



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
5 July 2013

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Twelfth session

Windhoek, Namibia, 17–26 September 2013

Item 3 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties:

Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention:

Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices

Conference of the Parties

Committee on Science and Technology

Eleventh session

Windhoek, Namibia, 17–20 September 2013

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories:

Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices

Promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices

Report by the Bureaux of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology

Summary

By its decision 1/COP.10, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to engage in further coordination work relating to the improvement of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) knowledge management in order to provide information that is coherent and easily accessible.

Additionally, decision 15/COP.10 and decision 21/COP.10 requested the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to work together to define ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to the respective mandates of the two Committees, for consideration at COP 11.

In response to these provisions, a joint meeting of the two Bureaux was held in Bonn, Germany, on 18 February 2012. The two Bureaux also convened a joint consultation that took place on 30 May 2013, in Bonn, Germany and via teleconference.

The present document contains a recollection of the mandates of the two subsidiary bodies with particular regard to knowledge management and best practices in the implementation of the Convention; an overview of the ongoing collaboration between the two subsidiary bodies and their Bureaux regarding knowledge management and the promotion of the analysis and dissemination of best practices for the implementation of the Convention; and a number of actions on how to improve further this collaboration that the two subsidiary bodies may forward to the COP for consideration.

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I. Introduction

1. By its decision 1/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to engage in further coordination work relating to the improvement of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) knowledge management in order to provide information that is coherent and easily accessible.

2. Additionally, decision 15/COP.10 and decision 21/COP.10 requested the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to work together to define ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to the respective mandates of the two Committees, for consideration at COP 11.

3. In response to these provisions, a joint meeting¹ of the two Bureaux took place in Bonn, Germany, on 18 February 2012. Following its agenda, the Bureaux discussed ways and means to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, particularly those relating to sustainable land management; the need to provide the COP with further guidance on classification of best practices; the revision of draft criteria for the selection of the primary recommended databases; and the continued coordination between the Chairs of both Bureaux. Regarding the improvement of UNCCD knowledge management aimed at providing coherent and easily accessible information, the Bureaux deliberated on various aspects of the scientific knowledge brokering portal (that is, its potential as an avenue for collaboration between the two subsidiary bodies; desired capabilities of the search engine; and the need to promote technical compatibility between the identified databases for best practices and the UNCCD scientific knowledge brokering portal).

4. The Bureaux of the subsidiary bodies also held a joint consultation that took place on 30 May 2013 in Bonn, Germany and via teleconference, and continued discussions as expected considering the issue of interaction between the two bodies with a view to further coordinating knowledge management efforts and to continue promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices for the implementation of the Convention.

II. Mandates of the Committee on Science and Technology and of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention regarding knowledge management and best practices

A. Committee on Science and Technology

1. Regarding knowledge management

5. The CST is a subsidiary body of the COP established under article 24 of the Convention to provide the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The Convention further stresses the importance of knowledge through technical and scientific cooperation for its successful implementation. Article 17 calls for increased knowledge of the processes leading to desertification and drought and for validation of traditional

¹ Meeting report available at <<http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/the-bodies/The-CRIC/Pages/CRIC%20Bureau.aspx>>.

knowledge, and article 18 stresses the importance of the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology.

6. Furthermore, article 24 of the Convention mandates the CST to maintain a roster of independent experts. This roster, contained in a database, is currently being updated as part of the overall knowledge management activity of the secretariat. Also in the context of knowledge management, article 25 provides that the CST is to undertake a survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies. Networking is included in The Strategy in operational objective 3.3 on science, technology and knowledge and in outcome 3.6 which states that science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification and drought should be engaged to support the implementation of the Convention; this is further confirmed by decision 14/COP.8.

7. Decision 15/COP.1, containing the terms of reference of the CST, states that the Committee shall provide scientific and technological information needed to implement the Convention; collect information, analyse, assess and report on the impact of developments in science and technology and give advice on the possible utilization of such developments for the implementation of the Convention; advise the COP on the possible implications of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge for programmes and activities under the Convention, particularly in connection with the review of implementation pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention; and make recommendations regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification.

