



Ministry of Environment
and Tourism

**Concise Strategy and Action Plan for
Namibia's Presidency of the 11th Conference of the
Parties to the United Nations Convention to
Combat Desertification**

2014

Foreword



Namibia has proved itself to be one of the most committed country parties in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. With over 90 per cent of Namibia's landmass classified as either hyper arid, arid or semi-arid, and an estimated 70 per cent of the population reliant on agriculture to some extent for their livelihoods, issues of desertification, drought and land degradation are of considerable importance to Namibia.

Namibia has had two National Action Programmes dedicated to implementing the provisions of the UNCCD, which have delivered substantial benefits to communities and ecosystems affected by desertification. Namibia fully recognizes the unique global role of the UNCCD to prevent and reverse desertification and land

degradation and to mitigate the impacts of drought. This role is increasingly important given the decreasing availability and productivity of arable land worldwide and the severe repercussions of this for poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition.

There was general consensus that COP11, held in Windhoek from 16-27th September 2013, lived up to its theme of 'A stronger UNCCD for a land-degradation neutral world' and there is considerable international political momentum behind strengthening the UNCCD and its implementation:

- The Rio+20 Summit, which recognized the urgent need to reverse land degradation and gave birth to the concept of land degradation neutrality. It is also recognized the leading role of the UNCCD in this process.
- Decisions 479 and 492 from the 21st and 22nd AU ordinary sessions, which stressed the need to strengthen African leadership in the UNCCD process; the need to place desertification, land degradation and the effects of drought (DLDD) issues at the center of the Post 2015 development agenda; renewed its commitment to the Namib Declaration; endorsed the establishment of an African working group on desertification and sustainable land management; requested the Commission to review the African coordination mechanism in place in order to strengthen it and to improve Africa's engagement in UNCCD processes; and requested the Commission to support RECs and member states in collaboration with partners to review the Regional

Action Programme to combat desertification in Africa and to align it to the objectives of the UNCCD Ten Year Strategy (2008-2018).

- The Establishment of the Group of Friends on DLDD, which seeks to draw the attention of Member States to the importance of having a Sustainable Development Goal on DLDD in the set of goals under development.

Namibia's presidency of the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP) offers the unique opportunity to build on this political momentum as well as a number of critical decisions taken at COP11 and the Namib Declaration. This document outlines how Namibia, as COP11 President, intends to provide support to the strengthened implementation of the UNCCD at the international, regional and national levels in line with its vision under the Namib Declaration and the critical decisions adopted during COP11.

Six strategic objectives have been identified, each with actions to support the achievement of the said objectives:

1. Strengthen the role of the UNCCD towards the achievement of a Land Degradation Neutral World
2. Support the establishment and functioning of regional structures for improved regional coordination of implementation of the UNCCD in Africa
3. Establish a programme of support for Land Degradation Monitoring and Capacity Development for Affected Country Parties
4. Strengthen the role of the UNCCD in addressing drought mitigation as a matter of priority and urgency
5. Demonstrate Namibia's commitment to empowering local communities and women through the UNCCD
6. Ensure political engagement in the COP11 Presidency and utilize Namibia's COP11 Presidency as a vehicle to enhance awareness on DLDD issues and the role of the UNCCD.

I am confident that these objectives will be achieved under Namibia's tenure as COP11 President, and will result in a lasting legacy in which the UNCCD and its implementation have been strengthened as the leading authority on desertification, land degradation and drought.



Hon. Uahekua Herunga
Minister of Environment and Tourism
President of the UNCCD COP 11 Bureau

