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Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Interfacing science, policy, and sharing knowledge

Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 18/COP.16 regarding knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to report at the seventeenth session of the COP on the implementation, of the decision, as well as on measures taken to facilitate the sharing of data, knowledge and technologies, technology transfer and innovation, the collaboration with scientific partners, and the accessibility of best practices on Sustainable Land Management, through the collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies. The present document also provides information on emerging areas of knowledge-sharing and scientific collaboration relevant to sustainable land management, land restoration and Land Degradation Neutrality, including efforts, under the framework of decision 18/COP.16, to strengthen the evidence base, practical guidance and monitoring approaches for dryland and rangeland contexts.

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I. Background

1. Article 18 on the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology, in paragraph 1(b) recognizes the importance of facilitating access, in particular by affected developing country Parties, to technologies most suitable to practical application for specific needs of local populations, paying special attention to the social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of such technology.

2. Decision 18/COP.16 paragraph 4 requests the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue exploring options for knowledge and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms with relevant partners in the academic and private sectors.

3. Chapter II of this document provides a report provides information on the available tools for sharing data, knowledge and technologies, as well as background on the model for technology transfer and innovation.

4. Decision 18/COP.16 paragraph 5 encourages Parties to implement projects on knowledge and technology transfer with the aim of fostering innovation and facilitating access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how. Following decision 18/COP.16 paragraph 1 on fostering of scientific partnerships and decision 20/COP.16 paragraph 9 on strengthening existing or newly established regional scientific networks/institutions, the secretariat has, subject to the availability of resources, responded to regional partners to support Parties in their efforts to meet a thematically or regionally specific knowledge and technology transfer needs.

5. Chapter III provides illustrative examples of initiatives that have been launched to address thematically or regionally specific knowledge and technology transfer needs.

6. Decision 18/COP.16 paragraph 11 requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, thus facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between UNCCD stakeholders globally.

7. Chapter IV of this document provides an overview of the cooperation between the UNCCD and WOCAT, and the availability of best practices on SLM.

8. Chapter VI of this document provides conclusions.

II. Tools for sharing data, knowledge and technologies, technology transfer and innovation

A. Knowledge sharing

9. Various knowledge tools that are available through the secretariat and the GM are available through the “Knowledge & Data” section of the UNCCD website. The UNCCD Knowledge Hub, launched in 2016, was fully integrated into the UNCCD website during the rebranding and redesign in 2022. The main elements of the UNCCD Knowledge Tools are: (i) providing easy access to relevant best practices, primarily on sustainable land management (SLM), in collaboration with World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT); (ii) the Drought Toolbox (based on the three pillars of Monitoring and Early Warning, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, and Risk Mitigation Measures); and (iii) the SDS Toolbox (which was developed and structured based on the SDS compendium). These elements continue to be maintained and updated.

10. In the past biennium the Drought Toolbox has been linked to a Community of Learning and Practice, which has actively contributed to sharing knowledge and practical experiences among stakeholders. For further information regarding the Drought Toolbox, please refer to document ICCD/COP(17)/11.

11. Other relevant knowledge tools that are available to UNCCD Stakeholders are the UNCCD Data Dashboard, and the Global Land Restoration Information Hub (GRIH), which was developed by the Group of Twenty (G20) Global Land Initiative (GLI) in 2024. The

GRIH is a platform to facilitate connections between experts, activists and advocates of land restoration and newcomers via forums and webinars. It also showcases key legislation, players and their commitments as well as best practice, learnings and training to support collaboration and the implementation of restoration projects. It also provides access to data, facts and knowledge.

12. To facilitate the access to these knowledge tools for UNCCD stakeholders, all platforms and tools are accessible through the "knowledge and data" section of the UNCCD website.

13. For the coming biennium, the secretariat and the GM aim to continue developing knowledge tools in collaboration with the SPI, scientific partners and other partners.

14. Knowledge-sharing efforts may also support Parties in accessing practical examples and knowledge products on sustainable land management practices relevant to soil health, land restoration, drought resilience and, where appropriate, land-based carbon sequestration. This includes, inter alia, agroecology, rangeland restoration, agroforestry, conservation agriculture and integrated water management, particularly in dryland contexts where tailored guidance may be needed.

B. Technology transfer and innovation

15. In the UNCCD context, technology transfer is defined in Article 18 of the Convention text, which lists, inter alia, the promotion and facilitation of access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how. The UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework further defines the strategy and expected outcomes and accomplishments with regards to access to knowledge and technology, under Strategic Objective 5. It indicates "Extensive efforts are implemented to promote technology transfer, especially on favourable terms and including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to mobilize other non-financial resources". The UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework also reiterates that the GM has a central responsibility to support technology transfer.