8. Decision 3/COP.8, annex, sets out the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy) which gives the CST the primary responsibility for fulfilling its operational objective 3 which, among several outcomes, includes the improvement of knowledge, and in particular of effective knowledge-sharing systems. The Strategy also requests the CST, in cooperation with relevant institutions, to create and steer knowledge-management systems aimed at improving the brokering of scientific and technical information from and to institutions, Parties and end users. In this respect, The Strategy also requests that the “knowledge management systems established by the CST and its performing information and knowledge brokering functions be supported by the secretariat”.

9. By its decision 4/COP.9, the COP requested the secretariat to continue building up efficient knowledge-management and knowledge-brokering systems to serve as tools for successful implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy.

10. By its decision 12/COP.9, on the performance review and assessment of the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy, the COP decided that the CST should contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

11. By its decision 21/COP.10, noting the key role of scientific knowledge-brokering functions within the process of the Convention becoming a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought, the COP also requested the secretariat to continue to improve knowledge management, including, but not limited to:

(a) Elaborating an information platform relating to desertification/land degradation and drought, building on existing similar information and categorizations where appropriate and useful;

- (b) Carrying out the taxonomy for internal content categorization with respect to the UNCCD;
- (c) Defining criteria and priorities applicable to knowledge management under the Convention, taking into account the results of the knowledge needs assessment;
- (d) Preparing the necessary policies, procedures and guidelines for improving the quality and coherence of information products prepared internally and externally;
- (e) Establishing synergetic partnerships with existing initiatives/networks;
- (f) Encouraging the establishment of links with regional knowledge management systems via existing networks;
- (g) Identifying flexible strategies for the transfer, development, deployment and use of proven technologies.

2. Regarding best practices

12. Under research and development, the Convention stresses the importance of know-how, practices and traditional and local knowledge through its article 17 and through article 18 which calls for the protection, compilation, promotion and dissemination of traditional and local knowledge.

13. Decision 15/COP.1, in the terms of reference of the CST, requests that the CST make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, inter alia, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The CST shall also make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, inter alia, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

14. As noted in the previous paragraphs, the relevance of best practices for science and research is clearly outlined in The Strategy in the description of operational objective 3 on Science, technology and knowledge. Outcome 3.5 specifically identifies the need for “effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge,[that] are in place at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.”

15. Furthermore, the key role and mandate of the CST on best practices has been affirmed and expanded, by:

(a) Decision 16/COP.4, which states that at each session the CST will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention and further, that the fourth issue to be dealt with at the fifth session of the CST will be on strategies for the communication of information and its use to generate best practices for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought;

(b) Decision 16/COP.5, which states that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the CST at its sixth session shall be “Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach” and invites Parties to submit reports on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research;

(c) Decision 20/COP.6, which encourages Parties to submit reports on case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to “Land degradation,

vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach, taking into account the observations of the CST and its Group of Experts”;

(d) Decision 13/COP.8, which notes the potential of the CST to provide an opportunity for effective knowledge sharing at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, to support policymakers and stakeholders, including through the identification and sharing of best practice[s]”, states that each future ordinary session of the CST shall be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the Bureau of the CST in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the Conference of the Parties (COP);

(e) Decision 26/COP.9, which states that the CST agenda should focus on the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy and on the “implementation of the knowledge management system, including traditional knowledge as outlined in article 16(g) of the Convention text, best practices and success stories on combating desertification, land degradation and drought issues”;

(f) Decision 13/COP.9, under the general reporting obligations for the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, requests the CST to include where appropriate information on best practices in relation to The Strategy for consideration by the CRIC and the COP.

16. Finally, decision 15/COP.10 and decision 21/COP.10 specifically request the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to work together in defining ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to the respective mandates of the two Committees, for consideration at COP 11.

B. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

1. Regarding knowledge management

17. The mandate of the CRIC vis-à-vis knowledge management issues is implicit, taking into consideration its main objective to review information officially submitted by Parties and other reporting entities. The review of information submitted officially to the CRIC necessitates on the side of the secretariat and on behalf of the CRIC, a knowledge management process that ensures the data analysis across regions and over time as requested by The Strategy. The terms of reference of the CRIC, contained in the annex to decision 11/COP.9, also encompass provisions relating to knowledge management functions, including the following:

(a) Recommending methods that improve communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Recommending methods that promote know-how and technology transfer, in particular from the developed countries to the developing countries, for combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought;

(c) Recommending methods that promote experience sharing and information exchange among Parties and all other interested institutions and organizations.