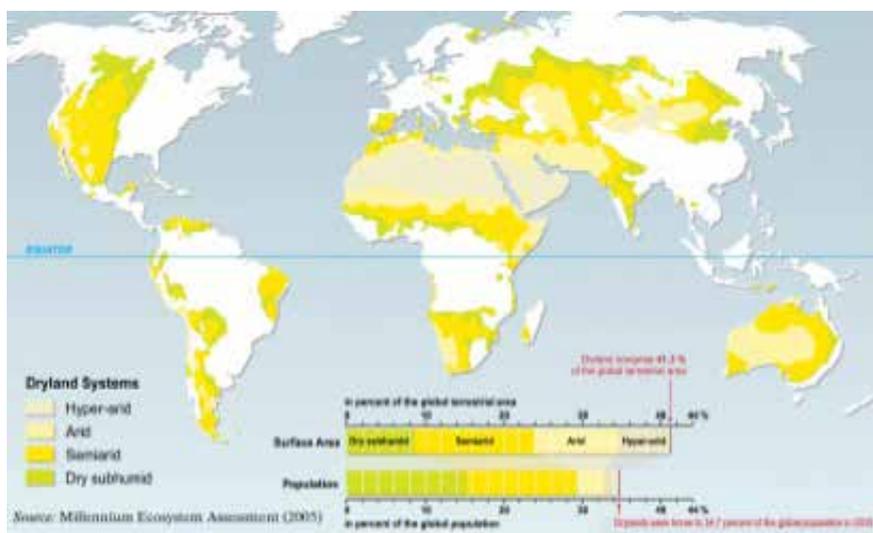
Acknowledgements

The compilation of this document brought together a wide range of stakeholders. The Ministry of Environment, as focal point to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCC) and President of the UNCCD 11th Conference of the Parties Bureau, hereby thanks all stakeholders for their valuable contributions and inputs into this document.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism especially thanks the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) executed Kalahari Namib Project: Enhancing Decision-Making Through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in the Molopo-Nossob River basin in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, for providing technical and financial support for the compilation of this document.



1. Background



Map showing the global distribution of drylands, which cover an estimated 41.3% of the earth's terrestrial area, and 34.7% of the world's population (Source: The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), World Resources Institute, Washington DC).

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity, were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the Rio Earth Summit of 1992. The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994, and entered into force on 26 December 1996. It currently has 195 parties.

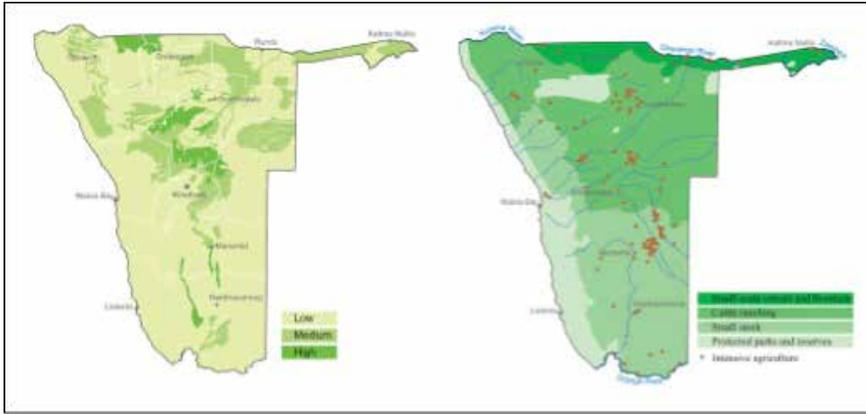
The Conference of the Parties (CoP) is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention, and it comprises all Convention Parties. The COP has two subsidiary bodies: the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) that was established under Article 24 of the Convention as a platform

for scientific collaboration under the UNCCD; and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) that was established at COP 5 in 2005 to assist in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and / or desertification. The UNCCD recognizes the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of desertification, and the importance of involving local communities in implementing the provisions of the Convention. At the core of the UNCCD is the development of national, subregional and regional action programmes by national governments, in cooperation with UN agencies, donors, local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Namibia had the honor to host the 11th Conference of the Parties (CoP11) of the UNCCD, which took place from the 16-27th September 2013 at the Windhoek Country Club Resort under the theme "A Stronger UNCCD for a Land Degradation Neutral World". Hon. Uakehua Herunga, Minister of Environment and Tourism, was elected as President of COP11 until COP12 in 2015.

2. Implementation of the UNCCD in Namibia



Namibia is the classic example of an arid country in which agricultural potential is limited by infertile soils, variable rainfall and high temperatures (map on left shows soil suitability for crop cultivation). Nevertheless agriculture and livestock production is practiced on around 71% of the land (r) which makes the country highly vulnerable to desertification (Source: J. Mendelsohn (2006): Farming Systems in Namibia, RAISON Press, Windhoek, Namibia).

Namibia has had two national action programmes dedicated to implementing the UNCCD. The first programme was known as NAPCOD, which ran from 1994-2005. This was built on by the Country Pilot Partnership Programme, which ran from 2007-2012.

