

# Memorandum of Cooperation

between

**The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

and

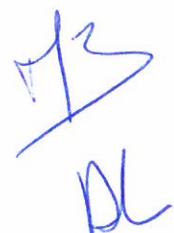
**The United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity as the institution providing the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat of the Convention") and the United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity as the institution providing the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat of IPBES"),

Collectively referred to hereinafter as "the Parties",

*Recalling that*

1. The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas;
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in decision 19/COP.13, requested the Science-Policy Interface of the Convention, in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention, to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with desertification/land degradation and drought issues, in particular the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (hereinafter referred to as "IPBES");
3. IPBES has as objective to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development, and that its functions are:
  - a) To identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers on appropriate scales and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge;
  - b) To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages;
  - c) To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;
  - d) To prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels.



Recalling also that

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in decision 19/COP.13, further requested the secretariat to clarify the potential benefits, costs, conditions and procedures for establishing more formal relationships between the science-policy interface and IPBES and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Have agreed as follows:

#### **Article 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is to promote cooperation between the Parties with respect to mutually relevant aspects of the activities conducted in the framework of the Convention and IPBES, with a view to promoting synergies between, avoiding overlaps and unnecessary duplication of, and ensuring effective cooperation on, such activities.

#### **Article 2. Cooperation**

The Secretariats of the Convention and IPBES will, in particular:

- a) Promote their mutual cooperation through regular exchanges of information on their relevant respective activities; the participation of their concerned respective officers in relevant meetings, as required; and the holding of consultations on the preparation of their respective official documents by making available to one another drafts of relevant documents and providing comments on such documents, where appropriate and feasible;
- b) Encourage cooperation and information exchange between their respective focal points with a view to promoting mutual cooperation at the national and international levels;
- c) Facilitate and encourage the provision of mutual technical support, *inter alia*, to promote technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building at the national and regional levels;
- d) Facilitate, where appropriate, the participation of technical experts on issues of mutual relevance covered by their respective programmes of work;
- e) Facilitate synergy between mutually relevant activities of their governing bodies.

#### **Article 3. Work plans**

With a view to implementing this Memorandum of Cooperation, the Parties may craft work plans concerning joint activities. Such work plans, once agreed, will constitute an integral part of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

#### **Article 4. Financial aspects**

The implementation of activities arising from under this Memorandum of Cooperation is subject to the availability of funding for this purpose and the conclusion of separate legal instruments between the Parties.

#### **Article 5. Reporting and further guidance**

The Parties will report to their respective governing body and subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation and seek further guidance from such body or bodies regarding new areas of cooperation with the other Participant.

#### **Article 6. Review, modification and termination**

- a) This Memorandum of Cooperation does not impose, and is not intended to impose, any legally binding commitments on either Party. It may be reviewed by the Parties, either collectively or individually, to assess its effectiveness, and it may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the Participants.

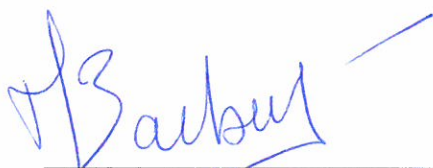


- b) The agreement shall enter into force immediately upon the date of the last signature by the duly authorized representative of the UNCCD Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity as the institution providing the Secretariat of IPBES, and shall continue to be valid until it is terminated, and for such a period thereafter as is necessary for all matters relating to any of its provisions to be carried out.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019 in Bonn, Germany:

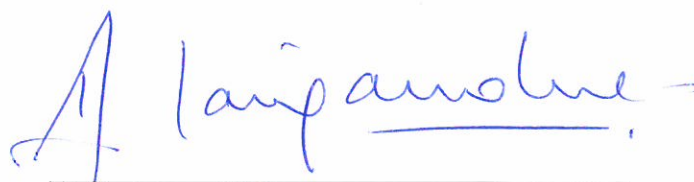
For the UNCCD Secretariat:

For the United Nations Environment Programme:



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Monique Barbut  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations Convention to Combat  
Desertification



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Anne Larigauderie  
Executive Secretary  
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services