18. In addition to these tasks, that are discharged at intersessional sessions of the CRIC, the mandate of the CRIC also covers the collection and dissemination of information which is submitted by Parties and reporting entities within the framework of the UNCCD reporting process according to the time frame set by the COP. After the adoption of The Strategy and the subsequent introduction of an indicators-based reporting, reports officially submitted to the secretariat are collected and disseminated through the performance review

and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) portal, the online reporting platform of the UNCCD.²

19. The secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) have been tasked with the preliminary analysis of the information provided by Parties and other reporting entities, which is reviewed by the CRIC at intersessional sessions in order to provide targeted recommendations to the COP on improving the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. The newly introduced reporting methodologies and approaches follow a content management protocol and use knowledge management tools that are specifically geared to servicing the reporting and review process of the UNCCD.

20. Furthermore, decision 11/COP.9 requires that all official reports submitted as part of the reporting and review process be in the public domain. It is to be noted that the PRAIS online portal aims to provide query functions to the public for the reporting database in order to allow for data mining on predefined queries on the reporting templates. The availability of such a search function in the PRAIS portal is pending a policy on access to data which the COP at its eleventh session may recommend to be drawn up.

2. Regarding best practices

21. The Strategy attributes to the CRIC the central role of reviewing the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan through an effective reporting process and determining and disseminating best practices from experience in implementing the Convention.

22. The terms of reference of the CRIC clarify further that the CRIC is to review and compile best practices on the implementation of the Convention and forward this information for consideration by the COP with a view to disseminating it. Furthermore, the same decision identifies the dissemination of best practices on the implementation of the Convention as one of the focal areas of work of the CRIC at sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP.³

23. In order to enable the CRIC to discharge its mandate, decision 13/COP.9 requests Parties and observers to the UNCCD, including civil society organizations⁴ to report regularly to the COP, including on best practices.

24. Best practices should be collected according to seven thematic topics, defined as follows in decision 13/COP.9, annex V:

- (a) Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation;
- (b) Capacity-building and awareness-raising;
- (c) Desertification, land degradation and drought, and SLM monitoring and assessment/research;
- (d) Knowledge management and decision support;
- (e) The policy, legislative and institutional framework;
- (f) Funding and resource mobilization;
- (g) Participation, collaboration and networking.

25. Parties and other reporting entities initiated the reporting on best practices on thematic topic (a) above in 2010 and their submissions are currently being collected

² Available at: <<http://www.unccd-prais.com>>.

³ See decision 11/COP.9, annex, paragraph 14 (b).

⁴ See decision 1/COP.9, paragraph 9, decision 11/COP.9, paragraph 12 and decision 13/COP.9, attachment, paragraph 3.

through the PRAIS portal, following the proposed schedule of review of best practices established in decision 15/COP.10.

26. Also by decision 15/COP.10, the COP decided to increase accessibility to information on best practices and requested the secretariat to identify recommended databases for each thematic topic, to which data and information currently stored in the PRAIS database should be transferred.

27. The CRIC and its Bureau have also provided guidance to the secretariat in fulfilling this mandate by:

(a) Encouraging Parties and other reporting entities in the submission of best practices to PRAIS;

(b) Supporting the development of criteria for the identification of possible recommended databases of best practices, including under theme (a) Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation, of the thematic topics of UNCCD best practices, and theme (f) Funding and resource mobilization.

28. Finally, decision 15/COP.10 and decision 21/COP.10 specifically request the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to work together to define ways to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices, according to the respective mandates of the two Committees, for consideration at COP 11.

III. Coordination work of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention relating to the improvement of UNCCD knowledge management in order to provide information that is coherent and easily accessible⁵

A. Committee on Science and Technology

29. Given the mandate of the CST as outlined in chapter II above, the Bureau of the CST addressed the issues of knowledge management, including on best practices, at its meetings in February and October 2012 and in April 2013.

30. The meeting held on 18 February 2012 specifically addressed the issues of knowledge management in relation to the work on best practices. The Bureau of the CST agreed that cooperation between the two subsidiary bodies on best practices, particularly on theme (a) would be useful, although the exact manner of interaction had, at that time, yet to be defined.

31. All the meetings of the Bureau of the CST enhanced the importance of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP). The SKBP is a search portal currently being developed by the UNCCD secretariat in order to improve access to, as well as the consumption of, scientific and technical information on desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) matters. The search portal will aggregate scientific knowledge documented by various partner institutions. Its design and preliminary requirements have been finalized and the process to deploy search engine and automating text extraction from different content sources has begun. Several partner institutions are committed to participating in the development of the prototype and have agreed to share their content as well as validating the prototype during the development stages. A functional prototype is

⁵ Decision 1/COP.10, paragraph 5.

planned to be available by the end of 2013. The SKBP will be rolled out in phases, allowing for future enhancements to be integrated provided that support for this initiative increases over time. (For more specific information on the SKBP, see ICCD/COP(11)/CST/6).

32. The Bureau of the CST has reviewed the SKBP concept at several of its meetings, including in 2012 and 2013, and provided guidance while drawing the attention of the secretariat to: (a) the need and possible challenges of constantly keeping up with the dynamics of information and knowledge development in this area, (b) updating the system with new providers of information, and (c) seeking and attracting the cooperation of providers whose databases and information are not publicly available and would therefore add a specific advantage to the SKBP and its users.

33. The SKBP has the potential to improve the dissemination of DLDD scientific and technical information, and is able to respond to many of the challenges of accessing DLDD-related knowledge. Several DLDD knowledge repositories exist and capture scientific papers, manuals, best practices and case-studies on how to respond to land degradation issues. However, most such repositories operate individually and concentrate their resources on developing knowledge products that can be consumed by practitioners and policymakers, instead of also focusing on how to improve access to them. Due to the disjointed approach to categorizing, formatting, and documenting DLDD knowledge products, information seekers need to consult individual knowledge repositories when trying to obtain a comprehensive view of a particular DLDD topic. The SKBP will aim to consolidate knowledge products under one user-interface, using search refiners to cluster DLDD knowledge products under specific DLDD themes in an attempt to illustrate how individual knowledge products connect or overlap in policymaking and day-to-day practices.

34. More importantly, as a search portal, the SKBP will leverage a technology that is interoperable with many systems and DLDD knowledge repositories. This same technological solution can be used to mine DLDD-related best practices, capacity-building opportunities and other relevant information and knowledge products, and also be used in other knowledge brokering initiatives, if required.

B. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

35. As outlined in section II above, the CRIC, in discharging its mandate and functions, reviewed information provided by Parties and other reporting entities through the PRAIS portal. This requires that all information submitted since 2010 be stored in a database to which access is granted only to the secretariat and to the GM (the latter, limited to data on financial flows, operational objective 5 and strategic objective 4). The secretariat and the GM conducted data mining and statistical analysis in order to produce the preliminary analysis documents for the review by the CRIC. Processing of data is undertaken by the secretariat and the GM according to an approved analytical framework specifying what information is required for the session, its aggregation into subregional, regional or global data sets, and so forth. Recently, infographics have also been published illustrating the outcomes of the reporting process, achievements and trends with particular regard to operational objectives and their performance indicators.

36. At its meeting in February 2012 (Bonn, Germany), the Bureau of the CRIC advised that:

(a) Guidance will be sought by the COP on data sharing policy with particular regard to raw data contained in the PRAIS database;

(b) The particular issue of access to data will be addressed as part of the agenda of CRIC 11, under the item of best practices;

(c) The secretariat shall test query functions on the 2008–2009 data sets in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC before launching it on the PRAIS portal.

37. At its meeting in September 2012 (Bonn, Germany), the Bureau of the CRIC further advised that:

(a) The secretariat shall include principles and proposed approaches to granting access to data provided by Parties and other reporting entities through the PRAIS, in the CRIC 11 documentation;

(b) The secretariat shall prepare a data access policy adopting the principles and the approach proposed and with the assistance of legal expertise as required.

