

Draft Concept Note

NEASPEC Expert group meeting on desertification and land degradation and climate change: subregional approaches and activities

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 19-20 June 2023

Desertification and land degradation (DLD) pose significant challenges to achieving sustainable development goals as they affect soil, air and water quality and threaten forest and woodlands, pasture, rangelands and irrigated and rain-fed croplands. In recognition of the severe threat and impact of DLD on the economy, human well-being, 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 between 2011 and 2013. Following these initiatives, the North-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Plan on Combating DLD (NEAMSP) was launched at the SOM-20 in 2016.²

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.

Objectives

In line with the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the expert group meeting aims to develop a subregional approach and propose activities on DLD under NEASPEC for consideration by member States. To facilitate the discussion, the findings of the stock-taking study on the interlinkages of DLD and climate change and the stakeholder survey result will be presented as well.

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 DLD and climate change

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

² <https://neaspec.org/our-work/land-and-climate-nexus/overview>

General information

- Co-organizers: Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, and NEASEPC Secretariat
- Date: 19-20 June 2023
- Venue: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Meeting language: English
- Expected number of participants: around 30 (International participants: 10-12)

Provisional agenda

19 June 2023, Monday	
Time	Programme
10:00-10:30	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and welcome remarks • Tour de Table • Introduction of the meeting
10:30-12:00	Session 1: Reviewing DLD in North-East Asia: current status, trends and impacts In this session, experts will share insights on the status, trends and impacts of DLD faced by countries in North-East Asia and discuss policies in place to prevent DLD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by experts on the status and trends of DLD • Discussion
12:00- 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00	Session 2: Identifying the Challenges: Drivers and Risks of DLD in North-East Asia With the aim to identify key issues to be addressed by NEASPEC, the session will discuss the main drivers of DLD in North-East Asia and future risk factors such as climate change, among others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of NEASPEC stock-taking study • Presentations on drivers and future risks • Discussion
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 17:20	Session 3: Collaborating for change: Formulating a subregional approach and potential activities for consideration of member States The session will discuss tentative NEASPEC activities to address DLD in North-East Asia, avoiding duplications and creating synergies with other existing platforms such as DLDD-NEAN. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting survey outcomes • Reviewing existing platforms and gaps/niches for NEASPEC • Discussing tentative NEASPEC activities in 2024-2025
17:20 - 17:30	Closing session
20 June 2023, Tuesday	
	Field visit to Gobi Desert (tbc)