**Assessment on the Background Guide**

**(UNCCD CRIC)**

**Instructions:** Please complete the following assessment **by yourself** based on your reading of the Background Guide. The result of the assessment will be part of the reference for country/role assignment. Please NOTE that **plagiarism, inappropriate citation, and other academic misconduct** are strictly **prohibited** in BIMUN. Each paper will go through the plagiarism check, and **your paper will be invalid if the originality rate is below 80%.** Those who violate the rule would receive severe punishments up to the rescinding of delegate or school delegation qualifications. For the sake of fairness consideration, please **DO NOT** include your institution name in any document, and make contact with Directors **via e-mail or other public means**. It is required by the Secretariat that all private communication and **exchange of gifts or souvenirs** between Directors and conference participants are forbidden.

**Part I Multiple Choice (30 points, 5 points for each)**

**Direction:** *In this part, you are required to choose* ***one or more*** *choices for the following questions. You cannot get a full mark unless you mark all the correct answers.*

1. Which of the following statements is/are NOT TRUE about Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)?
2. To achieve LDN, there are three concurrent actions needed: firstly, avoiding new degradation by adopting sustainable land management practices; secondly, reducing existing degradation by maintaining existing healthy land; and thirdly, restoring and returning degraded lands to a natural or more productive state.
3. The UNCCD’s objectives for LDN cover the aspects of food security, ecosystem services, artificial intelligence, and the synergies among social, economic, and environmental sustainability, etc.
4. We define LDN as “a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services to enhance food security remain stable or increase, within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.”
5. The LDN response hierarchy Avoid > Reduce > Reverse, illustrates how reversing past degradation will maximize long-term benefits and is more cost-effective than efforts to avoid or reduce land degradation.
6. What are the primary causes of land degradation in arid and semi-arid regions?
7. Overgrazing by livestock
8. Excessive groundwater extraction for irrigation
9. Introduction of invasive plant species
10. Expansion of agricultural activities into marginal lands
11. Lack of precipitation due to climate change
12. Which of the following statements about soil erosion is NOT TRUE?
13. There is no shortage of models in multiple studies on soil erosion
14. All forms of soil erosion will have severe impacts on the environment and the economy.
15. The secure property rights of soil users are essential for governmental management.
16. Water erosion and wind erosion are different categories of soil erosion triggered by different factors.
17. Which of the following technologies are part of the drought toolbox developed by the UNCCD?
18. Monitoring and early warning.
19. Vulnerability and risk management
20. Risk mitigation methods.
21. Information sharing platforms
22. Which of the following are major contributors to soil erosion and land degradation?
23. Physical pollution from industrial activities
24. Conversion of natural habitats for urbanization
25. Inappropriate irrigation practices leading to salinization
26. Intensive monoculture farming methods
27. Climate change-induced extreme weather events
28. What is the main decision-making body of the UNCCD?
29. Regional Action Programme (RAP)
30. The Conference of the Parties (COP)
31. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)
32. Global Mechanism (GM)

**Part II Short-Answer Questions (32 points, 8 points for each)**

**Direction:** *In this part, you are going to answer the questions in* ***no more than 25 words****. All the questions concern the general idea or details of the Background Guide.*

1. Please analyze the categories of land degradation according to its different causes with your own understanding. (3 to 6 categories are appropriate)
2. Please explain the concept of land degradation neutrality (LDN) and its significance in addressing global environmental challenges.
3. Discuss the relationship between climate change and land degradation. How does climate change exacerbate soil erosion?
4. Please explain the relationship between biodiversity and land degradation from different aspects.

**Part III Essay Writing (38 points)**

**Direction:** *In this part, you are going to choose* ***ONE*** *of the following topics and write an essay with* ***no more than 500 words****. Your essay is scored based on the originality, language, structure and content. Please use the Chicago Style of citation if needed; otherwise, you are plagiarizing. The originality rate of your essay shall be above* ***80%****; otherwise, your paper is* ***INVALID****.*

**Topic A:**

National action programmes (NAPs) are the key instruments involving various stakeholders to implement the Convention, which spells out the practical steps and measures to be taken to combat desertification in specific ecosystems. You should choose one particular country and include the following key points in terms of land degradation:

1. Briefly elaborate on the content of its latest country report; (the country report can be selected and researched on this website: https://www.unccd.int/our-work/country-profiles )

2. How to execute its NAP in accordance with the Convention and its regional implementation annex; (if the country you choose does not belong to a regional implementation annex, please answer how to execute its NAP in terms of land degradation in accordance with the Convention and cooperate with other countries)

3. The innovative and feasible measures that will be proposed by your selected country under this topic.

**Topic B:**

Analyze the socio-economic impacts of land degradation on local communities and economies. How does land degradation contribute to poverty food insecurity, and other issues? You can first generally give us some ideas and takeaways, and then choose one issue and analyze it in detail. Finally, address what measures can be taken to mitigate these effects. Please choose one region/country and elaborate from that specific perspective.

**-THE END-**

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| **ANSWER SHEET (UNCCD)** | | | |
| Name in Chinese (if any): | | Name in Pinyin/English: | |
| **Part I Multiple Choice** | | | |
| 1. | 2. | | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | | 6. |
| **Part II Short-answer questions** | | | |
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| **Part III Essay** | | | |
| Essay Question Number: | |  | |
| Essay Question Answer:  Word Count: | | | |
| References: | | | |
| *Thank you so much for completing the assessment. We appreciate your cooperation. Please write down THREE choices of countries/roles that you would like to represent. Please note that this chart does not act as a guarantee.* | | | |
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\*If you have finished the assessment, please change the file name to “UNCCD - Your Name” (For example, “UNCCD - Li Lei”), and send it to **unccd@bimun.org.cn** before **23:59 GMT+8, April 18th, 2024**. Please submit this file in **Doc or Docx** format. This e-mail address shall only be used for academic purposes. If you have other questions, please contact our members of the Department of Liaison.