



United Nations

ICCD/COP(10)/12



## Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General  
1 August 2011

Original: English

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### Conference of the Parties

#### Tenth session

Changwon, Republic of Korea, 10–21 October 2011

Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

#### Programme and budget

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

### Report on the implementation of the costed two-year work programme of the secretariat (2010–2011)

#### Note by the secretariat

##### *Summary*

In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), the secretariat plans, carries out and monitors progress in its work by using four-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes. These workplans and work programmes follow a results-based management approach, and their content is approved by the Conference of the Parties (COP). The secretariat is requested to submit for the consideration of the COP a report on its performance in delivering the workplan at the end of each biennium. The present document is the report on the performance of the secretariat during the biennium 2010-2011 as at 31 May 2011.

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## I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in decision 3/COP.8, the secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) plan, carry out and monitor progress in their work by using four-year workplans and costed two-year work programmes. These workplans and work programmes follow a results-based management (RBM) approach, and their content has been approved by the COP. The above-mentioned Convention institutions and bodies submit for the consideration of the COP a report on their performance in delivering the workplans at the end of each biennium, building on the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation<sup>1</sup> and following RBM approach. This document is the report on the performance of the secretariat.

2. Given the close interlinkages between the workplan and work programme of the secretariat and those of the CST, the CRIC and the GM, the present document should be read in conjunction with the performance reports of the other Convention institutions and bodies.<sup>2</sup>

## II. Report on the performance of the secretariat

3. In The Strategy, the secretariat of the Convention was assigned a lead role in operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness-raising and education, and in specific outcomes of operational objectives 2 on policy framework and 3 on science, technology and knowledge; it was also assigned a support role in other operational objectives.

4. In the biennium 2010–2011, the priority for the secretariat was to enhance substantive services to the COP and its subsidiary bodies and to upgrade its analytical and knowledge-brokering functions. The secretariat sought to strengthen its advocacy and awareness-raising functions and encourage coalition building and system-wide cooperation at all levels. It aimed to facilitate the development of regional consultations, coordination and cooperation, and to assist countries in the process of aligning their action programmes with The Strategy.

5. In line with decision 3/COP.8, the plan for the secretariat to deliver its functions was recorded in its 2010–2013 workplan and 2010–2011 work programme that were prepared in accordance with the RBM approach, and organized in line with the operational objectives of The Strategy. Analysis of progress in implementing the workplan provides the basis for this performance report.

### A. Overview of expenditure

6. Table 1 presents the expenditure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat as at 31 May 2011 represented according to the first

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<sup>1</sup> ST/SGB/2000/8.

<sup>2</sup> ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/11, ICCD/COP(10)/13, ICCD/COP(10)/14 and ICCD/COP(10)/15.

eight appropriation lines<sup>3</sup> approved by the COP by its decision 9/COP.9. Using the ideal budget implementation rate of 71 per cent for this point in time in the biennium as a guide, most objects of expenditure remained within planned resources with the exception of travel and hospitality, which were partially related to the funding of the sessions of the CST and the CRIC. It is anticipated that expenditure under training, supplies and equipment, and joint administrative costs will increase significantly in the remaining months of the year, when the procurement plan is to be initiated and when payments for the second half of the year for common services costs become due.

Table 1  
**Expenditure by object of expenditure as at 31 May 2011**  
(Euro)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2010–11</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2011</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of the budget</i>
Staff & other personnel costs	6 336 700	4 559 496	72.0
Consultants	602 000	542 039	90.0
Official travel	563 700	610 761	108.3
Training	255 000	35 288	13.8
Hospitality	19 000	25 202	132.6
General operating expenses	770 000	494 982	64.3
Supplies and equipment	984 000	138 472	14.1
Joint administration costs (UNBONN/UNOG)	1 135 000	535 645	47.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 665 400</b>	<b>6 941 886</b>	<b>65.1</b>

Abbreviations: UNBONN = United Nations in Bonn, UNOG = United Nations Office at Geneva.

7. Table 2 provides an overview of the distribution of posts held by staff members on fixed-term appointments. As at 31 May 2011, the UNCCD secretariat had 47 staff members appointed to established posts, as well as two staff members who were given temporary appointments.

Table 2  
**Comparison of established posts and filled posts by source of funding as at 31 May 2011**

	<i>Core</i>		<i>Supplementary</i>		<i>Bonn Fund</i>		<i>Programme support cost</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Filled</i>
ASG	1	1							1	1
D-1	1	0							1	0
P-5	6	6					3	3	9	9
P-4	6.25	6					1	1	7.25	7
P-3	3	5	4	4					7	9
P-2	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>20.25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>29</b>

<sup>3</sup> See ICCD/COP(10)/10, table 5.

GS	11	11			3	2	5	5	19	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50.25</b>	<b>47</b>

<sup>a</sup>The number of P-3 posts will be reduced to align with the approved post table pending the outcome of two recruitments.

Abbreviations: ASG = Assistant Secretary-General, D = Director, P = Professional.

8. Table 3 shows the geographical distribution and gender of staff members at the UNCCD secretariat who have been appointed at the professional level or above.

Table 3  
**Geographical distribution and gender of staff members appointed at the Professional level and above as at 31 May 2011**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>LAC</i>	<i>CEE</i>	<i>WEOG</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Filled</i>
ASG	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
D-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P-5	3	1	1	0	4	7	2	9
P-4	2	2	1	0	2	4	3	7
P-3	1	1	2	0	5	6	3	9
P-2	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Abbreviations: ASG = Assistant Secretary-General, D = Director, P = Professional, LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean, CEE = Central and Eastern Europe, WEOG = Western European and Others Group.

## **B. Main accomplishments of the secretariat in 2010–2011: Performance by subprogramme**

### **Subprogramme 1 – Advocacy, awareness-raising and education**

9. Under subprogramme 1, the work of the secretariat focused on three areas: (1) awareness-raising and outreach; (2) promotion of the UNCCD through high-level and regional representation; and (3) support to the participation of civil society organizations.

10. The outcomes of the work of the secretariat under subprogramme 1 indicate that the secretariat has successfully contributed to the increased awareness of addressing desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) as one of the solutions to key global challenges. The improved availability and increased level of distribution of information materials, the rising demand for such materials, the numerous partnership activities such as the Rio Conventions Pavilion or the Land Days, the increased use of the UNCCD website and the growing interest of the media are clear evidence of this development.