These programmes have tackled a number of our shortcomings in the areas of policy, institutional and individual capacity, awareness-raising, monitoring and community engagement in issues of desertification. Some noteworthy achievements from these programmes include:

- Elaboration of a National Drought Policy and Strategy (1997), which promoted a pro-active approach towards enhancing preparedness for drought events.
- The establishment of new and innovative approaches to agriculture such as conservation farming as well as community-driven approaches to sustainable land management and Community Based Rangeland and Livestock Management Practices.
- Communities to develop enterprises from the sustainable management of natural resources and value addition including guinea fowl rearing, the manufacture of peanut butter from locally grown nuts, bee-keeping, horticulture production, manufacture of jams and juices from local fruits, and aquaculture.
- Capacity building of tertiary students in scientific research has been achieved through the Summer Desertification Programme and the Young Professional Research Associates Programme through the CPP and partners including the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, which is a SADC centre of excellence on arid environments.

Namibia's third National Action Programme is currently under development and seeks to build on the successes and challenges experienced through the NAPCOD and the CPP Programme. It also seeks to integrate the critical outcomes from UNCCD COP11, and align itself with the UNCCD Strategy (2008-2018).

3. Important Recent International Developments

3.1 The Adoption of a Global UNCCD Strategy (2008-2018)

In 2007, the Convention adopted a 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) to enhance implementation of the Convention with an overall objective “to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability”.

The Strategy contains four strategic objectives, as well as five operational objectives. The four strategic objectives are:

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

The five operational objectives are each linked to thematic areas as portrayed in the table below:

Operational Objective	Thematic Area
1. To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.	Advocacy, awareness raising and education
2. To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification / land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.	Policy framework
3. To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification / land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.	Science, technology and knowledge
4. To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification / land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.	Capacity building
5. To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.	Financing and technology transfer



The Future We Want Outcome Document from the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 resolved to strengthen the UNCCD and called for urgent action to reverse land degradation and to achieve a land degradation neutral world.

3.2 The UNCCD in the Future We Want Outcome Document from the Rio+20 Summit

The Future We Want Outcome document from Rio+20 recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and the achievement of a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development. The document also resolves to support and strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD, and to take coordinated action (nationally, regionally and internationally) in accordance with the UNCCD to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

The Outcome document further stressed the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research and strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought in accordance with the UNCCD.

3.3 Relevant African Union Decisions

Given the special significance of the UNCCD to African countries, there is strong political will for Africa to show leadership in its implementation. This is evidenced by a number of recent decisions.

Decision 479 from the 21st Ordinary Session of the AU Summit from 25-26th May 2013 on the need to strengthen African leadership in the UNCCD process, urged Member States to place desertification, land degradation and drought related issues at the centre of the debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and recognize it as one of the sustainable development goals, particularly the concept of Zero Net Land Degradation.

Decision 492 of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the AU Summit from 30-31 January 2014 contains a number of pertinent resolutions including:

- Renewing its commitment to the Namib Declaration
- Endorsing the establishment of an African working group on desertification and sustainable land management
- Requesting the Commission to review the African coordination mechanism in place in order to strengthen it and to improve Africa's engagement in UNCCD processes
- Requesting the Commission to support RECs and member states in collaboration with partners to review the Regional Action Programme to combat desertification in Africa and to align it to the UNCCD Ten Year Strategy.

3.4 The Group of Friends on DLDD

The Group of Friends on DLDD was launched in September 2013 as an initiative of the Permanent Representatives of Iceland and Namibia to the UN. The Group of Friends is an informal interest group and forum that aims to maintain the momentum generated from Rio+20, around Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) in the context of post-2015 development agenda. The stated purpose of the Group of Friends is to draw the attention of Member States to the importance of having a Sustainable Development Goal on DLDD in the set of goals under development.

The following countries are members of the Group of Friends of DLDD: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Iceland, Kyrgistan, Mongolia, Namibia, Qatar, and the Republic of Korea. The Group has suggested four targets for inclusion under the SDGs:

Target 1: Land Degradation-neutral world by 2030: To achieve this, we should manage our lands sustainably and regenerate those already degraded to make them fertile again;

Target 2: All countries have in place sustainable land management policies built on ecosystem approach by 2020: many countries have those policies in place; the target is to scale them up worldwide;

Target 3: All drought prone countries develop and implement drought preparedness policies by 2020; That target will contribute to operate a paradigm shift from crisis management of drought to resilience building and preparedness;

Target 4: All countries to have in place before 2020 capacity building to restore or rehabilitate degraded land and reverse land degradation

4. Relevant Outcomes from the 11th Conference of the Parties



A plenary session of CoP11 underway involving Mr. Luc Gnacadja, outgoing UNCCD Executive Secretary (l) and Hon. Uahekua Herunga (r), CoP11 President (Picture: Mercia Windwaai).