16. In 2022, the GM published the model framework for technology transfer in the UNCCD context, which was presented to Parties at the fifteenth session of the COP (COP 15). The model framework provides a proposed approach to technology transfer in the UNCCD context, and contains elements for implementation by Parties and other stakeholders.

17. In the model framework, technology transfer is described as including technology development, diffusion, transfer, and application of new and innovative technologies, as well as the transfer of related knowledge, know-how and good practices to affected country Parties.

18. The model framework includes mechanisms for vertical transfer which encourages new and innovative technologies to move up the innovation chain and helps promising new technologies out of the R&D and scientific context into a viable business context for implementation on the ground. The model framework also includes mechanisms for horizontal transfer, which entails the diffusion of more mature technologies between countries to ensure technologies are available and affordable where they are most needed (.

19. The model framework may also be relevant for the dissemination and adaptation of innovative approaches that support sustainable land management and Land Degradation Neutrality, including practices and tools related to soil health, restoration monitoring, climate-resilient land use and, where relevant, land-based carbon sequestration. In this regard, technology transfer may encompass not only equipment or digital tools, but also knowledge, methodological approaches, implementation models and good practices, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms.

20. For further information regarding the work on Technology Transfer by the Global Mechanism, please refer to document ICCD/CRIC(24)/2.

III. Responding to thematically or regionally specific knowledge transfer needs

21. The implementation of decision 18/COP.16 provides an opportunity to strengthen knowledge-sharing on emerging sustainable land management approaches that generate multiple co-benefits, including improved soil health, land restoration, drought resilience, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and, where relevant, land-based carbon sequestration. It provides opportunities to address thematic issues that may be limiting effective implementation or monitoring of LDN under specific climatic conditions or conditions that may be specific to a subregion. where Parties may require context-specific knowledge, methodological support and practical guidance to ensure that interventions remain aligned with land degradation neutrality objectives and national circumstances.

22. During the 2025-2026 biennium, direct or in-kind voluntary contributions provided the opportunity to address some of these thematically or regionally specific knowledge transfer needs, three of which are summarized here.

A. Feasibility study for carbon farming

1. The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), in collaboration with the UNCCD and regional partners, and with support from a voluntary contribution of the Russian Federation, has launched a new project on the prospects for carbon farming solutions in Greater Central Asia.[1] The study builds on the analytical framework developed in the 2024 "Carbon Farming in Kazakhstan: Unlocking the Potential" [2] assessment, adapting it to the sub-region's diverse dryland, cropland, rangeland and marginal land systems. In this work 'carbon farming' refers to land management practices at the farm level which either increase the amount of atmospheric carbon sequestered (i.e., captured and stored) by soils and plant biomass or reduce GHG emissions from activities in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector.

2. This initiative aims to assess opportunities, risks, enabling conditions and financing pathways for carbon farming as a sustainable land management approach that can contribute to land degradation neutrality, drought resilience and improved rural livelihoods across Greater Central Asia. It is emphasizing country- and landscape-specific potential while addressing key requirements for implementation, including operational measurement, reporting and verification arrangements, environmental and social safeguards, appropriate legal and policy frameworks, and the design of field-level pilot and demonstration activities to generate robust evidence for policy uptake and investment. It is therefore considered not only as a possible financing instrument, but also as a practical pathway for scaling up sustainable land management and restoration measures in areas where land degradation, drought and water scarcity constrain development opportunities.

3. The project assesses examines practices such as improved pasture management, restoration of degraded rangelands, agroforestry, and integrated soil and water management, which may generate multiple benefits including improved soil health, increased carbon storage, and diversified incomes. Feasibility depends on policy, institutional, economic and social conditions – including land tenure, community roles, institutional capacity, data availability, and access to finance – with particular attention to drylands where restoration potential is high but monitoring and benefit-sharing are complex. Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements are central: the assessment reviews data, methods and capacities needed to quantify changes in soil carbon and biomass, while acknowledging limitations in dryland systems where carbon gains are gradual and sensitive to drought and grazing. Robust monitoring supports both carbon finance and evidence-based land management decisions.

[1] See: https://iiasa.ac.at/news/nov-2025/feasibility-study-on-carbon-farming-solutions-in-greater-central-asia-kicks-off.

[2] See: https://eurasiancarbon.com/study/.

