

## DesertNet International (DNI) reports on science-policy developments at UNCCD COP10 (Changwon, Republic of Korea, October 2011) and on its own science-policy work in 2011



This report was published on 6.12.2011 at: [www.desertnet-international.org](http://www.desertnet-international.org)  
For more information contact: [office@european-desertnet.eu](mailto:office@european-desertnet.eu)

M. Akhtar-Schuster<sup>1</sup>, Harriet Bigas<sup>2</sup>, Giuseppe Enne<sup>3</sup>, Richard Escadafal<sup>4</sup>, María José Marques<sup>5</sup>, Pier Paolo Roggero<sup>3</sup>, Stefan Sommer<sup>6</sup>, Lindsay Stringer<sup>7</sup> and Richard Thomas<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DesertNet Secretariat, Germany

<sup>2</sup> United Nations University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Hamilton, Canada

<sup>3</sup> NRD-UNISS, University of Sassari, Italy

<sup>4</sup> IRD/CESBIO, Toulouse, France

<sup>5</sup> Geology and Geochemistry Dept. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

<sup>6</sup> JRC-IES, Ispra, Italy

<sup>7</sup> Sustainability Research Institute, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, UK

## **Introduction**

A main topic of discussion at the UNCCD COP10 focused on how to channel scientific progress and advice into the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). These discussions provided a good opportunity for DesertNet International (DNI) to present its recent and ongoing interdisciplinary activities at the international level in support of the Convention. DNI's Side Event, which was held during the session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), informed interested stakeholders and Scientific and Technical Correspondents (STCs) about the outcomes of DNI's recent e-consultation on how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention.

Key scientific objectives identified during the international scientific conference "Dryland Ecosystem Functioning and Resilience: Integrating Biophysical Assessment with Socio-economic Issues" held in Alghero (Italy) on 6-8 July, 2011 (NRD-CNI-ESF, 2011) were presented, outlining their implications in the implementation of the UNCCD and other MEAs.

The decisions taken by the Parties at COP10, summarized in this report, highlight the relevance of DNI's ongoing scientific work and demonstrate how DNI's future planning is in line with the science-relevant activities of the UNCCD.

### **1. Outcomes of UNCCD COP10 Discussions on E-consultations**

As a follow up to the process initiated at the Conference of the Parties-9 to the UNCCD on "how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process" (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6. 2011), DNI, together with the United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), set up an international, science-based e-consultation between January-June 2010 to assess the needs and means for the organization of independent scientific advice into the UNCCD via its Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The results of this independent e-consultation were first officially presented at the Second Special Session of the CST (CST S-2) in February, 2011 (Akhtar-Schuster *et al.* 2011 and Oldeland 2010).

Following Decision 18/COP9 of the UNCCD requesting the CST to conduct an e-survey on how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, Parties at the CST S-2 in February, 2011 recommended next steps and the CST Bureau provided guidance to the Secretariat on how to implement an e-survey. With this mandate, the UNCCD Secretariat was tasked to implement the assessment; the results from this e-survey provided four different options (see below).

DNI was invited by the Secretariat to provide guidance on the technical set-up of the assessment. The UNCCD e-survey was posted on 19.07.2011 on the UNCCD website and was accessible for several weeks. It provided the following four options for channelling scientific advice into the UNCCD:

1. Use of existing scientific networks;
2. Establishment of a new scientific network focused on specific networks;
3. Use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms;

#### 4. Establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil.

Although there are several differences on the approach used by the e-consultations led by DNI/UNU-INWEH and that led by the UNCCD Secretariat (see Table 1), the results underscore the importance of a robust scientific underpinning in promoting the successful implementation of the Convention.

**Table 1:** Differences in the scope of the two e-consultations led respectively by DNI/UNU-INWEH and the UNCCD Secretariat

DNI/UNU-INWEH e-consultation	CST e-survey
Led by an international, independent scientific group	Led by the CST
Focus primarily on the international scientific community (although ministries, NGOs, Development Agencies participated)	Among others, the UNCCD also collected official responses from Parties through letters sent to National Focal Points on the four options
Questions addressed the current impact of desertification research at country/global level (see ANNEX 1)	Questions addressed what regional and global scientific networks already exist (see ANNEX 2)
Anonymous e-consultation which enables scientists to give detailed comments to each question in their mother tongue	Results of the anonymous e-survey were provided in three languages (English, French and Spanish) and the official responses were fed into the assessment report

## 2. Plenary Discussions on the Four Options of the E-survey Conducted by the CST Secretariat

At the CST Session at COP10 on 12 October, 2011 in Changwon, the Secretariat introduced the results of its e-survey on how to organise international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process. Although concerns were raised by some Parties that the results of the e-survey had not been provided beforehand to allow full consideration, the overall opinions were well reasoned, allowing the classification of the majority of the statements into three major groups (see also: Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 234 and 241<sup>1</sup>):

1. **Reservations on the establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil:** Potential donors either entirely rejected the idea of creating a new panel (e.g. Japan, Switzerland, USA) or asked for more information (potentials and gaps) on existing mechanisms (EU). Bolivia was concerned that option 4 “Establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil” would separate the different elements of ecosystems, and underscored the need for a holistic approach to DLDD. Some potential donors (e.g. USA and Norway) also

<sup>1</sup> Available at (accessed on 17/11/2011):

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb04234e.pdf>

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb04241e.pdf>

suggested that the newly emerging Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) could integrate DLDD into its portfolio. Concerns were raised (Israel) that establishing such a panel would be a ‘mammoth’ if it were to integrate all existing organisations and would be also be costly.

2. **Group emphasising the use of existing scientific networks:** Using existing resources, such as existing scientific networks, is seen as a realistic option for optimizing the inclusion of DLDD issues (Barbados, Bolivia, Equador, Israel, Trinidad Tobago, Yemen). Parties asked that the coordination of subregional and regional activities and networks be improved (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Tunisia and Yemen). Tunisia stated that further work should be done to make these existing regional and subregional networks more competitive and enhance cooperation between them. The main message that emerged is to build on existing initiatives and not re-invent the wheel (Barbados).
  
3. **Supporters of the establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil:** The African Group, Bosnia, Cameroon, Herzegovina, India, Indonesia, Moldova, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Peru supported option 4 “Establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil”. This group recommended that a thorough gap analysis of existing networks through the UNCCD be undertaken (Africa Group). However, they underscored that the results of the e-survey indicate that a problem exists at the structural level. Niger the first task is to create synergies between local scientific institutes in order to create links at the local level and benefit improvements in human well-being before considering the needs at the sub-regional and regional levels. Parties emphasized their support for the UNCCD becoming the global authority on scientific matters of land degradation (Cameroon, Egypt, Philippines, South Africa) thus making it equally as strong as its sister conventions (UNFCCC and CBD). The timeframe for the implementation of such a new global authority was seen as being realistic, with its implementation a long-term strategy (India, Saudi Arabia) once cost implications are known; advancing existing networks would be a short-term strategy in the meantime (India). Botswana summarised that it is apparent that the majority of the Parties favours option 4.