In terms of the technical negotiations and their outcomes, COP11 was considered a good success. The former Executive Secretary, Mr. Luc Gnacadja, described how COP11 had dealt with a number of process-related challenges faced by the Convention, paving the way for it to tackle the substantive issues with regard to desertification, land degradation and drought. Examples of landmark decisions taken at COP11 in this regard include the decision to co-locate the headquarters of the Global

Mechanism with the UNCCD in Bonn (decision 6/COP11.), and the decision to establish a Science Policy Interface (decision 23/COP11.) and a Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (decision 24/COP11.).

A total of 40 decisions were adopted during COP11 (these are listed in Annex 1). Namibia identified a number of these decisions, which are of critical importance to the future of the Convention and in which Namibia, as COP11 President, can play a supporting role.

4.1 Decision 3/COP.11 Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

This decision recognized the need to further improve the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of Regional Coordination Mechanisms and to ensure Regional Coordination Units carry out their functions effectively. It was also requested for affected country parties under each annex to:

- Establish or revise the mandates for regional committees, Regional Coordination Units and thematic programme networks, based on regional priorities;
- Review, subject to availability of resources, existing subregional and regional action programmes to ensure they reflect regional priorities, prior to COP 12; and
- Improve financial support to Regional Coordination Mechanisms to address their identified priorities.

4.2 Decision 8/COP.11 Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

This decision recognized the Rio+20 outcomes and established an Inter Governmental Working Group (IWG) consisting of representatives from each region and funded by voluntary contributions, to:

- Establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas;
- Develop options relating to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas that parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality; and
- Advise the Convention on the implications for its Strategy, programmes and resource requirements.”

The IWG was requested to take note of, among others, the post-2015 development agenda process as well as the work of the Science Policy Interface, and prepare a report for the COP Bureau 60 days before COP 12, and that this report should be sent for consideration by the CST and the CRIC prior to COP 12.

4.3 Decision 9/COP.11 Ways of promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

Amongst others, this decision requested the Secretariat to assist country parties to promote partnerships to develop and implement national drought management policies.

4.4 Decision 13/COP.11 Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy

With regard to operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge, this decision, inter alia, encourages affected country parties to increase their efforts to establish and/or strengthen DLDD monitoring and evaluation, as well as to strengthen national support for monitoring and evaluation systems.

4.5 Decision 17/COP.11 Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention

This decision requests the Secretariat and the GM to facilitate consultations among relevant organizations with a view to defining a framework for all thematic topics, including by providing access to best practice databases through the SKBP and to propose a revised timeframe and the resource requirements for the compilation of best practices to CRIC 13.

4.6 Decision 23/COP.11 Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought

This decision established a Science Policy Interface to ensure science-policy dialogue with the mandate of analyzing, synthesizing and translating relevant scientific findings and recommendations from DLDD-related scientific conferences and scientific networks.

The decision also inter alia invited parties to promote targeted scientific research on DLDD, to cooperate at national, regional and international levels, and to harness traditional knowledge.

4.7 Decision 24/COP.11 Improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories

This decision requested the Secretariat to: continue active partnership-building activities with organizations and networks that maintain content repositories on knowledge and expertise relevant to the UNCCD; improve the website through regular updates, enhanced navigation and search functionalities, and access to languages

other than English; and to continue developing the Science Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) through promoting knowledge brokering and information exchange initiatives at national, regional and international levels.

4.8 Decision 35/COP.11 Report on the Tenth Round Table of Members of Parliament

This decision takes note of the Declaration by the Members of Parliament at COP11 and includes it as an annex to the COP11 report. The Declaration highlights the alarm of Parliamentarians at the increased frequency of droughts, and the continuous trends of desertification and land degradation, and declared their support for making the UNCCD the leading global authority on issues of DLDD.

4.9 Decision 36/COP.11 Namib Declaration on a stronger United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for a land degradation neutral world

This decision took note of the Namib Declaration and included it as an annex to the COP11 report (see Annex II for the full text of the Namib Declaration). The Namib Declaration sets out Namibia's vision for a stronger UNCCD and includes the following elements:

1. Strengthen UNCCD leadership for the future we want
2. Address drought mitigation as a matter of priority
3. Advance the science-policy interface
4. Focus on local Communities
5. Engage with the private sector
6. Empower women in SLM

5. Namibia's COP11 Presidency Strategy and Action Plan

The overall objective of Namibia's COP11 Strategy and Action Plan is to provide political support and momentum to the strengthened implementation of the UNCCD at the international, regional and national level.