11. With regard to effective advocacy towards the recognition of the UNCCD as a normative reference and a global focal point for DLDD issues, the UNCCD has been featured prominently in many international processes; the recent resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to organize a high-level event on DLDD in September 2011 is a good example of this. The growing interest in engaging the Executive Secretary as a key speaker at many major meetings further points to the increased recognition of the importance of the UNCCD and the DLDD issues.

12. Mechanisms for CSO participation were improved through the use of criteria that aim at a fair and transparent selection process and the equitable participation of CSO representatives, thus facilitating substantial contributions to the process through targeted participation. However, limited availability of financing for CSO participation continues to be a problem. The organization of work at CRIC 9 included for the first time a session for an interactive dialogue among delegates and CSOs, which represents a significant new channel for the CSOs to voice their views and concerns. In accordance with advice from the CRIC Bureau, these deliberations focused on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.

13. During the biennium, the secretariat maintained communications to CSOs through e-mail as well as through dedicated web pages on the Convention website. Still, communication with civil society only involves approximately one-third of the organizations accredited to the COP. An alternative approach to communicate with the CSOs would be the establishment of an online network, or a community of practice, for CSOs accredited to UNCCD. This platform would increase the cost-efficiency of communication and provide an interactive forum for exchanging information and views.

14. The regional coordination units (RCUs) have high potential to effectively promote and provide information on UNCCD and DLDD issues in the regions, and they are also knowledgeable of which meetings and processes to participate in for best results. However, the resources available to the RCUs in the biennium 2010–2011 were very limited, which prevented the RCUs from fully realizing this potential. Their participation in meetings mainly involved events that took place in the host town or nearby, or was replaced by the delivery of information material, which does not generate as effective results as participation. This problem is addressed in the proposed 2012–2013 budget through a higher proportion of funding to the RCUs.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
1.0 The secretariat effectively supports the review of the CRIC and the CST input on the operational objective concerning advocacy, awareness-raising and education in the context of the Strategy.	Background information from the secretariat on advocacy, awareness-raising and education is reflected in CRIC recommendations.	For CRIC 9, the secretariat compiled the information submitted by Parties and other reporting entities on operational objective 1, and prepared global, regional and subregional preliminary analyses. A review of the substantive outcomes of the reporting was made, as well as the methodological aspects. The analytical and methodological information was presented at CRIC 9 through official documentation, and related briefings were provided to the regional meetings. The secretariat assisted Parties in their considerations of this operational objective during the CRIC 9 sessions and, on request, at the regional and/or interest group meetings.
<b>Outcome area:</b>	1.1 DLDD issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
		Parties support the work of the secretariat in communicating DLDD issues and related synergies.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
1.1.1 Awareness of DLDD as one of the solutions to key global challenges is increased.	Amount of coverage in media and use of information products	<p><u>Status as at 31May 2011:</u></p> <p>The awareness-raising and public outreach activities of the secretariat were based on the comprehensive communication strategy. Among the outputs produced by the secretariat were approximately 30 exhibitions and events, responses to nearly 80 external requests for information materials, and the production or design of numerous outreach products such as posters, banners and CD-ROMs. Approximately 50 interviews and other types of media coverage that directly involved the secretariat took place. In 2010, the secretariat sent out 50 ‘Land Scan’ newsletters, and a similar amount is planned for 2011.</p> <p>Three ‘Drylands Ambassadors’ were nominated<sup>4</sup> to raise international awareness on land degradation, its causes and possible solutions, and three Land Days were held. The Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (UNDDD) was launched through five regional launching meetings in 2010.<sup>5</sup> The secretariat coordinates the inter-agency task force on UNDDD. The Rio Conventions Pavilion, which is a collaborative outreach forum of 20 partners, took place twice.</p> <p>UNCCD website visits increased from a monthly average of 20,000 in 2009 to a monthly average of 24,000 in 2010. The visual image of the UNCCD was revised, and new logos and templates for secretariat use were introduced. The UNCCD website was redesigned, and the new version will be available before the end the year.</p> <p>The RCUs were active in awareness-raising by collecting information material from the regions (good practices and event reports that have media value) on a regular basis, and contacting potential regional partners for collaboration in awareness-raising activities.</p>

<sup>4</sup> The Drylands Ambassadors are Mr. Kwon Byong-Hyon, President of the Future Forest Foundation and former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Carlos Marchena, a Spanish football player and Ms. Deborah Fraser, a South-African gospel singer.

<sup>5</sup> Global and regional launching event for Latin America and the Caribbean: Fortaleza, Brazil, 16 August 2010; Africa launching event: Nairobi, Kenya, 16 August 2010; Asia and the Pacific launching event: Seoul, Republic of Korea, 12 October 2010; North America launching event: Colorado, USA, 11–12 November 2010; and Europe launching event: London, United Kingdom, 16 December 2010.

<b>Outcome area:</b>	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>	
1.2 DLDD issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction.	Parties actively support and further ascertain the role and mandate of the UNCCD in their capacity as Parties to the Convention as well as to the other Rio conventions, and as members of relevant international institutions. Targeted international forums are willing to include DLDD issues in their considerations and/or decisions.	
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
1.2.1 The secretariat effectively advocates recognition of the UNCCD as a normative reference and a global focal point for DLDD issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of invitations to the secretariat to chair or speak at high-level events.</li> <li>- Number of references to the UNCCD in the conclusions and resolutions of the United Nations meetings, regional and subregional processes that the secretariat has addressed.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Status as at 31May 2011:</u></p> <p>By its resolution 65/160 from December 2010, the General Assembly decided that a high-level meeting on “addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” should be organized on 20 September 2011, the day before the start of the general debate of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. This meeting will represent a major opportunity for advancing the UNCCD at the highest decision-making level.</p> <p>The number of meeting invitations to the secretariat increased slightly from 193 in 2009 to 201 in 2010.<sup>6</sup> The secretariat participated in 25 high level meetings, including the 4th Conference on Least Developed Countries, the conference to review progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the ministerial segments of the COPs of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), among others. In nearly half of these, the Executive Secretary made a keynote speech or participated as a panellist. UNCCD or DLDD was referred to in the conclusions and resolutions of 19 out of the 25 high-level meetings that the secretariat took part in.</p> <p>The RCUs promoted the Convention in some subregional or regional meetings and processes, but due to lack of resources for travel, most invitations had to be turned down. Nevertheless, the RCUs actively contributed to other types of forums and exchanges and made information material on the Convention available upon request.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Only those invitations that were sent as official mail and registered are included.