Brazil and Bolivia recommended a broader approach, and suggested discussing the issue on the needs and means for the organization of independent scientific advice into the UNCCD (via the CST) at Rio+20 (UNCSD being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 4-6, 2012).

Finally, preliminary cost scenarios for a panel were presented by the CST, which suggested that the costs would vary considerably depending upon the size of a panel, its mandate and functions, its composition, and the number of meetings per year.

### **3. Results of the Discussions on the e-forum conducted by DNI/UNU-INWH on the needs and options for a land panel**

On 13 October, 2011 at its COP10 Side Event titled “At the Cutting Edge: Channelling Core Scientific Advances into the UNCCD Process”, DNI informed interested STCs, members of national delegations, scientists, UN agency representatives and NGO representatives on the latest scientific advances that can

inform the UNCCD process, drawing on the results of the joint DNI/UNU-INWEH e-consultation and on the outcomes from the NRD-UNISS/DNI/ESF Drylands Conference in July 2011 (see above).

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, Mr. Luc Gnacadja, was in attendance and provided the context for the side event through his introductory statement where he underlined the need for active engagement of the scientific community in the UNCCD process to help it move forward in its implementation of the its Ten Year Strategic Programme, especially with regards to objective 3 of the Strategy<sup>2</sup> (for the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought). Mr. Gnacadja invited the scientific community to find a mechanism that is relevant, wanted and needed, and that fits within the other ongoing processes at the international level.

Following Mr. Gnacadja's statement, the outcomes of the DNI/UNU-INWEH e-consultation were presented by DNI Chair Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster and UNU-INWEH representative Dr. Richard Thomas. The outcomes of the e-consultation, clearly indicate that the scientific community identifies an existing structural gap for continuously channelling independent and sound science to support the implementation of the UNCCD. Following the e-consultation and further research and review of options for long-term platforms and functions for channeling science into the UNCCD process underscore the importance of a nimble, flexible, polycentric and inclusive process to ensure interdisciplinary scientific input into an independent panel that considers ALL aspects of land. Developing a network of networks by the scientific community as a first step is seen as an essential and necessary step forward to start this process. The international political arena should, in parallel, begin to develop the basis for an international panel on land (Thomas et al, 2011).

Issues on the structural needs and options, raised by the participants attending the DNI Side Event, are summarised as follows:

- **Question:** How can progress be made at Rio+20 on soliciting views on how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice?  
**DNI response:** *UNCCD could rapidly identify a group of agencies that are willing to support this process. An expert group could be put in place at or soon after Rio+20.*
- **Question:** Is it possible to elaborate on the presented option from the e-consultation on an international panel on LD addressing all aspects of land? How would this fit with the other aspects dealt with in this Convention?  
**DNI response:** *A platform to address all aspects of land relates to the fact that neither the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) nor the IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) address all aspects of land. To date, IPCC has done a relatively poor job of including agriculture in its assessments. A panel on land would take that up and give it a major focus. A panel on land would thus consider all biophysical, socioeconomic, political, financial and institutional aspects. Such an interdisciplinary approach is urgently*

---

<sup>2</sup> UNCCD, 2007. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 Available via [www.unccd.org](http://www.unccd.org) [accessed 8 December 2011].

*needed to identify and overcome bottlenecks for sustainable dryland development. Some projects have done a good job in identifying these bottlenecks but have failed to channel these into decision-making processes due to a lack of incentives and an ineffective science-policy interface. A panel on land should also stimulate the scientific community to come together and do a better job in addressing land issues.*

- **Question:** Please elaborate on the cooperation between UNCCD/CST and DNI with regards to the organisation of the e-survey.

**DNI response:** *DNI, as a network of independent scientists, has been providing continuous participation to UNCCD processes. DNI has been receiving encouragement from the UNCCD Secretariat to enable this participation. It is hoped that with its recognition at COP10 in Changwon as a CSO accredited to the UNCCD, cooperation between UNCCD and DNI will reach a new phase. Cooperation during both of the e-consultations was very close. In the first half of 2010, DNI was invited to provide and to discuss the interim results of its e-consultation at meetings with the CST Bureau and the CST Secretariat. The final detailed statistical analysis was provided to the Secretariat in early 2011. The scientific community therefore already received thematic and technical responses during the e-consultation and responded accordingly. The continuous advancement of DNI's system allowed DNI to provide the UNCCD with technical feedback on the set-up of their own e-consultation in the first half of 2011.*
- **Question:** Who is the target audience of the results of DNI's e-consultation? After all, when looking at the UNCCD, it should be taken into consideration that the decision-makers, who mandate the UNCCD Secretariat to undertake various tasks between COPs, are often not included. This bears the risk that it is the same (scientific) audience talking to each other, and fails to reach the decision-makers. In order to have effective impact, this also necessitates precise and accurate wording.

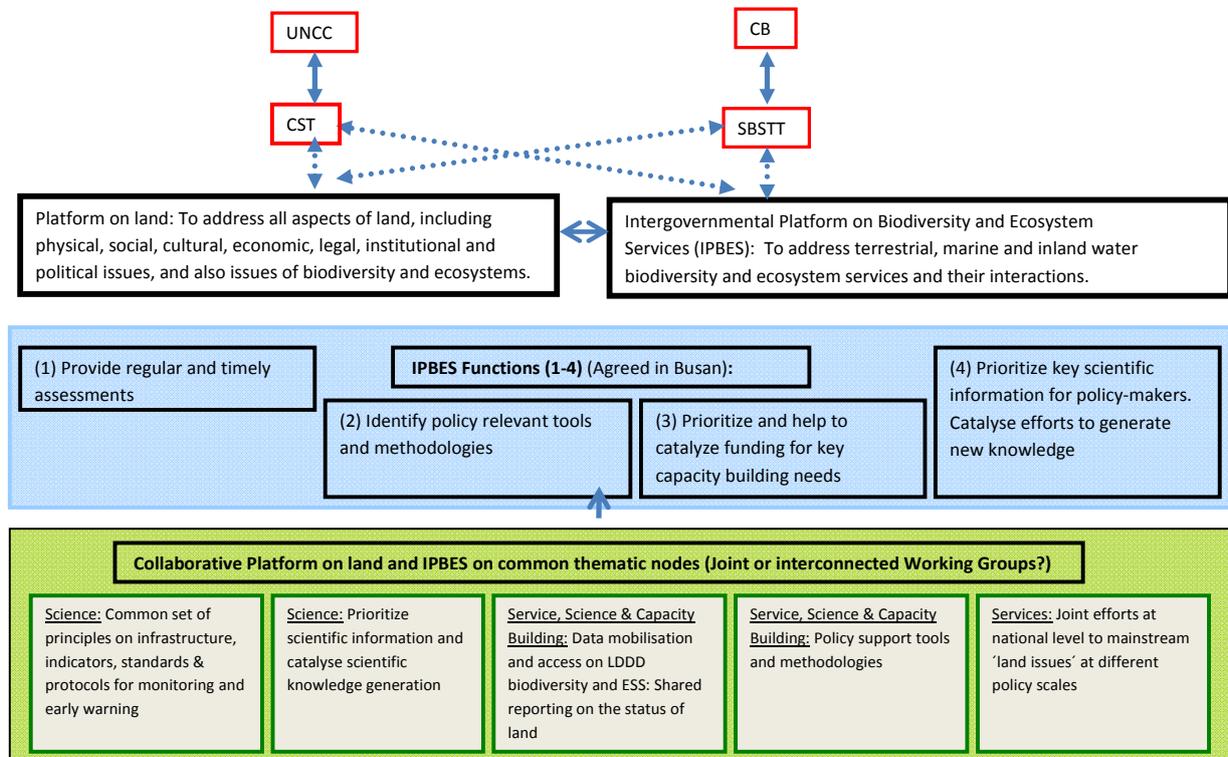
**DNI response:** *DNI was in contact with decision-makers involved in the MEAs, especially with the UNCCD, during the entire phase of the set-up, analysis and presentation of the DNI/UNU-INWEH survey. The results were been provided in a policy-relevant format (see Policy Brief, 2011 (ed. DesertNet International)) and have been submitted for publication in a scientific journal. DNI continuously aims to improve the format of its information in order to make it more accessible to policymakers, and therefore invites policy and decision makers to formulate their needs to the - scientific community. DNI also continuously invites political scientists to join interdisciplinary scientific networks working at the science-policy interface.*
- **Question:** Neither the IPCC nor IPBES generate new knowledge. Very good scientists at both science-policy interfaces are - or in the case of IPBES, will be - charged with the mission to review and synthesize existing knowledge and to extract from this knowledge what is policy-relevant. Has this been considered in the ongoing discussions on the needs for a panel on land?

