

**TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND FRAMEWORK TO ENHANCE
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCCD
(2008–2018)**

Revised draft prepared for IIWG 3 by Unisféra and IECN

6 April 2007

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), by its decision 23/COP.6, requested the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of the United Nations to carry out a comprehensive review of the UNCCD secretariat. The consequent JIU report was submitted for the consideration of the COP at its seventh session (COP 7). At COP 7, the Parties decided that the detailed review of the JIU report would be carried out during the intersessional period before COP 8, to be held in autumn 2007. For this purpose the COP, by its decision 3/COP.7, established an Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group (IIWG). This Group was further requested to develop a 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention by addressing, inter alia, the recommendations of the JIU report. In line with the decision 3/COP.7, the Bureau of the COP was assigned to prepare the terms of reference of the IIWG. These terms state that the documentary outputs of the IIWG would include:

(a) A report, based on the IIWG's review of the JIU report, including how best to address the recommendations therein;

(b) A draft 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD.

2. At its first meeting, in May 2006, the IIWG considered its programme of work. In the light of the scope of its tasks on the one hand, and the limited time available for concluding its work on the other, the Group decided to seek external assistance, subject to the availability of resources. At its second meeting, in July 2006, the IIWG further specified that it would need the assistance of a core consultancy team, consisting of at least two consultants. In addition, the Group considered that short-term assignments would be given to selected consultants for preparing issue papers on specific technical matters that are relevant to the development of the strategic plan and framework.

3. In November 2006, the core consultancy team of Unisféra International Centre (Unisféra) (Canada) and Integrated Environmental Consultants Namibia (IECN) (Namibia) was commissioned by the IIWG Chair (financed by the Government of Denmark) to assist the IIWG in the preparation of the above-mentioned documents.

4. An inception meeting took place on 10 and 11 November 2006 in Montreal, Canada, and Unisféra–IECN submitted an inception report to the IIWG Chair on 8 December 2006. This report presented the core consultancy team's approach to addressing the JIU report recommendations based on the IIWG's initial discussions and its 5 September outline of the draft "Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the UNCCD (2008–2018)". The Chair then requested that Unisféra–IECN prepare an updated working draft of the Strategic Plan for submission to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) at its fifth session.

5. The updated working draft of the Strategic Plan was designed to inform the CRIC about the work of the core consultancy team and to solicit comments and generate discussions on the outline structure and general approach of the strategic plan. CRIC participants were invited to share their views on the draft Strategic Plan with the consultants, the Chair of the IIWG and IIWG members present at CRIC, and/or in writing to the Chair no later than 6 April 2007.

6. The following working draft of the “Ten-Year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance Implementation of the UNCCD (2008–2018)” contained in this document was prepared by the team of consultants based on the framework developed by the IIWG at its first two meetings and on comments on an earlier draft received from Parties and stakeholders. This document is a working draft which has not been fully approved by IIWG members. As a consequence, it does not necessarily reflect the views of the IIWG or any of its individual members.

7. Comments on this revised draft Strategic Plan should be submitted as soon as possible to the Chair of the IIWG and/or any of IIWG members. The IIWG will consider at its next meeting to be held on 26-28 April 2007 this draft and any comments received.

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A. The vision

A world where land degradation/desertification trends are reversed and the effects of drought and climate variability mitigated, thereby contributing to sustainable development through the improvement of people’s livelihoods and economic well-being and the protection of the environment at the local and global levels.

B. The mission

Provide a global framework to support the development and implementation of national and regional policies, programmes and measures to reverse land degradation/desertification trends and mitigate the effects of drought and climate variability through scientific and technological excellence, standard setting, advocacy and resource mobilization.

C. Strategic objectives and impacts

The following two strategic objectives guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008-2018. Meeting these long-term objectives will contribute to achieving the above-mentioned vision.

Strategic Objective 1

Maintain and, where possible, increase land-related local and global benefits through sustainable land and water management in order to improve human and ecosystems wellbeing.

The following impacts are the long-term effects intended by Strategic Objective 1

Impact 1.1. Land productivity is maintained and, where possible, increased in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.

