

## 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

**Date:** 17 – 19 February 2020  
**Venue:** UN Campus - Langer Eugen  
Meeting Room: 1916  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
53113 Bonn, Germany

**Working languages:** English  
**Working hours:** Monday, 17 February: 10:00 – 13:30, 14:30 – 18:00  
Tuesday, 18 February: 09:00-13:00, 14:00 – 18:00  
Wednesday, 19 February: 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00

### – REPORT –

#### I. Welcome address

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, welcomed all participants to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI) at the UN Campus in Bonn. The welcome address emphasized the importance of the SPI to the UNCCD and the essentiality of translating science into every-day language which can be understood by policy makers and different stakeholders. It included reference to SPI work that led to COP 14 actionable policy decisions on issues ranging from the link between sustainable consumption and land degradation to the need for coherence in ecological restoration initiatives to responsible land governance and safeguards for land tenure to the interaction between land management and drought.

#### II. Introduction of the participants

The first session of the meeting was chaired by Mr. Bongani Simon Masuku, Chair of the Committee of Science and Technology (CST) and co-Chair of the SPI. Out of the 41 participants, 25 were members and observers of the SPI, 3 members participated through video conferencing. For the full list of participants (see Annex 2). To facilitate introduction of participants the, the Chair gave the floor to participants who briefly introduced themselves.

#### III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The agenda was adopted without any changes (see Annex 1).

#### IV. SPI Group photo

A group photo of all SPI members present at the 11th SPI meeting was taken.



## V. Modalities of work of the SPI

The UNCCD secretariat recalled the context of work of the SPI and its mandate in line with past decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) as described in the SPI Terms of Reference (TOR)<sup>1</sup>, SPI Code of Conduct<sup>2</sup>, Conflict of Interest Policy<sup>3</sup> and Communication Strategy<sup>4</sup> as agreed by the Bureau of the CST. Additionally, the Role of Authors and Contributors<sup>5</sup> was highlighted and reiterated. The secretariat referred to how the SPI works<sup>6</sup> as it translated current science into policy-oriented and actionable recommendations resulting from the assessment and synthesis of current science.

Subsequently, the Chair opened the floor for questions and clarifications on the SPI mandate and modalities of work. All SPI members were asked to read and sign the SPI TOR and assorted policies. The SPI members requested a platform for sharing documents – such as SharePoint – to be created to allow an efficient exchange of current and relevant documents. The secretariat agreed and informed participants that it is in the process of updating the SPI Extranet<sup>7</sup> with current work related to the SPI Work programme 2020-2021 (see Annex 3). The secretariat also noted that SPI members need to register for SharePoint in order to access and use this tool<sup>8</sup>. SPI members will be informed via email with guidance on the procedures to access the SPI Extranet.

## VI. Consideration of relevant decisions of COP14 that impact the work of the CST and of the SPI

The secretariat recalled the context of the work of the SPI and presented decisions relevant to science which were taken at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) including decisions 2/COP.14, 3/COP.14, 8/COP.14, 11/COP.14, 13/COP.14, 16/COP.14, 17/COP.14, 18/COP.14, 19/COP.14, 20/COP.14, 21/COP.14, 23/COP.14, 24/COP.14, 25/COP.14 and 27/COP.14.<sup>9</sup> All presentations<sup>10</sup> and guidance notes presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> SPI meeting have been made accessible on the SPI Extranet.

Ms. Sara Minelli, Programme Officer, STI, presented the SPI with an overview of UNCCD national reporting and introduced current tools (e.g. Trends.Earth) which support countries to use remote sending data sets. It was highlighted that it could have great potential if progress being made on the GEO LDN Initiative<sup>11</sup> could be taken into consideration by some members of the SPI. The SPI were

<sup>1</sup> See <[https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/SPI%20Terms%20of%20Reference\\_110717.pdf](https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/SPI%20Terms%20of%20Reference_110717.pdf)>

<sup>2</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/SPI%20Code%20of%20Conduct\\_110117.pdf](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/SPI%20Code%20of%20Conduct_110117.pdf)>

<sup>3</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/SPI%20Conflict%20of%20Interest%20Policy\\_110117.pdf](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/SPI%20Conflict%20of%20Interest%20Policy_110117.pdf)>

<sup>4</sup> See <[https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/SPI%20Communications%20Strategy\\_110117\\_0.pdf](https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/SPI%20Communications%20Strategy_110117_0.pdf)>

<sup>5</sup> Available in the SPI Extranet: <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/ICMJE%20Defining%20the%20Role%20of%20Authors%20and%20Contributors.pdf?csf=1&e=JJC2Ye>>

<sup>6</sup> See <<https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/how-spi-works>>

<sup>7</sup> Link to SPI Extranet: <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/sites/external/spi/SitePages/Home.aspx>>

<sup>8</sup> How to access the SPI Extranet: <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Workplans/How%20to%20access%20the%20SPI%20Extranet.pdf?csf=1&e=bM3vZv>>

<sup>9</sup> To review all COP 14 decisions, see: The report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session, held in New Delhi, India, from 2 to 13 September 2019 is available at: <<https://www.unccd.int/official-documentscop-14-new-delhi-india-2019/iccdcop1423add1>>.