**DNI response:** *This is an important aspect that was considered during the entire DNI/UNU-INWEH e-consultation phase. The panel on land will collate and disseminate existing knowledge. The DNI policy brief (2011) outlines that further discussion should focus on the development of a network of networks whose scientific expertise would also feed into a panel on land. In parallel, the policy arena should hold discussions on the form and functions of a panel on land.*

Following the discussions at the COP10 CST Session, a COP decision was taken for an *ad hoc* group to be established to “further discuss options for the provision of scientific advice to the UNCCD” (Earth Negotiations Bulletin. 2011b). At the same time, existing networks like WOCAT, joining now with LADA, support DNIs recommendations to create a network of networks, advancing scientific networking activities.

### **3.1 UNEP informs DNI about the dryland-relevant functions of the emerging IPBES**

UNEP announced that the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will now address the physical, social, cultural, economic, legal, institutional and political issues associated with ecosystem services in the context of land (and other systems). At the first plenary of the IPBES (3-7.10.2011), a number of countries called on the work programme to focus on such drivers and consequences of change in ecosystem services. This is captured in the multi- and interdisciplinary approaches contained in the Busan outcome (UNEP, 2010) and report of that recent meeting. UNEP underscored the fact that there is no greater connection, either in place or envisaged, between IPBES, the CBD and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) than between IPBES and CCD/CST or any other MEA (pers. comm. Neville Ash, 2011). A range of MEAs (including CBD, CITES, CMS, and Ramsar) have already considered IPBES specifically in decisions of their COPs or subsidiary bodies, and IPBES is being established as a completely independent body from any MEA and will respond to requests it receives from a range of MEAs. The information provided by UNEP has been considered in DNI’s graph for channelling scientific advice into the UNCCD, which indicates the connections of a panel on land in the existing global institutional landscape (Figure 1). UNEP informed that, functionally, IPBES could meet all the needs of a potential land panel if requests are received by the UNCCD/land community. Both the inter-session reviews of the potential work programme (online at [www.IPBES.net](http://www.IPBES.net)) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary of IPBES (16-21.04.2011) provide an opportunity for the land community to raise awareness of the specific needs of the UNCCD in helping to shape the discussions of the IPBES to meet the needs of the land community. This aspect links well with the DNI recommendations made at its Side Event at CST S-2 in February, 2011, where DNI representatives stated that the urgency of Land Degradation Desertification and Drought (LDDD) requires that full priority should be given to any emerging opportunities for including dryland science into intergovernmental bodies, as potential donor countries could be reluctant to the idea of creating a third inter-governmental body (Akhtar-Schuster et al. 2011).



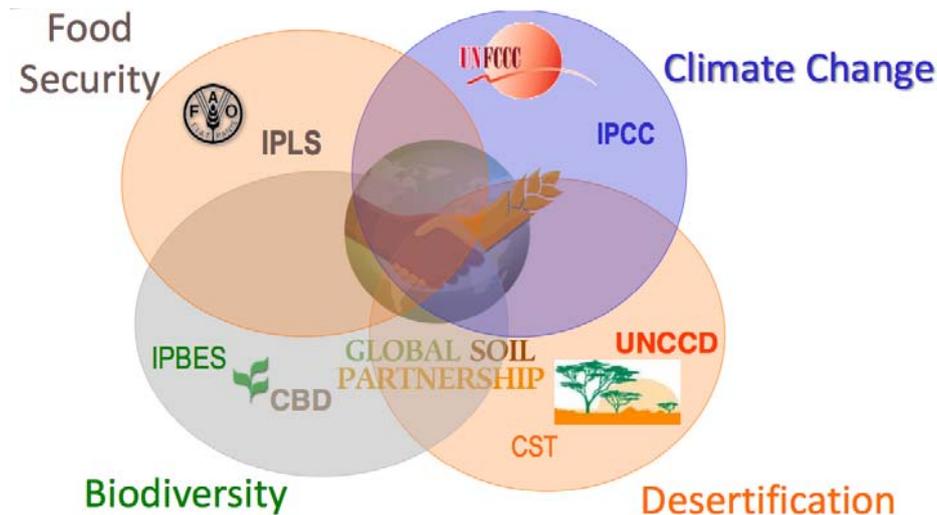
**Figure 1: Collaboration and Synergies in Work and Action - One Example (First presented by DNI on 13.10.2011 at UNCCD COP10 in Changwon, revised on 3.11.2011)** (This DNI figure is based on Fig. 3 in Thomas *et al.* (in print)).

### 3.2 Recent discussions to establish an Intergovernmental Panel on Soil (IPS)

A new initiative to create an international Intergovernmental Scientific Panel on Soil (IPS) was launched in September, 2011. This initiative is being led and promoted by FAO (GSP, online at: [www.fao.org/nr/water/landandwater\\_gsp.html](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/landandwater_gsp.html)), with support from EU-JRC and others. The proposed organization will be comprised of three structures:

- The Partnership, open to governments and all relevant stakeholders and organisations;
- The Secretariat, who will implement the vision and mission of the GSP through Regional Partnership;
- The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

This panel would provide scientific and technical advice to the Global Soil Partnership and address the needs of FAO, UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC and their scientific advisory bodies (Figure 2). Partners in this initiative are interested Governments, international Organizations, NGO's and registered private companies in FAO. Registration is possible at any time via a registration form to be submitted to the GSP Secretariat.



