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Programme and budget

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

Report on the implementation of the costed two-year work programme of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (2010–2011)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This document contains information on the implementation of the costed two-year work programme of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for the first seventeen months of the biennium 2010–2011. It should be read in conjunction with the documents on the performance reports of the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Committee on Science and Technology (see ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/12, ICCD/COP(10)/14 and ICCD/COP(10)/15).

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–3	3
II Report on the performance of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	4–23	3
A. Overview of expenditures	9–10	4
B. Main accomplishments in 2010-2011	11–18	5
C. Performance by expected accomplishment.....	19–23	6
III. Conclusions and recommendations	24	11

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 each submit to the COP for its consideration 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 Evaluation¹ and following RBM approach. This document is one such report on the performance of the CRIC and covers the reporting period from 1 January 2010 to 31 May 2011.

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

3. In accordance with decision 11/COP.9, the performance review will be undertaken by the CRIC providing input on the performance of Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies to the budget discussions at COP 10. The present document therefore provides the basis of the performance analysis by the CRIC contained in document ICCD/CRIC(10)/8.

II. Report on the performance of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

4. In The Strategy, the CRIC was assigned a central role in reviewing the implementation of The Strategy through an effective reporting process and documenting and disseminating best practices from experience in implementing the Convention, thereby bringing a cross-cutting contribution to all operational objectives. The Strategy further stated that the CRIC shall be strengthened to improve feedback loops to measure progress and support continuous improvement in implementing the strategic plan.

5. By decision 11/COP.9, the guidance of The Strategy was translated into detailed terms of reference for the CRIC, which assigned the following functions to the CRIC:

(a) To undertake an assessment of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy through the review of information provided by Parties and other reporting entities, and of information on civil society, including the private sector;

(b) To undertake a performance review of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies, following an RBM approach and on the basis of the reports on the two-year costed work programme;

¹ ST/SGB/2000/8.

² ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/12, ICCD/COP(10)/14 and ICCD/COP(10)/15.

(c) To review and compile best practices on implementation of the Convention and forward this information for consideration by the COP with a view to disseminating it;

(d) To assist the COP to assess and monitor the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC; and

(e) To assist the COP to evaluate the implementation of The Strategy, including its mid-term evaluation by 2013.

6. As part of the functions specified above, the CRIC was further assigned, as appropriate, the following functions:

(a) To consider information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, including information from the Global Mechanism;

(b) To recommend methods that improve communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(c) To recommend methods that promote know-how and technology transfer, in particular from the developed countries to the developing countries, for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

(d) To recommend methods that promote experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and all other interested institutions and organizations; and

(e) To recommend further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

7. By decision 1/COP.9, COP decided that, *inter alia*, the CRIC should undertake its assessment of implementation in 2010 and 2012 and its performance review in 2011 and 2013, using information obtained from reports submitted by Parties and other reporting entities with the aim of producing targeted recommendations and draft decisions for consideration by the COP, and that the CRIC will assist the COP in preparing for the mid-term review of The Strategy in 2013.

8. In line with decisions 3/COP.8 and 11/COP.9, the plan for the CRIC to deliver its functions was recorded in its 2010–2013 workplan and 2010–2011 work programme that were prepared according to the RBM approach and consistent with the objectives contained in The Strategy.

A. Overview of expenditure

9. The workplan and work programme of the CRIC is closely linked with the work programme of the UNCCD secretariat. All substantive support with financial implications is covered in the secretariat's work programme. Consequently, during the biennium 2010–2011, the budget of the CRIC contained only the costs of the CRIC Bureau meetings, which were under the core budget of the Convention, and the costs of participation in the intersessional CRIC session. The resources for the CRIC session that will take place during COP 10 will be covered within the funding relating to COP 10 participation. The table below provides an overview of expenditure as at 31 May 2011.

Expenditure for the budget of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention by object of expenditure

(Euros)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Approved budget 2010–2011</i>	<i>Expenditure as at 31 May 2011</i>	<i>Expenditure as a percentage of budget</i>
Travel	64 800	22 404	34.6
Logistical arrangements	7 200	1 305	18.1
Total	72 000	23 709	32.9

10. The core budget of the CRIC has provided funding for a total of eleven participants to meetings of the CRIC Bureau, the costs of which have been lower than expected. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funding to cover the cost of the CRIC Bureau for the remainder of the biennium.

B. Main accomplishments in 2010–2011

11. In the biennium 2010–2011, CRIC succeeded in initiating a first systematic, indicator-based assessment of implementation under the UNCCD. This review set new standards for monitoring progress in this process at global, as well as regional, levels and provides for a facts-based assessment of the setting of priorities for the effective and efficient implementation of the Strategy.

