



United Nations

ICCD/COP(10)/11



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
24 August 2011

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Tenth session

Changwon, Republic of Korea, 10–21 October 2011

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

Programme and budget

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Report on the implementation of the joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (2010–2011)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains information on the implementation of the 2010–2011 joint work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism as at 31 May 2011. It should be read in conjunction with the reports on the performance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (see ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/12 and ICCD/COP(10)/15).

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1-2	3
II. Report on the implementation of the joint work programme	3-4	3
III. Conclusions and recommendations.....	5	9

I. Introduction

1. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in decision 3/COP.8, calls on the Global Mechanism (GM) and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to make a clear distinction between the functions, responsibilities and activities of the secretariat and those of the GM, and to ensure the consistent and complementary delivery of services along the lines set out in The Strategy. As a specific tool for achieving this task, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Managing Director of the GM are requested to prepare two-year joint work programmes (JWPs), taking a results-based management approach. At the end of each biennium, the Convention institutions and bodies are required to submit to the COP for its consideration a report on their performance in delivering the workplans and programmes. This document is the report on the implementation of the 2010–2011 JWP, as at 31 May 2011.

2. The financial requirements relating to the JWP have been integrated into the costed two-year work programmes of the GM and the secretariat, and reported accordingly. Therefore, and given also the close substantive interlinkages between the JWP and the work programmes of the secretariat and the GM, the present document should be read in conjunction with the respective performance reports.¹

II. Report on the implementation of the joint work programme

3. The draft 2010–2011 JWP between the secretariat and the GM was presented to Parties at COP 9 and included in the report of COP 9 as an annex to decision 1/COP.9, with a remark that the content of the JWP had not been subject to negotiation. Following COP 9, the secretariat and the GM amended the JWP to include a number of further tasks targeting GM-secretariat cooperation stemming from various COP 9 decisions, while the strategic orientation of the JWP, its expected accomplishments and its performance indicators, were maintained as presented to the COP. The revised JWP was finalized and agreed by the secretariat and the GM in mid-March 2010.

4. In accordance with The Strategy, the Bureau of the COP is mandated to oversee implementation of the JWP. During the biennium, two reports on the status of implementation of the JWP were submitted to the Bureau, involving information on the status of completion of each task/milestone under the JWP and a brief written account of the progress made. This document builds on the reports submitted to the Bureau, and presents progress made towards each expected accomplishment.

¹ ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/12 and ICCD/COP (10)/15.

Performance by expected accomplishment

Operational objective 1. Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data, including main output
Importance of financing sustainable land management (SLM) is communicated to relevant forums and processes.	Joint contributions to at least four forums and processes.	A retreat between the communications staff of the GM and the secretariat was organized in May 2010. This meeting resulted in an agreement on joint products to be delivered, and on sharing relevant communication materials and inputs to key events.
Outcomes of international forums and processes which have potential to enhance resource mobilization for implementation of action programmes are effectively communicated to Parties.	Two joint information products provided to Parties.	<p>A joint bulletin was prepared on a high-level meeting which took place in Guatemala, focusing on sustainable use and management of natural resources in Mesoamerica. Another joint bulletin was sent on the national action programme (NAP) alignment process in Central and Eastern Europe.</p> <p>A number of joint outreach/communications products were also produced including joint interviews, a joint fact sheet on UNCCD financing, and exchanges of messages for the 2010 and 2011 World Days to Combat Desertification.</p> <p>The GM supported the secretariat in the development of some information material for the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification, including the logo and other outreach products.</p> <p>A media backgrounder and press release was distributed to the press on the occasion of the G8 meeting in France.</p> <p>Joint information on potential climate change financing to support addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) was produced for presentation at a UNFCCC² COP side event in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010.</p> <p>A joint presentation was made at an expert group meeting for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in Nairobi, Kenya in</p>

² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

³ Global Environment Facility.

		<p>October 2010.</p> <p>The secretariat shared with the GM the input prepared for the 4th GEF³ Assembly, and produced a briefing on the outcomes of the GEF Assembly vis-à-vis UNCCD implementation, for the use of Parties and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>Civil society organizations (CSOs) have available improved tools to advocate for support for SLM.</p>	<p>Two joint information materials provided to CSOs.</p>	<p>The civil society officers of the GM and the secretariat were regularly exchanging information on the implementation of their work programmes, and discussing complementary and possible joint activities.</p>

Operational objective 2. Policy framework

To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data, including main output
<p>A coherent approach to alignment of the implementation of action programmes.</p>	<p>At least 12 affected countries receive coordinated support from the two institutions.</p>	<p>Early in 2010, the secretariat and the GM carried out an online survey on the status of NAP alignment in affected countries, and the related need for support. The secretariat further engaged UNDP⁴ in cooperation on NAP alignment through an agreed cooperation framework, which was completed in April 2010. The GM, UNDP and the secretariat agreed to launch their coordinated support for NAP alignment in up to nineteen countries, subject to further consultations with Parties.</p> <p>A consultation meeting with the Chairpersons of all regional groups was organized jointly by the GM and the secretariat in June 2010 in the Czech Republic, with the aim of presenting the planned alignment assistance programme, informing regional representatives on the consultations among the secretariat, the GM and UNDP, and seeking countries' advice on the next steps to be taken.</p> <p>A kick start programme aiming at supporting pilot countries to undertake their NAP alignment exercise prior to COP 10 was presented to Parties during CRIC 9. This programme was</p>

⁴ United Nations Development Programme.