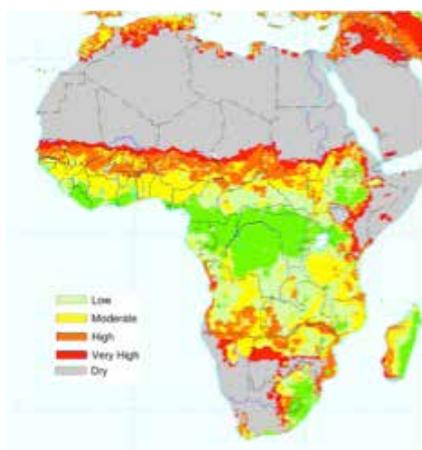
5.1 Strategic Objectives

5.1.1 *Strengthen the role of the UNCCD towards the achievement of a Land Degradation Neutral World*

This strategic objective links decision 8/COP.11 on the follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development with the first element of the Namib Declaration on strengthening UNCCD leadership.

Namibia is strongly committed to the Land Degradation Neutrality concept, but recognizes the deep differences between Parties on this issue, which go to the heart of the future of the Convention and the scope of its mandate. Namibia observed the first meeting of the IWG and will further support the work of the IWG to ensure its success. Namibia also takes note of the opportunity to develop options relating to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas that parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality (under decision 8/COP.11), and will promote the possibility to take this up on the national, sub-regional and international level.

5.1.2 *Support the establishment and functioning of regional structures for improved regional coordination of implementation of the UNCCD in Africa*



The continent of Africa is particularly vulnerable to desertification, with an estimated 46% at risk of desertification, of which a further 55% is at high or very high risk Source (P.F. Reich et al (2001): Land resource stresses and desertification in Africa, Oxford Press, New Delhi, India).

Improving regional mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention has been a focus of the Convention since COP3 (see particularly decision 3/COP9 and decision 3/COP10) and was re-emphasized during COP11 (see decision 3/COP11). This is particularly important for Africa, which is home to the largest number of member parties and the largest area affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.

In line with decision 3/COP11, Namibia will provide political support towards improving the capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the African Regional Coordination Mechanism and its Regional Coordination Unit (RCU).

In the African case, the members of the Regional Committees were appointed but an initial meeting to revise the terms of references and operating arrangements is yet to take place. The RCU is currently housed in Tunis under the African Development Bank, however in line with previous recommendations, it is desired for the RCU to be housed over the long term in Addis Ababa under the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for improved synergies and cooperation with other

important institutions housed in Addis Ababa such as the AU Commission, Terrafrica, CAADP and NEPAD. Namibia will support the process to operationalize the Regional Committee, to increase the staff compliment of the RCU, and the mobilization of resources for these purposes.

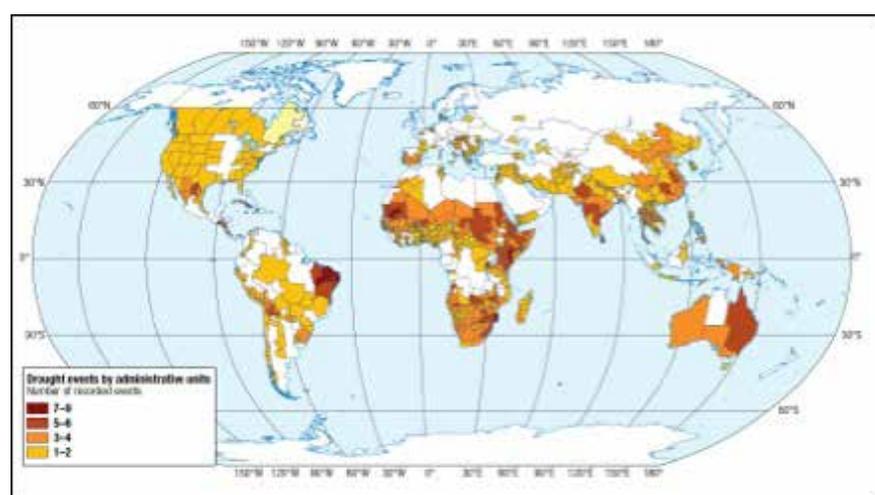
5.1.3 Establish a programme of support for Land Degradation Monitoring and Capacity Development for Affected Country Parties (under GEF 6)

Capacity and systems for the monitoring of land degradation have been identified as a serious weakness among affected country parties to the UNCCD. This issue will become increasingly important if the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality moves forward through the IWG and post 2015 SDGs process. Most countries do not currently know the extent of land degradation as systems and capacity are not in place to do so. This will make it difficult for country parties to implement the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality and set targets in this regard.