<b>Outcome area:</b>	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>	
1.3 CSOs and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and DLDD is addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.	Country Parties accept and support the active and important role of CSOs. Institutional capacity of UNCCD non-governmental organizations to undertake and follow up on major initiatives.	
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
1.3.1 Mechanisms for CSO participation are improved; sponsored CSOs undertake more awareness initiatives and financing for CSOs in meetings is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amount of financing for CSO participation in UNCCD COPs</li> <li>- Number of awareness initiatives undertaken by sponsored CSOs</li> <li>- Extent to which COP and CRIC reports include CSO inputs</li> </ul>	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>The mechanism for balanced CSO participation was established in line with decision 5/COP.9 and implemented for CRIC 9. Forty CSO representatives attended CRIC 9, and 18 of them were financed by contributions through the UNCCD secretariat and other partners. The selection panel will convene again prior to COP 10.</p> <p>In addition to facilitating civil society participation in official UNCCD meetings, the secretariat assisted CSOs in the substantive preparations for CRIC 9 and CST S-2 by providing briefings on agenda items and procedural questions, and by organizing a preparatory meeting. For COP 10, the preparation of the briefings is underway and a Korean CSO network has been identified to support the organization of a preparatory meeting.</p> <p>Regular communications were sent by email to CSOs in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p>The secretariat is a partner to a project of the the Republic of Korea to launch a Sustainable Land Management Business Forum at COP 10. This Forum seeks to involve private sector executives to discuss matters relating to sustainable land management and addressing DLDD.</p> <p>The RCUs served the CSOs as the regional contact points on UNCCD issues. They also promoted the Convention among the CSOs in each region.</p>
1.3.2 Educational material on DLDD available to students and youth groups is increasingly used by them.	Extent to which schools and universities use UNCCD information on DLDD for educational purposes.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>The secretariat delivered 19 lectures on DLDD issues to various audiences including university students, young diplomats and youth groups. Educational material was published on the UNCCD website.</p>

### Subprogramme 2 – Policy framework

15. Subprogramme 2 involves the support of the secretariat to the alignment and development of national, subregional and regional action programmes (NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs), cooperation with relevant international organisations, promotion of synergies among the three Rio Conventions, and analytical work and advocacy concerning

interlinkages between DLDD and water, food security, poverty alleviation, gender, forests and migration.

16. During the biennium, the secretariat enhanced its support to affected countries in aligning their NAPs with The Strategy, and globally this process seems to be gathering pace. There is, however, a need to intensify the process if the target set out in decision 13/COP.9 is to be met by 2014.

17. With a view to supporting the alignment of RAPs and SRAPs with The Strategy, the secretariat prepared for CRIC 9 a comprehensive analysis of the status of implementation of these programmes and the actions taken so far to align them. The analysis and related feedback received at CRIC 9 will be used to guide the further work in this context.

18. The secretariat promoted a stronger involvement of major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes in the alignment and implementation of action programmes, thereby enabling increased support to affected country Parties. The draft report 'Global Drylands: A UN System-wide Response' is one steps towards this objective, as a joint initiative of more than 20 United Nations organizations aiming to achieve coherent contributions to land challenges.

19. The secretariat has actively promoted the increased understanding of the inter-linkages between the implementation of the UNCCD and addressing climate change, biodiversity, water scarcity, forestry, gender issues and migration. Sustainable land management and the importance of addressing DLDD feature increasingly in reports and decisions relating to the above-mentioned themes.

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
2.0 The secretariat effectively supports the review of the CRIC on the operational objective concerning the policy framework in the context of The Strategy.	Background information from the secretariat on the policy framework is reflected in CRIC recommendations.	<u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> For CRIC 9, the secretariat compiled the information submitted by Parties and other reporting entities on operational objective 2, and prepared preliminarily global, regional and subregional analyses. A review of the substantive outcomes of the reporting was performed, as well as a review of the methodological aspects. The analytical and methodological information was presented at CRIC 9 in official documentation, and related briefings were provided at the regional meetings. The secretariat assisted Parties in their considerations of this operational objective during the CRIC 9 sessions and, on request, at the regional and/or interest group meetings.
<b>Outcome area:</b>	2.1 Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to SLM are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
		Parties are willing to support the assessment of drivers of DLDD and barriers to SLM; and to recommend measures to remove these barriers.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
2.1.1 The revision of regional action programmes to align them to The Strategy is increasing.	Number of regional action programmes that are aligned to the implementation of The Strategy.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> For CRIC 9, the secretariat prepared a comprehensive analysis of the status of implementation of the regional and subregional action programmes under the UNCCD, and the actions taken so far to align these programmes with The Strategy. It was noted that only a few of the action programmes were being implemented or aligned.</p> <p>Since CRIC 9, the RCUs have supported exchanges among countries in the regions on the next steps concerning the regional and subregional action programmes. These programmes represent one dimension of the broader discussion on regional coordination, and in this context they will be discussed further during the regional meetings in September 2011.</p>
2.1.2 Increased understanding of the interlinkages between implementation of the UNCCD and addressing water scarcity, forestry, gender issues and migration, respectively, as well as the related cross-sectoral governance issues.	Number of references to UNCCD, DLDD and/or SLM in reports and resolutions on major events concerning water scarcity, forests, gender and migration relevant to drylands.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> Advocacy policy frameworks on water, gender and DLDD, climate change, poverty alleviation in the context of DLDD (based on the publication ‘Forgotten Billion’), land cover (forestry) and food security were developed in cooperation with various partners. Some of the draft frameworks went through a peer review process, and/or were opened for comments through the UNCCD website. The policy frameworks will be introduced at CRIC 10/COP 10.</p> <p>The secretariat participated in the United Nations Water meetings and preparations for the next World Water Forum. The outcomes of these meetings make reference to water scarcity in the context of DLDD. The secretariat also contributed to several high-level events and other meetings addressing food security, poverty alleviation, forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change; and most of these meetings and events referred to DLDD or UNCCD in their outcomes.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>In cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the secretariat organized a workshop during CRIC 9 on gender issues in the context of the UNCCD. The outcomes of the workshop were compiled into the draft gender policy framework.</p>
<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
2.2 Affected country Parties revise their NAPs into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.		Affected country Parties increasingly integrate NAPs into their national strategic planning frameworks.
2.3 Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and SLM and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.		

