

Concept Note

Expert group meeting on desertification and land degradation (DLD) and climate change: subregional approaches and activities

Date: tentatively in October 2022

Background

Desertification and land degradation (DLD) are significant problems affecting soil, air and water quality, threatening forest and woodlands, pasture and rangelands as well as irrigated and rain-fed croplands. In recognition of the severe threat and impact of DLD on the economy, human wellbeing, and the environment, NEASPEC member States have developed various policies and programmes to combat DLD and established networks and partnerships to take joint actions in affected countries and areas.¹

In line with these efforts, NEASPEC facilitated capacity building, knowledge sharing and training for member States from 2011 to 2013, and subsequently, the North-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Plan on Combating DLD (NEAMSP) was launched at the SOM-20 in 2016.

Acknowledging the establishment of the Northeast Asia Network for Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD-NEAN) in 2012, member States decided to re-orient the work of NEASPEC, and agreed on the following, as reflected in the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

- Conduct a stock-taking study on the interlinkage of climate change mitigation & DLD
- Develop a subregional approach / organize activities on nature-based solutions
- Hold stakeholder dialogues on the interlinkages and nature-based solutions

Stock-taking study on the interlinkage of DLD and climate change

In support of the above, the secretariat commissioned a stock-taking study on the interlinkage of DLD and climate change in 2021, reviewing the current scientific assessment of the interlinkage, particularly greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector. Specifically, the study examined the existing scientific assessments on carbon emissions from land-use change and management in North-East Asia (NEA); reviewed main assessment results based on different methodologies;² and identified assessment gaps, policy implications for mitigating carbon emissions, and areas for collaboration.

¹ Global Land Outlook Northeast Asia Thematic Report, 1 August 2019, UNCCD, <https://knowledge.unccd.int/publication/northeast-asia>

² Such as Bookkeeping/accounting models (FAOSTAT), Dynamic global vegetation models (DGVMs), Remote

Objectives

The expert group meeting is, based on findings/recommendations of the “stock-taking study on the interlinkage of DLD and climate change”, to discuss and propose activities of NEASPEC DLD for consideration of member States.

Expected Participants

Government officials, experts from international organizations and UN agencies, research institutes, and civil society organizations in NEASPEC member countries with a focus on desertification and land degradation and climate change mitigation

Provisional agenda

Time	Programme
10:00-10:30	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening and welcome remarks• Introduction to the meeting
10:30-12:00	Session 1: Review of DLD in NEA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the study (Part I) – ESCAP / NEASPEC• Presentation of the study (Part II) – ESCAP IDD• Discussion of the key recommendations
12:00– 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	Session 2: Country presentations: linkages between climate actions and DLD (LULUCF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations by experts from each country
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:20	Session 3: Formulation of subregional approach and potential activities for consideration of member States <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEASPEC activities in 2023-2025
17:20 – 17:30	Conclusion

Sensing data related to LUC, Country Reporting of GHG Inventories (NGHGs), Land-use change transitions, definitions and assumptions, Integrated assessment models (IAMs), and Earth System Model (ESM)