<sup>10</sup> All presentations made at the 11<sup>th</sup> SPI meeting in Bonn, Germany are available at: <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)?csf=1&e=iYERhl](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)?csf=1&e=iYERhl)>

<sup>11</sup> See <<https://www.earthobservations.org/activity.php?id=149>>



invited to contribute the scientific validation of the “Revision of the Good Practice Guidance (GPG) for SDG Indicator 15.3.1, through an external review, as well as co-organize capacity building events in regions. SPI members commented that there is a need to address the critical level of soil organic carbon in national level and the mapping of the potential for carbon sequestration in soils. Additionally, the SPI members requested access to national reports submitted to the UNCCD in the previous cycle, to see what countries are reporting on, to identify issues which the SPI could potentially address in the SPI technical reports.<sup>12</sup>

Ms. Wagaki Wischnewski, Public Information and Media Officer, Communications Unit, presented ways for the SPI to facilitate the UNCCD communication strategy. SPI members were encouraged to share information/knowledge for special events taking place this year (e.g. Day of Desertification and Drought with this year’s focus on food, feed and fibre) bearing in mind the more practical this information can be explained, the better it can be shared. Additionally, there was an emphasis on young people, where the SPI shortly discussed the mental health crisis in conjunction with youth, and it was noted that key messages bringing across hope and success are critical, which needs to be kept in mind when producing SPI outputs. Additionally, it was suggested to think of communication products for social media as the SPI members begin their work on the technical reports, thereby translating some knowledge products into communication products and advocating based on what comes out of the science. This could have the potential to bring attention to issues that policy makers may not always aware of. Key takeaway notes for the SPI to consider in their work were provided.<sup>13</sup>

Ms. Corinna Voigt, Research Associate for the External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA) Unit, presented the UNCCD gender action plan which highlights the gender aspect of the UNCCD and its focus on mainstreaming gender into UNCCD products. It was emphasized that vulnerable populations and transformative change can’t come to real results without taking gender into account, as the gender component determines an individual’s access to resources. It was therefore recommended to integrate the gender aspect during the initial planning and scoping phase of the technical reports, so ensure reflectance of gender throughout the reports, and not as a stand-alone aspect. Guidance notes for integrating gender into research were provided and Corinna has made herself available if there are any gender aspects which need to be discussed in detail.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the secretariat has new members coming on board who will be able to guide SPI members and identify entry points for gender to be incorporated.

Mr. Marcos Montoiro, NGO and Civil Society Liaison Officer for the ERPA Unit, presented the COP14 decisions on land tenure and introduced land tenure within the context of desertification and drought. By the decision 26/COP14<sup>15</sup> UNCCD has been requested to prepare a technical guide which integrates *The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)* into the UNCCD and LDN implementation, within the national

<sup>12</sup> National reports submitted by countries in 2018 are available on the PRAIS portal:

<https://prais.unccd.int/unccd/reports>. These reports were analyzed and summarized in official documents considered at CRIC 17 in January 2019: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cric-17-georgetown-guyana-2019> (see in particular ICCD/CRIC(17)/2 /4 /5 and /6).

<sup>13</sup> See notes on communication strategy <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)/11th%20SPI%20meeting\\_SPI%20engagement%20in%20communication%20strategy\\_considerations%20points.docx?d=w1c218a1f449a45dbaaaa86125a33c51&csf=1&e=pMWIKd](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)/11th%20SPI%20meeting_SPI%20engagement%20in%20communication%20strategy_considerations%20points.docx?d=w1c218a1f449a45dbaaaa86125a33c51&csf=1&e=pMWIKd)>

<sup>14</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)/Gender%20and%20the%20SPI\\_consideration%20points.docx?d=w59b5486acfe64a77b03cec447dd3f3c8&csf=1&e=nTkgrZ](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)/Gender%20and%20the%20SPI_consideration%20points.docx?d=w59b5486acfe64a77b03cec447dd3f3c8&csf=1&e=nTkgrZ)>

<sup>15</sup> See <<https://www.unccd.int/official-documentscop-14-new-delhi-india-2019/26cop14>>



context. The SPI could assist in the preparation of the technical guide, particularly since the science base is already contained in SPI technical report 1.2 on *Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality*. The SPI commented that the SPI technical report 1.2 as well as its background papers, will be important resources for this work.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, it was pointed out that land tenure has a strong gender dimension, and thus UNCCD work on both gender and land tenure should be considered together. The discussion focused on different bodies which may have ideas and strategies for gender mainstreaming. Some countries may have a gender center which may be helpful for identifying potential partners for gender mainstreaming.

#### VII. Report to SPI from former SPI co-Chair - Mariam Akhtar-Schuster

The SPI independent scientist and former co-Chair of the SPI, Mariam Akhtar-Schuster gave a brief report on the lessons learnt from the previous SPI biennium 2018-2019.<sup>17</sup> It was emphasized that the main task of the SPI is to deliver the products for the next COP, but once achieved, opportunities like the development of scientific publications should be considered. The special issue for journal publications in the last biennium 2018-2019 is a good example.<sup>18</sup> She also presented the success of the SPI Science Day at the COP14 and encouraged to further develop this platform for a second Science Day at COP15.<sup>19</sup> It was requested that for the planning of the next SPI Science Day, the date and timing to be carefully considered in order for CST members and delegates to be able to join. She also mentioned the importance of engaging UNCCD and UNFCCC during the UNCCD SPI science day. Additionally, addressing the topic of the potential of a future “Early Careers Scientists Programme”. Mr. Richard Byron Cox, Programme Officer for Capacity Development and Innovation, STI, introduced the vision for future fellowships in the context of the UNCCD, and confirmed what the SPI had proposed would be further developed.

#### VIII. Introduction to the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021

The secretariat introduced the decision 18/COP14<sup>20</sup> to elaborate the SPI Work Programme and outlined expected outputs concerning the SPI Technical reports, Science-Policy briefs and UNCCD official documents. The tentative timelines for objective 1<sup>21</sup> and objective 2<sup>22</sup> for the SPI Work programme were presented.