12. The review also supports the development of advocacy and awareness raising functions with regard to the Convention at all levels, building on the information received through the review process and related consensus-based recommendations.

13. At CRIC 9, Parties recognized that the shift towards quantitative reporting is difficult but worthwhile, particularly at national level, where information collected during the 2010 reporting process has assisted in future planning and stocktaking vis-à-vis the Convention process.

14. The CRIC Bureau met three times so far in this biennium³ and provided guidance to the reporting and review process, including guidance on the date and venue of CRIC 9, on the deadlines relating to the reporting process, and on the expected input from civil society.

15. The ninth session of the CRIC was held from 21 to 25 February and focused on assessing progress in meeting the operational objectives of The Strategy against provisionally adopted performance indicators and targets. Other agenda items before the CRIC focused on an analysis of financial flows, best practices in the implementation of the Convention, reporting and the iterative process.

16. It is to be noted that the CRIC also introduced a segment dedicated to the civil society organisations (CSOs) to the structure of its session for the first time. The segment focused on best practices, and it resulted in significant inputs from the CSOs to the reporting and review process.

17. Due to the fact that, at its ninth session, the CRIC initiated the review of the PRAIS system, i.e. the review of information according to standardized information collected and

³ Meetings of the CRIC Bureau were convened from 1 to 2 March 2010, 21 to 22 June 2010, and 19 to 20 May 2011.

submitted by reporting entities, Parties at CRIC 9 dedicated considerable time to providing feedback on the reporting and review process.

18. The session resulted in conclusions and recommendations that aim to further the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. They suggest potential action that could be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders, including the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention. The outcomes of CRIC 9 are contained in its report.⁴

C. Performance by expected accomplishment

19. The 2010–2013 workplan of the CRIC contains seven expected accomplishments which represent the results that it has set to be achieved. One expected accomplishment addresses further steps towards the strategic objectives of the Strategy, five expected accomplishments deal with next steps in the context of the operational objectives and one expected accomplishment concerns the assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of CRIC and decisions on amendments to be made with regard to the monitoring process.

1. Strategic objectives

20. In The Strategy, Parties adopted four strategic objectives⁵ that will guide the actions of all stakeholders and partners of the Convention in the period 2008–2018. Meeting these long-term objectives is expected to contribute to achieving the vision that was presented in The Strategy. The first review of progress in meeting the strategic objectives, based on impact indicators, is planned to take place at CRIC 11 in 2012.

21. The impact indicators for strategic objective 4 were provisionally approved at COP 9, while the work towards developing the impact indicators for strategic objectives 1–3 continued primarily under the CST. CRIC 9 reviewed the input of the CST in this context, but it will take a major role in the impact monitoring and review process only at, and after, COP 10.

⁴ ICCD/CRIC(9)/16.

⁵ Strategic objective 1: To improve the living conditions of affected populations.
 Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems.
 Strategic objective 3: To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD.
 Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
Strategic objectives: Parties agree on further steps to be taken to meet the strategic objectives (SOs) 1–4 of The Strategy.	COP decision on further steps to be taken to meet the strategic objectives, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with SOs 1–4	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u></p> <p>CRIC 9 considered the CST input on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, and integrated it into the CRIC 9 report. It is foreseen that the CRIC, at its tenth session, will provide a draft decision to COP 10 on the final adoption of the impact indicators, including related reporting methodologies.</p> <p>CRIC 10 will receive further input from the CST on impact indicators and related methodologies for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, which will be reflected in the recommendations for consideration by the COP 10.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau started its deliberations and exchanges with the CST Bureau concerning the review process relating to the strategic objectives.</p>

2. Operational objectives

22. As set out in The Strategy, Parties adopted five operational objectives that will guide the actions of UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term, with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned strategic objectives. The CRIC reviewed progress in meeting the operational objectives on the basis of performance indicators that were approved by COP 9, and made conclusions and recommendations for further action concerning the operational objectives, as summarized below.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
Operational objective 1 on advocacy, awareness-raising and education: Parties assess progress made in meeting this operational objective and decide on next steps to be taken.	COP decision that identifies the next steps in the field of operational objective 1 and related work of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and proposes elements for the review, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with the operational objective	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The final report of CRIC 9 contains recommendations that identify possible improvements in the quality and use of indicators and related capacity needs, concrete measures for Parties to undertake advocacy, awareness raising and education activities, and concrete proposals for support measures for capacity-building by Convention institutions.</p> <p>The CRIC 9 report does not include recommendations for good practices for operational objective 1 owing to the decision taken by the CRIC Bureau to review only best practices relating to sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau requested the early release of draft decisions, which will enable Parties to initiate the formation of regional views and those of interest groups to facilitate the negotiation process prior to CRIC 10.</p>