Impact 1.2. Ecosystem goods and services are managed and maintained at sustainable levels while generating optimal benefits for affected peoples and economies.

Impact 1.3. Global benefits and synergies are generated through the protection of land and water resources, thereby contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.

Impact 1.4. People living in areas affected by land degradation have a more diversified livelihood base and benefit from income generated from appropriate land use options.

Strategic Objective 2

Mitigate the effects of drought, climate variability and climate change through preparedness and adaptive measures in order to reduce human and ecosystem vulnerability.

The following impacts are the long-term effects intended by Strategic Objective 2.

Impact 2.1. The vulnerability of land and water resources and ecosystems to climate change and drought is reduced through the application of adapted land and water use patterns and practices.

Impact 2.2. Affected populations' socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability to climate change and drought is reduced through improved adaptive capacity.

Impact 2.3. Global benefits and synergies are generated through improved adaptability of land and water resources and ecosystems to climate change.

Impact 2.4 Early warning systems and monitoring capabilities are in place to support adaptive capacity in affected areas.

D. Operational objectives and outcomes

With a view to support the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives, the following operational objectives aim to guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium terms.

Operational Objective 1 – Science, technology and knowledge

Coordinate and support a global network of scientific and technological excellence and develop effective information and knowledge sharing systems to enhance knowledge at all levels

The following outcomes are the short-term effects intended by Operational Objective 1.

Outcome 1.1: The UNCCD has established itself as an authority of scientific and technological excellence pertaining to sustainable land management.

Outcome 1.2: Effective knowledge sharing systems are in place at all levels with a view to support policymakers and end users.

Outcome 1.3: Global long-term monitoring capacity is developed to observe land degradation trends, support the identification of specific problem areas (“hot spots”) and help direct specific management interventions.

Outcome 1.4: A scientifically robust and consistent baseline of land degradation is developed to help identify priorities and monitor the consequences of actions.

Outcome 1.5: Knowledge of the interactions between socioeconomic factors - including poverty and migration - policy frameworks and ecosystem conditions is improved.

Operational Objective 2 – Policy Implementation

Support the development of policy standards and champion their adoption and implementation across sectors at local, national and international levels

The following outcomes are the short-term effects intended by Operational Objective 2.

Outcome 2.1: NAPs are progressively reshaped into iterative, results-based strategic documents supported by adequate scientific baseline information;

Outcome 2.2: Affected country Parties integrate and prioritize their NAPs into regional, subregional and national development plans and other relevant sectoral plans.

Outcome 2.3: Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives into their development programmes/projects and offer adequate support to affected developing country Parties.

Outcome 2.4: Operational synergy among climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and desertification national action plans and programmes is strengthened so as to improve cost effectiveness and enhance the impact of interventions;

Outcome 2.5: Strategic policy assessments are conducted at national level to identify socio-economic, trade related and political disincentives to sustainable land management and appropriate measures are recommended to mitigate their impact;

Outcome 2.6: Effective participation of communities and stakeholders is supported by the decentralization of land and water management decision-making and through other empowerment strategies.

Operational Objective 3 - Capacity building

Develop and implement effective capacity development strategies supported by necessary investments at national and local levels

The following outcomes are the short-term effects intended by Operational Objective 3.

Outcome 3.1: Innovative approaches are implemented to support and develop capacities in affected communities and countries, including through community exchange and peer learning experiences. Best practices are scaled up and integrated into relevant national policy instruments and rolled-out nation-wide;

Outcome 3.2: Capacity needs are identified, using national coordinating bodies and NCSA reports where available, and integrated into NAPs, building on the potential for synergy between efforts to implement the UNCCD, the CBD and the UNFCCC;

Outcome 3.3: Major investments are made in support of capacity-building and development and meaningful partnerships are created in support of SLM capacity development in affected countries.

Operational Objective 4 – Advocacy, Awareness Raising and Education

Advocate a global commitment towards sustainable land and water management to reverse and prevent land degradation/desertification trends and reduce vulnerability to climate change in order to improve human and ecosystem wellbeing.

The following outcomes are the short-term effects intended by Operational Objective 4.

