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Policy frameworks and thematic issues, including new emerging issues: grassland and rangeland

Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 26/COP.15, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to present a report on policy issues relevant to that decision at its sixteenth session.

This report provides a summary of the activities undertaken and progress achieved by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism during the intersessional period. It presents conclusions and recommendations on ways and means to strengthen capacity to enhance ongoing efforts to combat sand and dust storms, including anthropogenic source management.



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I. Background

1. In 2015, by its decision 9/COP.12, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to participate in partnerships fostering capacity development to respond to sand and dust storms (SDS). Subsequently, the COP has adopted three consecutive decisions on SDS, namely decisions 31/COP.13, 25/COP.14 and 26/COP.15. The most recent decision invited Parties to make use of the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks and the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox to strengthen their preparedness for SDS and to enhance the integration and coherence of SDS impact mitigation measures, including those addressing anthropogenic sources, in related policy areas at national and subnational levels with a view to advancing integrated land use planning and landscape management.

2. Decision 26/COP.15 invited the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to financial resources, and financial partners to provide, upon request, support to Parties to design and implement national plans and policies in order to cope with sand and dust storms linked to desertification/land degradation and drought. The same decision requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM), within the scope and mandate of the Convention, subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with partners, to:

(a) Develop a voluntary policy guideline, in consultation with countries affected by SDS, to assist in the integration of sand and dust storms management into key policy areas;

(b) Continue developing the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, including the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map and other geographic information system platforms, data and tools, as well as compile an inventory of existing SDS-related tools and technologies beyond the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and make this information available to Parties;

(c) Facilitate, as appropriate, the organization of a science–policy dialogue on SDS as a contribution to developing further guidance and policies to address SDS;

(d) Participate actively in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address SDS mitigation, including in the work of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms on developing a global implementation initiative to address anthropogenic SDS sources and data/information gaps;

(e) Support the development of transformative projects and programmes and financing options related to anthropogenic SDS source mitigation.

3. This report describes the SDS-related activities undertaken by the secretariat and the GM during the intersessional period to respond to the requests contained in decision 26/COP.15. It proposes elements for a decision to be considered by the COP to enhance the implementation of the Policy Advocacy Framework to Combat Sand and Dust Storms and the capacities that enable country Parties to fulfil their commitments under this decision. This includes country pledges to prevent and reduce SDS sources, specifically in the context of their efforts to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) and enhance disaster preparedness and resilience.

II. Implementation progress

A. Policy guideline and technical brief

4. The **Guideline on the Integration of Sand and Dust Storm Management into Key Policy Areas**, produced by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is voluntary and can be used by regional, national and subnational authorities and actors responsible for formulating and implementing SDS initiatives in key policy areas. It aims to raise awareness on development challenges related to SDS risk, vulnerability and exposure that are often not fully appreciated or considered by policymakers. The Guideline outlines the principles and

enabling environment to prevent and reduce SDS sources and their social, economic and environmental impacts while improving productivity and resilience.

5. **Agriculture:** SDS policies, programmes and investments related to food production should be guided by the integrated management of land, soil, crops, livestock and water. Nature-based solutions, mainly in the agriculture, forestry, mining and livestock sectors, are recognized as cost-effective ways to prevent and reduce anthropogenic SDS sources. Specific attention should be given to incentives for more efficient water resource use and, ideally, planning at landscape scales to ensure optimal outcomes among a mosaic of land uses, including the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems.

6. **Human health:** Epidemiological studies can be used to better understand the impact of different types of SDS events on chronic and acute health risks and the populations most affected. Enhanced coordination among the health sector and institutions monitoring air quality would enhance the ability of early warning systems to forecast and broadcast the likelihood of SDS events so that businesses and communities can take timely precautions. Contingency planning, based on the likelihood of specific SDS events, can minimize the risks of such events and reduce the exposure of individuals participating in paid and non-paid labour, education and recreation to such events.

7. **Built infrastructure:** SDS policies, programmes and investments should consider the adverse impacts on built infrastructure, its operational efficiency, and user demand for transport, energy and manufacturing. One aspect of SDS that is of growing concern to policymakers and investors is their impact on renewable energy sources, particularly wind and solar farms. As the share of renewable energy increases in SDS-impacted regions, investments and operations should include contingency planning and proactive measures to avoid major disruptions.

8. **Early warning:** While there have been significant advances in early warning systems, current air quality monitoring typically does not register or report on SDS events. Early warning systems linked to anticipatory actions must benefit all strata of society by reducing the impacts of a forecasted SDS event before it occurs or its most acute impacts are felt. Introducing the capacity to predict and monitor SDS events into the forecasting work of meteorological agencies could help protect lives, livelihoods and livestock.

