. In addition, the secretariat continued implementing the Umoja integrated management system, which is planned to replace the Integrated Management Information System in November 2015.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
<i>(a) Executive Direction and Management</i>		
6.1.(a) Improved integrity and coherence of the Convention process	The extent to which Parties express their satisfaction	UNCCD priorities were recognized in many major global processes. Voluntary contributions to the secretariat increased, indicating a growing appreciation of the work of the secretariat.
6.1.(b) The Global Mechanism (GM) is an effective and trusted partner in financing the implementation of the UNCCD	The proportion of the core budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) received for GM operations	The GM received its share of the UNCCD budget.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Performance data</i>
6.1.(c) Effective and transparent management of the GM work programme	<p>The extent to which quality assurance and results-based management, monitoring and assessment are enforced</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The amount of voluntary contributions raised</li> </ul>	<p>The GM now shares the services of a common Evaluation Office with the secretariat, which conducts assessments and is responsible for performance monitoring and results-based management.</p> <p>In the biennium the GM raised over EUR 11 million in new and implemented ongoing voluntary contributions.</p>
<i>(b) Conference services</i>		
6.2.(a) Parties are satisfied with improved conditions and changes in conference patterns for taking informed decisions at the level of the COP and its subsidiary bodies	<p>The extent to which implementation of the new conference patterns related to the organization of the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies has a positive impact</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive feedback from Parties about the arrangements</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which official documents are promptly and effectively submitted to Parties in all UN official languages within the established timeline</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All documents are available online on time</li> </ul>	<p>Following the confirmation sent by the Government of Mexico in February 2014 to host the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST)/UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and further clarifications on all logistical and organizational aspects through teleconferences and planning missions, an agreement was reached to hold the sessions on 9–12 March 2015.</p> <p>In the absence of an offer from a country Party as to host the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 13), the secretariat booked facilities in Bonn. CRIC 13 was organized on 25–27 March 2015 with the resources of the secretariat, including a significant voluntary contribution from Germany.</p> <p>In spite of the challenges concerning the two separate conference venues and the very tight timeframe between the two sessions, the secretariat carried out the invitation process, facilitation of participation, and preparation of conference facilities in a timely and cost-efficient manner, and the feedback on the conference servicing received from CST and CRIC meeting participants was largely positive.</p> <p>For future intersessional meetings, the secretariat has considered the lessons learned from the CRIC and CST arrangements, and already presented related possible action to the Parties.</p> <p>The overall CRIC and CST documentation submission compliance rate to the United Nations Office at Geneva was 100%.</p>
6.2.(b) 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>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive feedback from partners on the organization of the meetings</li> </ul>	<p>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, and no negative feedback was received from partners.</p>

*(c) Administration, finance and human resources*

<p>6.3.(a) The financial and human resources are administered effectively and efficiently, and in accordance with the financial rules of the Convention and the regulations and rules of the United Nations</p>	<p>The proportion of actual expenditure compared to the approved budget</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100 per cent</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which staff members' training requirements are met for implementing the work programme</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 30 per cent of the staff participates in training relating to their own work</li> </ul>	<p>As of 31 May 2015, the core budget implementation rate was 56.7% against the ideal budget implementation of 70.8% for this time in the biennium.</p> <p>Thirty-five staff members, roughly 62.5%, participated in training courses in the biennium.</p>
<p>6.3.(b) Improved information and communication technology services of the secretariat</p>	<p>The extent to which information and communication technology (ICT) services meet the secretariat's requirements</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff recognizes improvements in ICT services</li> </ul> <p>The extent to which Parties and other users express their satisfaction with services at conferences</p> <p>Target for 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No complaints from Parties</li> </ul>	<p>The secretariat continued making improvements in ICT by using large-scale mail distribution services to increase advocacy of the UNCCD process, as well as online cloud services to facilitate distribution of large documents.</p> <p>The secretariat received no complaints from conference participants with regard to ICT services.</p>

## VI. Conclusions and recommendations

**54. The COP may wish to consider the performance of the secretariat, the GM, the CST and the CRIC in the biennium 2014–2015 and use this information to support the considerations on the workplan, programme and budget for the coming years.**