Issues and Focus of COP14: Concepts, themes and outcomes
COP14 Theme

‘Investing in Land: Unlocking opportunities’

This reflects the objective of the Convention and to give a human face to its work – concrete action and impact on the ground

Generate awareness of the opportunities that land – healthy and productive land – provides for local communities, rural livelihoods, and human health and wellbeing

Public and private costs of supporting better land management are a fraction of the benefits that can be delivered
Policy Issues at COP14

Tenure
Gender
Migration
Sand/Dust Storms
Drought
LDN – Restoration and Biodiversity
Land Tenure

This issue in the Convention process are been largely driven by the CSOs/NGO stakeholders

• as a potential COP decision, the issue was first highlighted at COP11 and COP12 with a number of side events and CSO dialogues
• at COP13, there was a formal interactive dialogue during the High-Level Segment
• acknowledged in the Ordos Declaration – the HLS outcome document
• the SPI was tasked with a scientific analysis on land governance issues related to LDN

Keep an eye out for GLO East Africa thematic report at COP14
Land Tenure

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Panel
Land Rights for Sustainable Life on Land
The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Global Land Outlook

East Africa Thematic Report
Responsible Land Governance to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality
Land Tenure

This Decision will be key in advancing the Convention’s work on governance, gender, and in supporting synergies with other SDG indicators. Recommendations include:

• improve institutional, legal and policy frameworks in relation to land tenure
• integration of the VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure) for LDN activities (e.g. through spatial planning and a technical guide for LDN implementation)
• improve reporting elements on SDG indicators dealing with land governance
• strong focus on gender (access and control of natural resources, sex-disaggregated data/rights)
Gender

1. Participation in local policy processes
2. Innovation for land rights
3. Credit, loans and Value Chains
4. Extension and Technological Services

RESEARCH PAPER
TOWARDS A GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

UN WOMEN
New York, February 2018
Gender

The adoption of the first Gender Action Plan in Ordos at COP13 was a big step in the right direction. However, more needs to be done if we want a truly gender-responsive Convention.

Recommendations from the Gender Decision include:

- UNCCD support for gender responsive TPPs, capacity building exercises; continued partnerships
- Improvement of the reporting modalities (templates + surveys for sex-disaggregated data)
- Improved capacities for the UNCCD assist countries on gender issues
The 3S Initiative aims to:

- Create two million green jobs for vulnerable groups, in particular young people, migrants, displaced populations and individuals targeted by extremist groups, through the investment in the restoration and sustainable land management of ten million hectares of degraded lands by 2025

- Strengthen access to land and tenure rights to increase the sense of belonging to a specific community and place, particularly in fragile areas

- Prevent displacement by improving preparedness and early warning systems for drought and other natural disasters
A Rising Africa in a Fragile Environment: The Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security

The 3S Initiative – for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa – is an inter-governmental initiative helping to transform the narrative and unlock Africa’s potential. Countries participating in the 3S Initiative believe that social inclusion can be achieved hand-in-hand with environmental...
Existing measures taken under the Convention can play a positive role in addressing DLDD as one of the drivers that causes migration.

Recommendations are all linked to the question of opportunities, especially in rural areas (and can be connected to renewable energy, SMEs and value chains), the promotion of large-scale ecological restoration, private sector investment.

The 3S initiative offers a solid model to employment creation for vulnerable groups in rural areas by restoration of degraded land and facilitating access to tenure, and could be replicated in other regions. [https://3s-initiative.org/en/home/](https://3s-initiative.org/en/home/)
Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)

Source Base Map

The global SDS source base-map is designed as a set of geo-referenced numerical maps at 1km resolution and built upon the publicly available and open-access global data sets and information, including remote sensing imagery.

The global SDS source base-map can help define sand and dust storms source patterns, including small-scale and point sources. This information is needed to plan mitigation action related to sand and dust storms sources, as well as source monitoring, early warning, and risk, impact and vulnerability assessments.
Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)

There has been an increased collaboration on source mitigation and transboundary issues related to SDS:

• Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map (integrating SDS source mitigation measures in the LDN target setting process).
• Compendium for SDS (based on a strong need of a guidance material to provide information and methodologies to define the scope of SDS impacts and develop plans to address these impacts) – to be launched at COP14.
• Based on these achievements, recommendations for the UNCCD is to focus on source mitigation (SLM, water management, restoring natural habitats)
Two things to look out for:

1. Principles vs Protocols: Under the UNCCD, principles could establish generally formulated norms of various aspects of addressing drought, leaving the definition of exact measures to the country or regional level. Principles do not require particular acceptance procedures; they are valid as soon as they are agreed upon.

2. Drought Indicator (Index): The SPI will be making a proposal on a drought indicator or rather an index that involves a number of metrics - All of these approaches and indicators are useful under specific circumstances; however, no individual approach or indicator covers all needs identified by Parties.
The Drought Decision shows that we are at a very exciting turning point regarding the Convention’s work on Drought

- 71 countries are now involved in the Drought Initiative. Following the setting of National Drought Plans and the launch of the Drought Toolbox

The next steps will focus on: how to maintain the momentum? How to fill the gaps? And how to effectively support affected countries?

That will mean looking at potential additional arrangements on drought (technical, financial and legal approaches). The discussion will likely revolve around principles vs. protocol.
COP14 High-Level Segment and Thematic Events
Ministerial Roundtables

1. **Land, Climate and Renewable Energy**: SG Climate Action Summit, nature-based solutions

2. **Rural and urban communities**: failing or flourishing together – implementation at the local level, New Urban Agenda

3. **Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration**: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)
Interactive Dialogues

1. **Values-Based Approach to Land Stewardship**: collaboration and discussions with youth, faith, indigenous and private stakeholders

2. **Healthy Land: Healthy People** – with a focus on restoration for human health and vulnerable populations

3. **Boosting Sustainable Value Chains for Land-Based Business** – with a focus on job creation and the development of livelihood options, especially in the rural areas; and the role of global business and local business leaders; sourcing challenge.
COP14 will have ‘thematic days/Events’ that will focus on the different areas of work of the Convention. This will include:

- Youth Forum (31 August)
- Gender Caucus (2 September)
- Science Day (5 September)
- Sand and Dust Storms Day (6 September)
- Business Days (7 September)
- Innovation Summit – UNEP
- Local Governments Day – ICLEI (7 September)
  - Migration Event
- Drought Day (11 Sept)
Side Events

120 Side Events taking place in the venue but outside of official working hours

Launching new reports and analysis from the World Bank, the Economics of Land Degradation, the European Commission, and the UNCCD Global Land Outlook regional reports

Bring into focus the specific projects of CSOs/NGOs such as oasis and fragile ecosystems

Use side event to highlight COP agenda items and have a voice on the issues
COP 14 will be held at India Expo Mart Ltd., Greater Noida Plot Nos. 23–25 & 27–29, Knowledge Park - II Gautam Budh Nagar Greater Noida – 201306 [http://indiaexpomart.com/](http://indiaexpomart.com/)

Contacts - Tel.: 91-120-2328011
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Regional consultations will be convened prior to the session from 31 August to 1 September. The session will open on Monday, 2 September and close Friday, 13 September.

An app will be launched in mid-August that will provide information on all events and official publications.