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
Operational objective 2 on policy framework: Parties assess progress made in meeting this operational objective and decide on next steps to be taken.	COP decision that identifies the next steps in the field of operational objective 2 and related work of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and proposes elements for the review, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with the operational objective	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The final report of CRIC 9 contains recommendations that identify possible improvements in the quality and use of indicators and related capacity needs, concrete measures for Parties to undertake advocacy, awareness raising and education activities, and concrete proposals for support measures for capacity-building by Convention institutions.</p> <p>The CRIC 9 report does not include recommendations for good practices on operational objective 2 owing to the decision taken by the CRIC Bureau to review only best practices relating to sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau requested the early release of draft decisions, which will enable Parties to initiate the formation of regional views and those of interest groups to facilitate the negotiation process prior to CRIC 10.</p>

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013)	Performance indicators (2010–2013)	Performance data, including main outputs
Operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge: Parties assess progress made in meeting this operational objective and decide on next steps to be taken.	COP decision that identifies the next steps in the field of operational objective 3 and related work of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and proposes elements for the review, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with the operational objective	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The final report of CRIC 9 contains recommendations that identify possible improvements in the quality and use of indicators and related capacity needs, concrete measures for Parties to undertake advocacy, awareness raising and education activities, and concrete proposals for support measures for capacity-building by Convention institutions.</p> <p>The CRIC 9 report does not include recommendations for good practices on operational objective 3 owing to the decision taken by the CRIC Bureau to review only best practices relating to sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau requested the early release of draft decisions, which will enable Parties to initiate the formation of regional views and those of interest groups to facilitate the negotiation process prior to CRIC 10.</p>
Expected accomplishments (2010–2013 and 2010–2011)	Performance indicators (2010–2013 and 2010–2011)	Performance data, including main outputs
Operational objective 4 on capacity-building: Parties assess progress made in meeting this operational objective and decide on next steps to be taken.	COP decision that identifies the next steps in the field of operational objective 4 and related work of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and proposes elements for the review, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with the operational objective	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The final report of CRIC 9 contains recommendations that identify possible improvements in the quality and use of indicators and related capacity needs, concrete measures for Parties to undertake advocacy, awareness raising and education activities, and concrete proposals for support measures for capacity-building by Convention institutions.</p> <p>The CRIC 9 report does not include recommendations for good practices on operational objective 4 owing to the decision taken by the CRIC Bureau to review only best practices relating to sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau requested the early release of draft decisions, which will enable Parties to initiate the formation of regional views and those of interest groups to facilitate the negotiation process prior to CRIC 10.</p>

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013 and 2010-2011)	Performance indicators (2010–2013 and 2010-2011)	Performance data, including main outputs
Operational objective 5 on financing and technology transfer: Parties assess progress made in meeting this operational objective and decide on next steps to be taken.	COP decision that identifies the next steps in the field of operational objective 5 and related work of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and proposes elements for the review, taking into consideration the section of the mid-term review that deals with the operational objective	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The final report of CRIC 9 contains recommendations that identify possible improvements in the quality and use of indicators and related capacity needs, concrete measures for Parties to undertake advocacy, awareness raising and education activities, and concrete proposals for support measures for capacity-building by Convention institutions.</p> <p>The CRIC 9 report does not include recommendations for good practices on operational objective 5 owing to the decision taken by the CRIC Bureau to review only best practices relating to sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.</p> <p>The CRIC Bureau requested the early release of draft decisions, which will enable Parties to initiate the formation of regional views and those of interest groups to facilitate the negotiation process prior to CRIC 10.</p>

3. Assessment and monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

23. In line with decision 3/COP.8, the CRIC is to establish a process by which it can assess and monitor its own performance and effectiveness. The 2013 mid-term evaluation of The Strategy is planned to be used to, inter alia, assess the effectiveness of the CRIC.

Expected accomplishments (2010–2013 and 2010-2011)	Performance indicators (2010–2013 and 2010-2011)	Performance data, including main outputs
Parties assess and monitor the performance and effectiveness of CRIC and decide on amendments to be made with regard to the monitoring process.	COP 11 decision (2013) that assesses the monitoring process put in place by CRIC and identifies possible amendments to it	<p><u>Status as at 31 May 2011:</u> The CRIC undertook the first assessment of implementation and identified next steps in achieving the operational objectives of The Strategy while providing feedback on how to improve the reporting and review process.</p> <p>The CRIC decided to defer the agenda item on the terms of reference of the mid-term evaluation to CRIC 10.</p>

III. Conclusions and recommendations

24. The COP may wish to take note of this report and provide guidance, upon recommendation by the CRIC, on the strategic orientation of the 2012–2015 workplan of the CRIC, as well as any advice the CRIC may wish to give on the 2012–2013 work programme.