#### IX. Election of an independent scientist as SPI co-Chair and appointment of SPI Rapporteur and SPI leadership roles

<sup>16</sup> See <<https://knowledge.unccd.int/publication/creating-enabling-environment-land-degradation-neutrality-and-its-potential>>

<sup>17</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)/11th%20SPI%20meeting\\_SPI%20lessons%20learned\\_Mariam%20Akhtar-Schuster.pptx?d=wca21752994ae4339abad36cffe76cb0d&csf=1&e=Q8NziA](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)/11th%20SPI%20meeting_SPI%20lessons%20learned_Mariam%20Akhtar-Schuster.pptx?d=wca21752994ae4339abad36cffe76cb0d&csf=1&e=Q8NziA)>

<sup>18</sup> See <<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/environmental-science-and-policy/special-issue/10Q4R8GT38L>> for the August 2019 Special Issue in *Environmental Science & Policy* on LDN framework & policies.

<sup>19</sup> For a summary of the COP 14 SPI Science Day, see: <https://knowledge.unccd.int/science-policy-interface/science-day>

<sup>20</sup> See <<https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-11/18-cop14.pdf>>

<sup>21</sup> See objective 1 timeline <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%2020202021%20documents/Objective%201%20-%20Integrated%20land%20use%20planning/Timeline/SPI%20Objective%201%20-%20Timeline.pptx?d=w3bf7e3161344414fa3954d64f43ce5da&csf=1&e=IKOaI8>>

<sup>22</sup> See objective 2 timeline <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%2020202021%20documents/Objective%202%20-%20Drought%20resilience/Timeline/SPI%20Objective%202%20-%20Timeline.pptx?d=w569b089afffc4da6b79b65066475a634&csf=1&e=FQe5CI>>



The 15 independent scientist elected Ms. Nichole Barger as new SPI co-Chair, to join Mr. Masuku, without any reservations. The SPI appointed Mr. Ermias Betemariam as SPI Rapporteur. The role of Coordinating Scientific Coordinator who acts as a liaison between the SPI objectives 1 and 2 is still to be confirmed. Co-leads for the SPI objective 1 are Peter Verburg, Ermias Betemariam and Xiangzheng Deng. Co-leads for the SPI objective 2 are Mark Svoboda, Armando López Santos and Caroline King-Okumu. Co-leads for the SPI coordination activities are still to be confirmed.

#### **X. SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions**

Participants split into objective 1 and objective 2 working groups to consider and discuss the potential elements of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021. Each working group addressed one of the two objectives of the SPI Work Programme and began to frame an approach to producing the outputs. Within each working group, members of secretariat provided further input and clarifications to the two objectives from different decisions which could be linked/supported by the work of the SPI.

Within the Objective 1 working session: The objective 1 working session was co-chaired by: Peter Verburg, Ermias Betemariam and Nichole Barger.

Mr. Utchang Kang, Liaison Officer for the ERPA Unit, gave a brief intervention on Sand and Dust Storms (Decision 25/COP.14). He commented on the past work of SPI member Ana Vukovic which contributed to a global sand and dust storms (SDS) map which is being refined. By the decision, Parties were advised to (i) integrate mitigation measures into the subnational, national and regional implementation of the Convention; (ii) enhance preparedness and resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and populations to the adverse and negative impacts of SDS; and (iii) strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms and regional initiatives that contribute to addressing SDS. Mr. Kang emphasized the fact that one of the primary tools for addressing the source of sand and dust storms is integrated landscape management because different land types (e.g., uplands and lowlands) and associated degradation processes interact to create the source. He encouraged the SPI to find ways to incorporate the SDS issue into objective 1, as appropriate, and also expressed interest in those members interested in SDS to support work towards decision 25/COP.14.

Mr. Pedro Lara Almuedo from the Global Mechanism (GM) gave a brief intervention on LDN implementation case studies & GEF proposals (Decision 13/COP.14). The GM will be preparing a report focusing on LDN case studies, of which outcomes will be presented to the Parties at the COP15. For this, the STI unit will lead and develop a TOR for an open call which is aimed at case studies which include how countries plan to implement LDN, showcasing already implemented LDN, as well as country aspirations in respect of achieving LDN. This report will give valuable insight into how countries are implementing LDN, hopefully answering questions like “Is the response hierarchy being used?” “Is the LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes checklist being followed?” “How can LDN activities be most effectively implemented on the ground?” “What procedures can/should be adopted for implementation?”. By decision 13/COP.14 the SPI is requested to contribute to the shaping of the TOR for this call as well as reviewing the final report for the COP15. Tentatively, the TORs of the call are to be ready by Sept-Oct 2020. The GM is currently working on a road map for this task, including a timeline which will be shared with the SPI once final.

Ms. Morgane Chocchia, Associate Programme Officer, ERPA, gave a brief intervention concerning the Rural-Urban dynamics on LDN (Decision 27/COP.14). The UNCCD is working with UN-Habitat and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)<sup>23</sup> on urban rural linkages, their indicators and sustainable cities.

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<sup>23</sup> See <<https://www.iclei.org/>>



The concept of rural urban linkages supports the LDN implementation and could ultimately benefit LDN, especially at national level, and can be linked up with food systems. She emphasized that people and environmental change are fundamentally tied to human dynamics and migration. Additionally, the need to move from only biophysical aspects to including the human aspects is very important and should be considered during the first phase of the report. She encouraged the SPI to look at the UN-Habitat report “Implementing the new Urban Agenda by strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages.”<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, coordination activity GLII<sup>25</sup> was introduced by SPI Observer Everlyne Nairesiae (UN-Habitat) and gave an overview of the work of the GLII and its importance of the collaboration of GLII with the UNCCD, and how it closely relates to SPI objective 1.

