

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
Fifth reporting cycle, 2014-2015 leg

Report from the Kingdom of Belgium as developed country Party



July 18, 2014

Contents

I. Performance indicators

A. Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

Indicator CONS-O-1

Indicator CONS-O-3

Indicator CONS-O-4

B. Operational objective 2: Policy framework

Indicator CONS-O-6

Indicator CONS-O-7

C. Operational objective 3: Science, technology and knowledge

Indicator CONS-O-8

D. Operational objective 4: Capacity-building

Indicator CONS-O-13

E. Operational objective 5: Financing and technology transfer

Indicator CONS-O-14

II. Financial flows

Unified Financial Annex

III. Additional information

IV. Submission

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

CONS-O-1

Number and size of information events organized on the subject of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity, and audience reached by media addressing DLDD and DLDD synergies

Global target

Percentage of population informed about DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity

30 %

2018

National contribution to the global target

Percentage of national population informed about DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity

75

2011

2013

2015

2017

2019

Information events

Year	Number of events	Total estimated participants
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	0	0
2013	15	7000
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Mass media articles and radio/television programmes about these events

Year	Number	Estimated people reached
2012	0	0
2013	1	12000
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Sources of information

- <http://www.pulse-oplatform.com/>
- www.klimaat.be/publieksenquete
- www.klimaat.be/files/3714/0024/2162/enquete_klimaatverandering_2013_-_eindrapport-besluiten.pdf
- www.wwf.be/nl/scholen/educatief-aanbod-basisonderwijs/biodiversiteit/radio-oorwoud/787_18?gclid

Qualitative assessment

Does your country have a national communication strategy addressing DLDD and/or DLDD synergies with climate change and biodiversity in place?

Yes

No

Provide any complementary information as needed (e.g., regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Communication Strategy, activities relating to the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification, etc.):

*According public survey among Belgian citizens (ref. see above) 75 % of the Belgian population is informed about environment (climate, biodiversity & DLDD) and 29 % is very concerned about it.
 * During Summer 2013 'Radio Oorwoud- WWF-BE' organized 15 music events with the central 'Wie Waa Wee Woestijn' lead song. From April 2013 a Radio Oorwoud-CD was sent for free to primary schools (#4500). Primary teachers got the CD with informative training sets and CDs were available in book- & video-shops (#2500 sold).

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

CONS-O-3

Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) and science and technology institutions (STIs) participating in the Convention processes

Global target

A steady growth in the participation of CSOs and STIs in the Convention processes is recorded along the implementation period of The Strategy.

National contribution to global target: number of CSOs and STIs involved in DLDD-related programmes/projects

Year	Number of civil society organizations	Number of science and technology institutions
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	13	8
2013	19	9
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Sources of information: name of the CSOs and STIs

CSOs : CNCD, ACLVB, VVSG, ACV-CSC, WWF, VVOB, DISOP, Oxfam-BE, SOSFaim, Vredeseilanden,
CSOs : ACODEV, NGO-federatie, WBI, APEFE, FRDO-CFDD, autreterre, 11.11.11, abvv-fgtb, OZG,
CSOs : VSF-VZG, Protos, BW
STIs : UNESCO Chair Eremology Ugent, ULg, UCLouvain, KULeuven, FSAGx, VUB, KBIN-IRSNB,
STIs : VLIZ, Belspo, VLIR, CIUF, MRAC-KMMA, VITO
www.wwf.be/nl/scholen/educatief-aanbod-basisonderwijs/biodiversiteit/radio-oorwoud/787_18?
See BE-ODA-database : Oda (PROD 11G - 26) - WebUtil
See UFA-file in annex
Participants in strategy note preparation "Environment in BE Development Cooperation" (Oct'13)

Qualitative assessment

Is your country undertaking initiatives to increase the participation of CSOs and STIs in DLDD-related programmes and projects? Yes No

Provide a short description of actions taken at the international level to promote participation by CSOs and STIs in the Convention processes or any other complementary information.