<sup>7</sup> Please see information on performance concerning expected accomplishment 1.2.1.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
2.3.1 Increased effectiveness of servicing countries in NAP alignment and mainstreaming through cooperation with UNDP.	Number of NAPs aligned with The Strategy with support from the secretariat	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>            In support of NAP alignment, the secretariat, acting jointly with the GM, prepared technical and concept papers on the NAP alignment to help national focal points in spearheading the NAP process. A joint programme on NAP alignment was developed, anticipating cooperation with close to 20 affected countries, and launched through two round table sessions during CRIC 9.</p> <p>Three subregional workshops on capacity-building for NAP alignment were organized in the Czech Republic, Guatemala and Nigeria. Similar workshops will be held in Sri Lanka and Burundi in June 2011. The themes covered in the workshops include approaches to NAP alignment, support to accessing GEF funding, particularly for enabling activities, mainstreaming of the NAP, and synergies with the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP).</p> <p>A side event on synergies among the action programmes under the three Rio Conventions was organised during the 4th Conference on Least Developed Countries in May 2011.</p> <p>Most activities to support the NAP alignment were carried out together with the GM, and further information can be found in the performance report on the joint work programme.<sup>8</sup></p>
2.3.2 Affected country Parties have increased support from major multilateral cooperation organizations and programmes in integrating NAPs, SLM and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans and policies.	Number of policies and approaches of FAO, UNDP and UNEP reflect NAPs and SLM and land degradation issues in drylands on the basis of input from the UNCCD.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>            The draft report ‘Global Drylands: A UN System-wide Response’ was introduced during CRIC 9 in February 2011. This report is a joint initiative of more than 20 United Nations organizations, aiming to identify options for achieving coherent contributions to land challenges by the United Nations system. The report was drafted in the context of the UNEP-led Environment Management Group.</p> <p>Joint retreats were held with UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and these retreats resulted in joint work plans focusing on areas where mutual interests were identified. Joint communication activities and publications are part of all plans. For UNDP, the focus is on supporting national implementation, for UNEP it’s on monitoring and assessment, for UNESCO it’s on water and education, and for WMO it’s on drought and impact monitoring. A corresponding retreat with IUCN is scheduled for June 2011, and the secretariat will particularly seek to involve</p>

<sup>8</sup> Document ICCD/COP(10)/11.

IUCN in capacity-building targeting sustainable land management.

The secretariat continued cooperation with the Great Green Wall initiative and TerrAfrica.

Outcome area:	Risks/assumptions:	
2.5 Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions.	Other conventions are willing to cooperate and actively pursue synergies, which include the UNCCD agenda and issues.	
Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
2.5.1 Improved understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM in addressing climate change and biodiversity.	Number of references to DLDD and SLM in the reports and resolutions of meetings on climate change and biodiversity on the basis of input from the UNCCD.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>In 2010 the secretariat participated in the 10th meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the three Rio Conventions, in which elements for further collaboration were agreed upon. In April 2011, the secretariat chaired the 11th JLG meeting, which resulted in agreed principles for joint action, especially in the context of Rio +20 and the coming COPs, among other issues.</p> <p>The secretariat discussed with the CBD secretariat on joint workshops linking the process to align UNCCD NAPs with The Strategy and the process on revising the NBSAPs according to the biodiversity targets. Due to resource limitations in 2011, these workshops are planned to take place in 2012. The secretariat of UNFCCC has expressed interest in participating in some of the workshops.</p> <p>In cooperation with IUCN and the secretariats of the CBD and the UNFCCC, the secretariat co-organised a workshop to promote cooperation on gender issues in the context of the three Rio Conventions and the GEF. Joint action in this area was provisionally agreed upon at JLG 11.</p> <p>In 2010, the secretariat participated in the CBD COP in Nagoya, Japan, and in the UNFCCC COP in Cancun, Mexico. Both occasions provided opportunities to promote synergies with SLM in addressing climate change and biodiversity, and some such activities, including the organization of several side events and the Rio Conventions Pavilion, were carried out together with the secretariats of the CBD and UNFCCC and other partners.</p> <p>Both the CBD and the UNFCCC COPs address DLDD issues. Among other issues, the CBD COP decided on fostering collaborative action to promote dryland biodiversity. As a follow-up, the CBD and UNCCD secretariats are updating their joint work programme to reflect the COP decisions.</p> <p>The UNFCCC COP adopted the Cancun Agreements which provide various opportunities for integrating land and soils into future climate change negotiation outcomes. Such</p>

		outcomes may concern operational approaches and mechanisms to implement adaptation and mitigation options in new areas, such as agricultural soils, water, and forestry.
2.5.2 Mitigation of the effects of drought is reflected in the action programmes under the UNCCD.	Number of affected country Parties that include measures to mitigate the effects of drought in their action programmes.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>The secretariat participated in two meetings concerning drought and drought risk management. The secretariats of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UNCCD jointly developed a concept for a global initiative on advocating for national drought policies. This initiative was endorsed by the WMO Congress during its May 2011 meeting, and it is planned to be launched in 2012 through a high-level meeting on national drought policies.</p> <p>Cooperation was initiated with Bonn-based UN organizations that work on drought monitoring and early warning systems. The Asia RCU was an active partner in the regional cooperation initiative on drought and dust storm monitoring and prevention that is led by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>The secretariat also contributed to setting up the regional drought management centre in South Eastern Europe, as a member of its steering committee.</p>

### **Subprogramme 3 – Science, technology and knowledge**

20. Under subprogramme 3, the work of the secretariat focuses on facilitating reporting against the performance and impact indicators, and supports the CST in carrying out its work.

21. During the biennium 2010-2011, the Convention started using indicator-based reporting on performance in meeting the operational objectives of The Strategy. This performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) provides for a comparable review and assessment of progress made, which allows for the effective identification of further action. In 2012–2013, the PRAIS will also cover impact monitoring against the strategic objectives of The Strategy, and in 2010–2011, significant progress was made in the development of impact indicators and related baselines.