9. **Finance:** SDS sources are often in marginal rural areas or far from major population centres, making it difficult for policymakers to justify, allocate and sustain finance for prevention and reduction activities. Greater attention and support from the public sector will be required to close the financing gap and foster a balanced approach to SDS source reduction, impact mitigation, and enhanced adaptive capacity. The recognition that effective SDS management not only benefits local land users, but also other sectors and countries, is slowly shifting policy and funding priorities as in the case in Central Asia, the Middle East and north-east Asia.

10. The Guideline can be adapted to specific contexts and applied in key policy areas consistent with sustainable land and water management approaches and existing obligations under national and international law. It encourages the integration of SDS management measures into national strategies and action plans mandated through global and regional agreements (e.g. commitments related to the Rio conventions, food security, human health, air pollution, drought resilience, and disaster risk reduction) to promote a more holistic approach to SDS source and impact mitigation.¹

11. The **Technical Brief on the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map** describes the method which can be used to create maps that indicate potential source areas where SDS can originate. The mapping technique employs publicly available data sets on soil and other land surface characteristics to estimate the annual and seasonal potential for creating or expanding SDS sources. A visualization tool² provides easy access to the functions of the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map, with a choice of data sets, spatial scales and time periods (i.e. January, April, July and October). The resulting maps, in

¹ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/sand-dust-storm/overview>.

² <https://maps.unccd.int/sds/>.

conjunction with observation data and local ground assessments, can serve to better inform policy choices and increase finance to enhance the implementation of SDS source prevention, preparedness, and mitigation measures. The maps, along with agricultural and climate forecasts, can be used to scale up sustainable land and water management practices that reduce disaster risk, recognizing that SDS can impact businesses and communities near and far from their sources. The approach, methodology, maps and tools described in this brief were developed through a collaboration among the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).³

B. Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and Inventory of Tools and Technologies

12. The secretariat, in collaboration with partners, launched the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox on 12 July 2023 to mark the first observation of the International Day on Combating Sand and Dust Storms.⁴ The secretariat continues to update the content and refine the functionality so that stakeholders have easy access to innovative approaches, methods, tools and technologies that are supported by case studies and other resources to inform the design and implementation of SDS policy and planning at various levels. The Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox compiles existing knowledge, information and data, as well as an inventory of methods, tools and technologies developed by United Nations entities, partners and experts working around the world. The key features and elements are presented in five modules, namely: (i) SDS source mapping and monitoring; (ii) SDS source control and management; (iii) observation, monitoring, forecasting and early warning; (iv) risk and vulnerability assessment and mapping; and (v) preparedness and impact mitigation.

13. With the aim of improving the web-based user interface, a Sand and Dust Storms Source Management Task Force was established, with representatives from the UNCCD, FAO, the United States Department of Agriculture and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies as well as from government, civil society and academia, to refine a conceptual approach to identifying and grouping methods, tools and technologies for managing SDS sources. This includes:

- (a) Developing a practical method with simple queries that lead the user to identify the potential source mitigation measures;
- (b) The inclusion of measures which are specifically designed for SDS source management, particularly those which are documented as sustainable land management and other relevant approaches;
- (c) Cross-linking methods and approaches which can be used to develop projects with source management as a primary objective or the integration of source management into related projects and programmes as a secondary outcome;
- (d) Provision of links to case studies and good practices to share information and experiences related to design and effective implementation;
- (e) Foresighting methods and approaches over the next five years.

C. Science–Policy Dialogue on Sand and Dust Storms

14. With the support of the secretariat and the GM, the High-Level Event on Sand and Dust Storms was organized on 15 November 2023 by Uzbekistan under the aegis of the twenty-first meeting of the Committee to Review the Implementation of the Convention. It brought together ministers, leaders, policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders from across the globe to address the impacts of SDS and discuss strategies and measures for effectively managing this growing hazard. The high-level event was chaired by Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan, and

³ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/sand-dust-storm/overview>.

⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/sand-and-dust-storms/toolbox>.

moderated by Mr. Akmal Akramkhanov, Senior Scientist, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, Uzbekistan. A summary of the proceedings of the Ministerial Segment is provided in paragraphs 15–32.