4. The initiative takes a cautious, policy-sensitive approach to financing. It explores how land-based carbon sequestration may, where appropriate and in line with national circumstances and policies, help mobilize public and private finance for land restoration – for example through voluntary carbon markets, domestic incentive schemes, public–private partnerships, mechanisms of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, blended finance, or other mechanisms rewarding measurable environmental outcomes. If countries consider climate finance or cooperative approaches under international frameworks, they must follow applicable rules, safeguards, national arrangements, and international frameworks. The project does not prescribe a single model but identifies conditions under which financial incentives support, rather than distort, sustainable land management.

5. The assessment emphasizes environmental and social safeguards. Carbon farming must avoid incentivizing inappropriate land-use change, displacement, ecosystem conversion, or inequitable benefits. In dryland and pastoral systems, interventions require participatory design with local communities, herders, and authorities, accounting for customary practices, mobility, water access, gender, and livelihoods. This is critical where restoration depends on changes in grazing management, vegetation protection, or long-term maintenance of soil and biomass carbon stocks.

6. Field pilots can test feasibility of carbon farming under real conditions, generate local evidence, refine monitoring, and build confidence among land users, investors and institutions. They enable capacity-building in restoration monitoring, carbon accounting, safeguards and benefit-sharing. This helps move from theoretical potential to investment-ready programmes.

7. This knowledge-sharing initiative strengthens the science–policy interface on dryland carbon sequestration, helping parties understand where carbon farming is suitable, where risks or costs are high, and what conditions enable scaling. It also supports peer learning on degradation, water scarcity, carbon monitoring and finance access. Consistent with decision 18/COP.16 on knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation, the initiative facilitates access to appropriate knowledge and know-how, collaborates with scientific partners, and develops practical tools for sustainable land management. Its knowledge products help Parties identify context-appropriate approaches that generate multiple co-benefits, including land restoration, improved soil health, drought resilience, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and, where relevant and measurable, land-based carbon sequestration.

8. Taken together, the feasibility study provides an example of how scientific partnerships can support demand-driven knowledge products for the implementation of the Convention. By assessing both restoration potential and possible financing pathways, the initiative positions carbon farming as a practical bridge between land restoration and resource mobilization, rather than as a market mechanism alone. Its value lies in helping countries identify where sustainable land management practices can deliver measurable land benefits, how those benefits may be monitored, and under what conditions additional finance could contribute to long-term restoration outcomes in dryland landscapes.

B. Hyper-arid zone land degradation monitoring gap

9. Thematic engagement addressing scientific and technical gaps in the implementation of the Convention includes work to refine the monitoring framework for LDN, including under conditions where the application of internationally agreed indicators presents particular challenges, such as in hyper arid zones that occur in all regions but only in a subset of Parties.

10. A report finalized in January 2025 documents an international expert process on "Monitoring Land Productivity Dynamics and Trends in Soil Organic Carbon Stocks in Hyper-arid Environments," convened in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The report synthesizes contributions from 60 experts from more than 20 countries and a wide range of institutions, including universities, national agencies, regional dryland organizations and international bodies, who examined the limitations of applying existing UNCCD and SDG 15.3.1 indicators – in particular land productivity dynamics and soil organic carbon – in

hyper-arid zones and the implications for identifying degradation hotspots, reporting to the UNCCD and supporting national and regional initiatives which include these climatic zones.

11. Drawing on structured stocktaking and a consensus-building methodology, the report consolidates the key knowledge gaps and priority pathways agreed by participants to improve monitoring in hyper-arid regions. It highlights the need to refine existing remote sensing methodologies and thresholds for low-vegetation, low SOC conditions, pilot hyper arid monitoring networks with significantly strengthened field data, and explore hybrid approaches that combine alternative proxies, higher-resolution datasets and emerging tools such as machine learning.

12. The report further underscores the importance of strengthening the science–policy interface, building national and regional capacities and establishing a community of practice, emphasizing the need for a multi stakeholder effort to develop hyper arid-appropriate methodologies compatible with the UNCCD Good Practice Guidance for SDG indicator 15.3.1 and to advance Land Degradation Neutrality implementation

C. Sub-regional ecological data challenges

13. During the 2025–2026 biennium, the secretariat, in cooperation with members of the UNCCD Interregional Group “Central Asia – Russia”, supported the preparation of the Handbook on Land Degradation Neutrality Assessment in Central Asia: Regional Experience and Practical Approaches. The work responded to a subregional demand for practical knowledge-transfer tools that would help national experts apply globally agreed approaches in dryland contexts characterized by high climatic variability, extensive rangeland systems, irrigated agriculture, salinity risks and strong spatial heterogeneity of land-use conditions.