Namibia will seek to support the development of an initiative to improve capacity for land degradation monitoring in affected country parties. The United Nations Environment Programme, through the Global Environment Facility, and the South Korean Changwon Initiative are potential support partners in this area, which can enhance the scientific processes of the Convention. This element would also support the advancement of the Science-Policy Interface and support affected country parties to increase their efforts to establish and/or strengthen DLDD monitoring and evaluation as per decision 13/COP.11.

5.1.4 Strengthen the role of the UNCCD in addressing drought mitigation as a matter of priority and urgency

In line with the Parliamentarian’s Declaration from COP11 and decision 9/COP. 11, which requested the Secretariat to assist country parties to promote partnerships to develop and implement national drought management policies, Namibia would like to see an increased emphasis on drought mitigation through the UNCCD. In recent years, we have seen the devastating human and financial impacts of drought, both in our own country and in areas such as the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. These events can also severely impact on sustainable land management and reverse achievements in good rangeland management and agricultural practices.



Map indicating the number of recorded drought events globally from 1974-2004, which shows the global vulnerability to drought events. Africa and Asia are particular drought hotspots. (Source: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (2009): Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland).

Most countries in the drylands are vulnerable to drought events, and this vulnerability will increase given the expected scenario under climate change. Therefore drought mitigation is an important area for synergies with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, given its increasing focus on climate change adaptation. Namibia will work closely with the UNCCD Secretariat and partners to see where it can support ongoing initiatives around drought mitigation and the development of drought mitigation policies among affected country parties.

5.1.5 *Demonstrate Namibia's commitment to empowering local communities and women through the UNCCD*

The need for the UNCCD to focus on local communities and the empowerment of women was recognized in the Namib Declaration, and is at the cornerstone of Namibia's 3rd National Action Programme to the UNCCD. Namibia will support a number of on-the-ground projects in other affected country parties with smallscale funding to demonstrate its commitment to empowering local communities and women through the UNCCD. This will also improve South-South cooperation, partnership and exchange on these critical issues.



A first ever Gender Day was held during COP11 Windhoek which it is hoped will be a springboard for the greater empowerment of women affected by DLDD in decision making, access to material resources and knowledge (Picture: Mercia Windwaai).

Representatives to the African Union; United Nations; the United States of America; and the Federal Republic of Germany.

It is also an opportunity to bring about increased awareness of the UNCCD among the general public in Namibia. Dedicated communication, education and public awareness activities linked to Namibia's COP11 presidency and the UNCCD should be developed.

5.1.6 Ensure political engagement in the COP11 Presidency and utilize Namibia's COP11 Presidency as a vehicle to enhance awareness on issues of desertification, land degradation and drought and the role of the UNCCD

This strategic objective relates to the need to engage political will behind Namibia's presidency of COP11 at the national level. The strategic intervention areas outlined above will require the close support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other Ministries concerned with land management, as well as particularly Namibia's Ambassadors and Permanent

5.1 Action Plan

The Action Plan is outlined in the table below:

Strategic Actions	Desired Outcome	Financial Implications	Timeframe	Strategic Partners
Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen the role of the UNCCD towards the achievement of a Land Degradation Neutral World				
1.1 Convene and host a small meeting of African experts to develop a concept on the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality and possible targets in Africa	African Position Paper on LDN	Costs of hosting a 2 day meeting in Windhoek of maximum 30 experts	August-Sept 2014	AU, SADC, UNEP
1.2 Host the second last meeting of the IWG on LDN and the Rio+20 process as a demonstration of Namibia's commitment to LDN and a strengthened role for the UNCCD in the post Rio+20 global agenda	IWG meeting held in Windhoek and African position incorporated with target setting on LDN	Costs of hosting meeting	November 2014	
Strategic Objective 2: Support the establishment and functioning of regional structures for improved regional coordination of implementation of the UNCCD in Africa				
2.1 Support the establishment of the African Regional Committee by hosting initial meeting and establishing detailed and comprehensive terms of reference for the Committee	ToRs and operational roadmap for Regional Committee	Costs for hosting meeting (possibly UNEP)	ASAP	UNEP, RSA as Chair of African Group
2.2 Provide political support to the relocation of the African RCU to the Headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Relocation of RCU to UNECA in Addis Ababa	None	ASAP	Minister of Foreign Affairs, AU Ambassadors, RSA as Chair of African Group,
2.3 Mobilize resources from the African Union (and other regional sources) for the long-term functioning of the Regional Committee and RCU	Required staff and structures in place for a functioning RCU	None	ASAP	AU Ambassadors