22. The First UNCCD Scientific Conference in 2009 involved the broad-based input from the scientific community to support CST work on monitoring and assessment. In follow-up to the conference, the secretariat carried out participatory assessments of the outcomes and the organization of the first scientific conference, and the results of these assessments will benefit the forthcoming conferences. Preparations for the Second Scientific Conference, which will be held in 2012, are well underway.

23. The secretariat has started improving knowledge management with a view to better responding to information needs in the UNCCD process and to increase the cost-efficiency of its functions. One component of this process will be the development of a scientific knowledge brokering component that may involve interactive platforms for exchange of information.

24. A preliminary assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice within the UNCCD process has been prepared. Parties and other relevant

stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the assessment process through an online survey in July–August 2011.

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
3.0 The secretariat effectively supports the review of the CRIC and the CST concerning the operational objective on science, technology and knowledge in the context of The Strategy.	Extent to which background information from the secretariat on meeting the operational objective on science, technology and knowledge is reflected in CRIC recommendations	For CRIC 9, the secretariat compiled the information submitted by Parties and other reporting entities on operational objective 3, and prepared preliminarily global, regional and subregional analyses. A review of the substantive outcomes of the reporting was performed, as well as a review of the methodological aspects. The analytical and methodological information was presented at CRIC 9 in official documentation, and related briefings were provided at the regional meetings. The secretariat assisted Parties in their considerations of this operational objective during the CRIC 9 sessions and, on request, at the regional and/or interest group meetings.
<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
3.1 National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.		Affected countries are willing and capable of preparing assessments and case studies and of making them available to UNCCD.
3.2 A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio-economic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized.		Involved Parties are willing to reconcile diverging views for the sake of a universally accepted baseline format.
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
3.1.1 Parties and other key stakeholders adopt a common approach to monitor and review progress in implementing The Strategy.	Extent to which information contained in the reports of Parties and other key stakeholders is comparable and relevant for monitoring the status of operational objectives.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> As a framework for the 2010–2011 reporting and review process, the secretariat, together with UNEP and the GM, developed a GEF-funded global assistance programme, which included methodological guidelines and reporting tools, training and provision of technical assistance, and the development of a web-based online portal. In addition to the GEF programme, the secretariat provided catalytic funding for reporting and report validation, which was complemented by resources from other sources.</p> <p>A regional reference centre system, involving regional and subregional partner organisations, was set up, in order to assist countries in the use of the methodological and technological tools devised by the programme. Training for trainers was organized, followed by regional and subregional workshops for the training of national focal points and reporting officers from the five regional implementation annexes.</p> <p>The RCUs played a key role in facilitating the reporting process in each region, as described in the paragraph above,</p>

and were also responsible for the preliminary analysis of data contained in the reports and did the preliminary analysis of the regional and sub-regional reports.

By the deadline, 89 affected country Parties and 12 developed country Parties uploaded their national reports onto the PRAIS portal, as well as the GEF and the GM. 11 CSOs also uploaded their reports on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.

The secretariat compiled and analysed the content of the reports for CRIC 9.

The secretariat reviewed the use of the performance indicators and associated methodologies, based on information contained in the reports, with a view to considering the refinement of the indicators and methodologies where necessary. Also the terms of reference mid-term evaluation of the Strategy were drafted.

For CRIC 9, guidelines for CSOs reporting in upcoming reporting processes were prepared.

The secretariat established contacts with relevant organisations that work on monitoring tools relating to DLDD and SLM. A report was prepared for CRIC 9 on synergies among the Rio conventions with regard to reporting.

The preparation for the 2012–2013 reporting against the impact indicators was started, with the aim of completing the draft templates, the reporting guidelines, the framework for analysis and a glossary before the end of 2011. A progress report will be presented at CST 10

3.1.2 The secretariat effectively supports the iterative process and pilot impact indicator tracking exercises for the development of the revised set of impact indicators.

Background information from the secretariat on the status of the iterative process and pilot impact indicator tracking exercises is reflected in CST recommendations.

Status as at 31 May 2011:

In supporting the CST in the development of the impact indicators, the secretariat commissioned two studies on (1) methodologies and data needs for the effective use of the sub-set of two impact indicators, as well as on (2) the development of a related glossary. These reports drew upon the outcomes of a meeting organized by the secretariat in June 2010 with institutions and agencies that could provide the information required to implement the sub-set of impact indicators. They were posted to the UNCCD website for public review through an e-forum from October to December 2010.

3.1.3 The secretariat effectively supports CST work on harmonization of methods and baselines for using the subset of impact indicators.

Extent to which background information from the secretariat on harmonization of methods and baselines for using the subset of impact indicators is reflected in CST recommendations.

A participatory scientific peer review, involving input from over 100 technical experts, was carried out between September 2010 and May 2011 to assess the relevance, accuracy and cost-effectiveness of the other nine impact indicators. This process involved the drafting of a white paper, a preliminary expert review, a technical workshop and a revised white paper. This paper was available for

<p>3.2.1 The secretariat effectively supports CST work on the elaboration of harmonized scientific approaches to develop baselines and targets.</p>	<p>Extent to which background information provided by the secretariat on harmonization of scientific approaches to develop baselines and targets is reflected in CST recommendations.</p>	<p>public review through another e-forum from February to May 2011.</p> <p>The secretariat supported the organization of pilot impact indicator tracking exercises at national level. These pilot exercises y aim to produce evidence, examples and recommendations on the national production and reporting of the impact indicators. This will cover both the technical and scientific aspects of this work and the organizational or capacity aspects of producing the indicators. The pilot exercises will be officially launched through a multi-national inception workshop in July 2011, which will seek to promote a common understanding of the UNCCD indicator-based impact monitoring and reporting, and create an informal network of professionals from the participating pilot countries that can support each other in the piloting process. Findings and recommendations of the exercises will be presented at a side event during COP 10.</p>
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<b>Outcome area:</b>	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
<p>3.3 Knowledge of biophysical and socio-economic factors and of their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.</p>	<p>Affected countries can improve the quality of information and data to be found in the national reports.</p>

