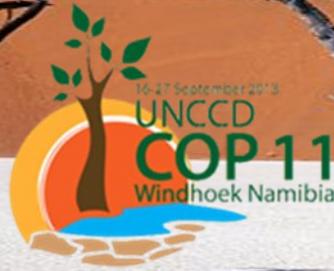


Eco - newsletter



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What is going wrong? ... Went wrong? ... With the alignment of the NAPs to the Strategy

In the CRIC meetings on the 17th Sep, 2013, the independent mid-term evaluation of the 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance implementation of the convention was discussed. CSOs would like to commend the parties for the achievements thus far. However, CSOs would like to draw the attention of the parties to the challenge of aligning the National Action Programs to the strategy as reported in Paragraph 36 (page 9) of the mid-term evaluation report. How can it be possible that the extent to which CSOs have participated in awareness raising, implementation/realignment of National Action Programs (NAPs) at country level is not well known?

This is only true because NAPs, in some cases, do not adequately recognize as well as document the contributions of CSOs and other stakeholders towards the objectives of the

10 year strategy. Hence CSOs are calling for the speedy realignment of the National Action Programs to the Strategy, through the establishment of inclusive National Coordinating Bodies. CSOs strongly believe that it is only through effective national coordinating bodies that the alignment of NAPs to the strategy can be achieved. It will be the role of the national coordinating body to not only popularize the Strategy, but also recognize and document country level contributions and involvement in the implementation of the 10 year Strategy. In the absence of these two elements, the contributions by CSOs towards the objectives of the 10 year strategy will not be recognized and known in the end-line evaluation.

CSOs would also like to call for the strengthening of capacity building efforts and in country commitment of financial resources for the realignment of the NAP to the Strategy. This will not only help draw commitments from various stakeholders, but also support knowledge and capacity development at country, CSO and community levels. It is our belief that financial resources are not the only

constraint to achieving the objectives, but equally important is communication and networking among various actors implementing elements of the 10 year Strategy. We urge the National Focal Points to be active in this regard. Without improvement in quality of communication, the UNCCD objectives will never be achieved.

CSOs can serve as an interface between scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge

During the examination of point 4 of the CST agenda of the 17th September on "Consideration of progress made in the organization of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice in the Convention process", CSOs made the following contribution:

CSOs are in full support of the establishment of an "Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists" as recommended by the Ad Hoc Working Group to further discuss the options

for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA). However, there is need for parties to deliberate further and clearly clarify the role the Independent Non-Governmental Group Scientists in the CST.

Through their work with local communities affected by the DLDD, CSOs over the years have acquired/accumulated and documented traditional/indigenous knowledge – particularly mitigation as well as coping with the effects of DLDD. CSOs would like to bring this dimension to the CST, and play the critical role of being the interface between science and traditional/indigenous knowledge. However to be effective, we would like to further engage the Parties on the possibilities for the full representation of the Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists in the AGSA.

CSOs would like to reiterate that the roster of experts on DLDD is still critical and will add value to the implementation of the convention. However, what is critical is coming up with a working framework for ensuring that the roster is up-to-date. One way of ensuring an up-to-date roster, is by utilizing the available technological platforms (e.g. social media).

Combating DLDD in Namibia over 23 years....Learning what matters

Addressing DLDD sometimes has little to do with technical issues and is all about people and institutions.

Even if the knowledge and competence is solid, a major gap remains between "knowing" and "doing". Using mentoring rather than training approaches, and



strengthening the institutional structures, the objective is to elicit a 'why not' rather than a 'why' when addressing DLDD as a goal. For the 23 years since Namibia's independence many efforts have been designed and implemented to address issues of DLDD with ever growing sophistication. Some efforts built upon previous experience while many chose new pathways. A few efforts persist – and these occur where the gap between knowing and doing was eliminated through formation of appropriate institutions and enhanced knowledge, competence and confidence of the people involved.

Equator Initiative.....Pastoralist Integrated Support Program (Kenya)

On the arid rangelands of the Marsabit area of northern Kenya, the livelihoods of pastoralist groups are subject to threats from overgrazing, land use change, social instability, and climate change.



Pastoralist Integrated Support Programme (PISP), a local NGO, has worked since 1996 to increase the number of water points that can provide safe and reliable water for livestock and people, while strengthening conservation of key wildlife species in Marsabit National Park and the wider area. Efforts to improve grazing management and to diversify the income stream of pastoralists have helped to reduce pressure on natural resources and thereby lessen tensions between resource user groups, while the group has also held community dialogues and encouraged shared maintenance of water infrastructure to effectively address the ecological and economic stresses that threaten the pastoralist way of life.

Contributing to Climate Neutrality of the UNCCD COP 11 in Namibia

All delegates can make their individual contribution to enhance the climate neutrality of the UNCCD COP 11 through a simple offsetting program endorsed by the UNCCD Secretariat. Delegates can simply visit the Offsetting Booth in the main hotel lobby. All money collected will go directly into providing Pico Solar Home Systems to the families of Namibian students in order to decrease



their carbon footprint and allow them additional study time at night. So far, only **20** delegates have offset their UNCCD COP 11 travel through this initiative.