Strategic Actions	Desired Outcome	Financial Implications	Timeframe	Strategic Partners
2.4 Support the revision of the African Regional Action Programme and SADC Sub-Regional Action Programme in line with the Ten Year Strategy	Revised African RAP and SADC SRAP documents		COP 12	AU, SADC, UNEP, RCU, AU Commission Working Group on SLM and Desertification
Strategic Objective 3: Establish a programme of support for Land Degradation Monitoring and Capacity Development for Affected Country Parties under GEF 6				
3.1 Lobby for support to Land Degradation Monitoring among Affected Parties	Dedicated Programme on Capacity Development and Systems for Land Degradation Monitoring among Affected Country Parties			UNEP, GEF, South Korea and China (possibly Turkey)
Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen the role of the UNCCD in addressing drought mitigation as a matter of priority and urgency				
4.1 Liaise with the UNCCD Secretariat to identify planned events linked to drought mitigation and see where and how Namibia can support (particularly in the African context)	Drought mitigation given increased attention and focus through the UNCCD	Not yet clear but initial meeting from 5-8 August in Addis Ababa on Capacity Building for development of drought management policies	Ongoing	UNCCD Secretariat, Global Water Partnership, UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, AMCEN as a forum for a possible side event
Strategic Objective 5: Demonstrate Namibia's commitment to empowering local communities and women through the UNCCD				
5.1 Identify and provide smallscale support to on-the-ground projects empowering local communities in other developing countries (possibly through the Land for Life Awards nominees)	Support provided to community projects and reported back on in COP12	N\$1 million	Until COP12	UNCCD Land for Life Award (to identify possible projects)
Strategic Objective 6: Ensure political engagement in the COP11 Presidency and utilize Namibia's COP11 Presidency as a vehicle to enhance awareness on issues of desertification, land degradation and drought and the role of the UNCCD.				
6.1 Mobilize relevant ministers and ambassadors behind the draft strategy	Domestic political buy-in to COP11 Presidency, support and advice from other Ministers		ASAP	MoFA, MAWF, MLR, Ambassadors
6.2 Undertake initiatives to enhance the visibility of Namibia's COP11 Presidency through media channels, WDCD etc	Awareness of Namibia's activeness and commitment towards a successful COP11 Presidency		Start with WDCD until COP12	EES Unit and Media

Annex 1:

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT COP11

- 1/COP.11 Multi-year workplans of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies
- 2/COP.11 Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment and implementation of action programmes with The Strategy
- 3/COP.11 Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention
- 4/COP.11 Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy
- 5/COP.11 Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 6/COP.11 Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism
- 7/COP.11 United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010– 2020)
- 8/COP.11 Follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
- 9/COP.11 Ways of promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies
- 10/COP.11 Programme and budget for the biennium 2014– 2015
- 11/COP.11 Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility
- 12/COP.11 Review of the independent mid-term evaluation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008– 2018) and the establishment of a process to develop a new strategy and plans to further improve the implementation of the Convention
- 13/COP.11 Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of The Strategy
- 14/COP.11 Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention
- 15/COP.11 Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3
- 16/COP.11 The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and progress indicators, methodology and reporting procedures
- 17/COP.11 Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention
- 18/COP.11 Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention
- 19/COP.11 Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 20/COP.11 Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- 21/COP.11 Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008– 2018)
- 22/COP.11 Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy
- 23/COP.11 Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought
- 24/COP.11 Improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories
- 25/COP.11 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme
- 26/COP.11 Roster of independent experts
- 27/COP.11 Programme of work of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 28/COP.11 Date and venue of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 29/COP.11 Programme of work of the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology
- 30/COP.11 Rule 47 of the rules of procedure
- 31/COP.11 Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation
- 32/COP.11 Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures
- 33/COP.11 Credentials of delegations
- 34/COP.11 Special segment: interactive dialogue sessions
- 35/COP.11 Report on the Tenth Round Table of Members of Parliament
- 36/COP.11 Namib Declaration on a stronger United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for a land degradation neutral world
- 37/COP.11 Declaration of civil society organizations attending the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties
- 38/COP.11 Declaration by the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum
- 39/COP.11 Programme of work for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties
- 40/COP.11 Date and venue of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties

Annex 2:

NAMIB DECLARATION

27/09/2013

**Namib Declaration on a stronger UNCCD for a land degradation neutral world
Windhoek, Namibia, 16-27th September, 2013**

On the occasion of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Windhoek, Namibia, the Member States, inter-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, and other organisations (with observer status), are called upon to commit to enhance sustainable land management and improve livelihoods at global, regional, national and especially at the local level.

