

Management response: Evaluation of the UNCCD support to capacity building

Overview

The evaluation report concerning the UNCCD support to capacity building provides information of the evolution of the concept of capacity building in international cooperation, and considers the UNCCD activities in this context. In the theory of change it presents the various levels and purposes of UNCCD capacity building, which clarifies the role and approaches of the secretariat and the GM and also spells out the potential end-results of the UNCCD capacity building activities. These conceptual considerations will be useful in the further development and targeting of the capacity building activities of the secretariat and the GM.

Through three case studies, the evaluation report shows examples of success and challenge factors for UNCCD capacity building activities. It also contains a comprehensive overview of the UNCCD capacity building activities, which demonstrates the variety of services provided by the secretariat and the GM and, together with lessons learned from the case studies and other information for the evaluation, underlines the importance of focusing the capacity building activities to key priorities and aligning them with the new UNCCD Strategy.

The UNCCD secretariat and the GM welcome the evaluation recommendations as practical ideas for future effectiveness and efficiency gains. It is recognized that these recommendations are well in line with the current policy and process priorities of the UNCCD.

Recommendations

The secretariat and the GM to take further initiatives for...

Recommendation 1: Clarifying the CB concept for UNCCD, aligning it with the current international understanding of a holistic and country focused approach and defining the role of the secretariat and the GM in it, taking up again the NCSAs and the related lessons learnt.

Management response: Accepted. The secretariat will further define the concept of UNCCD capacity building, taking into account the mandate and level of resources of the secretariat and the GM. However, it may be noted that while the UNCCD capacity building concept will recognize the current thinking of holistic capacity building, activities targeting national and largely also institutional capacity development will need to be conducted through partners.

Recommendation 2: Seeking closer coordination with UNFCCC and CBD and major agencies like the GEF, UNDP and UNEP for capacity building, in particular regarding the institutional and policy frameworks in affected country Parties, and the identification, funding and implementation of joint projects for LDN, drought and sand and dust storms.

Management response: Accepted. Collaboration with GEF and UNEP on capacity building concerning reporting and national programming will continue, and partnerships with other major organisations such as UNDP (on gender, among other matters) will also continue. Joint capacity building approaches with the other Rio Conventions are planned particularly on supporting project preparation.

Recommendation 3: Involving further national and international CSOs in CB targeting policy formulation, project identification and public awareness raising.

Management response: Partially accepted. The secretariat and the GM will continue working with the CSO community on capacity building matters, but this cooperation will not cover all three topics mentioned in the recommendation - project identification is not a topic of secretariat/GM cooperation with the CSOs.

Recommendation 4: Preparing targeted, tailored CB activities on a limited number of high interest themes, notably LDN, drought and sand and dust storms, and possibly also

- Gender and land rights, building on success stories and concrete experiences; and
- Preparation of bankable projects for the mobilisation of public and private sector funding for projects targeting LDN and SLM.

Management response: Accepted. The secretariat and the GM are already working on capacity building activities in the mentioned areas – for example, the activities of the Soil Leadership Academy at COP 13 involved a targeted, tailored CB programme on LDN implementation.

Recommendation 5: Developing adequate indicators and realistic reporting formats which can be handled by the NFPs for the 2018-2030 Strategy; and involving the SPI, as appropriate, in this task as well as in planning related training.

Management response: Partially accepted. The secretariat and the GM are working on the new reporting framework and related capacity building activities will be conducted as well. However, the preparation of these capacity building activities has not been included by the COP in the work programme of the SPI, and therefore its involvement may be limited.

Recommendation 6: Bringing the Knowledge Hub quickly into operation, integrating and maintaining the CB Marketplace, and providing substantive information on all aspects of the implementation of the new Strategy.

Management response: Accepted. The Knowledge Hub is operational, and as of August 2017 the CB Marketplace has been fully integrated. The secretariat will continue to further develop the Knowledge Hub according to the recommendation.