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The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology

**The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of
the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Conference of the Parties by its decision 3/COP.8, adopting the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), spelled out the strategic objectives to guide the actions of all stakeholders and partners of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for the next 10 years. The roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders were well defined. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) was given primary responsibility for fulfilling operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge, as well as a supporting role in implementing operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness raising and education.

The secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the CST has developed three documents for consideration by the CST: one on the draft two-year work programme, one on the draft four-year work plan and one on consideration of elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. BACKGROUND	1-4	3
II. SCOPE OF THE REPORT	5-6	3
III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	7-12	4

I. Background

1. By decision 3/COP.8 the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), also referred to as “The Strategy”.
2. The COP through paragraph 38 of decision 3/COP.8 provides for a multi-year (four-year) work plan for the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to be presented at the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) under the first planning cycle. The draft 2008–2011 work plan for the CST is therefore submitted to this first special session of the CST (CST S-1) for preliminary consideration and any recommendation the CST may wish to make to CRIC 7.
3. By decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 7, the COP requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the COP and the Bureau of the CST, to prepare for the CST, in line with The Strategy, a costed draft two-year work programme taking a results-based management (RBM) approach. The draft 2008–2009 costed work programme for the CST is submitted to CST S-1 for preliminary consideration and any recommendation the CST may wish to make to CRIC 7.
4. By decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10, the COP requested the CST to provide advice for the discussion on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy by the CRIC and report to the ninth session of the COP (COP 9). The three strategic objectives are: to improve the living conditions of affected populations; to improve the condition of affected ecosystems; and to generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD. The scoping document on this item “Elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3” is submitted to CST S-1.

II. Scope of the report

5. This document and its addenda respond to the requests made by the COP during its eighth session (COP 8) that the work plan and programme of work of the CST be developed taking an RBM approach, and that the CST develop elements for provision of advice to the CRIC on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. The addenda are as follows:

(a) The draft four-year work plan, document ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.1: The work plan is built on the outcomes identified in The Strategy under operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge but also includes the supporting role, given by the COP to the CST, for implementing operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness raising and education. In addition, as specified in paragraph 13 (responsibilities and role) and paragraph 14 (institutional arrangements, programme of work and budget) of The Strategy, the proposed work plan spells out ways and means, including institutional arrangements, to give the CST the capacity for assessing, advising on and supporting implementation of, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the causes and impacts of desertification/land degradation, and for informing COP decisions. The Bureau of the CST during its meeting in Bonn in June 2008 had

before it a draft of this document for consideration, and the comments made helped to enrich the text.

(b) The draft two-year work programme for 2008–2009, document ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.2: This document aims to give the Parties the planning tools necessary to establish clear priorities and a roadmap towards achieving the mandate prescribed by the COP. The draft two-year work programme (2008–2009) presents the main outputs with regard to each expected accomplishment contained in the draft multi-year work plan (2008–2011). These outputs represent the concrete deliverables to be produced as building blocks in moving towards the accomplishments. The work programme also presents activities to be carried out in producing the outputs. The information is grouped under the six outcome areas of operational objective 3, the reshaping of the CST to enhance its efficiency and the CST's supporting role in implementing operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness raising and education. The Bureau of the CST, during its meeting in Bonn in June 2008, considered a draft of this document and made comments as appropriate that helped to enrich the text.

(c) Elements on how best to measure progress with strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, document ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3: This scoping document presents in a succinct manner the broad scope of the issues to be considered under the three strategic objectives. It expands on the indicators put forward in The Strategy and attempts to provide the CST with tangible ideas on how to conceptualize the way forward. The document emphasizes the need to select and validate methodologies for each indicator, and to ensure that results are comparable at the various levels. A reflection is provided on the important role that regional institutions can play in analysing, interpreting and evaluating the indicators produced at the global level and harmonizing those delivered at national level. A draft of this document was submitted to the Bureau of the CST during its meeting in Bonn in June 2008 and pertinent comments were made that helped to enrich the text.

6. The above documents are submitted to CST S-1 for preliminary consideration, bearing in mind the decision by COP 8 that these issues should be considered further by the CST at its ninth session (CST 9).

III. Conclusions and recommendations

7. The provisions of decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 38, on planning and budgeting cycles request the CST to formulate a multi-year (four-year) work plan based on RBM principles. The budget to be prepared by the secretariat will integrate the draft costed two-year work programme of the CST.

8. CST S-1 may wish to deliberate on the first draft four-year work plan (2008–2011) and to provide appropriate guidance pursuant to the preparation of an updated four-year work plan (2010–2013) for consideration at CST 9.

9. The CST was also requested by decision 3/COP.8 to include on the agenda of CST 9 an item on the consideration of its draft costed two-year work programme, which takes an RBM approach consistent with The Strategy. Moreover, the CST has been requested to present the

same costed two-year work programme to COP 9 for consideration and adoption. The Committee at its special session may wish to deliberate on the draft two-year work programme for 2008–2009 and to provide the appropriate guidance pursuant to this decision to prepare a costed draft two-year work programme for 2010–2011, taking an RBM approach and following budget-based management principles.

10. Taking into account the provisions of decision 3/COP.8, which request the CST to develop elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, the CST may wish to identify milestones to be followed for the development of key indicators to provide specific guidance to the CRIC in this regard.

11. Moreover, the CST takes into account the affirmation by the COP by its decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 43, that the COP will be the main body for assessing and reviewing the overall implementation of The Strategy, assisted in this regard by the CRIC and the CST, and involving the COP Bureau as appropriate, in line with their respective mandates. In this regard, the CST may wish to define more clearly the support to be provided particularly with performance monitoring and performance indicator development. The COP provides that the global indicators contained in The Strategy are to be refined further by the CST, capitalizing on existing sources of data, to form the baseline data for biophysical and socio-economic trends.

12. The Committee in considering the above items may wish to make any recommendations and/or conclusions it deems appropriate in furtherance of its work. In this regard, the Committee may also wish to give clear guidance to the Bureau of the CST on the way forward in respect of the work to be accomplished during the intersessional period leading up to COP 9.
