

Management response:

Evaluation of the UNCCD Regional Coordination Units

Overview

The evaluation of the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs) aimed to clarify the role and potential of the RCUs - their operational modalities, the environment in which they work, and their strengths and challenges - and to identify functions and arrangements that could increase their effectiveness. It was scheduled as one of the initial steps in an overall organizational update process of the UNCCD secretariat and the GM, which ranges from refining organizational priorities to reviewing the staffing structure.

The evaluation looks at the RCUs from different perspectives, including their set-up, capacity and relations/cooperation with both internal and external stakeholders. It uses an organizational assessment methodology as a framework for a structured analysis of the findings and builds its conclusions and recommendations by reflecting these findings against the overall evolution of the UNCCD as an intergovernmental treaty process. The evaluation also uses experiences from regional coordination offices of other organizations as inspiration for the development of the UNCCD RCUs.

The evaluation succeeds in producing well-based, informative analysis of the status currently as well as the potential of the regional coordination and liaison functions under the UNCCD, and on that basis, presenting practical, targeted recommendations for further developments. The UNCCD secretariat welcomes the evaluation as a valuable input to its organizational update process.

Recommendations

Evaluation recommendation 1: The planning, coordination and monitoring of the work of the RCUs is improved.

Management response: Accepted. In follow-up to the evaluation report, the secretariat reconsiders the purpose, aims and modalities of the regional coordination functions, with the aim of coming up with a clear and distinct mandate and updated operational modalities for these functions. This will include a better-defined results-oriented work programme that is based on the overall UNCCD work programme and that specifies regional level targets and activities.

Evaluation recommendation 2: The RCUs focus on specified and targeted activities and results that can generate added value to the UNCCD, and for which they have comparative advantage.

Management response: Accepted. With reference to the response under recommendation 1 above, the secretariat's reconsideration of the regional coordination functions will result in a revised Terms of Reference and job descriptions for regional officers. These job descriptions are to be streamlined with other functions of the secretariat, so as to ensure that the work carried out at regional level is coherent

and complementary to that of the other secretariat units. They will focus on areas where action at regional level would have a clear competitive advantage that generates added value to the UNCCD.

Evaluation recommendation 3: The RCUs enhance the effectiveness of their advocacy functions as well as their liaison with relevant organisations and institutions in each region, with the aim to leverage partnerships to support the implementation of the UNCCD

Management response: Accepted. The regional coordination functions of the secretariat will be oriented toward more effective policy-level engagement leveraging opportunities for synergy and coordination, along with the development of joint activities and partnership initiatives, with UN and regional organizations and institutions. They will aim to ensure that those political processes and major organisations and institutions in the region that work on matters relevant to the UNCCD are continuously informed of related UNCCD priorities and activities.

Evaluation recommendation 4: The communication and information-sharing functions of the RCUs are revised for optimal visibility of the regional dimension of the UNCCD, while taking into account the limited resources of the RCUs.

Management response: Accepted. The communication role of the RCUs will be revised to focus on both information delivery and information collection using proactive outreach with a broad range of relevant stakeholders and deploying a wider range of communication tools.