38. Although at CRIC 11 (Bonn, Germany) some Parties expressed concern about the confidentiality of data entered into the PRAIS, many others recognized that making data reported through the PRAIS portal publicly available and easily accessible would bring many benefits. In this regard, many Parties requested the secretariat to continue looking at the practices and policies of other conventions and multilateral bodies, in the identification of elements in a data access policy.

39. To date, the PRAIS portal contains official reports from all reporting exercises, although only those of 2010 and 2012 are available in digital format, including SLM best practices submitted by reporting entities since 2010. Pending a decision on the access to data, all official reports are publicly available, albeit in PDF format. The PRAIS portal is the repository of information officially submitted by Parties and other reporting entities relating to the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy.

40. The PRAIS portal database therefore constitutes an important pool of knowledge that could be made available as part of a bigger and more comprehensive knowledge management system led by the secretariat, including knowledge management activities promoted through the CST.

IV. Joint work of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on defining ways and means to promote the analysis and dissemination of best practices⁶

A. Committee on Science and Technology

41. At its meeting on 30 and 31 May 2013 the Bureau of the CST confirmed its interest in the further implementation of the SKBP, which is in the process of being designed.

42. The scope of the SKBP content is likely to contain DLDD-specific best practices collected and hosted by other SKBP partners. As a search portal, the underlying technology of the SKBP will allow SKBP partners' best practices to be retrieved as search results depending on the query entered. In this sense, the SKBP has the potential to cluster relevant best practices under broader search refiners, allowing policymakers and other users to see the thematic relationships between best practices, although these may originate from different repositories and from different parts of the world. In general, the SKBP will be helpful in promoting best practices since it will allow users the flexibility of searching multiple best practice databases from one interface, and will enable users to narrow the

⁶ Decision 15/COP.10, paragraph 10, and decision 21/COP.10, paragraph 3.

selection of best practices by geography, date, organization, DLDD topics, among other search refiners.

43. The SKBP will also make reference to existing best practices repositories on DLDD, even if these are not searchable in the SKBP itself, in accordance with the mandate to link with networks, institutions, agencies and bodies. It is expected that the content repositories aggregated to the SKBP contains best practices submitted through the PRAIS portal.

44. At the same meeting in May 2013, the Bureau of the CST suggested that, with reference to the work to be implemented on the analysis of best practices, the focus of the CST should primarily be on the following thematic topics:

- Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation
- Desertification, land degradation and drought, and SLM monitoring and assessment/research
- Knowledge management and decision support

45. However, other themes should not be excluded at this stage as collaboration on other thematic topics of best practices may be beneficial for both the CST and the CRIC.

46. The Bureau of the CST recommended that guidelines on the validation by Parties of best practices on the above-mentioned topics should be developed by a group of scientists taking into account any decision that COP 11 may take based on the result of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA) on provision of scientific advice (see ICCD/COP(11)/CST/3). The Bureau of the CST also recommended that experts on the Roster of Independent Experts of the UNCCD, as well as Science and Technology Correspondents, should be involved in the validation of best practices at the national level.

B. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

47. Since 2010, when the reporting on best practices on “Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation” began, over 500 submissions were received through the PRAIS portal from more than 50 reporting entities. This database constitutes a wealth of information for the analysis and dissemination of best practices on this thematic topic.

48. By its decision 15/COP.10, the COP requested the secretariat to identify recommended databases for each thematic topic on best practices, to which data and information stored in the PRAIS database should be transferred.

49. At its intersessional meetings held in February and September 2012, the Bureau of the CRIC considered the issue of accessibility to information on best practices and provided further advice on the implementation of these provisions.

50. At its meeting on 18 February 2012⁷ the Bureau of the CRIC requested in particular that identification of primary organizations and databases should be conducted through a call for expression of interest, with detailed criteria to be drafted by the secretariat, against which the interested organizations and databases would be screened.

51. The Bureau of the CRIC also advised that the scope of the call would focus on thematic topics (a) and (f), according to the calendar agreed upon by the COP at its tenth

⁷ Available at <<http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/the-bodies/The-CRIC/Pages/CRIC%20Bureau.aspx>>.

session, and that the outcome of the call would be considered at CRIC 11 with a view to forwarding it to the COP for a final decision to be taken at COP 11.

52. Following this guidance, expressions of interest in assisting the CRIC in its mandate to compile and disseminate best practices were received between November 2012 and January 2013.⁸ Details on the outcome of this process are contained in the official documentation⁹ that was considered at CRIC 11.

53. At CRIC 11, many Parties welcomed the interest expressed by the institutions that responded to the call. Some Parties recommended that information on SLM best practices should be consolidated and made available in a centralized best practice repository or through a data sharing initiative to prevent duplication and enable comparisons between countries. In this regard, many Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among the institutions participating in the call. For more information on this matter, see document ICCD/CRIC(12)/5.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

54. The mandates of the two subsidiary bodies of the UNCCD are interlinked, particularly regarding knowledge management and best practices in the implementation of the Convention. Decisions taken by the COP at its tenth session further stress the need for the two subsidiary bodies to intensify their cooperation in this regard. In addition, the COP requested the CST to contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy; at the same time, the COP requested the CRIC to provide advice on issues upon request by the CST.

55. Further to these provisions, the Bureaux of the two bodies had a number of consultations in the current biennium, including through a joint meeting of the two Bureaux. With particular regard to the joint consultation held on 30 May 2013, the meeting:

(a) Recognized the need for the CST to recommend on which thematic topics of best practices its advice would be particularly relevant;

(b) Stressed the opportunity for the CRIC and the CST to engage in the identification of possible scenarios for the validation of best practices on relevant themes, including the development of voluntary guidelines at the national level;

(c) Acknowledged the importance of conducting regular consultations, including through the two Bureaux and at the decision-making level during sessions of the two bodies held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, on matter of common interest;

(d) Welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat in developing an overall knowledge management infrastructure according to the guidance provided by the COP, and advised that interoperability between the various systems should be ensured.

⁸ See <<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Reporting-review-and-assessment/Pages/Identification-of-primary-databases-for-UNCCD-best-practices.aspx>>; and: <<http://global-mechanism.org/en/news/call-for-expression-of-interest-on-unccd-best-practices>>.

⁹ See ICCD/CRIC(11)/13, available at <<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cric11/13eng.pdf>> and ICCD/CRIC(11)/13/Add.1, available at <<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cric11/13add1eng.pdf>>.

56. Building upon relevant decisions of the COP, the recommendations made by Parties at CRIC 11 and the outcomes of the consultations between the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST, the COP may wish to consider among other things:

(a) Upon advice from the CST and the CRIC, reviewing the mechanisms by which the two subsidiary bodies cooperate in the review of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy according to their respective mandates, with regard to decision 12/COP.9 and other relevant decisions of the COP;

(b) Inviting the CRIC and the CST to continue interacting on ways to promote coordinated knowledge management efforts and the analysis and dissemination of best practices with a view to contributing to the development of an overall knowledge management infrastructure for the UNCCD; and requesting the two Bureaux to facilitate these interactions;

(c) Requesting the CST to focus its work on best practices on three thematic topics contained in decision 13/COP.9, annex V, namely: thematic topic (a) sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation; thematic topic (c) desertification, land degradation and drought and SLM monitoring and assessment/research; and thematic topic (d) knowledge management and decision support;

(d) Requesting also the CST to develop guidelines for Parties to validate best practices at the national level under thematic topics (a), (c), and (d) for consideration by the COP, taking into account the decision regarding the work of the AGSA on how to provide scientific advice;

(e) Inviting Parties to involve Science and Technology Correspondents and experts included in the Roster of Independent Experts in the validation process referred to in point (d) above, as relevant;

(f) Requesting the secretariat, when further developing an overall knowledge management infrastructure within the secretariat, including the PRAIS portal and the SKBP, to ensure interoperability of the systems for the transferability of information, according to the resources available;

(g) Requesting also the secretariat to facilitate partnership between SKBP partners and the institution(s)/database(s) that will be tasked with the compilation and dissemination of relevant best practices according to decision 15/COP.10;

(h) Requesting the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to report jointly to the COP on the implementation of the present decision.