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Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties – consideration of draft reporting guidelines for reporting entities referred to in decision 8/COP.8

Indicators and monitoring of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties: Consideration of draft reporting guidelines as referred to in decision 8/COP.8

Note by the secretariat*

Addendum

Glossary of performance indicators for the review of implementation of The Strategy and best practices

Summary

1. Pursuant to decision 3/COP.8 on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy), minimum sets of impact indicators for the strategic objectives of The Strategy and of performance indicators for the operational objectives of The Strategy have been identified.
2. The glossary proposed in this document responds to the recommendation made by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its seventh session (CRIC 7) to clarify the terminology and definitions of performance indicators, aiming at a common understanding of the process and of the implementation modalities by all reporting entities.

* This document was delayed due to the need for interagency consultations.

3. Besides clarifying the terminology and definitions used in the formulation of the performance indicators, the glossary also encompasses some terms and concepts related to the proposed performance review and assessment of implementation system contained in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/4 and to the proposed impact indicators for strategic objective 4 proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.7. A glossary related to impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 will be produced separately once a core set of indicators for these objectives has been agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

4. A common agreement on definitions is necessary to ensure coherence within the reporting process in particular and within the overall monitoring system in general. Parties are invited to take note of the terminology and definitions proposed in the glossary and refer to them while reporting to the COP.

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I. Introduction

1. The glossary responds to the request made by Parties at the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) to clarify the terminology and definition of performance indicators in order to have a common understanding of the process and of the implementation modalities.¹ Common understanding of terms and commonly agreed definitions are necessary to tackle comparability across the contributions of the various reporting entities and, ultimately, to bring coherence to the whole reporting process.
2. Terminology and definitions presented in this document are those used in documents ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.2 for the performance indicators pertaining to operational objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; and in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.7 for the impact indicators pertaining to strategic objective 4.
3. Besides clarifying the terminology and definitions used in the formulation of the performance indicators and of impact indicators for strategic objective 4, the glossary more comprehensively encompasses some terms and concepts related to the whole performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) proposed in ICCD/CRIC(8)/4. Therefore, the glossary also includes terms related to the financial annex and the programme and project sheet as proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4; and the system for collection and dissemination of best practices as proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5. The glossary does not include terms and definitions related to impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, which will be finalized once the core set of impact indicators for these strategic objectives is agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties (COP).
4. The glossary includes terms commonly used throughout the above documents (for example, 'metadata' or 'mainstreaming'), concepts (for example, 'key stakeholders' or 'knowledge-sharing system'), and the definition of some of the most important abbreviations (for example, 'CSOs'). A few terms need to be considered solely in the context of the corresponding indicator (for example 'finalized' or 'decisions and documents'). Additionally, definitions have been drawn, wherever possible, from internationally recognized sources.
5. The proposed glossary has the flexibility to be expanded and/or modified as the monitoring process evolves and the need to clarify new terminology and definitions arises.

¹ ICCD/CRIC(7)/5, paragraph 111.

II. Glossary

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
Absolute value	Numeric value (to distinguish it from a percentage value).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.2 and Add.7. Metadata and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Baseline	Point of reference against which measurements of an indicator are compared and changes monitored. The ideal baseline is the state of an indicator at an historical point in time, e.g. the value of an indicator at a set year.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.7. Performance indicators, metadata and impact indicators.
Best practices	Measures/methods/activities that perform best/achieve the highest impact according to predefined criteria. In the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), best practices are measures/methods/activities that are considered successful in terms of achieving desired outcomes (good performance) and contributing to expected impacts formulated in The Strategy.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5. Best practices.
Bilateral official development assistance (BODA)	Official development assistance provided by bilateral donors to aid recipient countries.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.7. Impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Civil society organizations (CSOs)	Organizations belonging to the following thematic constituencies: Environmental non-governmental organizations, Local government and municipal authorities, Indigenous peoples organizations, Youth organizations, Research-oriented and independent non-governmental organizations, Business and industry non-governmental organizations, and Trade union non-governmental organizations.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-3 and metadata.
Consolidated indicators (CONS)	Proposed consolidated indicators for the operational objectives of The Strategy.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicators and metadata.
Convention processes	At the field level: programmes and projects relating to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). At the institutional level: meetings of the CRIC, meetings of the COP, meetings at regional level, and processes relating to the Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicators CONS-O-3 and COS-O-4 and metadata.
Data source	Name of institution owning the original data set.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.2 and Add.7. Impact indicators for strategic objective 4 and metadata.
Decisions and documents	Any decision directly or indirectly related to DLDD; any document containing declarations, conclusions and recommendations related to DLDD.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-2 and metadata.