15. Mr. Akramkhanov opened the high-level event and introduced its three key objectives: (i) raise political awareness; (ii) explore collaboration on SDS policies and programmes; and (iii) identify financing and capacity needs to effectively address SDS:

16. Mr. Abdukhakimov welcomed the participants to the high-level event on SDS and opened with a dramatic video of an SDS event in southern Uzbekistan, known as an Afghan wind. He stressed that the effects on livelihoods and environment are massive, and that SDS response measures are a top priority which requires integrated actions at all levels. The measures to combat SDS and desertification must be informed by science and bring together researchers and policymakers. Regional cooperation is essential to address transboundary issues by facilitating dialogue and creating platforms for knowledge exchange at all levels. Innovative financing mechanisms are needed to bolster efforts and demonstrate the multiple economic benefits from sustainable land and water management. He added, “If we know the cause, we can find the solution”, and proposed the adoption of a Samarkand Declaration on SDS to be brought to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16).

17. Mr. Alfred Prospere, Minister of Agriculture, Fishery, Food Security and Rural Development of Saint Lucia, described how SDS events originating in the Sahara cross the Atlantic Ocean and impact communities across the Caribbean. Early warning systems established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, like those for hurricanes, can be successful in providing advance notice to public health officials and communities. While these SDS events are part of the natural cycle, they can also cause significant environmental damage and poor air quality with negative health impacts and reduced visibility. There are also economic losses in the tourism sector. Land and soil management projects across the Caribbean are an integral part of the regional response that is being supported by global technical and financial partners.

18. Mr. Osama Ibrahim Faqeeha, Deputy Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia and COP 16 President, highlighted the numerous impacts of SDS on human health and our economies. There is a strong correlation between SDS and land degradation, which requires a holistic approach, like the one taken as part of the Saudi Green Initiative, or strong regional cooperation as exemplified in the Middle East Green Initiative, which aims to restore 100 million hectares throughout the region and includes over 40 countries. Sharing best practices and synergizing efforts will make a difference on the ground. There is an urgent need to eliminate the root causes of land degradation and SDS, which are having a huge impact on food security, biodiversity loss and climate change. The land use sector must be an essential part of the solution and provides many co-benefits. As Mr. Faqeeha emphasized, “Business as usual will double or triple the extent of land degradation in the coming years, so we must bring forward significant SDS commitments to COP 16.”

19. Mr. Alain-Richard Donwahi, former Minister of Forests and Waters of Côte d’Ivoire and COP 15 President, highlighted the importance of national and international collaboration, especially among the Rio conventions. Addressing SDS is critical to achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and elevate the political profile, and we must first recognize the urgency of this transboundary issue and begin to develop targeted policies and early warning systems. It is critical to educate policymakers on the impacts of SDS events on health, agriculture and our economies, as the financial toll is substantial. Collaboration is needed to address the root causes, promote sustainable land and water management, and invest in appropriate technology and innovation. He stressed that “we need a united front for sustained action, including at the community level” that builds on the work of the UNCCD and other environmental agreements.

20. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, began by framing SDS as a global phenomenon—from Africa to the Middle East to Asia—whereby no region is spared; there are even impacts on Europe causing schools and transport to shut down. “A global response is critical as this threat grows”, he stressed. The Coalition is there to assist countries, but this is just the beginning. There is a need regional cooperation and a global action plan. The expansion of agricultural land and more frequent and severe droughts will make

countries more susceptible to SDS risks and hazards. Since COP 12 in 2015, deliberations on SDS under the UNCCD have delivered significant results, including decisions that recognize sustainable land and water management as one of the most effective ways of reducing human-induced SDS sources.

21. Mr. Hüseyin Avni Bıçaklı, Deputy Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, described SDS as a formidable challenge to sustainable development and said that global recognition remains low. The adverse impacts on various sectors and the economic losses affect most of the population in the Central Asia region, many who are exposed to poor air quality due to SDS events. The root cause is environmental degradation, nature loss, and climate change, pointing to the need for regional risk reduction frameworks and actionable road maps to mitigate and respond to disasters. He emphasized that “there is a need to agree on the common ground for combating land degradation and mainstreaming sustainable land and water management into national policies”.

22. This panel session was followed by an interactive dialogue reflecting on three questions: (i) How can we work together to raise the profile of the SDS threat? (ii) What are the options for global and regional cooperation; and (iii) What are the main technical and financial requirements to more effectively address SDS?

23. Mr. Feras Ziadat, FAO and Chair of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, opened the second segment with a presentation on the work of the Coalition and its global response to SDS. The Coalition aims to support the countries and regions with national, regional and global actions to enhance mitigation of sources and management of impacts of SDS, most importantly, moving from planning to implementation. Future work priorities include international collaboration and resource mobilization, which are indispensable in addressing SDS risks and hazards and reducing their impacts on people, societies and economies.

24. Mr. Tu Zhifan, China, stressed that SDS has serious impacts on all sectors of society, including ecological safety and economic development. Thus, there is a need to bring greater attention to efforts that combat SDS. He said, “We must join hands and work together for a shared future”. Humanity must tackle SDS and desertification as a common fight, and China is committed to and actively developing technologies to increase the area of healthy and productive land. Regional cooperation mechanisms are critical, such as the warning and assessment systems hosted by WMO as well as training and collaborative research centres.

25. Mr. Mavlodod Abdulkadyrkhon, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan, drew attention to SDS events around the world and their impact on crops and livestock, health and environment. In Tajikistan, SDS events are increasing in frequency and reaching high altitude ecosystems, which impact glaciers. Intensive melting is reducing water availability and quality with higher salinity levels. He highlighted that “we face common challenges, and we need partnerships to support monitoring and research and private sector engagement.”

26. Mr. Yong-Kwon Lee, Deputy Director-General of the Global Forest Resources Division at Korea Forest Service, emphasized that desertification and SDS transcend national borders. No single nation can address the issue alone, but a global concerted effort is needed to tackle SDS. The Republic of Korea has been actively engaged in international cooperation on preventing and mitigating SDS at the subregional, regional and global levels. It has provided technical assistance and financing to address SDS through various measures, including the Changwon Initiative. This includes countries in north-east Asia, which are currently working to develop a pilot SDS source map to help identify the drivers of SDS, establish an early warning system and implement coordinated policy approaches.

27. Ms. Sylvie Goyet, Deputy Co-ordinator and Head of Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), explained the OSCE mandate to prevent and adapt to crisis and hazards, such as SDS. She stated that “natural disasters are increasing and so have the costs”. This highlights the need to be more proactive and enhance resilience. Investments in risk mitigation are essential for strengthening food security and reducing conflict and forced migration. Collaborative efforts of the OSCE aim to foster transboundary water cooperation and facilitate work with cities and local authorities.

Engaging with communities is also a high priority at the nexus of environment and human security.

28. Mr. Asferachew Abate, Senior Environmental Specialist at The World Bank, focused on the need for an integrated approach to arrest the expansion of SDS sources, operationalize early warning systems, and enhance impact mitigation. Central Asia has a strategy for addressing SDS, and one important factor is investment and communicating the value of landscape restoration in reducing SDS events emanating from the Aral Sea. The returns on investment can be high; these multiple benefits can be delivered via regional projects to restore degraded land.

29. Mr. Bakhridin Nishonov, First Deputy Director General of Hydrometeorological Scientific Research Institute of Uzbekistan, emphasized that monitoring, forecasting and early warning are critical to reducing SDS impacts in Uzbekistan. Regional cooperation is an imperative as many SDS sources originate in neighbouring countries. Strengthening monitoring, including forecasting stations and regional centres in planning for future events, will help reduce the negative effects.

30. Mr. Nurettin Tas, Türkiye, emphasized the need to create synergies at the national level, work at regional level, and leverage greater synergies at the global level, especially among the Rio conventions. He emphasized that “activating our global goals was the key message coming out of COP 15”, and combating SDS offers an immediate opportunity.

31. Mr. Odbayar Odonchimed, Mongolia, stressed that we must tackle global environmental challenges at all levels. In Mongolia, temperature is increasing, rainfall is decreasing, and the frequency and magnitude of SDS events have increased. Land use change and land degradation are the primary drivers now affecting one quarter of the land area. Monitoring sites and forecasting stations in Mongolia are part of north-east Asia’s efforts to combat SDS and operationalize early warning systems.

32. In his closing remarks, Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov expressed his gratitude to all participants. Land degradation is a source of dust and pollution and reduced ecosystem services. He stressed that “we must unite in our efforts to address transboundary challenges” and to further develop the Samarkand Declaration on SDS for consideration at COP 16.

D. United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

33. The secretariat continues to actively participate in the Coalition, initiated through United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/225, to contribute to a global response to SDS. The secretariat continues to lead the Working Group on Policy and Governance and provide inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General titled “Combating sand and dust storms” to highlight activities and initiatives undertaken by United Nations entities, including the secretariat and the GM, Member States and a range of stakeholders.

34. The growing need for global and regional cooperation between countries to manage and mitigate the effects of SDS and the transboundary hazards they represent has led to the proclamation by the General Assembly of 12 July as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms. Through this resolution, the General Assembly also invited all Member States and other relevant stakeholders “to observe that International Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, through education and activities aimed at raising public awareness of the importance of combating such storms for human health and well-being; the promotion of sustainable land use and management; enhancing food security and resilience to climate change; and sustainable livelihoods.”