With guidance from the secretariat, the SPI members and observers engaged in fruitful exchanges and began to frame an approach to producing outputs. The working group members discussed their interpretations and expectations to identify the scope and expected outcome of the technical report. During the working sessions Xiangzheng Deng shared some of his ideas with the group via skype and additionally shared via email. All notes from the working group session can be found in the SPI Extranet.<sup>26</sup> After presentations and interventions, the group nominated Peter Verburg, Ermias Betemariam and Xiangzheng as co-Leads. Under moderation of the co-Leads, the working group revisited the COP14 decision on the SPI work programme relevant to the objective 1, and conducted a comprehensive discussion on the objectives, scope of the technical assessment, the expected outcomes, outline of the technical report and list of literatures and assessments to be reviewed.

#### Within the Objective 2 working session:

The objective 2 working session was co-chaired by Mark Svoboda, Armando López Santos and Caroline King-Okumu. After self-introduction of all participating workgroup members and observers, the working session started from introduction of the parallel works relevant to drought by the secretariat to set the stage and context of the SPI drought work.

Mr. Daniel Tsegai, Programme officer from the unit of ERPA presented the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and its effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD. The presentation introduced decision 23/COP14 regarding the IWG, in particular, paragraph 11a on the Terms of Reference (TOR), which requests the IWG to take stock of and review the existing policy, implementation and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response, and consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy and implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention to be carried out in the context of a wider, holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems against drought.

Based on this TOR, the IWG has been established with equal standing 30 members in total, out of which 15 members are Party representatives nominated by the respective regional group based on nominations by national governments (3 per regional group), and another 15 experts were selected

<sup>24</sup> See <[https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/7015Urban%20Rural%20Linkages%20for%20implementing%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda\\_08112017\\_spreads.pdf](https://www.uncrd.or.jp/content/documents/7015Urban%20Rural%20Linkages%20for%20implementing%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda_08112017_spreads.pdf)>

<sup>25</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)/Presentation%20on%20GLII%20work-UNCCD-SPI%20-%20F.odp?d=w172469d4224a4a95a4686e36613e7382&csf=1&e=pcF8jl](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)/Presentation%20on%20GLII%20work-UNCCD-SPI%20-%20F.odp?d=w172469d4224a4a95a4686e36613e7382&csf=1&e=pcF8jl)>

<sup>26</sup> See <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%2020202021%20documents/Objective%201%20-%20Integrated%20land%20use%20planning/Working%20session%20notes/Notes%20from%20Xiangzheng%20Deng%20during%20SPI%20meeting.docx?d=w1823aff7dc044fb99c61a7b8e0221fc1&csf=1&e=nwYVMF>>



based on merit with an open call for expression of interest. Five SPI colleagues (three current and two former SPI members) are in the IWG to ensure relevant drought work of the SPI will contribute to the work of the IWG. The work programme and timelines of the IWG were also shared in the presentation. There will be two IWG meetings in this biennium. The first IWG meeting was scheduled from 25-27 March (It has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and those things which can be done without meeting in person are being addressed virtually). Background documents, a scoping paper and an analysis of submissions on drought from Parties and other relevant stakeholders are being prepared in draft by the secretariat in order to be shared with the IWG.

Ms. Camilla Nordheim-Larsen, project coordinator from Global Mechanism (GM) made an intervention on the implementation of the drought initiatives and pilot exercises in regions. The UNCCD Drought Initiative was implemented on the request of Parties in decision 29/COP.13. The Initiative works to enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems to drought by working with participating countries in the development of national action plans with support from UNCCD and partners through national consultants. Currently, a total of 72 countries have participated in the Drought Initiative (35 in Africa, 15 in Asia and Pacific, 14 in LAC and 7 in CEE countries), out of which 32 countries have finalized their national drought plan and are ready to activate the plan. The collaborative partners include WMO, FAO, GWP, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, Union for Mediterranean and UNEP including the UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment. Piloting exercises in regions are being launched in respective selected subregions over the next year.

Mr. Jeroen Van Dalen, Knowledge Management Officer, Communications, introduced the structure and functions of the Drought Toolbox and how to use the tool through online demonstration. The drought toolbox has been developed based on decision 29/COP.13 as part of the Drought Initiative. It aims to provide drought stakeholders easy access to a mix of existing resources developed by partner organizations to support action on drought preparedness for the purpose to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems. The Drought Toolbox has been organized to bring together relevant drought knowledge under three pillars, vulnerability and risk assessment and drought risk mitigation measures. In partnership with UNEP-DHI, the system is available with nearly real-time freely available data and digital maps for drought monitoring to facilitate the generation of custom reports. The toolbox also draws on past work of the secretariat and the SPI, including key documents on integrated drought management, the Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy (DRAMP) Framework<sup>27</sup>, the monitoring framework for the development of indicators for UNCCD Strategic Objective 3<sup>28</sup>, national drought planning guidelines, best practices to mitigate drought risk, and the SPI technical report on the land-drought nexus<sup>29</sup>.

Additionally, coordination activities of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) introduced by SPI Observer Robert Stefanski (WMO) which closely relates to SPI objective 2. The presentation introduced basic terminologies regarding drought, the composition of IDMP, and its functions, reviewed the major works done in recent years including the high-level forum on drought and capacity building workshops in all regions, and key publications and technical guidance on drought

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<sup>27</sup> See <[https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2018-08/DRAMP\\_Policy\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2018-08/DRAMP_Policy_Framework.pdf)>

<sup>28</sup> See decision 11/COP.14, para 17-24 <[https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-12/ICCD\\_COP%2814%29\\_23\\_Add.1-1918355E.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-12/ICCD_COP%2814%29_23_Add.1-1918355E.pdf)> which is based on Official Document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(18)/4 <<https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cric-18-new-delhi-india-2019/iccdcric184>>.

<sup>29</sup> See <<https://knowledge.unccd.int/publication/land-drought-nexus-enhancing-role-land-based-interventions-drought-mitigation-and-risk>>



indicators. The presentation showed the progress and current status regarding the two expected coordination outputs to be produced by the IDMP, the framework document on integrated drought management and a brochure on water scarcity and drought. The first drafts of both have been completed and are going to be reviewed in the coming days. The SPI member, Mark Svoboda and SPI Observer Robert Stefanski are also members of IDMP, both expressed interests in leading the liaison with IDMP.

Prof. Nijavalli Ravindranath, made a presentation on Climate Change Risk Framework and Definition of Terms<sup>30</sup>, introduced the IPCC risk framework, and highlighted the significance for the SPI objective 2 work. He made clear the relationship between hazards, exposure and vulnerability and encourage the group to maintain consistent and coherent key definitions which have been established and well accepted in other international processes (e.g. climate change). He also pointed out that impacts of climate change to populations and ecosystems is requested by decision 18/COP14.

In order to ensure SPI objective 2 works in a way that fully integrates gender considerations into the process of the work, leading to a gender responsive assessment, SPI members agreed to follow the standard practices requested by the UN including the gender checklist presented by the secretariat.

After presentations and interventions of on-going drought relevant to the next work programme, the group nominated Mark Svoboda, Armando López Santos and Caroline King-Okumu as co-Leads. Under moderation of the co-Leads, the working group revisited the COP14 decision on the SPI work programme relevant to the objective 2. The group engaged in a comprehensive discussion of the objectives, scope of the technical assessment, the expected outcomes, title of the technical reports, outline of the technical report and pathway to achieve the milestones, list of literatures and assessments to be reviewed. The timeline recommended by the secretariat was accepted in principle. The summary report to the plenary on the outcomes of the working session was prepared and Dr. King-Okumu was assigned to present in the final plenary.

## **XI. Report back to Plenary on the Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021**

The working groups for the SPI objective 1 and 2 reported back to plenary the key outcomes from their respective working sessions.

### Key outcomes of the SPI work programme objective 1<sup>31</sup>:

In response to COP14 decision objectives, the SPI is expected to deliver 1) a technical report providing science based evidence of how, integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management can contribute to positive transformative change to achieve LDN target, including examples of cases where these approaches have been applied, and 2) a policy brief providing policy solutions for the COPs. The objective 1 working group developed a structured outline of the technical report that will address the theme of the potential contribution of integrated land use planning to LDN. Central to their approach is the different categories of land use planning and landscape management tools which are available and how these may be used to support the implementation of LDN. The report will focus on

<sup>30</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)/CC Risk Vulnerability Ravi.pptx?d=w4f4c7ba323ae4e7795a1667ec8e20ed1&csf=1&e=PxTgHZ](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)/CC%20Risk%20Vulnerability%20Ravi.pptx?d=w4f4c7ba323ae4e7795a1667ec8e20ed1&csf=1&e=PxTgHZ)>

<sup>31</sup> See <<https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%2020202021%20documents/Objective%201%20-%20Integrated%20land%20use%20planning/Working%20session%20notes/SPI%20-%20Obj%201-%20Key%20outcomes.pptx?d=w6cff09466b214f698621a48c6b686c44&csf=1&e=qqGbWg>>



determining which tools work for LDN and which don't, thereby identifying critical gaps that will need to be filled. The report is envisioned to consist of two parts: Part 1 "Setting the Scene" would provide a rationale on land use planning (LUP), including (among others) a typology of planning systems; key principles for including LDN in LUP, and entry points for LDN integration in planning systems. Part 2 "Supporting achieving LDN through integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management" is envisioned to be the focus of the report and is based on tools to support LDN in LUP, and striving to answers questions such as – "Which tools can support implementation of LDN in LUP?" "What contributions can the individual tools provide?" "What combination of tools could help?" "How would tools need to be improved, or which new tools could be needed?" Additionally, the SPI also drafted the first tasks for a consultant to conduct an analytical review of available tools and identify gaps and will co-elaborate a background paper designed to feed into the SPI technical report. The TOR points will feed into the concept note for the objective 1, which is aimed to be completed by the end of March 2020 with support of the secretariat.

Feedback from other SPI members focused on the need to ensure integrated landscape management is also included in this technical report. There also was some discussion on the second requested deliverable, which is a demonstration of how LDN could be integrated into open source land use planning tools.

Key outcomes of the SPI work programme objective 2<sup>32</sup>:

Co-leads of the Objective 2 reported to the plenary on the working session outcomes and major elements which should be included in a concept note of the Objective 2.

Expected deliverables of the objective 2: The working group for the SPI objective 2 planned to produce 5 deliverables, 1) a Technical Report, the core product and basis of the other two products. 2) A Science-Policy Brief derived from the technical report serves as a summary of the technical report for policy makers focusing on key messages and policy-relevant options. 3) An outreach material/ brochure for children's education on drought preparedness and resilience building in daily life from community aspects in the form of a cartoon or other easy understandable graphics (depending on the budget availability). 4) A synthesis report (Official Document) developed by the secretariat with support of the SPI and to be tabled at COP14 based on the policy-oriented recommendations contained in the technical report and science-policy brief. 5) The group hopes scientific journal article(s) could be developed based on the technical report, or a special issue of scientific journal on topic of drought resilience involving SPI and other external experts as authors.