1. A new task force with experts of Belgian CSOs & STIs will be (re-)created to assist & guide the UNCCD-processes in a technical, technological & scientific way, in order to meet correctly the 10Y-Strategy Plan & Framework for Desertification.
2. New sensibilisation programmes for kids like "Die daa dee Désert" will be developed & transmitted in collaboration with WWF-BE.
3. The UNCCD-WDCD. The UNCCD-day (17th of June 2015) will be fully hosted by "Desertland 2015 - UGent" in Belgium.

Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education

CONS-O-4

Number and type of DLDD-related initiatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and science and technology institutions (STIs) in the field of education

Global target

A steady growth in the number of DLDD-related education initiatives undertaken by CSOs and STIs is recorded along the implementation period of The Strategy

National contribution to the global target: number of DLDD-related initiatives implemented by CSOs and STIs in the field of education

Year	Number of CSOs initiatives	Number of STIs initiatives
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	1	2
2013	1	4
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Sources of information

www.ugent.be/bw/img/bodembeheer/soil-degradation-and-conservation/banner-desertland/view
www.ugent.be/bw/soilmanagement/en/unescochair (2012 & 2013)
http://www.radio-oorwoud.be/
UGent & VUB : Master course Physical Land Resources
UGent : Workshop on Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands
http://www.cazalac.org - Centro del Agua para Zonas Áridas y Semiáridas de América Latina y el Caribe
www.cazalac.org & click on ELAFIS & COSWAND
http://youtu.be/1hOn_n45jbc http://vimeo.com/73859905

Qualitative assessment

Is your country undertaking initiatives to increase the number of DLDD-related initiatives in the education sector implemented by CSOs and STIs at development assistance level?

Yes

No

Provide a short description of actions taken at development assistance level to increase the number of DLDD-related initiatives of CSOs and STIs in the field of education or any other complementary information.

1. Conference on Desertification and Land degradation 17th-18th of June 2013, Ghent, Belgium.
2. UNESCO-Vlaanderen & UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme asked UGent to organize the academic symposium "Desertland 2015" on the 16th & 17th of June 2015.
3. Radio oorwoud is an initiative in the education sector and assisted by WWF-BE.

CONS-O-6

Number of partnership agreements established within the framework of the Convention between developed country Parties/United Nations and IGOs and affected country Parties

Global target

Active UNCCD-related partnership agreements in each affected country Party

≥ 2

2014

National contribution to the global target: number of partnership agreements with affected country Parties under implementation during the reporting period

Year	Number of partnership agreements
2008	
2009	
2010	
2011	
2012	0
2013	1
2014	
2015	
2016	
2017	
2018	

Qualitative assessment

List the partnership agreement(s) concluded by your country in the reporting period and the beneficiary affected country(ies) and/or subregion(s) and region(s) (add as many rows as necessary):

Partnership Agreement:

Enhancing the capacities of the Palestinian Authority in Mainstreaming Environment & Climate Change in

Beneficiary:

Category	Location
Country	Palestine

Is your country planning one or more partnership agreement(s) with one or more affected country Party(ies)?

Yes

No

Provide any complementary information as needed (e.g., support received by Convention-related institutions, major difficulties experienced in the conclusion of partnership agreements, relation to integrated investment frameworks, etc.)

Belgium is willing to examine proposals by partner countries & potential partner-organizations :
 - as a substantial part of bilateral sector programs or CSO's programs
 - as a specific program through delegated cooperation with other international organizations or bilateral donors

Sources of information

- UNDP - Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People - Award ID : PAL10-00066131
- Regional Arab Climate Resilience Initiative

CONS-O-7

Number of initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation, at all levels

Global target

Each affected country Party has either one joint national plan in place or functional mechanism(s) to ensure synergies among the three Rio conventions

2014

National contribution to the global target

Year	Number of synergistic planning/programming	Number of mechanisms for joint implementation
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	2	0
2013	3	1
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Qualitative assessment

List the initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation that have received the technical and/or financial support of your country during the reporting period, and the beneficiary affected country(ies) and/or subregion(s) and region(s) (add as many rows as necessary):

Initiative or Mechanism:

IFAD/ASAP/Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme in agricultural production : (1) agricultural

Beneficiary:

Category	Location
Region	Africa
Country	Mozambique
Country	Mali
Country	Viet Nam
Country	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Country	Niger

Initiative or Mechanism:

Program of Work 2012-2013 UNEP - Subprogram Environmental Governance

Beneficiary:

Category	Location
Global	

Initiative or Mechanism:

Contribution to the evaluation of the National Development Plan (Environment), Evaluation of National Er

Beneficiary:

Category	Location
Country	Uganda

Initiative or Mechanism:

Beneficiary:

Category	Location

Is your country planning to provide support to one or more affected country Party(ies) and/or subregion(s)/region(s) for the implementation of synergistic instruments?

Yes

No

Provide any complementary information as needed (e.g., description of synergistic instruments implemented by your country, support received by Convention-related institutions, major difficulties experienced in the establishment of initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio conventions or mechanisms for joint implementation, etc.)

POW 2012-2013 UNEP :

- (a) The United Nations system, respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively achieves synergies and demonstrates increasing coherence in international decision-making processes related to the environment, including those under multilateral environmental agreements ;
- (b) Enhanced capacity of States to implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives through strengthened institutions and the implementation of laws ;
- (c) National development processes and United Nations common country programming processes increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability into the implementation of their programs of work ;

Belgium's Framework for cooperation with UNEP (2010-2013) and his commitments within the framework of UNEP pursues the following goals :

- (1) allowing for a greater and more efficient coordination and synergy between the agencies of the UN system and the scientific institutions collaborating with UNEP ;
- (2) reinforcing collaboration between scientific institutions from South and North, including within the framework of transfer and dissemination of appropriate technologies and know-how; the long-term objective being ownership of the process of evaluation and follow-up of the state of the environment at the regional, national and local levels so as to ensure impact and sustainability ;
- (3) improving at the regional, national and local levels capacity for analysis of the state of the environment, including analysis of sustainable development strategies, as an effective and significant contribution to the 2004 intergovernmental strategic plan for technological support and strengthening of capacities of developing and transition countries. Moreover, Belgium expects that the specific actions carried out within the framework of the strategic plan will result from national and/or regional requirements and will effectively be coordinated with those of other organizations in the field ;
- (4) a reinforced role of catalyst/facilitator of synergies in the field between the various multilateral environmental conventions (MEAs) such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions ;
- (5) an enhanced integration of the gender dimension in all international cooperation actions, taking into account the action plan developed by UNEP with regard to the gender issues in the environment management initiatives and policies;
- (6) an internal application of the "Delivering as one UN" concept through promotion of coherence of actions and effective development of synergies and complementarities between the various divisions and services of UNEP ;
- (7) an appropriate and reinforced integration of the social dimension in UNEP's work within the framework of the United Nations Initiative, in particular with regard to the "Green Economy".

The Belgian position towards synergies among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)

- * A call for Policy Coherence : an action within one MEA may not have a negative impact on the objectives of other MEAs ;
- * No proliferation of new institutes, new initiatives nor effort duplication. Always seeing what can be realized in existing frameworks and looking for rationalizing and efficiency. Search for non-earmarked core funding and avoiding multi-funds-proliferation are the objectives of this position.
- * Practical synergies between MEA's will be found through the use of multi-functional secretaries, concerted & joint COPs of related MEAs, the ecosystem based adaptation discussions within the climate issues ;
- * Mainstream MEA-objectives among other sectors, look for co-benefits, win-wins & duplicator effects, elaborate fruitful partnerships.