35. This represents a significant step to enhance awareness of SDS and mobilize the political will and resources needed to address SDS-related issues, which present a serious challenge to the achievement of the SDGs and associated targets. During the observance of the second International Day on Combating Sand and Dust Storms in 2024, Coalition members organized an international webinar to raise awareness of the importance of combating SDS for human health and well-being and promote sustainable land and water management, thus enhancing food security, resilience to climate change, and sustainable livelihoods. In addition to the launch of the UNCCD-FAO Guideline on the Integration of

Sand and Dust Storm Management into Key Policy Areas, the observance of SDS Day showcased the work that is being undertaken by Coalition members on adaptation and mitigation, forecasting and early warning, health and safety, policy and governance, and regional collaboration.

36. As per the Coalition's governance guidelines, the chair of the Coalition is envisioned as a rotational chair, where a different Coalition member takes over every two years. FAO has been the chair of the Coalition since July 2020, as there was no other member who was willing to take over after the initial two years. In 2024, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific's Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia proposed a joint arrangement to share the role of chairing/hosting the Coalition for the next two years, which was approved by the Coalition members.

E. Sand and Dust Storms projects and programmes

37. The secretariat has been assisting in the development of national and regional plans, policies and frameworks in accordance with the Policy Advocacy Framework to Combat Sand and Dust Storms, with a focus on impact mitigation, including anthropogenic source management. A pilot project has been initiated with partners at the subregional level in north-east Asia (China, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia) to formulate a regional SDS plan and strategy that can lay the foundation for accelerating action on the ground.

38. The GM has been conceptualizing a global SDS implementation initiative with a view to catalysing the development of transformative projects and programmes contributing to enhanced preparedness and resilience of affected populations. This initiative focuses on three key action areas, including: (1) policy coherence and enabling environment at national and regional levels with a view to integrate SDS in relevant policies and strategies; (2) capacity development and technology transfer for SDS hotspot mapping, monitoring and assessment; and (3) anthropogenic SDS source mitigation through innovative and sustainable land and water management, including agricultural practices such as sustainable rangeland management.

39. The GM has also been developing a Central Asia SDS programme in collaboration with five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and partners. This programme builds upon the Regional Strategy for Sand and Dust Storms Management in Central Asia for 2021–2030, prepared with the support of the secretariat.⁵ Two consultative workshops were organized to contribute to the design of the programme, including the expert consultation workshop “Dust Storms in Central Asia: Source Mapping and Mitigation” held on the margins of the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

40. A workshop on regional cooperation was held on 12–15 March 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, co-organized by the secretariat, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The regional programme seeks to implement comprehensive measures for reducing anthropogenic SDS sources and mitigating their impacts across the region. It aims to improve resilience to SDS and support for achieving other SDGs through enhanced transboundary cooperation, strengthened monitoring and forecasting systems, and the uptake of sustainable land management practices. Finally, the GM has been providing assistance to Somalia in addressing SDS issues, particularly coastal dune stabilization through its LDN transformative projects and programmes process. Additional information about GM's work on SDS can be found in document ICCD/CRIC (22)/5.

⁵ <https://www.unccd.int/resources/brief/regional-midterm-strategy-sand-and-dust-storms-management-central-asia-2021-2030>.

III. Conclusion

41. Since COP 12, Parties have recognized the importance of preventing and reducing anthropogenic SDS sources in the context of the implementation of the Convention and LDN. The Policy Advocacy Framework to Combat Sand and Dust Storms has served as the principal guidance on SDS-related policy and actions at national, regional and global levels, and is now supported with a range of knowledge resources made available to the Parties through the partnership activities of the secretariat and the GM.

42. Building on the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium: Information and Guidance on Assessing and Addressing the Risks and the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox released at COP 14, the Guideline on the Integration of Sand and Dust Storm Management into Key Policy Areas and Technical Brief on the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map continue to increase the accessibility of policy-relevant guidance, practical tools, and technical information on SDS sources, impacts and response measures. Additional efforts to link sustainable land and water management practices to SDS management are needed at all levels: global and regional to address transboundary impacts, and national and subnational to increase preparedness and build resilience.

43. The Guideline advocates for the integration of SDS policy and implementation frameworks into national strategies and action plans under the SDGs, LDN, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, among other agreements. Incorporating SDS management measures into these strategies and action plans would help leverage inherent synergies in implementation to deliver co-benefits and expand the pool of resources to combat increasingly frequent and intense SDS events.
