

Operational objective on science, technology and knowledge

- National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio-economic trends in affected countries are supported.
- A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio-economic trends is developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized
- Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas is improved to enable better decision-making.
- 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.
- Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge, are in place at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels to support policy makers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.
- Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.

Committee of Science and Technology (CST)

... to be reshaped to become a central component in assessing, advising and supporting the implementation, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, of the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the causes and impacts of desertification/land degradation, and shall inform COP of its decisions.

Committee on Science and Technology (CST)

Brief for Scientists

The **CST objective** is to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought



United Nations
Convention to combat desertification

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The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Developed as a result of the 1992 Rio Summit, the UNCCD aims at combating desertification / land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought (DLDD) while contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The Convention benefits from universal membership and is increasingly recognized as an instrument that can make a lasting contribution to poverty reduction and other developmental and environmental goals.



The Strategy 2008 – 2018

As the Convention entered its second decade, the Parties adopted a 10-year strategic plan and framework at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP) held in 2007 to enhance the implementation of the Convention, known as “The Strategy”,

The Strategy provides guidance on how to best address the Convention’s key challenges related to desertification and land degradation, and to create a revitalized common ground for improving partnership building among all stakeholders on land and soil issues.

The role of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST)

The CST is a subsidiary body of the Convention aimed at providing information and advice for decision-making on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge and technological matters relating to combating desertification, land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought. The CST is composed of government representatives competent in the relevant fields of expertise. Within “The Strategy’s” framework, Parties entrust the CST a new program of work and priorities to be primarily responsible to fulfill the operational objective related to science, technology and knowledge.

Scientist and CST

The Convention explicitly points out that strategies to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought will be most effective if they are based on sound systematic observation and rigorous scientific knowledge and if they are continuously re-evaluated.

Parties have selected science and technology correspondents (STCs) who will provide scientific support for the implementation of the UNCCD in general and especially through the planning, implementation and monitoring of the National Action Programmes in affected countries.

In addition to the STCs, a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in relevant fields has been established. It is based on nominations from the Parties taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention to provide advice on combating DLDD. However, the role of science needs to be

strengthened. To fulfill its mission and get scientists involved in the UNCCD process, the CST aims to build a worldwide research network and is identifying existing institutions, agencies, and other bodies working on relevant issues.

The Strategy requires CST to steer knowledge-management systems aiming to improve the brokering of scientific and technical information on emerging issue.

As of now, the CST Bureau will organize each future ordinary session of the Committee on Science and Technology in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format.



Challenge ahead

The strategy gives the framework for the involvement of science in the agenda to combat land degradation and desertification. The CST needs an active involvement of the scientific community to develop a new approach that brings together scientists and policy makers and makes the UNCCD process more science-driven. A strengthened scientific support to the CST is also vital to address emerging issues on food security, climate change, and migration and to contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals.