

Decision 18/COP.14

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 23/COP.11 and decision 19/COP.12,

Also recalling decision 19/COP.13 on improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface and decision 22/COP.13 on cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/6,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021 as contained in the annex to this decision, and decides on priorities;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
 - (a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (b) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology; and
 - (c) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the biennium 2020–2021, at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

*4th plenary meeting
6 September 2019*

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

Table 1

Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
<p>1. Provision of science-based evidence on the potential contribution of integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management to positive transformative change, achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) and addressing desertification/land degradation and drought issues.</p>	<p>A technical report providing science-based evidence of how, in the context of working to achieve or exceed LDN, integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management can contribute to positive transformative change, including examples of cases where these approaches have been applied.</p> <p>A demonstration, resulting from an open call, of how LDN can be incorporated into existing open source land use planning and trade-off analysis tools.</p> <p>Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of LDN transformative initiatives.</p>
<p>2. Provision of science-based evidence on the approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, also considering the effect of climate change on drought risk.</p>	<p>A technical report, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and the primary literature, which would provide science-based guidance on approaches for the assessment and monitoring of the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems to drought, including understanding the influence of climate change on drought risk.</p>

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2020–2021

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. Contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) rolling work programme up to 2030 in accordance with the procedures established by IPBES and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the secretariats of the IPBES and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	<p>The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030:</p> <p>(a) Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and</p> <p>(b) Understanding the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review.</p>
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).	<p>The SPI will analyse the key messages of the SRCCL and AR6 relevant for the UNCCD for presentation at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.</p>
3. Follow up on current cooperation and explore future means and topics for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).	<p>The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly confirmed by the SPI and the ITPS, bearing in mind the importance of soil organic carbon to land degradation neutrality (LDN).</p> <p>The SPI should be involved in any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (2017) and the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (2019).</p> <p>The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposiums relevant to the UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (2020).</p>
4. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-IRP) in accordance with the procedures established by UNEP-IRP and within the framework of its 2018–2021 work programme.	<p>The SPI will follow up on relevant portions of three of the prioritized topics of the UNEP-IRP 2018–2021 work programme, particularly two thematic assessments: Resource Implications of Environmental Conflict and Migration, and Leveraging Resources for Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Development, and the think piece Resource Governance in Light of Fundamental Transitions in Systems of Production and Consumption, contributing scientific review and analysis of key messages if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the review. Furthermore, the SPI will contribute in a review capacity to work on mineral resource governance following the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/L23 on the topic, which calls for further consultation on governance structures around resource extraction.</p>
5. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of United Nations Human Settlement Programme to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII to measure tenure security globally and at country level, and land indicators used for measuring progress towards LDN.	<p>The SPI will provide inputs to the GLII to ensure harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII and land indicators used by the UNCCD on the basis of existing data sources and standards that are globally collectible and comparable.</p>

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
6. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership on scientific issues related to drought.	The SPI will ensure the coherence and relevance of SPI work on drought, particularly towards the IDMP's second pillar of drought management, which focuses on vulnerability and impact assessment, and collaborate on two planned publications: a framework document on integrated drought management and a brochure on drought and water scarcity.
7. Assume a primary role in the quality assurance of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2), and review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.	The SPI will be a member of the GLO steering committee, contribute to and undertake a scientific review of the GLO 2 and all related documents, will approve the final versions prior to publication, and will be invited to review and, as appropriate, contribute to the development of other UNCCD evidence-based communications.