Existing good examples of effective coherence and synergy (examples of lessons learnt) :

- * Effective utilization of the CBD-UNCCD Joint Liaison Office at UN-Headquarters, New York ;
- * The 3 Rio conventions CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report 2013 ;
- * The Global Soil Partnership with UNCCD, UNEP & FAO about land degradation with positive impact on biodiversity, climate & food security ;
- * The food waste cooperation protocol of UNEP & FAO with emphasis on food security, and environment (f.i. water, soil pollution & methane emissions).
- * Discussions about interlinkages in the post-2015-exercise.
- * Coordination across UN-systems in the field of environment. The Environment Management Group notes (11th session COP-UNCCD, §6) : The contribution of the Environment Management Group 'in those countries experiencing serious drought or desertification, particularly in Africa, by providing a

UN-Action Plan (2012-18) for coordinated action in the drylands¹.

- * Message by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification : "As sister Rio Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification have many areas of convergence, the most significant being the work to conserve, restore and sustainably utilize dryland ecosystems".
- * Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 calls for enhancement of the resilience of ecosystems and the restoration of 15% of degraded ecosystems in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Please answer the following questions only if your country supported the implementation of one or more synergistic instrument(s) in affected country(ies) during the reporting period

Qualitative assessment

If your country has supported initiatives for synergistic planning/programming of the three Rio conventions, specify the type of joint initiative(s):

- Evaluation of national plans and identification of gaps in synergies
- Identification of national sectors and policies that could benefit from synergies and cooperation
- Review of national policies to enhance cooperation and synergies
- Enhancement of the institutional and scientific capacities and awareness of relevant stakeholders
- Other (please describe below):

If your country has supported mechanisms for joint implementation, specify the type of mechanism(s):

- Regular meetings between focal points and focal point teams of the Rio conventions
- A national coordinating committee for the implementation of the Rio conventions
- National coordination on synergies in reporting under the Rio conventions
- Other (please describe below):

Sources of information

See http://www.ifad.org/climate/asap/asap-spending.pdf
See: framework_cooperation_unep_2010-2013_tcm312-115238
See : Progress Report on "Biodiversity in Poverty Eradication & Sustainable Development" (June 2014)
See: www.naturalsciences.be (KBIN-IRSNB)

CONS-0-8

Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities to have established and supported a national/subregional/regional monitoring system for DLDD

Global target

Percentage of affected country Parties, subregional and regional reporting entities that have established and supported national monitoring systems for DLDD

≥ 60 %

2018

National contribution to the global target: number of monitoring systems established in affected country Parties and/or subregions/regions with the technical and/or financial support of your country

Year	Monitoring systems specifically dedicated to DLDD	Monitoring systems partially covering DLDD
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	0	1
2013	0	1
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Sources of information

See : SENEGAL/GIRE/PAP/2008-15 : Gestion Intégrée des Ressources d'Eau/Plan d'Actions Prioritaires

Please answer the following question only if your country has supported one or more monitoring system(s)

Qualitative assessment

List the monitoring system(s) technically and/or financially supported by your country during the reporting period and the beneficiary affected country(ies) and/or subregion(s) and region(s) (add as many rows as necessary):

Monitoring system:

PAREE

Beneficiary:

Category	Location
Country	Senegal

Provide any complementary information as needed (e.g., major difficulties experienced, etc.)

Knowledge-sharing systems

List any DLDD-relevant knowledge-sharing system technically and/or financially supported by your country during the reporting period, providing an Internet link and estimated number of users per year (add as many rows as necessary).

Name of the system:

KLIMOS-toolkit

Internet link:

<http://www.vub.ac.be/klimostoolkit/>

Estimated number of users per year:

750

CONS-O-13

Number of countries, subregional and regional reporting entities engaged in building capacity to combat DLDD on the basis of the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) or other methodologies and instruments

Global target

Percentage of affected country Parties, subregional and regional reporting entities that implement DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects

≥ 90 %

National contribution to the global target

Is your country supporting DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects on the basis of the NCSA?

Yes

No

Is your country supporting DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects on the basis of other methodologies and instruments to assess national capacity-building needs?

Yes

No

Sources of information

Belgium is supporting DLDD-capacity building plans & programs through its GEF-contributions.
As a Bilateral donor, BE didn't support any capacity-building programme based on NCSAs.