Scope of the work: Tentative title for the technical report: "Multiscale Approaches for Assessment and Monitoring-Resilience of Vulnerable Populations and Ecosystems to Drought". The technical report should be developed based on inventory, synthesis and analysis of existing approaches and indicators relevant to assess and monitor resilience of populations and ecosystems with consideration of influence of climate change and gender responsive approaches (checklist), to identify the connections and gaps between national drought assessments/monitoring and drought plans/policies with programmes and

<sup>32</sup> See < <https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%2020202021%20documents/Objective%202%20-%20Drought%20resilience/Working%20session%20notes/Objective%202%20-%20Key%20outcomes%20-%20SPI%20meeting%20Feb2020.pptx?d=w9b24e2943a864a7e9080d82c6f13b49f&csf=1&e=UWfTOI>>



projects across multiple scales, and provide technical guidance and policy recommendations on the way to contribute to improving populations and ecosystems resilience.<sup>33</sup>

Draft outline of the technical report: The technical report will consist of four chapters with infographics on the concept and framework of drought vulnerability and resilience assessments.<sup>34</sup>

Most optimal way forward to address the knowledge requirements: The group discussed and confirmed that the most optimal way forward to address the knowledge requirements for accomplishment of objective 2 is a combination of the efforts of the SPI members<sup>35</sup>, the commissioning of individual/institutional based consultancy and support of an experts meeting bringing inputs and contributions of more relevant partners including IDMP, UNDRR, WOCAT, IPBES, NGOs, IPCC and regional-based partners.

## **XII. SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Introduction in plenary**

Coordination activities were introduced in Plenary by the following:

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<sup>33</sup> The group suggested the assessment on the resilience of populations should cover both rural and urban areas with disaggregated data and analysis on gender and other vulnerable groups. The assessment on ecosystems resilience should cover both natural and managed ecosystems in rural and urban areas with consideration of impacts of land management practices including conservation, rehabilitation and restoration on land exposure/cover, structure and composition of the ecosystems, function of buffering, regulating, productivity, tolerance of plant and animal species, soil structure & moisture, hydrological and surface waters connections, and soil organic matters/SOC under landscape management or integrated land use scheme in context of LDN.

<sup>34</sup> Chapter I, will review key definitions, present the rationale to conduct this assessment, present an overall framework on the links and relations of vulnerability, hazards, exposure, and resilience of population and ecosystems, and connections of land, water and drought management, to elaborate what are vulnerability and resilience of population and ecosystems, the role population and ecosystem resilience of local communities play in drought mitigation and risk management, and how the national drought national assessment and planning relate to community-based assessment planning and implementation.

Chapter II. Inventory & analysis will present the methodologies and results of an inventory on the available indicators and tools and approaches including tiers-based approaches to assess and monitor the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems with consideration of influence of the Climate Change and Gender Responsive approaches (Checklist). It will elaborate how the vulnerable populations and ecosystems can be identified, whom and where they are. In addition, the chapter will address that indicators and methodologies have been used or could be applied at national, subnational and community levels to assess resilience. Gender disaggregated analysis will be applied in this inventory. A matrix on resilience from different dimensions will be created.

Chapter III. Technical Guidance will provide technical guideline based on the inventory on how the multiscale stakeholders can access and use these methodologies/tools to assess and improve the populations and ecosystems resilience to drought. A tiered approaches guidance will be provided. How resilience building can be optimized in the context of land degradation neutrality (LDN) will be also highlighted.

Chapter IV Policy recommendations will recommend on how the multiscale approaches (including community level) can be integrated into national drought plan and what is the current policy gap, how enabling environment can be improved and to effectively facilitate the transformation of the drought mitigation regime from “reactive” to “proactive” and creating multiple benefits.

<sup>35</sup> The role of objective 2 group SPI members is identified as framing the work by conceptualizing and defining requirements (terms of reference or request for quotation) to consultancy services, recommending list of consultants/or institution candidates, and guiding the consultants work, and contributing references/ literatures, drafting, reviewing and finalization of the technical report, with support of the secretariat. It was agreed by the working group that a concept note and TOR/ RFQ for consultancy services will be developed in the following 3 weeks with support from the secretariat and be finalized by end of March. A list of candidates of individual and/or institutional service providers will be recommended by the group for a scope to call for consultancy services.



- Ms. Hien Ngo from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) introduced the current work of IPBES and the timeline for the forthcoming reviews of IPBES reports in which the SPI is requested to participate.
- Ms. Simone Retif from the International Resources Panel (UNEP-IRP) introduced the current work of UNEP-IRP and indicated the tentative timeline for review of UNEP-IRP work, which is to be reviewed by the SPI.
- Mr. Ronald Vargas and Ms. Rosa Poch from the FAO - Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) gave an overview of the ongoing strong collaboration with the UNCCD, and the upcoming review of reports and documents which the SPI is requested to review.
- Mr. Barron Joseph Orr (in place of Mr. Sasha Alexander) on the Global Land Outlook 2 (GLO2)
- Mr. Jim Skea and Mr. Hans-Otto Poertner from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

All SPI coordination activity presentations are available on the SPI Extranet<sup>36</sup>. A detailed timeline on the coordination activities and required inputs from the SPI will be shared with the SPI members once finalized.

### **XIII. SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions**

Due to the tight time schedule of the SPI meeting, it was decided to put more focus on the SPI objectives. This working session was used to refine and discuss the ideas and scope for the respective objective outcomes.

### **XIV. Report back to Plenary on the coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021**

A preliminary list in which SPI members were assigned to specific coordination activity was distributed at the SPI meeting. The SPI co-Chairs will follow up on with respective SPI members to confirm their participation within the coordination activities.

### **XV. Other matters**

- a) The proposal of an SPI “Early Careers Scientists Programme”: the secretariat will update the SPI on this as it develops further.
- b) The SPI were invited to support other major processes of the UNCCD (e.g., the UN Decade on Restoration). Additionally, it was noted by the secretariat that there was a request for the SPI presence at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, UK, and the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) SBSTA 52 in June 2020.
- c) It was decided that the next SPI meeting will be scheduled for 23-25 September 2020.

### **XVI. Closing remarks**

The UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary, Pradeep Monga gave closing remarks, thanking the SPI for their dedication and hard work.

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<sup>36</sup> See <[https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20\(Work%20Programme%202020-2021\)?csf=1&e=eSuliV](https://unccd.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/external/spi/SPI%20Meeting%20presentations/11th%20SPI%20meeting%20(Work%20Programme%202020-2021)?csf=1&e=eSuliV)>



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**Annex 1 – SPI meeting annotated agenda**

**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)**

**Date:** 17 – 19 February 2020  
**Venue:** UN Campus - Langer Eugen  
Meeting Room: 1916  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
53113 Bonn, Germany

**Working languages:** English  
**Working hours:** Monday, 17 February: 10:00 – 13:30, 14:30 – 18:00  
Tuesday, 18 February: 09:00-13:00, 14:00 – 18:00  
Wednesday, 19 February: 09:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 18:00

– ANNOTATED AGENDA –

**I. Welcome address**

The UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw will welcome all participants and present views with regard to the Science-Policy interface (SPI).

**II. Introduction of the participants**

This SPI meeting will be chaired by **Bongani Simon Masuku**, the co-Chair of the SPI and Chair of the Committee of Science and Technology (CST), and the co-Chair of the independent scientist co-Chair after he/she is elected. To facilitate the work of the meeting, the co-Chair will give the floor to participants to briefly introduce themselves.

**III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

The co-Chair will propose the provisional agenda and organisation of work for adoption.

**IV. SPI group photo**

A photo of the members and observers of the SPI will be taken, guided by Helga Karsten, of the secretariat

**V. Modalities of work of the SPI**

The UNCCD secretariat (Barron Joseph Orr) will recall, among others, the context of work of the SPI and its mandate in line with past decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) as described in the SPI Terms of Reference (TOR)(Annex 1), SPI Code of Conduct (Annex 2), Conflict of Interest Policy (Annex 3) and Communication Strategy (Annex 4) as agreed by the Bureau of the CST. Additionally, the Role of Authors and Contributors will be highlighted (Annex 6).

Subsequently, the co-Chair will open the floor for questions or clarifications on the SPI mandate and modalities of work. Participants will be asked to read and sign the SPI TOR and assorted policies.



## **VI. Consideration of relevant decisions of COP14 that impact the work of the CST and of the SPI**

Members of secretariat will give short overviews of the COP 14 decisions which affect the work of the SPI and CST

- *Anja Thust and Sara Minelli will present on CRIC and National reporting*
- *Wagaki Wischnewski will present on UNCCD communications strategy and the SPI*
- *Corinna Voigt will present the UNCCD gender action plan and mainstreaming gender into SPI products (Annex 7)*
- *Marcos Montoiro will present on UNCCD COP14 decisions on land tenure*

## **VII. Report to SPI from former SPI co-Chair - Mariam Akhtar-Schuster**

The co-Chair will introduce the former independent scientist and co-Chair of the SPI, Mariam Akhtar-Schuster to give a brief report. The UNCCD secretariat (Richard Byron Cox) will introduce the vision for future fellowships in the context of the UNCCD.

## **VIII. Introduction to the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021**

The secretariat will introduce the SPI Work Programme and will outline expected outputs

- a) From objectives to deliverables**  
Technical reports, Science-Policy briefs and UNCCD official documents
- b) Organization of SPI work and milestones**  
Timelines of Obj 1 and 2 and coordination activities

## **IX. Election of an independent scientist as SPI co-Chair and appointment of SPI Rapporteur and SPI leadership roles**

Roles to be appointed: Rapporteur, Objective Co-Leads/Observer Advisors/ Coordinating Scientific Contributor

## **X. SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions**

Five working sessions are scheduled for the second day of the SPI meeting (Tuesday, 18 February), to introduce and discuss the expected outcomes and methodologies to achieve the objectives of the SPI Work Programme. In the last 30 minutes of the first working session (Tuesday 18 February, from 10:15 - 10:45) secretariat members addressing other relevant COP14 decisions will attend and provide further insights/guidance.

### Objective 1 working session:

- *Utchang Kang will present on Sand and Dust Storms and LDN*
- *Pedro Lara Almuedo will present on LDN implementation case studies & GEF proposals*
- *Morgane Chiocchia will present on Rural and urban dynamics on LDN*
- *Marcos Montoiro will be available for discussion on land tenure*



Objective 2 working session:

- *Daniel Tsegai will present on the on the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD*
- *Camilla Nordheim-Larsen will present on the implementation of the drought initiatives and pilot exercises on drought*
- *Jeroen Van Dalen will present the Drought Toolbox and other drought knowledge management relevant activities*

During the second objectives working session (Tuesday 18 February 11:00 – 13:00), coordination activities Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII - relating to Objective 1) and Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP - relating to Objective 2) will be introduced with the respective objective working groups.

- GLII will be introduced by SPI Observer Everlyne Nairesiae (UN-Habitat)
- IDMP will be introduced by SPI Observer Robert Stefanski (WMO)

**XI. Report back to Plenary on the Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021**

The co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion to integrate all that has been discussed with respect to the work programme objectives. This will begin with a report back to the plenary from each of the three working sessions.

**XII. SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Introduction in plenary**

Coordination activities will be introduced in Plenary for the first hour, after which working sessions will commence.

