

2012 UNCCDD Draft Reporting Templates

Parties at COP 10 decided that based on the recommendations and feedback presented in document ICCD/CRIC(10)/11 (iterative process), the secretariat and the Global Mechanism are to implement necessary improvements on the reporting templates. Parties also decided that the secretariat and the Global Mechanism are to consult regarding the further refinement process of those templates.

In light of the time schedule for the forthcoming reporting, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism will release refined reporting templates by sections (i.e. section on additional information, on the financial annexes etc...) for comments by Parties.

The release of the various sections will follow the below schedule (Figs 1 & 2).

The comments will be received per section for the duration of 10 days before the relevant convention institution will finalize the section and send it for further processing (editing, translation into all UN languages).

Each section has its own page where generic comments on the usability of the template can be posted.

Alternatively, concrete suggestions on the templates can be made by sending a pdf file to the secretariat (sending to reporting2012@unccd.int). The secretariat will then publish these pdf files as a new post (for example "Comments from Country X on the additional information section").

On February 29th the consultation on the reporting templates will be concluded and the reporting tools finalized for final release and utilization for country Parties.

Due to the dynamic nature of consultative processes, work documents can only be provided in English. We thank the Parties in advance for their leniency and understanding.

It should be noted that finalized versions are sent to editing and translation.

Reporting and review process 2012-2013

Many innovations have been introduced in the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) by decisions taken at COP 10. Other differences in the 2012-2013 reporting are related to decisions taken previously by Parties but which are to be implemented only in 2012-2013.

1. Reporting entities

Subregional and regional entities identified as per decision 3/COP.10 (1) shall report on subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs/RAPs). In addition to this obligation, those institutions which are accredited to the COP are also invited to submit reports on their own activities in the implementation of the Convention.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) accredited to the COP are invited to submit information on (a) best practices to recommended primary databases (just like the other reporting entities), and on (b) their activities for the implementation of the Convention through the national focal points using specific templates.

The secretariat is now to submit its report on assessment of implementation to the sessional session of the CRIC, i.e. at the same time as the other reporting entities and particularly the Global Mechanism.

The remaining reporting entities will have the same obligations to report as set in decisions 8/COP.8 and 13/COP.9 [2].

2. Reporting elements

As compared to the previous cycle, Parties and other reporting entities would have to report on new and additional elements:

- a) **Impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3** of the Strategy: this applies to affected country Parties only, who will be requested to compile information on the

1 - On improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention.

2 - On improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP.

two compulsory impact indicators (proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line and land cover status), while information on the remaining impact indicators for SO 1-3 can be provided on a voluntary basis.

- b) **Impact indicators for strategic objective 4** of the Strategy: this applies to all Parties and other reporting entities as indicated in decision 13/COP.9 (3)(4).
- c) **Best practices on funding and resource mobilization**: according to decision 15/COP.10 (5), Parties and other reporting entities are now encouraged to submit best practices to new and existing best practice databases, which will be identified by the secretariat.

The remaining elements (i.e. information on performance indicators, financial flows, best practices on sustainable land management technologies including adaptation, and additional information) will be reported by all concerned entities as they did in the past reporting and review process.

It is important to recall here that information on strategic objectives 1-4 and their impact indicators will be provided by countries and other relevant entities for the first time, and will constitute the baseline information against which future trends in the implementation of the Convention and its impact will be assessed.

3. Reporting tools

Based on the relevant COP 10 decisions, the secretariat will devise new and/or revised reporting templates and guidelines to assist Parties and other reporting entities in the current reporting and review process. In addition to the adjustments to be made to the existing reporting tools as per decision 14/COP.10 (6), the secretariat and the Global Mechanism will devise the following **new templates and/or sections**:

- a) Reports on subregional action programmes;
- b) Reports on regional action programmes;

3 - Ibid.

4 - On the collaboration with the GEF.

5 - On consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention.

6 - On the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and impact indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures.

- c) Section on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1-3 of the Strategy (as part of the reporting template and guidelines for affected country Parties);
- d) Section on impact indicators for strategic objective 4 of the Strategy (as part of the reporting template and guidelines for all reporting entities);
- e) Section on best practices on funding and resource mobilization (for all reporting entities);
- f) Templates for reports from civil society organizations through the national focal points.

New and revised templates and guidelines will be posted on the UNCCD website and the PRAIS portal for comments by Parties, before they are finalized and made available for the forthcoming reporting cycle. The on-line consultations with Parties and other reporting entities will be organized from end-January to end-February 2012 on a webpage established for this **purpose** (vd. <http://www.unccd.int/prais/> and <http://unccdtemplates.wordpress.com/>)

Similarly, and in order to take into account new reporting templates and guidelines, an **updated glossary** will be published by the secretariat.

4. On-line facilities

As in the previous reporting and review process, the **PRAIS portal** will be the main facility available to Parties and other reporting entities to communicate information to the CRIC and the COP. Nevertheless, and in accordance with the relevant COP decisions, a number of important upgrades and new functionalities will be implemented for the current reporting cycle:

- a) Revised and new templates;
- b) New layout, for easier reporting;
- c) Functionalities to reduce the need for technical support;
- d) Public interface, and query functions for the reporting officers and the public;
- e) Off-line version and demo database, to facilitate data gathering and compilation at national level;

f) Links to recommended primary databases of best practices.