**Figure 2: Linkages of different scientific advisory bodies and MEAs – (presented by A. Müller on 07.09.2011 at Launching GSP: Global Soil Partnership for food security and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in Rome, Italy). In the presentation the IPS was mentioned as IPLS (intergovernmental panel on land and soil).**

FAO permanent representatives, country delegations, civil society organizations, international environmental agencies, national and international soil science societies, universities, networks (DNI, among others) and regional nodes attended the meeting. There were different opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of including “land” in the naming of the Inter-governmental Panel, to ensure due focus on “soils”, although consensus has yet to be reached on this issue. An open-ended Working Group (GSP-OWG) will be established to develop a sound zero draft to continue with the development of GSP and IPS.

The panel would be formed by 25 members proposed by Partners (all interested governments, international organizations, NGO’s and registered private companies in FAO) and they will be nominated by the FAO Council according to FAO’s standard rules and procedures, to ensure the necessary high-level scientific and technical advice on soil-related matters. The members will cover all soil-related disciplines according to regional balance and proposed GSP pillars (mapping/data, soil ecosystem functions, soil management, policy, etc.). The panel would be hosted and supported by FAO.

The mission of such a panel will be to fill the existing gap for high-level scientific advice on land and soil to policy-makers and international institutions.

### **3.3 DNI’s Vision on the way forward regarding the discussions on the needs and options for a panel on “Land”**

DNI is responding to these newly emerging initiatives addressing science-policy interfaces on land by proposing to its members a new Task Force on “Land and Soil “. The initial idea is to analyse and clarify what the main (most urgent) scientific issues are that need to be brought to the attention of policy-makers. DNI’s independent position allows it to provide scientists with an open arena, free from institutional strategies and arrangements, to discuss the scientific issues at stake before thinking about

the best mechanism for providing decision-oriented advice. The initiators of this Task Force (R. Escadafal and M.J. Marques) will send their first draft concept note to DNI members to launch a discussion and explore potential outcomes. DNI members have already provided feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Global Soil Partnership.

#### **4. Key Conclusions from international presentations and discussions at the scientific conference “Dryland Ecosystem Functioning and Resilience: Integrating Biophysical Assessment with Socio-economic Issues”**

The DNI Side Event at COP10 in Changwon also provided a forum for outlining the cutting-edge research needs to combat desertification. These issues were first discussed at the International Conference on Dryland Ecosystem Functioning and Resilience, which was jointly organized by DNI, the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the University of Sassari in Sardinia, in July 2011 (see Synthesis of the Conference outcomes, 2011 [http://www.uniss.it/documenti/conference\\_outcomes\\_final.pdf](http://www.uniss.it/documenti/conference_outcomes_final.pdf)). The conference particularly addressed those issues related to the combination of biophysical and socio-economic approaches to DLDD. A policy brief based on the conference outcomes will be developed by the end of January 2012.

The scientific dryland issues stemming from the International Conference that were raised during the DNI Side Event, specifically on indicators, economics and food security, are summarised as follows:

**Question:** One main subject of desertification parameters is indicators. Based on the numerous indicators available, only 11 have been considered for making decisions (UNCCD, 2011 and Berry *et al.*, 2009). However, heat or temperature should be seen as very important indicators that directly or indirectly relate to other parameters or indicators because it can very well describe state and material of phenomenon (e.g. heat or temperature influence surface properties, which can be detected through remote sensing). Please elaborate on this.

**DNI response:** *Indicators are tools for measuring and monitoring, and can thus support decision processes at all levels. However, tools must be seen as part of the task because in order to address complex issues, the relationships between human behaviour and ecosystem functioning needs to be addressed in an integrated way. Even if a subset of indicators is going to be used in the near future, these will also assist in addressing different scales and developing appropriate interventions, which might otherwise be neglected. It is however very important to fine-tune the sub-set of indicators in order to improve their validity.*

**Question:** The economics of desertification is in fact the topic of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNCCD Scientific Conference. What collaboration will take place between DNI and UNCCD on this topic in preparation of the conference so that they can feed into each other and provide support to each other?

**DNI response:** *DNI can offer the names of listed members of its working group to the organizers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> scientific conference for potential inclusion in the working groups that are to be set up. DNI working group members are therefore asked if they have an interest in being included.*

**Question:** Is the issue of land grabbing considered in DNI's Working Group on Economics?

**DNI response:** *Yes, the Working Group will consider all aspects of the problem, although in the case of land grabbing (and Foreign Direct Investment) several other institutions are already working on this theme.*

**Question:** Instead of discussing the costs of Land Degradation, wouldn't it be better to talk about the benefits of combating land degradation? After all, donors look at projects which have large benefits.

**DNI response:** *DNI made this very same point at the inaugural meeting of the Economics of Land Degradation held in Bonn in December, 2010 and at the Drylands Conference held in Alghero in July, 2011. It is perhaps better to talk about the value added from better land management rather than re-emphasize the loss/costs of land degradation. This is particularly relevant if the aim is to attract greater investments into degraded lands.*

**Question:** What kind of recommendations can be made in order to ensure food security and sensitize consumers on the demand side to change certain behaviours?

**DNI response:** *Sensitizing communities reflects the interdisciplinary nature of addressing food security. It is true that more attention is usually paid to the production side. It is vital to also look at people's decision making and choices, and factors that influence their behaviour. DNI will need to recruit experts to address this issue.*

**Question:** There was no mention at all about forests in drylands, which are contributing very much to food security, including fodder and other products and services. Why has this not been included? Please include this if possible. We would be happy to share the work being done at FAO on the valuation of all different land management systems for food security. We also acknowledge the need to stop taking natural resources for granted because this is only bringing more problems to drylands.

**DNI response:** *DNI acknowledges the importance of this point and welcomes further contributions that show the link between forests and food security in drylands.*

**Comment:** Many of the 1/3 of the world's population living in drylands are living in developed urban areas, or developing country urban areas. Often, we are working with very small and widely distributed populations and it can be quite difficult to get research funding for marginal people. We really need to express the important linkages between rural drylands and dryland cities and their economies and how these can be improved.

**DNI response:** *This is an important point – it's not only rural areas that are important, it's the interdependencies between urban and rural areas with respect to food security. There are flows from one to the other that we need to consider in terms of remittances, people, food and so on.*

**Comment:** There is a lot of pastoral land that is being grabbed as governments see short-term profit as a priority rather than long-term benefits. There is a perception that land isn't being used if it is under mobile pastoral use. Pastoral land is often wrongly perceived as wasteland. Here, the issue can arise around food security, biofuels, and land grab.

**DNI response:** *Vast areas are being used by pastoralists. Land tenure is however often not clear between the different land use systems. This leads to problems, which are now also increasing due to land grabbing issues. Therefore, the DNI Working Group on Food Security will also be paying special attention to land tenure / good governance issues. Whenever land is "grabbed", consent is provided by someone*

*somewhere. The key thing is that all those affected by land grabbing are involved in the decision process and this is something that is currently not happening.*

**Question:** Shouldn't food sovereignty issues be added to food security?

**DNI Answer:** *Food sovereignty is included in the DNI Working Group's agenda.*

The DNI Working Group on Food Security and the DNI Working Group on Economics officially presented the following documents:

- What is Food Security (Attachment 1).
- Policy Recommendations from the Food Security Session at the July 2011 Alghero Conference (Attachment 2).
- Working Group on the Economics of Sustainable Land Management (Attachment 3).

The respective leaders of the DNI Working Groups on Economics and Food Security warmly invite DNI members to join their working groups for further continuation of these discussions.

## 5. Overview of the science-relevant decisions taken at UNCCD COP10

During its regular session from Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) discussed and agreed upon 9 draft decisions for submission to COP10 plenary, which were adopted during the 10<sup>th</sup> COP plenary session on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the 9 main CST decisions (18/COP10 to 24/COP10 and 26/COP10, 27/ COP10), two further decisions (15/COP10 and 25/COP10) are directly relevant to the work of the CST and the scientific agenda (see table below).

**Table 2.** List of science-relevant COP10 decisions as provided on the UNCCD COP10 website [www.unccd.int/cop/cop10/decisions.php](http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop10/decisions.php) (accessed 3.12.2011).

<b>15/COP.10</b>	<b>Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention (CRIC and CST)</b>
<b>18/COP.10</b>	<b>Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)</b>
<b>19/COP.10</b>	<b>Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy</b>
<b>20/COP.10</b>	<b>Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought</b>
<b>21/COP.10</b>	<b>Knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories</b>
<b>22/COP.10</b>	<b>The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme</b>

<b>23/COP.10</b>	<b>Roster of independent experts</b>
<b>24/COP.10</b>	<b>The role and responsibilities of science and technology correspondents (STC)</b>
<b>25/COP.10</b>	<b>Election of officers of the Committee on Science and Technology</b>
<b>26/COP.10</b>	<b>Date, venue and programme of work of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology</b>
<b>27/COP.10</b>	<b>Programme of work of the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology</b>

A comprehensive summary of the discussions and main points of the decisions can also be found in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin “SUMMARY OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, 10-21 OCTOBER 2011” at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol04/enb04241e.html>.

Aside from the decisions the less controversial issues on organizational aspects, such as the updating of the roster of independent experts (23/COP10), clarifying/strengthening the role and responsibilities of STCs (24/COP10), modified rules for the election of CST officers (25/COP10) as well as the priorities for the next sessions of the CST (26/COP10, 27/COP10), the main discussions were centered on the following topics/decisions:

- Progress in the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference, as well as topic and tentative timing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Conference (18/COP10);
- Continuation of the iterative process of developing the set of UNCCD impact indicators (19/COP10);
- Assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process (20/COP10, see also section 1 to 3 of this document);
- Knowledge management organized by the UNCCD Secretariat (21/COP10);
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme (22/COP10).

### 5.1. Short overview on the key topics and decisions

#### 1) Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (18/COP10)

To begin, progress and implications for the next steps in the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference entitled “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas” were discussed.

Mr. Walter Amman, Chairman of the Global Risk Forum Davos (CH) which has been selected as the lead institution for organizing the conference, presented the state of play of setting-up the scientific and organizing committees, the thematic working groups and the planned publication schedule and plan for fundraising. While the scientific preparation appears to be well on track, fundraising seems to have progressed less. During the discussions, suggestions were made that synergies with other initiatives such as the ELD initiative being led by GIZ, would be ideal for assuring optimized thematic contributions to the UNCCD process. In order to assure strong participation of STCs in the Conference, it was decided that the conference should be held in early 2013 (no later than March) back-to-back with the CST-S3 rather than the originally-scheduled date in 2012, thus assuring optimized and timely input to COP11. The second discussion point was related to the theme and timeframe of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Conference. An agreement was reached that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scientific Conference should be held at the intersession meeting of the CST during its special session in 2014. Following thematic proposals from all regional groups, Parties agreed and decided on the following topic: "Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices". The content under this commonly agreed broad title will be further specified during the preparation of the conference

## **2) Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy (19/COP10)**

Following the adoption of two impact indicators by COP9 in 2009, based on a study by Berry et al. 2009, the Secretariat launched an iterative peer review process on the proposed set of impact indicators. The Secretariat introduced the documents related to this process (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 and 3 and ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.1, INF.2, INF.6, and INF.9), including templates and reporting guidelines for the two adopted impact indicators and a conceptual framework regarding decision criteria for future development of a more complete extended set (UNCCD White Paper, 2011). Barron Orr, University of Arizona, and Damon Stanwell-Smith, UNEP-WCMC, presented on this progress of the past two years and the ongoing pilot tracking exercise of the impact indicators.

Aside from the concerns raised on required technical capacities and the need to consider local capacities/circumstances, most Parties expressed their appreciation of the progress being made and felt that steps were being made in the right direction.

In view of decision 19/COP10, the COP requests the CST, with the support of the Secretariat, to continue to provide assistance for pilot impact-indicator tracking exercises, and to establish an *ad hoc* advisory group of 15 technical experts (budget apparently available), tasked with, *inter alia*, continuing the iterative participatory process of indicator refinement; and to provisionally adopt the draft reporting templates on the two mandatory impact indicators. The COP, *inter alia*, decides that the core principles identified in the participatory peer review process and contained in ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 set the stage for the development of proposals to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies based on national capacities and circumstances.

## **3) Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought (20/COP10)**

The Secretariat introduced discussions on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6) and presented the results of an electronic survey on four identified options (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/MISC.1). A similar e-consultation had been previously organised by DNI and a comparison of the results and the discussions on various options have been already detailed in sections 1 to 3 of this report. Despite the broad range of contrasting opinions between Parties and stakeholders on the scale and basis of an independent scientific panel supporting the UNCCD process, there seems to be a common understanding for the need for more in-depth discussions regarding synergies with the sister Conventions, and prospects of broadening the scope of the Convention in light of the CSD debate and upcoming Rio+20.

In light of this, COP10 requests the CST to plan both long- and short-term measures to enable the UNCCD to provide scientific support, and requests the Secretariat to set up an *ad hoc* working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss options for the provision of scientific advice on DLDD. Given the budget constraint for running an *ad hoc* working group, developed country Parties, national, regional and international organizations and relevant stakeholders are invited to make voluntary contributions to support the implementation.

#### **4) Knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories (21/COP10)**

The Secretariat presented the review and needs assessment undertaken on a knowledge management system (KMS), including traditional knowledge, as outlined in Article 16(g) of the Convention text, best practices, and success stories on combating DLDD (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/9).

The Philippines, EU, Switzerland and Japan suggested avoiding re-inventing the wheel by building on existing know-how by linking existing KMS, and Indonesia and others noted the use of WOCAT in this regard. Argentina, for GRULAC, noted access to technology as a barrier for a computer-based KMS, and Senegal, Guinea and Niger suggested that alternative ways to disseminate knowledge be considered. Many commented on aspects related to traditional knowledge. Tunisia noted the need to adapt knowledge to local conditions, and the US said integration of local knowledge and science must be developed at the local level. Egypt and Algeria asked how the initiative would address intellectual property rights (IPRs) over traditional knowledge.

In its decision, the COP, *inter alia*, requests the Secretariat, subject to additional financial resource provisions, to continue to improve knowledge management (KM), including: elaborating a platform related to DLDD; carrying out taxonomy for internal content categorization with respect to UNCCD; defining criteria and priorities applicable to KM under the Convention, taking into account results of the knowledge needs assessment; and encouraging establishment of links with regional KMS via existing networks. The COP also requests the CRIC and the Bureau of the CST to work together to define ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to the respective mandates of the CST and CRIC (15/COP10).

## 5) The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme (22/COP10)

Broad support to the programme was expressed by Parties, with Bolivia underlining its value for applied research and Mali calling it a way to expand the pool of researchers. The majority supported the option of a decentralized multi-stakeholder partnership model, where the UNCCD would be the facilitator but not the main organizer. The EU added that the programme should not be a top priority for the Secretariat, given its limited resources. The United Nations University informed the CST of its proposal to lead a multi-stakeholder partnership for the fellowship programme.

The COP decided that the multi-stakeholder partnership model should be applied in launching the fellowship programme and requests the Secretariat to form a steering group, in collaboration with institutions that formally express interest, to articulate a clear strategy for the programme. It also invites voluntary contributions for the programme, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate its establishment and report on progress at COP11.

## 6) Concluding remarks

Overall, it was felt that there are signs of increasing consensus on a number of scientific issues regarding the implementation of the 10-Year Strategy, e.g. via the iterative process on indicators, the need for putting questions forward regarding a scientific advisory body, and on broadening the scope of the Convention in view of defining sustainable development goals for combating DLDD.

## 6. Issues concerning DNI's status as a CSO accredited to the UNCCD

The DNI Bureau and UNU-INWEH provided assistance to several members of DNI from Asia to receive a visa on time in order to attend UNCCD COP10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea. Members of DNI receiving this kind service, which included direct communication between the DNI Bureau and UNU-INWEH with the respective embassies, was highly appreciated by DNI members. Special thanks go to Chiara Zanolla (NRD-UNISS) coordinator of the DNI Bureau, who provided tireless assistance in the organisational process. However, lessons learned suggest that in the future, the DNI Bureau will request DNI members to inform the DNI Bureau at an early stage if they require assistance during the visa application procedure. In the future, the DNI Bureau will also set deadlines for any support that can be provided to its members in attending future UNCCD COPs as part of the DNI CSO delegation.

The decisions adopted by Parties at COP10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea, will have direct implications for CSOs. This information will be forwarded to DNI members in early 2012.

## 7. References

Akhtar-Schuster, M., Thomas, R., Abraham, E., Chasek, P., Enne, G., Escadafal, Marques, M.J., Stringer, L., Zanolla, C. 2011: Report on Outcomes of the Side Event on 'Providing Inter-Disciplinary Advice to the UNCCD'. [http://www.european-desertnet.eu/docs/Official\\_Report\\_on\\_Outcomes\\_of\\_the\\_e\\_forum\\_Side\\_Event-20110303-FINAL.pdf](http://www.european-desertnet.eu/docs/Official_Report_on_Outcomes_of_the_e_forum_Side_Event-20110303-FINAL.pdf) (accessed on 3.11.2011).

Berry L, Abraham E, Essahli W. 2009. UNCCD Minimum set of Impact Indicators. Draft Report. Report of International Group of Experts to UNCCD CST and Secretariat. 95pp.

<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/docs/UNCCD%20Min%20Set%20of%20Impact%20Indicators%20Final%20Report%20June%204.pdf> (accessed 5.12.2011).

Earth Negotiations Bulletin. 2011a: UNCCD COP 10 Highlights. Wednesday, 12 October 2011. Vol. 4 No. 234. <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb04234e.pdf> (accessed on 3.11.2011).

Earth Negotiations Bulletin. 2011b: Summary of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification: 10-21 October 2011. Vol. 4 No. 241, Monday 24 October 2011. <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb04241e.pdf> (accessed on 3.11.2011).

ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6. 2011. Report on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process. ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6, 2.09.2011. <http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop10/pdf/cst6eng.pdf> (accessed on 3.11.2011).

NRD-University of Sassari, DesertNet International and European Science Foundation (eds.), 2011. Dryland ecosystem functioning and resilience: integrating biophysical assessment with socio-economic issues. Synthesis of the Conference Outcomes. International Conference, Alghero (Italy), 6-8 July 2011. [http://www.uniss.it/documenti/conference\\_outcomes\\_final.pdf](http://www.uniss.it/documenti/conference_outcomes_final.pdf)

Oldeland, J. 2010. Final Report on the evaluation of the "Global e-consultation on a panel for land issues". Prepared by Eco-systems, Hamburg, Germany. [http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/Final\\_Report\\_e\\_forum\\_16Feb2011.pdf](http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/Final_Report_e_forum_16Feb2011.pdf) (accessed on 3.11.2011).

Policy Brief (ed. DesertNet International). 2011. Fertile Ground? Options for a Science-Policy Platform on Land. A Policy Brief from the Scientific Community prepared for UNCCD COP10. [http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/DNI\\_policy\\_brief\\_COP10.pdf](http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/DNI_policy_brief_COP10.pdf) (accessed on 3.11.2011).

Thomas, R.J. / Akhtar-Schuster, M. / Stringer, L.C. / Marques Peres, M.J. / Escadafal, R. (2011): Fertile ground? Options for a science-policy platform for land. Environmental Science and Policy in press.

UNEP. 2010. Report of the third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Busan, Republic of Korea. UNEP/IPBES/3/3. <http://www.ipbes.net/images/stories/documents/K1061514%20IPBES-3-3%20%20-%20%20REPORT.pdf>

UNCCD, 2011. Scientific Review of the UNCCD Provisionally Accepted Set of Impact Indicators to Measure the Implementation of Strategic Objectives 1,2 and 3. White Paper-Version 1, 4 February 2011. [http://www.unccd.int/science/docs/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20White%20paper\\_Scientific%20review%20set%20of%20indicators\\_Ver1\\_31011%E2%80%A6.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/science/docs/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20White%20paper_Scientific%20review%20set%20of%20indicators_Ver1_31011%E2%80%A6.pdf)

## 8. Further reading on the panel issues:

Winslow, M. / Sommer, S. / Bigas, H. / Martius, C. / Vogt, J. / Akhtar-Schuster, M. / Thomas, R.(eds) (2011): Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends. Proceedings of the UNCCD First Scientific Conference, 22-24 September 2009, during the UNCCD Ninth Conference of Parties, Buenos Aires, Argentina. – In: JRC Scientific and Technical Reports. Download at: <http://dsd-consortium.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/ProceedingsUNCCDFirstScientificConference.pdf>

Akhtar-Schuster, M. / Thomas, R.J. / Stringer, L.C. / Chasek, P. / Seely, M. (2011): Improving the enabling environment to combat land degradation: Institutional, financial, legal and science-policy challenges and solutions. –In: –In: Special Issue on Understanding Dryland Degradation Trends (Guest Editors: M.D. Winslow, M. Akhtar-Schuster, C. Martius, L.C. Stringer, R.J. Thomas, J.V. Vogt,, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.v22.2/issuetoc>) Land Degradation & Development, 22, Issue 2 (29 March 2011): 299 - 312. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.1058/pdf> (peer reviewed).