14. The preparation of the Handbook built on the scientific, organizational and practical experience accumulated by countries of the subregion through their voluntary engagement under the UNCCD, including LDN target-setting and reporting at subnational level, pilot assessments, scientific cooperation, sustainable land management and restoration initiatives. This experience provided an important basis for identifying methodological issues requiring contextual interpretation and for translating lessons learned into a practical knowledge product for national experts and institutions.

15. 37. Central Asia poses specific technical, ecological and data challenges for land degradation assessment. Strong climatic variability complicates interpretation of productivity indicators in rangelands, where temporary vegetation stress or greening is hard to distinguish from persistent degradation or recovery. Traditional and contemporary grazing systems create complex land-use patterns not always captured by global land-cover classifications. In irrigated areas, salinization, waterlogging and fertility decline may occur without being reflected in standard land-cover categories. To address this, a Russian - English Handbook on Land Degradation Neutrality Assessment in Central Asia: Regional Experience and Practical Approaches was developed as a practical guide, courtesy of a voluntary contribution from the Russian Federation, drawing on regional expertise and UNCCD methodological guidance. The Handbook builds on official UNCCD and SDG indicator 15.3.1 reporting guidance while offering complementary analytical tools tailored to regional conditions. These tools can help Parties improve diagnostic quality, identify degradation hotspots and select context specific response measures, illustrating how knowledge sharing under decision 18/COP.16 can address regionally specific challenges while remaining aligned with the Convention’s global framework.

16. A central methodological issue addressed by the Handbook is the interpretation of land degradation dynamics where natural climate variability strongly influences monitoring results. Changes in vegetation productivity may reflect temporary drought, unusual rainfall or seasonal fluctuations rather than sustained change. Assessments based on limited snapshots risk overestimating short-term drought impacts, missing gradual degradation, or failing to recognize lasting improvements from sustainable management. To address this, the Handbook proposes using longer time series and dynamic baselines that consider the historical range of variability for a given area, ecosystem or land-use type. This enables

national experts to compare current conditions with a context-specific reference and better distinguish temporary fluctuations from persistent trends in degradation or recovery.

17. The Handbook emphasizes zonal and land-use-specific interpretation of productivity and land-cover indicators. In drylands, low vegetation cover may be natural, and increased greenness does not always signal improvement. Changes in irrigated and rangeland systems are often missed by broad global categories due to factors like salinity, waterlogging, fertility decline, grazing patterns, drought, or species shifts. The Handbook therefore recommends combining remote sensing with field verification, local knowledge, and national datasets (pasture, salinity, irrigation, land-use history), and promotes regionally adapted approaches such as transition matrices and diagnostic rules to better capture dryland dynamics

18. The analytical approach proposed in the Handbook is organized around a sequence of practical steps: zoning of territory by ecological and land-use conditions; establishment of a dynamic baseline or context-specific reference condition; use of a multi-level indicator system combining global sub-indicators with nationally relevant supplementary information; identification of degradation hotspots and areas of sustained recovery; analysis of trend persistence and recurrence; and interpretation of results for differentiated management responses. This sequence is intended to help countries move from general screening to more operational diagnosis, without creating parallel reporting requirements.

19. The Handbook links such diagnostic work to the LDN response hierarchy of avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. Stable but vulnerable areas may require preventive measures; areas showing early or moderate decline may require actions to reduce ongoing degradation; and areas where degradation is already advanced may require restoration measures. This approach helps connect monitoring results with differentiated sustainable land management responses adapted to specific ecological and land-use contexts.

20. As a knowledge-sharing product, the Handbook translates global methodological concepts into practical algorithms, interpretation matrices, checklists and examples that can be used by technical specialists at national, subnational and local levels. It also supports dialogue between national focal points, science and technology correspondents, line ministries, research institutions and practitioners by providing a common technical language for discussing land degradation dynamics. In this way, the Handbook may serve as a basis for further peer learning, training and exchange of experience among UNCCD stakeholders.

21. The process of preparing the Handbook demonstrated the value of regional scientific cooperation and peer learning. It brought together national experts, scientific institutions and relevant authorities from the countries of the subregion, allowing methodological issues to be considered against practical cases and national experience. Subject to the availability of resources, further knowledge-sharing activities could support training, pilot testing, refinement of regional diagnostic approaches and exchange of experience on the application of the response hierarchy in different land systems.

22. The regional Handbook provides an example of targeted knowledge transfer where global approaches require contextual interpretation. While developed for Central Asia, the experience is relevant to other regions facing similar challenges of climatic variability, heterogeneous land-use systems, data limitations and global indicator interpretation. It strengthens the knowledge base for linking LDN and sustainable land management, supports more precise diagnosis of degradation, and contributes to broader exchange of good practices among UNCCD stakeholders.