For data upload and retrieval of data, the same **credentials system** will be in place as in the previous reporting process. Parties and other reporting entities will be requested to confirm or amend information already provided in this regard, i.e. name and contact details of reporting and authorizing officers. To preserve data integrity, it is reminded that only official communications through the accredited national focal points will be considered.

5. Funding

GEF financing for enabling activities under the UNCCD is being provided to eligible Parties with the intention to support them in fulfilling obligations under the Convention with specific regard to: (a) the preparation and alignment of national action programs with The Strategy; and (b) the reporting process.

In this regard, it is important to recall that:

- a) GEF funding for enabling activities is **not a country allocation**, and covers the entire period 2010-2014 i.e. no additional funding will be provided beyond the fixed ceiling during this period;
- b) Requests for GEF enabling activities funding should consider the needs of **two reporting cycles** (2012-2013 and 2014-2015), as well as preparation and alignment of national action programmes;
- c) Once justified in the request, funding will be provided up to the fixed ceiling (i.e. up to USD 150,000 per eligible country) on the principle that it is a contribution, and shall not to cover 100% of the costs needed. Also, it can only be used to contribute to **national costs** of reporting and alignment.
- d) Three different modalities have been established by the GEF to accede to such a funding, and these modalities are **mutually exclusive**, which means that an eligible country can only use one modality for the two priorities;
- e) While disbursement procedures have been clarified by the GEF secretariat, it is important to recall that - regardless the modality chosen by the recipient country - the

formal procedure to request such funding should be always initiated by the **GEF operational focal point**.

More detailed information on the funding available to support the reporting process is posted on the **GEF** and the **secretariat** websites.

No other global assistance facility has been established to support the reporting process under the UNCCD, beyond the enabling activities funding of the GEF.

6. Other forms of assistance

In addition to the activities mentioned above and taking into consideration the human and financial resources available, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism will provide basic **helpdesk assistance** to reporting entities. This service will be provided jointly with UNEP, in light of the **umbrella project** which will be implemented by UNEP during the current reporting process. To the extent possible, helpdesk functions will be delivered through the PRAIS portal and other on-line facilities.

The **Reference Centers** (RCs) which have been assisting Parties in the previous reporting and review process will be invited to support the current process on a voluntary basis, i.e. through their own budget and existing human resources. No funding has been conceded by the usual partners for capacity building at global, regional and subregional levels, beyond the GEF enabling activities funding that can only be used to support activities at national level.

No other form of technical assistance, including training, would be provided in the current circumstances. Nevertheless, in accordance with decision 11/COP.10, the secretariat in consultation with UNEP, the GM and the GEF, will further explore the feasibility of a global programme of support to the reporting process and keep Parties informed on any possible development in this regard.

7. Data quality

Another important innovation of the current reporting cycle is the **data quality assurance** mechanism established by decision 14/COP.10 [7]. Parties and other

reporting entities will have a period of time during which data and information provided could be checked and eventually amended as required.

The secretariat and the Global Mechanism will update the guidelines and procedures for the data quality checks, and to publish these on the UNCCD website and on the PRAIS portal.

8. Timeframe

At the request of country Parties, the overall duration of the reporting and review process will be extended as compared to the previous biennium. Parties and other reporting entities will have a period of **six months** (March-August 2012) to compile and submit reports through the PRAIS portal. **Three additional months** (September-November 2012) will be used to assess and eventually increase data quality, and fill possible information gaps.

The **preliminary analysis documents** for CRIC 11 will be prepared by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism from December 2012 to mid-January 2013. The analyses will follow the guidelines agreed upon by Parties by decision 14/COP.10 [8].

The **dates and venue** for CRIC 11 and CST S-3 have not yet been set, pending a decision of the COP Bureau. However, and in accordance with decisions 17/COP.10 [7] and 26/COP.10 [8], provisions are being made for the two subsidiary bodies to convene their meeting before the end of March 2013.

The provisional **timeframe** below contains more detailed information on specific actions, milestones and relevant deadlines. As per decision 14/COP.10(9), the timetable has now made available on the UNCCD.

9. Review of information

It is important to recall here that the CRIC at its eleventh session would conduct its first full assessment of implementation; i.e. it will review information on both performance

7 - On date and venue of the eleventh session of the CRIC.

8 - On date, venue and programme of work of the third special session of the CST.

9 - Ibid.

and impact indicators, as well as the other relevant information which was reported during the last reporting and review process (2010-2013). In other terms, the CRIC in 2013 would set the baselines for all impact indicators and assess trends in the performance indicators and financial flows as relevant. Since the next full assessment of implementation will take place at CRIC 15 in 2016, it will be of the utmost importance that as many countries as possible complete their report in time during the current cycle.

It is also important to recall is that, according to decision 12/COP.9 (10), the CST shall contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1-3 of the Strategy.

The completion of the fourth reporting and review process (2010-2011 and 2012-2013) will enable the subsidiary bodies to fully discharge their mandate, and the COP to conduct the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy including the review of the PRAIS system as stipulated by decisions 3/COP.8 and 12/COP.10 (11).

10 - On the performance review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategy.

11 - On modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy.