

## Appendix: Complementary Information on Interviews

This appendix accompanies the research article “Institutional Adaptation in Slow Motion: Zooming In on Desertification Governance” by Noémie Laurens, published in *Global Environmental Politics*, Issue 23-2, 2023.

Between November 2021 and January 2022, I conducted 28 semi-structured interviews with key informants. Interviews were held and recorded over videoconference and lasted 45 minutes on average. I then transcribed verbatim and analyzed interviews using content analysis with the software NVivo. Participants were ensured confidentiality of their responses. This allowed to touch upon sensitive topics such as North-South tensions and institutional inefficiencies of the UNCCD.

ENB reports and searches on the UNCCD website allowed to generate a short initial list of interviewees. I then expanded the list using the snowball sampling method (Parker et al. 2019), i.e., by asking interviewees to recommend other persons knowledgeable of the UNCCD evolution and negotiation processes. Additional interviewees were recruited until reaching “informational redundancy” in participants’ responses (Sandelowski 2008, 875).

To select relevant respondents, I paid special attention to their position, geographical region, and seniority. The final pool of respondents includes drafters of the convention, the two former executive secretaries, senior secretariat employees, national focal points,\* CST correspondents,\* SPI members,\* members of the civil society organization panel,\* and long-time academic observers.<sup>1</sup> I interviewed at least two participants from each regional implementation annex (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe) and two national focal points from countries not belonging to a regional

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<sup>1</sup> While their responses are confidential and anonymized, the former executive secretaries consented to be mentioned as participants. Positions marked with an asterisk can refer either to the current or former occupation of a participant.

annex. 85% of participants (n= 24) have been involved in the UNCCD process for more than ten years, and 65% (n=18) since at least the early 2000s.

#### References cited in the appendix

Parker, Charlie, Sam Scott, and Alistair Geddes. 2019. Snowball Sampling. In *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*, edited by Paul Atkinson and Sara Delamont. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Sandelowski, Margarete. 2008. Theoretical saturation. In *The SAGE encyclopedia of qualitative research methods*, edited by Lisa M. Given, 875–876. Thousand Oak, CA: Sage.