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
3.3.1 Broad-based input of the scientific community mobilized by the secretariat supports CST work on the priority themes.	Amount of broad-based input of the scientific community available to CST work on consideration of the priority themes	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>            After COP 9, the secretariat commissioned an in-depth assessment of the organization of the UNCCD First Scientific Conference, and a substantive review of its outcomes. These assessments will be used to support the preparation of the forthcoming scientific conferences.</p> <p>The UNCCD Second Scientific Conference will take place in 2012. The secretariat has supported its preparation by providing information to the CST Bureau for deciding on operational modalities for the organization of the conference, launching a call and supporting the selection of a lead institution by the CST Bureau. In line with the recommendations made at CST S-2 and following guidance of the CST Bureau, the secretariat established a steering committee and organized several meetings to guide the preparations. A scientific advisory committee is planned to be organized by the lead institution.</p> <p>The RCUs, in assisting the regional coordination mechanisms, will support the preparation of the conference with regard to the involvement of scientists at regional level.</p> <p>The secretariat is a partner in an initiative aiming to generate a global assessment of the economics of land degradation. This initiative has so far produced a meta study<sup>9</sup> presenting existing research and methodologies to assess the economics of land degradation, which was considered in a partnership meeting in December 2010. In this meeting numerous organizations, institutions and countries expressed their willingness to become partners to the initiative.</p>
<b>Outcome area:</b>	3.4 Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
		The independent nature of processes relating to climate change adaptation will not be a factor limiting the development of such tools.

<sup>9</sup> The study was funded by the Government of Germany and prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institution (IFPRI) and the German Center for Development Research (ZEF).

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
3.4.1 The secretariat effectively supports the CST in establishing modalities for cooperation with the scientific subsidiary bodies of UNFCCC and the CBD.	Background information provided by the secretariat on the modalities for cooperation between the CST and the scientific subsidiary bodies of the CBD and the UNFCCC is reflected in CST recommendations.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The CST did not yet fully address the cooperation with the scientific subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD, nor the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and the restoration of degraded lands. However, related matters were discussed at CST Bureau meetings.</p> <p>The secretariat explored possible modalities for cooperation or information exchange between the scientific subsidiary bodies, and the issue was brought up at the 11th meeting of the JLG in April 2011.</p> <p>The secretariat will prepare an informative document on the issue for CST 10.</p>
3.4.2 The secretariat effectively supports the CST in addressing interlinkages between the agenda of the CST and the agendas of other organizations and bodies relating to the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and the restoration of degraded lands.	Background information from the secretariat on interlinkages between the agenda of the CST and agendas of other organizations and bodies relating to the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded lands in drylands is reflected in CST recommendations.	
<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
3.5 Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge, <sup>10</sup> are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.		Affected countries are willing to use and develop knowledge-sharing systems.
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010-2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010-2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
3.5.1 Information on and knowledge of matters relating to UNCCD, DLDD and SLM, including best practices and success stories, are used by interested scientists and other specialists.	A geographically and thematically proficient scientific component of the UNCCD comprehensive knowledge management is used.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The secretariat started developing a comprehensive UNCCD knowledge management system by conducting an assessment of related needs and assets. Based on the outcomes of this assessment, a general concept and design, including external and internal modules and a logical framework for scientific and technical data management, was prepared. A side event was organised at CST S-2 for information-sharing on the plans of the secretariat, and this side event resulted in the establishment of an informal support group.</p> <p>The secretariat will continue developing the knowledge management system and the related technological</p>

<sup>10</sup> Excluding traditional knowledge on genetic resources.

infrastructure and training procedures, with the aim of having the first internal components in place early 2012.

Under the guidance of the CST Bureau, the secretariat started developing a scientific knowledge brokering system, which will be one component of the overall knowledge management system. The outcomes of the assessment on knowledge needs and assets highlighted the need for practical, interactive knowledge management and exchange, and on this basis, the secretariat is currently exploring options for a cost-efficient provision of such services.

The secretariat is a member of the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA), an initiative led by UNEP that seeks to provide basic information on nearly 20 multilateral environment agreements and instruments on one website, and encourage the harmonization of vocabulary and terms used under these MEAs. The InforMEA website will be launched in June 2011.

<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
3.6 Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to DLDD are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.		The scientific community is willing to actively support the UNCCD implementation process.
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
3.6.1 Provisions for the engagement of science and institutions are improved.	Increased participation of science and institutions in the work of the CST	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>                      At its ninth session, the COP requested the CST to conduct an assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, taking into account the need to ensure transparency and geographical balance. The CST was also requested to consider options for determining agreed channels for consideration of the advice in the Convention process.</p> <p>Following guidance of the CST Bureau, the secretariat commissioned a preliminary analysis on the above-mentioned aspects. After reviewing this analysis, the CST Bureau instructed the secretariat to organize an online survey on the issue in order to receive inputs from the Parties, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders and incorporate those inputs into the assessment process. The survey will be in online in July–August 2011, and it will invite respondents to consider four options or suggest an additional option. The four options are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To use existing scientific networks;</li> <li>2. To establish a new scientific network focused on specific topics;</li> <li>3. To use existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms; or</li> </ol>

4. To establish a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil.

The secretariat organized two online surveys on the role of the science and technology correspondents. A report on the outcome of these surveys will be presented at CST 10. The list of science and technology correspondents has been regularly updated.

In response to decision 21/COP. 9, the secretariat prepared recommendations for improvements to the roster of independent experts, which will be submitted to COP 10. The roster of experts has been regularly updated.

RCUs supported the effective participation of the scientific community in the work of the UNCCD by liaising with science and technology correspondents and by supporting regional consultations on major CST issues.

**Subprogramme 4 – Capacity-building**

25. Most of the secretariat’s capacity-building activities were conducted as part of specific processes, most notably the support to action programme alignment, reporting against performance indicators, and facilitation of access funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which are reported under subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5, respectively.