Coordination activities will be introduced by:

- Intergovernmental Science-Policy platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Hien Ngo (11:00 – 11:10)
- International Resources Panel (UNEP-IRP)– Simone Retif (11:10 – 11:20)
- Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) – Ronald Vargas (11:20 – 11:35)
- Global Land Outlook 2 (GLO2) - Sasha Alexander (11:35 – 12:00)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - Jim Skea and Hans-Otto Poertner (12:00 – 12:15)

**XIII. SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions**

Preliminary ideas for the format and flow of these working sessions will be provided by the secretariat with the understanding that the members will shape the discussion as needed.

**XIV. Report back to Plenary on the coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021**

The co-Chairs will facilitate a discussion to integrate all that has been discussed with respect to the coordination activities. This will begin with a report back to the plenary from each of the working sessions.



## XV. Other matters

- d) The proposal of an SPI “Early Careers Scientists Programme”
- e) How the SPI might be able to support other major processes of the UNCCD (e.g., the UN Decade on Restoration, Land tenure and other potential new topics),
- f) Any other matter might be discussed by the SPI members and observers under this agenda item, as deemed necessary,
- g) Next SPI meeting,
- h) UNCCD Secretariat will provide a summary of the meeting outcomes and way forward.

## XVI. Closing remarks

UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary, Pradeep Monga will give closing remarks.

### Tentative schedule of work

Monday, 17 February 2020	
10:00 – 10:15	I. Welcome address
10:15 – 10:45	II. Introduction of participants
10:45 – 11:00	III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
11:00 – 11:15	IV. SPI group photo
<b>11:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30– 12:30	V. Modalities of work of the SPI
12:30 – 13:30	VI. Consideration of relevant decisions of COP 14 that impact the work of the CST and of the SPI
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:30 – 15:00	VII. Report to SPI from former SPI co-Chair - Mariam Akhtar-Schuster
15:00 – 16:30	VIII. Introduction to the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
17:00 – 17:30	IX. Election of an independent scientist as SPI co-Chair and appointment of SPI Rapporteur and SPI leadership roles
17:30 – 18:00	Logistics and organization for sessions on Tuesday, 18 February
<b>19:00 -</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
Tuesday, 18 February 2020	
09:00 – 09:10	
09:10 – 10:45	X. SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions (other relevant COP14 decisions will be addressed in Objective working groups)
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 13:00	X. SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued (coordination activities GLII and IDMP will be introduced)
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:00 – 16:00	X. SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued



<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
16:15 – 17:15	<b>X.</b> SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued
17:15 – 17:45	<b>X.</b> SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued
17:45 – 18:00	<b>XI.</b> Report back to Plenary on the Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 (setting the stage for tomorrow mornings session)
<b>Wednesday, 19 February 2020</b>	
09:00 – 10:45	<b>X.</b> SPI Objectives 1 and 2 of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued
<b>10:45 – 11:00</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>XII.</b> SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Introduction in plenary (IPBES, IPCC, ITPS, UNEP-IRP, GLO2)
12:00 – 13:00	<b>XIII.</b> SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>
14:00 – 16:00	<b>XIII.</b> SPI coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 – Working sessions continued
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>
16:15 – 17:15	<b>XIV.</b> Report back to Plenary on the coordination activities of the SPI Work Programme 2020-2021 (this should include any inputs of the GLII and IDMP coordination activities)
17:15 – 17:50	<b>XV.</b> Other matters
17:50 – 18:00	<b>XVI.</b> Closing remarks



## Annex 2 – List of Participants of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD

### I. SPI members and observers

Nichole Barger, SPI co-Chair  
Ermias Betemariam  
Bongani Simon Masuku, SPI co-Chair  
Ratko Ristic  
Anna Luise  
Marijana Kapovic Solomun  
Rattan Lal  
Armando López Santos  
André Francisco Pilon  
Mark Svoboda  
Peter Verburg  
Graham Paul von Maltitz  
Caroline King-Okumu  
Nijavalli Ravindranath  
Sergio Vicente-Serrano  
Noel Oettlé  
Pablo Viegas Aurelio  
Vera Boerger (FAO)  
Everlyne Nairesiae (UN-Habitat)  
Robert Stefanski (WMO)  
Katrin Ehlert (WMO)  
Xiangzheng Deng\*  
Karma Dema Dorji\*  
Adam Fysh (UNDRR)\*  
Ana Vukovic\*\*  
Zahurul Karim\*\*

\* *participated through video conferencing*

\*\**absent due to illness or previous commitments*

### II. UNCCD

Johns M. Kharika (UNCCD, STI)  
Barron J. Orr (UNCCD, STI)  
Xiaoxia Jia (UNCCD, STI)  
Stefanie Gastrow (UNCCD, STI)  
Lawrencia Esposi (UNCCD, STI)  
Sara Minelli (UNCCD, STI)  
Wagaki Wischnewski (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Corinna Voigt (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Marcos Montoiro (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Utchang Kang (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Pedro Lara Almuedo (UNCCD, GM)  
Morgane Chiocchia (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Daniel Tsegai (UNCCD, ERPA)  
Camilla Nordheim-Larsen (UNCCD, GM)  
Jeroen Van Dalen (UNCCD, ERPA)



### Annex 3 - Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2020–2021

#### Objectives and deliverables

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
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.	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. 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. Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism to support decisions on the technical feasibility of LDN transformative initiatives.
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.	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.

#### Coordination activities

<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).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on two of the prioritized topics of the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030: (a) Understanding the importance of biodiversity in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (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.
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 (SRCL) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).	The SPI will analyse the key messages of the SRCL and AR6 relevant for the UNCCD for presentation at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
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 confirmed 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 (2017) and the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (2019). The SPI should explore with the ITPS potential participation in future symposiums relevant to the



	UNCCD, including the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (2020).
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.	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.
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.	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.
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.