		<p>officially launched through two round tables organized jointly by the GM and the secretariat.</p> <p>The secretariat in cooperation with the GM developed technical papers to support action programme alignment. These technical papers were placed on the websites of both organizations.</p> <p>One regional and three sub-regional capacity-building workshops on NAP alignment were organized cooperatively by the GM and the secretariat. More than 50 countries were supported in their NAP alignment process through these workshops.</p> <p>The GM and the secretariat provided support and advice, on request and also individually, to countries on action programme alignment and related documentation.⁵ Several countries under all five Annexes of the Convention have begun their NAP alignment process.</p>
<p>Knowledge is improved among bilateral development cooperation institutions on mainstreaming SLM into their development programmes.</p>	<p>Developed countries agree on potential practices and methods for successful mainstreaming of SLM into development cooperation programmes.</p>	<p>The secretariat and the GM cooperated in the preparation of the common fund-raising strategy, which it is proposed will include a coordinated approach to promoting SLM towards developed countries and related institutions. This draft strategy will be submitted to COP 10 for consideration.</p>
<p>Better understanding on how to operationalize the synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions in the context of action programmes</p>	<p>Information relating to best practices on synergistic use of multilateral environment agreement financing mechanisms is distributed to the national focal points of the three Rio Conventions.</p>	<p>A plan for GM-secretariat cooperation in the field of synergies was outlined, including a stocktaking to assess best practices in synergistic implementation and, on this basis, the production of advocacy materials for dissemination.</p>

⁵ For further details, consult ICCD/COP(10)/12 and ICCD/COP(10)/15.

Operational objective 5. Financing and technology transfer

To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness

Expected accomplishments	Performance indicators	Performance data, including main output
The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) review of the status of financing for UNCCD implementation is based on sound information.	Fifty per cent of the recommendations of the GM and the secretariat are reflected in the recommendations of the CRIC.	For CRIC 9, the GM and the secretariat compiled the information submitted by Parties and other reporting entities on operational objective 5, and prepared the preliminary analyses. A review took place of the substantive outcomes and the methodological aspects. The analytical and methodological information was presented at CRIC 9 through official documentation, and related briefings were provided to the regional meetings.
Governing bodies of international financial institutions, facilities and funds have improved understanding of resource needs relating to DLDD.	Information material and position papers on resource needs relating to DLDD made available to at least two governing bodies of international financial institutions, facilities and funds.	The GM shared with the secretariat a draft outline on options promoting specific funding arrangements targeting issues concerning DLDD. With regard to promoting action to support the achievement of strategic objective 4 of The Strategy, the GM and the secretariat planned to jointly organize consultations on the issue alongside COP 10 in 2011.
Increased availability of financing for SLM.	Parties address options on funding arrangements for DLDD issues.	
Affected countries have improved options for accessing green technologies.	Framework for supporting cooperation on technology transfer is launched.	On technology transfer, the GM shared with the secretariat the terms of reference of a pilot study for North and West Africa. The objectives of this study will be to reach a common understanding on the concept of "technology transfer" in the context of the UNCCD as well as to identify ways and means of promoting and supporting technology transfer within the two subregions.

An enabling environment for strengthened collaboration

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main output
<p>Coordination, collaboration and communication between the two institutions are substantially improved.</p>	<p>Number of coordination events held between the GM and the secretariat.</p>	<p>The GM and the secretariat agreed on the JWP and on its monitoring and reporting modalities and procedures. Joint reports on progress were prepared for two COP Bureau meetings. A new JWP for 2012–2013 was prepared jointly for the consideration of COP 10.</p> <p>The approach and format of the workplans and the budget, as well as the performance reporting, were discussed and agreed between the GM and the secretariat.</p> <p>In follow-up to the 2010–2011 budget decision, the monthly payments of the GM share of the Convention core budget continued to be duly communicated and transferred by the secretariat.</p> <p>The secretariat and the GM worked closely together in servicing the COP Bureau with regard to the implementation of decision 6/COP.9, including efforts in resource mobilization for the consulting services.</p> <p>In the area of facilitating cooperation among affected country Parties within the regions, as called for by decision 3/COP.9, the GM and the secretariat co-located staff to regional coordination units (RCUs) for Africa, and for Latin America and the Caribbean (that is, Annex I and Annex III). The GM and the secretariat staff members in these RCUs have started joint work. With regard to other regional annexes, in Asia (Annex II) the RCU has been functioning with staffing from the secretariat while the GM recently recruited one staff member to work with the region; and in Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V), the secretariat is about to finalize the recruitment of a regional officer while the GM is maintaining its Annex V focal point.</p>

The secretariat and the GM have participated in the UNEP-GEF⁶-led performance review and assessment of implementation system project to facilitate the reporting and review process according to their respective co-funding commitments. Their coordinated action focused on devising the reporting templates and guidelines, the operationalization of the web-based portal, and the training and technical backstopping of national focal points throughout the reporting process.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

- 5. The COP may wish to take note of this report and to provide guidance, at the recommendation of the CRIC, on orientation and implementation of the 2012–2013 JWP.**
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⁶ The GEF division of the United Nations Environment Programme.