26. In the context of subprogramme 4, the secretariat developed a capacity-building website for the provision of capacity-building material and information on opportunities for capacity-building related to the UNCCD.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
4.0 The secretariat effectively supports the review of the CRIC on the operational objective concerning capacity-building in the context of The Strategy.	Extent to which background information by the secretariat on capacity-building is reflected in CRIC recommendations	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>                      For CRIC 9, the secretariat compiled the information submitted by Parties and other reporting entities on operational objective 4, and prepared preliminarily global, regional and subregional analyses. A review of the substantive outcomes of the reporting was made, as well as a review of the methodological aspects. The analytical and methodological information was presented at CRIC 9 in official documentation, and related briefings were provided at the regional meetings. The secretariat assisted Parties in their considerations of this operational objective during the CRIC 9 sessions and, on request, at the regional and/or interest group meetings.</p>

<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
4.1 Countries which have carried out the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels to tackle DLDD issues at the national and local levels.		Organizations and institutions are willing to support the development of capacity-building linked with UNCCD
4.2 Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessment processes to identify capacity needs for tackling DLDD at the national and local levels.		
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs (2010–2011)</b>
4.1 Opportunities for targeted capacity-building under the UNCCD are improved	UNCCD Parties participate in a scientific capacity-building programme	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>The secretariat started establishing a webpage as a platform for the collection, storing and sharing of information regarding capacity-building related to the UNCCD. This platform is planned to develop into a ‘one-stop shop’ on matters relating to capacity-building, involving, inter alia, online training, e-learning, promotion of opportunities for capacity-building, and promotion of synergies with other relevant conventions in the area of capacity-building.</p> <p>The secretariat promoted the ‘Special Initiative for Africa’, which aims to develop synergistic investment projects.</p>

### **Subprogramme 5 – Financing and technology transfer**

27. Under subprogramme 5, the activities of the secretariat focus on promoting the Convention towards international financing institutions, most notably the GEF.

28. Following the decision of the GEF Assembly in May 2010 to amend the instrument to formalize GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, the secretariat intensified its cooperation with the GEF secretariat, with the aim of improving consistency between the UNCCD process tools and the GEF operations and requirements. This cooperation has so far resulted in coordinated advice to countries on accessing GEF funding and joint events.

29. Other activities of the secretariat concerning financing, including the preparation of the reporting and review of information concerning operational objective 5, are carried out together with the GM as part of the joint work programme and are reported in that context.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Report on the performance in implementing the joint work programme is contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/11.

<b>Outcome area:</b>		<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>
5.3 Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/SLM agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.		IFIs, the GEF Council and other facilities and funds are willing to assign higher priority to SLM issues.
<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
5.3.1 Increased understanding of the importance of DLDD and SLM on the part of the GEF, the IFAD and the World Bank.	Number of references to DLDD/SLM in the strategies, reports and decisions of the GEF, IFAD and the World Bank taking into account information provided by the UNCCD	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>A staff retreat between the secretariats of the UNCCD and the GEF was held in January 2011 with the objective of jointly discussing and clarifying key aspects of the GEF-5 policies and programmes as they relate to supporting the implementation of the Convention by affected country Parties. The outcome of the retreat was a Joint Action Plan that includes a number of targeted actions and outputs. Among those taken so far has been the provision of information and support to countries to access GEF funding for enabling activities, a jointly organized expert meeting and ministerial consultation on the Great Green Wall Initiative, and a joint outreach event for UNCCD National Focal Points on GEF-5 reforms. The cooperation with the GEF secretariat also included consultations on enabling activities for the land degradation focal area, with regard to future support needed for the 2012-2013 reporting and review process, and the formulation and alignment of action programmes with The Strategy. In this regard, a global assistance programme is being formulated in consultation with the UNEP and the GM, for submission to CRIC 10 and the GEF Council in 2011.</p> <p>With regard to cooperation with IFAD and the World Bank, the secretariat has had several senior management level exchanges on DLDD issues and related actions. The secretariat also participated in the IFAD Governing Council meeting and the World Bank Annual Conferences on Land Policy and Administration.</p>
<b>Outcome area:</b>	<b>Risks/assumptions:</b>	
5.4 Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction.	Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms can be identified and accessed.	

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
5.4.1 Improved understanding on the part of Parties of factors supporting private sector involvement in SLM.	COP discusses private sector involvement in SLM.	<u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The secretariat is a partner to a project of the COP 10 host country, the Republic of Korea, to launch a Sustainable Land Management Business Forum at COP 10. This Forum seeks to involve private sector executives to discuss matters relating to sustainable land management and addressing DLDD.

### Subprogramme 6 - Management support for strategy implementation

30. Three key areas of work of the secretariat are contained under subprogramme 6, namely the executive direction and management, conference services and administrative and financial services.

31. During the biennium, the secretariat sought to organize the intergovernmental UNCCD process in a manner that enables high quality information to support Parties' decision-making, focuses the work to clear and practical targets, and links this Convention with global changes and trends. Organized support was provided to regional cooperation, including coordinated assistance to facilitating national implementation.

32. The accountability of the Convention bodies and institutions was enhanced through the use of the RBM approach by which all resources were linked to achievements agreed by the COP. The workplans were, to a considerable extent, delivered as adopted at COP.9 although the available resources were not commensurable to the needs.<sup>12</sup> In many instances, the lack of resources was compensated by additional efforts by the secretariat, which represented a heavy personal burden to many secretariat staff.

33. The secretariat organized the intersessional meeting of the CRIC and the second special session of the CST in February 2011. Due to delays in the 4th UNCCD reporting cycle, these sessions were postponed from November 2010 and the time originally reserved for the secretariat to prepare and process the analytical documents was considerably reduced. The COP Bureau made its final decision on the venue of the sessions only four months before the beginning of the sessions. In spite of the mentioned challenges, the secretariat successfully organized the sessions with all services fully functional in time, and with an overall documentation submission compliance rate of 87 per cent, which is very close to the United Nations benchmark of 90 per cent.

34. Consultations with the Republic of Korea as the COP 10 host country started in early 2010, and the host country agreement was at an advanced state in May 2011.

35. The secretariat continued its efforts in improving effectiveness and transparency of administrative and financial management by facilitating the review of accounts by the Board of Auditors on two separate occasions and the substantive programmes of the secretariat by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. With regard to information and communication technology, the secretariat's office software and operating systems were

<sup>12</sup> Information on those planned tasks of the secretariat that were delayed, delivered at a lower quantity than planned or not initiated at all is presented in document ICCD/COP(10)/10.

upgraded, a mobile office environment was created and the integration of Voice-Over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) with the secretariat's telephone network was initiated.