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
e-SMART	Criteria applied for the selection of UNCCD performance indicators and impact indicators for strategic objective 4. 'e-SMART' stands for economic – Specific – Measurable – Achievable – Relevant – Time-bound.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1, Add. 2 and Add.7 Performance indicators, metadata, and impact indicators for SO4.
Finalized	Approved by the respective governments or in-charge authorities.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-5 and metadata.
Financial annex	Financial reporting format of the UNCCD for listing all financial commitments reporting entities have made during the reporting period for initiatives undertaken at national and/or international level towards the implementation of the Convention.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4. Financial annex and programme/project sheet
Geographical level of application	The level at which an indicator is measured. Five main levels are considered for the UNCCD: local, national, subregional, regional and international (global).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1, Add. 2 and Add.7. Performance indicators, metadata, and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Good practices	Measures/methods/activities that match a specific objective/ are suitable for a specific natural and human environment	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5. Best practices
Gross domestic product, purchasing power parity (GDP, PPP)	GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. GDP, PPP is gross domestic product converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity (PPP) rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP as the U.S. dollar has in the United States. Data are in constant or in current international dollars. Source: World Bank definitions at http://go.worldbank.org/0PX550GYX0	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-15 and metadata.
Harmonization of indicators	Pursuing consistency, coherence, lack of overlapping or duplication across the sets of indicators used within the UNCCD (performance indicators, impact indicators and indicators pertaining to results-based management (RBM)).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 7. Performance indicators and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Incentive	A tangible or intangible reward, financial or non-financial, meant to encourage a person or group to behave in a certain way, to do certain things, or to achieve certain goals.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-18 and metadata.

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
Indicator	A measure, generally quantitative, used to illustrate complex phenomena in a simple manner. A 'quantitative indicator' is an indicator that has a numerical value (for example 'Number of...'). A 'qualitative indicator' is based on information requiring subjective evaluation or descriptive reporting (for example 'Type of incentives...').	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5 and Add.1-7.
Indicator metadata	Information pertaining to the indicator describing the rationale for the selection of that indicator, the level of compliance of the indicator to the e-SMART criteria, the way to collect information (data needed, method of computation, unit of measurement, data sources), the geographical level of application of the indicator, and the reporting entities in charge.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicators and metadata.
Information events	Events implying recordable attendance (meetings, workshops, seminars) and other events such as public debates, national/regional/ international campaigns, exhibitions, festivals and similar.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-1 and metadata.
Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS)	Methodological framework developed by the Global Mechanism to assist affected countries in their mobilization efforts of financial resources. More in general, integrated financing strategies may be pursued by various donors/organizations within different approaches and/or frameworks.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicators CONS-O-3, CONS-O-14 and metadata.
Joint Liaison Group (JLG)	It encompasses the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNCCD and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It aims to enhancing coordination between the three conventions, exploring options for cooperation and synergistic action.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1, Add. 2 and Add.7. Performance indicator CONS-O-7, metadata and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Key stakeholders	Governmental bodies, science and technology institutions, CSOs (please refer to the definition of CSOs for additional details on key stakeholders).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-1 and metadata.
Knowledge sharing system	A web-based system comprising structured information provided by diverse sources or a network facilitating knowledge-sharing among members, including the compilation of best practices and success stories.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-11 and metadata.
Leveraging	The use of financial resources to increase the return on investments. Leverage is a factor by which lever multiplies a force.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-14 and metadata.
Mainstreaming	Making sure that something is fully taken into account, incorporated or integrated.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-6 and metadata.

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
Media products	Press (articles, press releases), leaflets, flyers, brochures, comics, radio and television programmes (such as documentaries), and innovative communication technologies (ICT) material for reaching out (dedicated websites, CDs).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-1 and metadata.
Method of computation	Calculation needed to obtain the numerical value of a quantitative indicator. Computation on a yearly basis requires the numerical value of the indicator to be calculated each year.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add. 2 and Add.7. Metadata and impact indicators for SO4.
Monitoring system	A system implying the systematic gathering, storing, and processing of data in terms of analysis and vulnerability assessment.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-8 and metadata.
National action programme (NAP)	Reference is to articles 10 and 11 of the UNCCD. NAPs shall be specific to DLDD as a commitment to the Convention. They shall also encompass strategies to fostering synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-5 and metadata.
National capacity self-assessment (NCSA)	Global programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to enable countries to carry out a systematic assessment of their capacity needs to strengthen the management of national and global environmental issues, particularly with regard to the Rio conventions. Source: GEF NCSA website	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-13 and metadata.
Official Development Assistance (ODA)	Grants or loans to countries and territories on the Development Assistance Committee (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (OECD) (DAC) List of ODA Recipients (developing countries) and to multilateral agencies which are: (a) undertaken by the official sector; (b) have promotion of economic development and welfare as the main objective; (c) at concessional financial terms (if a loan, having a grant element of at least 25 per cent). In addition to financial flows, technical cooperation is included in aid. Grants, loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. Transfer payments to private individuals (e.g. pensions, reparations or insurance payouts) are in general not counted. Source: DAC Glossary.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.7. Impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Official document	A document is deemed official when it is publicly published in its final version by the institution concerned and/or is endorsed by the State, or published on the Internet or as hardcopy.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-2 and metadata.
Partnership agreement	Written agreement among partners spelling out the terms and conditions of the support to be provided to affected country Parties for UNCCD implementation.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-6 and metadata.