Winslow, M.D. / Vogt, J.V. / Thomas, R.J. / Sommer, S. / Martius, C. / Akhtar-Schuster, M. (2011): Science for improving the monitoring and assessment of dryland degradation. –In: Special Issue on Understanding Dryland Degradation Trends (Guest Editors: M.D. Winslow, M. Akhtar-Schuster, C. Martius, L.C. Stringer, R.J. Thomas, J.V. Vogt, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.v22.2/issuetoc>, Land Degradation & Development, 22, Issue 2 (29 March 2011): 145-149. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.1044/pdf> (peer reviewed).

Chasek, P. / Essahli, W. / Akhtar-Schuster, M. / Stringer, L.C. / Thomas, R. (2011): Integrated land Degradation Monitoring and Assessment: Horizontal Knowledge Management At the National and International Levels. –In: –In: Special Issue on Understanding Dryland Degradation Trends (Guest Editors: M.D. Winslow, M. Akhtar-Schuster, C. Martius, L.C. Stringer, R.J. Thomas, J.V. Vogt,, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.v22.2/issuetoc>) Land Degradation & Development, 22, Issue 2 (29 March 2011): 272 - 284. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.1096/pdf> (peer reviewed).

Stringer, L.C. / Thomas, R.J. / Akhtar-Schuster, M. (2010): Expand scientific input to address environmental effects, NATURE, 465, pp.869-869. doi:10.1038/465869c.

Akhtar-Schuster, M. / Bigas, H. / Thomas, R. (eds.) (2010): Monitoring and Assessment of Desertification and Land Degradation: Knowledge Management, Institutions and Economics. White Paper of the DSD Working Group 3. – In: UNU Desertification Series No. 9. ([http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/DSD-WG3\\_WP\\_final\\_web\\_with-cover.pdf](http://www.european-desertnet.org/docs/DSD-WG3_WP_final_web_with-cover.pdf)).

## ANNEX 1

### Full set of questions used in both e-consultations

#### Questions of the international e-consultation led by DNI/UNU-INWEH:

**Q 1.** What is your opinion about the current impact of scientific research on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought related policy in your country?

- null
- weak
- fair
- good
- excellent

**Q.2.** What is your opinion about the current impact of scientific research on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought related policy at a global level?

- null
- weak
- fair
- good
- excellent

**Q.3.** How strongly do you see a need for better information on land degradation/desertification as a contribution to better environmental management?

- a. negligible
- b. low
- c. medium
- d. strong
- e. very strong

**Q.4.** In your opinion, can scientific activities in the field of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought lead to an increased awareness of these issues in environmental policy?

- a. negligible
- b. low
- c. medium
- d. strong
- e. very strong

**Q.5.** What scientific objectives do you foresee such a mechanism should address, and in what priority?

- Land degradation and development issues (food security, poverty, ...)
- Address current global environmental issues: CO2 increase and biodiversity loss (through IPCC and IPBES)
- Identifying land management options and their respective expected benefits
- Economic assessment of land degradation
- Impact and cost efficiency of counter-measures,
- Energy and technology
- Others, ...

**Q.6.** What scientific scope should such a mechanism have?

- a. Focus on the land degradation issues in drylands (targeting essentially advice to the UNCCD)
- b. Focus on land degradation globally
- c. Encompass the broader LAND issues (e.g Land Health, ....)
- d. Supporting the implementation of the UNCCD
- e. Other, ...

**Q.7.** What key scientific activities should such a mechanism support at the local, national, regional or global scales?

- a. Preparation of regular assessment reports, including summaries for policymakers
- b. Mobilisation of scientific expertise
- c. Improved coordination of science
- d. Operational monitoring and assessment of drivers of land degradation and condition of land
- e. Knowledge Management of *success stories* and *lessons learnt*
- f. Preparations of international scientific meetings for defining predominant scientific Research questions in the international context, ...
- g. Others, ...

**Q. 8.** What is your opinion about the establishment of such a mechanism:

- a. not necessary
- b. neutral
- c. useful
- d. essential

**Q.9.** In your opinion such a mechanism:

- a. would requires a specific Intergovernmental Panel structure (IPCC-like, WMO/UNEP)
- b. should be envisaged within existing frameworks (IPBES, IPCC; others )
- c. could function in a rather informal way , not needing a complex IP structure
- d. could be done under one organisation of the UN systems
- e. should become part of a new UN Environmental Organization
- f. other options

## ANNEX 2

### Questions of the international e-survey led by the Secretariat:

#### How to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice

##### 1. Who are you?

1.1. What is your relationship to UNCCD?

- National Focal Point to the Convention (NFP) / Governmental Representative
- Science and Technology Correspondent (STC)
- Academia or Independent Expert (other than STC)
- Staff of a UN agency or Inter-governmental Organization partner to UNCCD
- Staff of a Civil Society Organization or NGO accredited by UNCCD
- Other (please specify)

1.2 Where is your duty station located?

##### 2. Expectations

What are your expectations concerning the organization of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice?

2.1. Please tell us, what do you expect from the term “scientific” in the context of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice? Scientific advice...

- ...excludes non-academic knowledge, such as traditional knowledge.
- ...includes non-academic knowledge.
- ...includes non-academic knowledge validated through a scientific review process.

2.2. In your view, how important are the following ways of ensuring transparency, as required by the COP, in the context of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice?

	Most important	2 <sup>nd</sup> most important	3 <sup>rd</sup> most important
Clear selection procedures of scientific advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear selection procedures of research subjects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear modalities for the review process of the Scientific advice.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear reporting procedures for accountability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If “Others”, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.3. In your opinion, how important are the following requirements to ensure effective and credible international, interdisciplinary scientific advice?

Absolutely          Rather          Not so          Not

	essential	important	important	advisable
Scientific excellence of advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participation based on closed membership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inclusion of stakeholders other than scientists	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional balance in participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of the UNCCD roster of independent experts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focus on only one or two topics at a time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expertise to cover all topics related to DLDD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Independence from political influence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clear mandate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability of financial support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assignment to be dealt with well defined	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agreement on formal ways of communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If "Others" please specify				

2.4. In your opinion, how important are the following objectives of the provision of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice?