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**(a) Executive Direction and Management**

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
6.1 Integrity and coherence of the UNCCD process.	Parties express their satisfaction.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>Building on the guidance received from COP 9, the secretariat planned and organized the intergovernmental UNCCD process during the biennium. Scheduling of sessions and meetings was set, substantive requirements and key partnership needs were identified, and related work was distributed among the units.</p> <p>Five COP Bureau meetings were prepared and serviced, including specific tasks and resource mobilisation concerning the work of the Bureau in follow-up to decision 6/COP.9. Preparations for the COP 10 high-level segment and the Parliamentary round table, which will again take place during the COP, are well underway.</p> <p>The status of the secretariat's 2010–2011 work programme delivery was regularly monitored. As at 31 May, two-thirds of the work programme was reported as advancing well. Periodic internal evaluation focusing on the quality and effectiveness of the work of the secretariat will be introduced in the next biennium.</p> <p>The secretariat prepared the 2012–2015 workplan and the 2012–2013 work programme following an RBM approach. The 2012–2013 joint work programme was prepared in cooperation with the GM.</p> <p>Legal tasks were delivered as planned, and tools on quality control were initiated.</p> <p>In line with decision 3/COP.9, core budget officers were assigned to regional coordination to the regional coordination units in Africa, Asia and LAC. Consultations continued on the establishment and functional modalities of an RCU to support Central and Eastern European countries, and the recruitment of an officer for that region is at a final stage. Current hosting arrangements for the RCUs were reviewed, and options for future hosting were identified. These were compiled in a document for the consideration of the COP at its tenth session.</p>

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		Regional meetings preparatory to COP 10, including scientific segments, will be organized in September 2011.
6.2 Resources managed to the satisfaction of the Parties.	Extent to which resources are used effectively in all work packages of the secretariat.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> In order to strengthen its resource mobilization functions, as has been requested by Parties, the secretariat recruited a senior adviser in March 2011.</p> <p>For the biennium 2010–2011, the cash mobilized by the secretariat amounted to approximately EUR 2.3 million. Together with the estimated financial value of partnerships and sponsored staff<sup>13</sup>, the secretariat succeeded in securing approximately 80 per cent of the extrabudgetary resource needs.</p>

**(b) Conference services**

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
6.3 Parties are satisfied with improved conditions for taking informed decisions at the level of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.	<p>Number of complaints from Parties about arrangements made to organize the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>Number of official documents promptly and effectively submitted to Parties for consideration at sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.</p>	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The preparation of the CRIC 9/CST S-2 started with the delineation of a conference services and facilities set-up plan. As the conferences were not hosted by a given country, the agreements with various service providers were negotiated by the secretariat. Agreements were also concluded with UNDSS, UNOG and ECOSOC<sup>14</sup> for the provision of security services, translation and interpretation, and procedural support. 35 pre-session documents, 9 in-session and 2 post-session documents were processed. Invitations were sent to participants and related travel support requests were addressed, including visa related issues which were solved with the host country of the secretariat.</p> <p>During the CRIC 9/CST S-2, all sessions and contact groups were serviced, including the various regional consultations held. Interest groups and other informal meetings were also facilitated. The Daily Journal was promptly issued in cooperation with United Nations/ECOSOC. After the sessions, reports for CRIC9 and CST S-2 were consolidated and processed, and a list of participants was completed.</p> <p>Similar actions as described above are being carried out for the organization of COP 10, CST 10 and CRIC 10 in October 2011, although the scope of</p>

<sup>13</sup> For more information, please see document ICCD/COP(10)/10.

<sup>14</sup> UNDSS: United Nations Department of safety and Security, UNOG: United Nations Office in Geneva, and ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

		<p>preparations is considerably broader; over 80 documents will be processed, the number of participants will be at least three-fold compared to that of the February sessions, and the ministerial segment will require further security arrangements, to mention just a few differences.</p> <p>Twelve COP, CRIC and CST Bureau meetings were organized outside the official sessions. These meetings involved logistical and travel arrangements, translation services and document processing.</p>
6.4 Exchanges among Parties' representatives, scientific experts and/or other key stakeholders are efficiently facilitated.	<p>Extent to which requested meetings, workshops and seminars are organized promptly and within the limits of the allocated budget.</p> <p>Extent to which requested publications, documentation and information materials are processed promptly and within the limits of the allocated budget.</p>	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> UNCCD meetings other than those of the COP, its subsidiary bodies or process management bodies were organized and serviced, including three Adaptation Fund Board meetings that the secretariat organized for the GEF secretariat, against compensation.</p> <p>Over 40 publications, information/education materials and other documentation materials of the secretariat were edited, translated and/or reproduced.</p>

**(c) Administration, finance and human resources**

<b>Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance indicators (2010–2013)</b>	<b>Performance data, including main outputs</b>
6.5 Improved effectiveness and transparency of administration and financial management.	Positive feedback from external auditors.	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> At the end of 2010, the interim financial statements were prepared for the consideration of the Board of Auditors, who was with the secretariat in April 2011. The secretariat attended to the auditors' questions in the areas of accounts, results-based budgeting/management, human resource management, inventory and conference services. The secretariat implemented a new asset management system and recorded all of the secretariat's expendable and non-expendable property within a very short period of time. As a result, the auditors had no negative observations of the secretariat's control of assets.</p> <p>Accounts were regularly maintained by certifying and approving financial documents, processing of payments, preparing donor reports in a timely manner, undertaking monthly account reconciliation and updating the status of contributions in both United States dollars and euros at the official exchange rate of the United Nations.</p>

		<p>The secretariat continued to provide information to Parties on the status of contributions on a monthly basis and acknowledge receipt of contributions. The sessions of the CST S-2 and CRIC 9 presented a number of challenges for the secretariat, including the arrangements for travel and daily subsistence allowance payment for the funded participants. .</p>
<p>6.6 Improved information and communication technology services of the secretariat.</p>	<p>Satisfaction of staff and other users with services.</p>	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u>                  The secretariat ensured that all the critical information and communication technology services were available at all times, while extending its support to development of specialized solutions, such as the PRAIS project. The secretariat deployed a portable laptop to each staff member, which will enable a mobile office infrastructure that will allow staff members to work from anywhere in the world. This work will be complemented by a VoIP solution that will ultimately reduce the costs of telephone communication.</p>

### III. Conclusions and recommendations

**36. The COP may take note of this report and provide guidance, upon recommendation by the CRIC, on the strategic orientation of the 2012–2015 work plan and the 2012–2013 work programme of the secretariat.**