Please answer the following question only if your country has supported the implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects

Qualitative assessment

List the DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects technically and/or financially supported by your country during the reporting period and the beneficiary affected country(ies) and/or subregion(s) and region(s) (add as many rows as necessary):

Capacity-building plans or programmes/projects:

--

Beneficiary:

Category	Location

Is your country planning to provide support to one or more affected country Party(ies) and/or subregion(s)/region(s) for the implementation of DLDD-specific capacity-building plans or programmes/projects?

Yes

No

Provide any relevant information on the size, scope, effectiveness and status of the initiatives implemented, or other complementary information as needed (e.g., plans for future support, major difficulties experienced, etc.)

Few specific environmental capacity-building plans are in the "bilateral" pipeline for the moment. With the implementation of the new Belgian strategy note on "The Environment in the Belgian Development Cooperation", this could increase. New bilateral 4-year cooperation plans could also facilitate DLDD-capacity-building programmes. Multilateral GEF-contributions for local/national/regional capacity-building activities will continue.
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CONS-O-14

Number of affected country Parties, subregional and regional entities whose investment frameworks, established within the integrated financing strategy (IFS) devised by the Global Mechanism (GM) or within other IFSs, reflect leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources to combat DLDD

Global target

Percentage of affected country Parties, subregional and regional reporting entities that have developed integrated investment frameworks (IIFs)

≥ 50 %

2014

National contribution to the global target

Has your country supported the development of one or more integrated investment frameworks?

Yes

No

Sources of information

- As a Bilateral donor, BE didn't support any IIF.
- 64,3 % of Belgian DLDD-support occurs through multilateral cooperation.
- 62,7 % of Belgian DLDD-financing is not country earmarked (global, continent, regional)
- Most of Belgian DLDD-support is realized through core-funding of international funds and organizations.
- Bilateral funds are channeled through specific projects & delegated cooperation agreements with DPs

Identification

Identification code

Enter the Identification Code (ID), number or acronym given to the activity funded (if known)

Name of the activity
funded

Enter the name or title of the activity, project, programme, organization or initiative

Reporting process-related issues

Financial resources

Could your country count on sufficient financial resources to meet UNCCD reporting obligations? Yes No

Provide an estimate of the amount invested from your country's national budget into the current UNCCD reporting process

Year	Currency	Amount
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	EUR - Euro	0
2013	EUR - Euro	0
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Human resources

Provide an estimate of the people involved in your country in the UNCCD reporting process, and of the total number of months dedicated by these persons to the reporting process

Year	Number of people	Number of months
2008		
2009		
2010		
2011		
2012	0	0
2013	2	1
2014		
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		

Knowledge

Could your country count on sufficient technical and scientific knowledge to meet UNCCD reporting obligations? Yes No

If no, describe the main reasons and the difficulties encountered

* Coordination with national technical & scientific institutes and services involved in soil & land management was too weak during the reporting period.
 * Input of CSOs involved in DLDD-activities were reported on time.
 * The Belgian Focal Point for UNCCD changed at the end of 2013.

Coordination

Was coordination at the national level with the relevant line ministries satisfactory in order to report comprehensively and coherently? Yes No

Accommodation of specific requests within decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties

Reporting on specific COP requests: iterative process on indicators

Tick the boxes only if you have experienced difficulties in reporting on one or more performance indicator(s). When doing so, place the tick mark under the e-SMART criterion for which the difficulty occurred.

	Economic	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-bound
CONS-0-1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONS-0-14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other country-specific issues

Does your country have any specific issue to bring to the attention of the Conference of the Parties?

Yes

No

Submission form

Name of the reporting officer	Ludo L. J. ROCHETTE, National Focal Point UNCCD, Climate, Environment & Natural Resources Division of DG-Development
Date of completion	15/07/2014
Please enter your email address to authorize this submission	ludo.rochette@diplobel.fed.be
Name of the authorizing officer	Peter MOORS, Director general, Belgian Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid
Date of authorization	18/07/2014
Please enter your email address to authorize this submission	peter.moors@diplobel.fed.be