Outcome 4.1: All Parties renew their commitment to the UNCCD and actively engage in its effective implementation.

Outcome 4.2: All Parties advocate the UNCCD as a key instrument for sustainable development and for poverty alleviation.

Outcome 4.3: NGOs and the scientific community in the North and the South are fully engaged as partners in advocacy, awareness raising and education initiatives.

Outcome 4.4: Greater awareness and understanding of the causes and impacts of land degradation and drought is generated among key constituencies in developed and developing country Parties at local and national levels.

Outcome 4.5: A comprehensive communication strategy is developed and implemented at the Convention level to raise public awareness of the benefits of the UNCCD and of the impacts of land degradation.

Outcome 4.6: UNCCD is appropriately represented in relevant international fora, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity, rural development, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Operational Objective 5 - Financing and technology

Promote the mobilization and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources to increase their impact and effectiveness

The following outcomes are the short-term effects intended by Operational Objective 5.

Outcome 5.1: Developed country Parties establish a common platform to provide adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;

Outcome 5.2: Affected country Parties develop integrated investment strategies for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increase the effectiveness and impact of interventions;

Outcome 5.3: Innovative sources of finance are explored to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, including private sector investment, market-based mechanisms, trade, philanthropic donations and synergistic financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity protection;

Outcome 5.4: Access to technology is facilitated through adequate financing and effective economic and policy incentives. An inventory of technology needs and available resources is developed.

D. Implementation Framework

Sections A to D of this report set the long-term objectives for the UNCCD. This section defines the roles and responsibilities of the various UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders in meeting these objectives.

All Parties

In accordance with JIU recommendations 2 and 3, the Parties shall appoint high-ranking officials of relevant ministries to be in charge of UNCCD affairs. The parties shall ensure that Convention focal points are better capacitated to fully engage in responding to the requirements under the Convention and SP, and contribute to the continued development;

Developed Country Parties

[To be completed]

Consistent with JIU recommendation 8a, developed country Parties ensure that sufficient technical and financial support is provided to the affected developing countries for the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 7.

In accordance with JIU recommendation 8b, developed country Parties provide higher levels of voluntary funding to UNCCD trust funds to place them in a better position to support the implementation of the Convention.

Developing Country Parties

[To be completed]

The Conference of the Parties (COP)

[To be completed]

First and foremost, the COP should adopt the Ten-year Strategic Plan and a corresponding work programme to implement the SP at its level.

The COP should hold yearly meetings, one year focusing on a biannual budget and the other on reporting and implementation review.

In accordance with JIU Recommendation 4, the COP should grant the Bureau sufficient legislative power to enhance its authority so as to meet any emergencies when the COP is not in session and to ensure the prompt and continued implementation of the SP and COP work programme.

The CRIC

[See options paper].

The CST, Roster of Experts, Group of Experts, Network of Institutions

[See options paper]

The Secretariat

[See options paper]

The Global Mechanism

[See options paper]

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

[To be completed based on options selected by IIWG]

The GEF revises its MOU with the COP to align it with new SP.

GEF is invited to offer Parties to access GEF funding for reporting and action programmes

International Governmental Organizations

[To be completed based on options selected by IIWG]

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

In accordance with JIU recommendation 9, revised procedures are adopted for the participation of NGOs in the COP and other activities, including clear selection criteria and a mechanism to ensure a balance of participants from different regions. Predictable financial support is provided to ensure continuous NGO participation at and between sessions;

E. Next Steps

Action Plans

The Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, (others) are asked to develop mid-term plans in line with the benchmarking framework for results based management. These plans should be consistent with the strategic plan and integrate indicators and targets to assess the progress in their implementation

Performance Monitoring

An AHWG on Indicators and Targets shall pilot a participatory process, including consultations with civil society, NGOs, and rely on the existing work of research institutions, governments and international organizations, for the development of a set of core indicators and targets to assess the implementation of the SP. The AHWGIT shall present its proposed set of indicators at COP.9.

These indicators shall form part of a performance monitoring system. Evaluation findings shall be systematically fed back into the planning and programming cycle.