This being the first UNCCD COP since the agreement on the "Future we want" Parties agree that new and refreshed momentum is required to address our planet's environmental and social challenges regarding desertification, land degradation and drought.

In the context of the UNCCD, critical decisions had to be made during COP 11 concerning the further implementation of the 10 years strategy after mid-term evaluation, establishment of a science-policy interface to improve knowledge based decision-making in the convention process, enhancing the integration of DLDD related aspects in the development of the SDGs, as well as the improvement of the functions of the GM through its housing within the Secretariat.

Hosting a UNCCD COP for the first time in history in southern Africa, this COP made the specific effort of facilitating dialogues with the local communities most affected by the effects of DLDD in Namibia, and to inject these voices into the decision-making processes. Furthermore, civil society representatives and participants from indigenous peoples from around the world attended the COP. Technically inspiring and stimulating side events, as well as excursions were part of the agenda and contributed to a deeper understanding of the real-life realities of DLDD in local communities.

Based on the deliberations, the Government of the Republic of Namibia hereby would like to make the following declaration:

DECLARATION

1. Strengthen UNCCD leadership for the future we want

As host country, we have the responsibility to indicate that there was different momentum in the willingness of Parties to address the outcomes of the Rio +20 in the UNCCD context. Seeing daily that the world is challenged by ever increasing problems relating to the loss and degradation of arable soils, and related critical ecosystem services, which are linked to food security, livelihoods and poverty, we feel that much stronger and dedicated leadership is required to secure the future we want. Although we were successful in laying out an initial intergovernmental process that will examine issues related to the Rio +20 over the coming two years – we would have liked the Conference to set a bolder agenda for a global land degradation problem at this COP in Windhoek. We consider decision ICCD/COP(11)/L.20 a milestone decision for further thinking on these matters.

As a country affected by desertification, land degradation and drought we have taken the implementation of the UNCCD forward through national action programmes, dating back to the beginning of our Independence. Based on our own experiences, we would like to engage with all Parties and partners of the Convention, in advancing practical solutions that will have positive impacts in reversing and halting land degradation on the ground.

And therefore, we count on the support of all Parties to make the Convention stronger for a land degradation neutral world, and welcome the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development with regard to desertification, land degradation and drought.

2. Address drought mitigation as a matter of priority

Droughts can severely impact on sustainable land management and reverse achievements in good rangeland management and agricultural practices. Therefore, an increased emphasis on drought mitigation must be given. Momentum towards the development of national drought policies focusing on increasing the long-term preparedness and resilience of farmers

and communities to instances of drought must be strengthened. We understand this as critical linkage to climate change challenges, exacerbating already existing land degradation problems, including in areas that previously were not drylands.

3. Advance the science-policy interface

We agree on the need for increased use of science-based solutions and research for improved on-the-ground decision making and effective implementation of this Convention. In our understanding, such science incorporates, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of rural communities, human- and sociological sciences, complementing bio-physical and economic understanding. We strongly advocate that the proposed Science-Policy Interface (SPI) established at this COP will enhance policy directives under this Convention.

4. Focus on local Communities

We recognise the important role of local and rural communities in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and drought. Not only are they the most affected - but their contributions to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the sustainable land management and usage of soils, as well as for combating and reversing land degradation, are essential. Therefore, Namibia urges all Parties and relevant institutions to direct resources and efforts into more meaningful and dedicated actions to ensure sustainable livelihoods and food security.

5. Engage with the private sector

Recognising the role of the private sector towards innovative strategies and relevant technologies for establishing a business case for reversing land degradation and enhancing land restoration, partnerships must be fostered.

6. Empower women in SLM

Women are critical pillars in achieving the Convention's Strategic Objectives. The outcomes of the first ever Gender Day convened within this COP, offer means to advance the empowerment of women affected by DLDD in decision making, access to material resources and knowledge. The Windhoek Initiative on Women's Empowerment will be a key component that Namibia will advance during its Presidency of the COP.



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