

Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2018–2019

Objectives and deliverables

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
1. Provide refined guidance for implementation of land degradation neutrality. (LDN)	
1.1 Provide advice on the design and implementation of LDN-related policies and initiatives that bring about multiple environmental and development benefits and synergies with other Rio conventions, in particular for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.	Guidelines on how to identify and design scientifically sound and practical LDN-related policies and initiatives. Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism in supporting LDN-related policies and initiatives.
1.2 Provide science-based evidence on the potential contribution of LDN to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods as well as the environmental conditions of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.	Report providing science-based evidence of how land-based interventions can improve the well-being and livelihoods of people while simultaneously enhancing the state of the environment.
2. Based on a review of existing synthesis reports and, if necessary, referring to primary literature, provide guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation.	Science-policy brief and, if necessary, a report highlighting the potential of appropriate land-based interventions to mitigate the effects of drought by increasing the resilience of ecosystems and the socio-economic well-being of populations.

Coordination activities

<i>Main Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
1. Follow up on the land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA) conducted by the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), and review the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its associated summary for policymakers if this report is available in time for the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to complete the review.	The SPI will review the LDRA and analyse its key messages relevant for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for presentation at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 14). The SPI will also review the key messages of the IPBES Global Assessment relevant for the UNCCD regarding options to protect and use biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the benefits they provide for people, for presentation at the CST 14.
2. Strengthen cooperation 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).	In accordance with the procedures established by the IPCC, the SPI will contribute to the SRCCL and the AR6.

Main Activity

Sub-activities

3. Follow up on current cooperation and explore future means and topics for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).

The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS, bearing in mind the importance of soil organic carbon to land degradation neutrality (LDN).

The SPI should be involved in any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon, including the organization of a possible second meeting in cooperation with IPCC and other organizations.

4. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on preparing a report on land restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SPI will contribute to the preparation and review of the report.

Based on this report, the SPI will outline policy-oriented options on how land restoration contributes to LDN in the context of DLDD and the SDGs.

5. Contribute to the possible development of a second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2) and other UNCCD science-based communications, as appropriate.

The SPI will participate in the steering committee, development and review process for a possible GLO 2 and will be invited to contribute to the review and, as appropriate, to the development of other UNCCD science-based communications.

6. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure the harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII to measure tenure security, with land indicators used for measuring progress towards LDN.

The SPI may provide input to the GLII to ensure the harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII with land indicators used by the UNCCD on the basis of existing data sources and standards that are globally collectible and comparable.