	Absolutely essential	Rather important	Not so important	Not advisable
Provision of regular and comprehensive assessments of the state of knowledge on DLDD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessment of state and trends in terms of socioeconomic and biophysical variables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Undertaking needs assessments on DLDD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Proposition of programmatic orientations on DLDD research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Networking with other scientific networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acting as a science-policy interface through nonprescriptive policy relevant options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluation of policies, programmes and projects at international, regional, national and local scales	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Organizing side events at sessions of the Conference of the Parties and other intergovernmental conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If "Others" (please specify)				

2.5. In your opinion, is there currently a mechanism that could provide international, interdisciplinary scientific advice and that meets the above-mentioned expectations?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which:

### 3. What option would most effectively ensure international, interdisciplinary ....

#### Option 1: Use of existing scientific networks.

3.1.1. Please list up to three scientific networks in your region and at global level related to DLDD. Are you involved in one of those?

List of networks in your region:

Regional Network 1  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

Regional Network 2  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

Regional Network 3  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

List of global networks:

Global Network 1  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

Global Network 2  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

Global Network 3  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

3.1.2. If you are not involved in the process of existing regional or global scientific networks, what prevents you from getting involved?

- Exclusiveness of membership: I do not fulfil the criteria to be involved in the process.
- Transparency: I do not know how to become involved in the process.
- Time-constraints: It would be too time-consuming for me to get involved.

- Interest: I am not interested in the topics covered.
- Other (please specify)

3.1.3. To what extent do you think the existing scientific networks listed by you could effectively cover issues related to UNCCD?

	Fully	Partly	Not at all
Regional 1.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional 2.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional 3.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global 1.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global 2.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global 3.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.1.4. What are the most important topics relevant to UNCCD that are missing from the existing scientific networks listed by you?

Regional 1.

Regional 2.

Regional 3.

Global 1.

Global 2.

Global 3.

3.1.5. Should the CST undertake a specific gap analysis with regard to the existing scientific networks?

- Yes
- No

3.1.6. Please rate how effective you think the use of existing scientific networks could be to ensure international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support decision making in UNCCD:

	1 = Totally ineffective	2	3	4	5	6=very effective
At regional level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At global level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Option 2: Establishment of a new scientific network focused on specific top...

3.2.1. Please tell us your opinion on how a new scientific network could be organized:

Fully agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Fully disagree
-------------	--------------	-----------------	----------------

Global with specific regional concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global containing interregional working groups on crosscutting issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global umbrella organization of existing regional networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global containing regional sub-networks dealing with region-specific topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If "Other" please specify

3.2.2. A new international, scientific network could be organized around specific topics related to DLDD and not effectively covered by existing scientific networks. Which topics would you find most relevant?

	Most important	2 <sup>nd</sup> most important	3 <sup>rd</sup> most important
Economic assessment of DLDD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Impact monitoring and assessment of DLDD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Merging explicit scientific knowledge and implicit traditional knowledge on DLDD to policy advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A different topic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected "A different topic", please describe it here

3.2.3. Could the current series of UNCCD scientific conferences be used to build a new scientific network?

- Yes
- No

3.2.4. Please rate how effective you think a new scientific network would be to ensure international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support decision making in UNCCD:

	1 = Totally ineffective	2	3	4	5	6=very effective
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Option 3: Use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms

3.3.1. Please list up to three intergovernmental scientific panels/platforms in terms of providing international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to UNCCD? Are you involved in the process of one of those?

Intergovernmental scientific panel/platform 1:

Are you involved?       Yes       No

Intergovernmental scientific panel/platform 2:  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

Intergovernmental scientific panel/platform 3:  
Are you involved?       Yes       No

3.3.2. If you are not involved in the process of existing intergovernmental scientific panels/platforms, what prevents you from getting involved?

- Exclusiveness of membership: I do not fulfil the criteria to be involved in the process.
- Transparency: I do not know how to become involved in the process.
- Time-constraints: It would be too time-consuming for me to get involved.
- Interest: I am not interested in the topics covered.
- Other (please specify)

3.3.3. To what extent do you think the existing intergovernmental scientific panels/platforms listed by you could effectively cover issues related to UNCCD?

	Fully	Partly	Not at all
Panel/platform1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Panel/platform 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Panel/platform 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.3.4. In your opinion, in how far could the existing panels/platforms listed by you take into account the UNCCD regional approach?

	Fully	Partly	Not at all
Panel/platform1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Panel/platform 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Panel/platform 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.3.5. What are the most important topics relevant to UNCCD that are missing in the existing intergovernmental scientific panels/platforms listed by you?

Panel/platform1

Panel/platform 2

Panel/platform 3

3.3.6. Should the CST undertake a specific gap analysis with regard to the existing intergovernmental mechanisms?

- Yes
- No

3.3.7. Please rate how effective you think the use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory bodies would be to ensure international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support decision making in UNCCD:

	1 = Totally ineffective	2	3	4	5	6=very effective
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Option 4: Establishment of a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land...

3.4.1. Please tell us your opinion on how a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil could be organized:

	Fully agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Fully disagree
Global without specific regional concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global containing interregional working groups on crosscutting issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global umbrella organization of existing regional networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global containing regional sub-panels dealing with region-specific topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If "Other" please specify

3.4.2. Should a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil be...  
... independent of the UNCCD?

Yes  No

If yes, please elaborate your understanding of "independent of the UNCCD"

... linked to the UNCCD?

Yes  No

If yes, please elaborate your understanding of "linked to the UNCCD"

...under the UNCCD?

Yes  No

If yes, please elaborate your understanding of "under the UNCCD"

3.4.3. Please rate how effective you think a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil would be to ensure international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support decision making in UNCCD:

	1 = Totally ineffective	2	3	4	5	6=very effective
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. What are your recommendations?

4.1. In your view, which one of the identified four options would be most effective to achieve the following outputs?

Option 1: Use of existing scientific networks

Option 2: Establishment of a new scientific network focused on specific topics

Option 3: Use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms

Option 4: Establishment of a new intergovernmental panel on land and soil

Option 1      Option 2      Option 3      Option 4

Regular global assessments	0	0	0	0
Development of regional scenarios on future trends of land degradation.	0	0	0	0
Development of global targets and scenarios	0	0	0	0
Scientific review of national reports regarding criteria of evidence-based reporting	0	0	0	0
Policy-oriented recommendations	0	0	0	0
Scientific advice on emerging issues	0	0	0	0
Other output	0	0	0	0
If "Other output" please specify				

4.2. In your view, what would be the most effective option to ensure effective international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to UNCCD?

	Most effective	2 <sup>nd</sup> most effective	3 <sup>rd</sup> most effective	Least effective
Option 1: Use of existing scientific networks	0	0	0	0
Option 2: New scientific network	0	0	0	0
Option 3: Use of existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms	0	0	0	0
Option 4: Establishment of a new intergovernmental panel on land and soil	0	0	0	0

4.3. Besides the four options introduced above, are there any other options for the provision of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice that you think should be considered? Please describe (in 250 words or less):

4.4. Do you have any final comments?