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
Performance indicator	Quantitative (or qualitative) measure of the achievement of an outcome. Performance indicators compare actual conditions with a specific set of reference conditions. They measure the 'distance(s)' between the current situation and the desired situation (target).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicators and metadata.
Performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS)	Framework for performance and implementation review of the Convention, of The Strategy and of the Convention's stakeholders.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/4. PRAIS
Programme and project sheet	Fact sheets providing detailed qualitative information on individual programmes/projects reported in the financial annex.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4. Financial annex and programme/project sheet.
Proxy indicator	Indirect measure that approximates a phenomenon in the absence of a direct measure. It is also referred to as 'indirect indicator'.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicators and metadata.
Quality review/control	Process assessing the quality of a document/tool. It is usually performed against a set of common criteria meant to make the review objective and systematic.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2 – Performance indicators CONS-O-10, CONS-O-11, and metadata.
Relevant activity codes (RACs)	Classification approach devised by the Global Mechanism, identifying some 60 activities categorized against four main topics: Emergency response, Monitoring and research, Planning and mitigation, and Risk management.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4. Financial annex and programme/project sheet.
Relevant international forums	Venues where topics specifically addressing DLDD or issues related to DLDD are treated or should be treated. They include venues at regional and subregional level that have a role in the international context as well as scientific and academic forums internationally or regionally recognized. A list of these forums has been submitted to COP 9 for approval.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-2 and metadata.
Rio markers	Marker system to identify aid activities targeting the objectives of the three Rio conventions. The Rio markers can score 0 (not targeted), 1 (significant objective), and 2 (principal objective). The UNCCD Rio marker can also score 3 (principal objective and in support of an action programme). Detailed definitions of the Rio markers are given in DCD/DAC(2002)21/ADD at: http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/44/46/35646074.pdf	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4 and Add.7 . Financial annex and programme/project sheet, and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Science and technology institutions	Bodies dealing with science and technology, either from the private or public sector, thus also including governmental institutions.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicator CONS-O-3 and metadata.

Term/concept	Definition	Reference document(s)
Sustainable land management (SLM) technology	An intervention at field level (on cropland, grazing land, forest land, or other land) which maintains or enhances the productive capacity of the land in areas affected by or prone to degradation (including prevention or reduction of soil erosion, compaction and salinity; conservation or drainage of soil water; maintenance or improvement of soil fertility, etc.). A technology consists of one or more measures belonging to the following categories: agronomic measures (e.g. intercropping, contour cultivation, mulching), vegetative measures (e.g. tree planting, hedge barriers, grass strips), structural measures (e.g. graded banks or bunds, level bench terrace), management measures (e.g. land use change, area closure, rotational grazing).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.5. Best practices.
Target	A quantitative value usually referring to international policy objectives. Often, the target has a time deadline that should be met. Targets express 'desired situations'. Targets refer to various geographical levels: targets at country level (i.e. national targets) contribute to achieving the overall targets set at the global level.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add.2. Performance indicators and metadata.
Target area	The area actually interested by the implementation of an initiative/project/programme.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4. Financial annex and programme/project sheet.
Target groups	Stakeholders (positively) affected through their involvement in the implementation of an initiative/project/programme.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.4. Financial annex and programme/project sheet.
Technical support	Physical aid (material aid - machines, hardware or software) and knowledge aid (technical assistance or know-how).	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-18 and metadata.
Type of initiatives in the field of education	Informal education (vocational training), formal education (primary, secondary and tertiary level), seminars, training courses, stages, internships, and curriculum development.	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-4 and metadata.
Unit of measurement	Division of quantity used for the measurement of quantitative indicators (for example USD, number, percentage, etc.)	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add. 2 and Add.7. Metadata and impact indicators for strategic objective 4.
Vulnerability	The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity. Source: UNFCCC Glossary	ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and Add. 2. Performance indicator CONS-O-8 and metadata.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

6. The present document is an addendum to document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5. Conclusions and recommendations relating to the consolidated set of performance indicators to measure progress against the operational objectives of The Strategy contained in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.1 and to the minimum set of impact indicators to assess progress against strategic objective 4 of The Strategy contained in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.7, should be drawn also using information provided in this document.

7. The COP may wish:

(a) To take note of the terminology and definitions proposed in the glossary and to invite Parties and relevant organizations to refer to the terminology and definitions included therein when reporting to the COP;

(b) To request the secretariat to publish the glossary on the UNCCD website and keep it regularly updated as needs for revision arise.