IV. Accessibility of best practices on sustainable land management and collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

23. The sustainable management of land and water resources is central to the objective of the UNCCD (Article 2 of the Convention) and knowledge of appropriate practices is essential for its effective implementation. The provision of evidence-based practical guidance for on-the-ground solutions has been emphasized in numerous COP decisions related to interfacing science and policy and sharing knowledge. For knowledge on SLM practices and LDN

implementation, the secretariat collaborates with, inter alia, WOCAT, which features a rich database of SLM practices (technologies and approaches), as well as spatially explicit LDN Decision Support Systems for the convergence of evidence.

24. Established in 1992, WOCAT is a global network of SLM specialists, uniting more than 2000 members registered on the WOCAT platform, as well as collaborating with institutions and actors in more than 60 countries. It connects all stakeholders involved in land management, from land users to decision-makers, and specifically works with SLM specialists and experts who share tools and methods for identifying fields of action. Furthermore, WOCAT is a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange in land management, with a particular focus on South-South cooperation and capacity development.

25. Decision 18/COP.16 requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with the WOCAT, to facilitate an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between UNCCD stakeholders globally, and encourages Parties and invites other stakeholders to continue to submit cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on sustainable land management;

26. The decision further invited developed country Parties and other Parties as well as other institutions to support the implementation of the WOCAT strategy (WOCAT 2020+) through the WOCAT Multi-donor Basket;

27. The WOCAT Multi Donor Basket was launched during COP16 with the UNCCD secretariat acting as Basket Manager. The Basket is governed by the WOCAT Steering Committee, which provides strategic oversight. Operational implementation is carried out by the WOCAT Global Executive Team, Secretariat, and the Regional Coordination Teams.

28. As of March 2026 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). committed to contributing to the Basket. WOCAT continues to invite developed country Parties, other Parties, and institutions to support WOCAT 2020+ by contributing to the MDB, in accordance with the invitation in Decision 18/COP.16. Further information on the Basket is available at www.wocat.net/en/about-wocat/multi-donor-trust-fund-for-slm/

29. The UNCCD secretariat and the WOCAT Secretariat continued their collaboration under the Partnership Agreement signed in February 2020, aligned with the WOCAT 2020+ strategy. This collaboration encompasses the ongoing development of joint knowledge products, the integration of WOCAT data into UNCCD tools and platforms, and joint support to national reporting by UNCCD Parties, as described under Decision 4/COP.16

30. Central to the WOCAT–UNCCD knowledge management collaboration is the WOCAT Global SLM Database, which serves as the primary recommended repository for SLM best practices for UNCCD stakeholders. The database currently documents more than 2,500 SLM technologies and approaches from 139 countries, and is continuously expanded and improved through contributions from Parties, national institutions, programmes, projects and WOCAT partners worldwide. Knowledge documented in the Global SLM Database is standardized and structured, quality-reviewed, available in multiple languages, and accessible through an API to ensure uptake by diverse UNCCD stakeholders, from field practitioners to national decision-makers.

31. Key activities by the WOCAT consortium since COP16 include:

(a) Maintenance and improvement of the WOCAT Global SLM Database (www.wocat.net/en/database/) and its API, providing standardised documentation of SLM technologies and approaches with improved access to SLM practices from various ecosystem types and UNCCD key topics, including drought, sand and dust storms (SDS), biodiversity and climate change

(b) Improved integration of SLM best practices in the PRAIS 4 implementation framework, strengthening the link between the WOCAT Global SLM Database and the UNCCD reporting platform PRAIS. An improved and automated linkage through the WOCAT Application Programming Interface (API) is planned

(c) Integration of WOCAT SLM good practices into the UNCCD Drought Toolbox and Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) Toolbox; an improved and automated linkage through the WOCAT Application Programming Interface (API) is planned

(d) Improvement of the integration of WOCAT Global SLM data into the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), the Great Green Wall (GGW) Observatory, the G20 Global Land Initiative (GLI) Global Land Restoration Information Hub (GRIH) and other platforms, databases, and applications.

(e) Continued representation of WOCAT SLM knowledge in the UNCCD Knowledge Hub's best practices section, with direct linkages to the WOCAT Global SLM Database.

(f) Active support to UNCCD Parties in LDN reporting through the WOCAT LDN Decision Support System (LDN DSS), regional training workshops for all UNCCD Annexes, co-publication of the SDG 15.3.1 Good Practice Guidance Addendum,[3] and GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) on Scaling Capacity for Inclusive LDN Decision Support. For further information, see document ICCD/CRIC(24)/4 - ICCD/COP(17)/CST/7

(g) Further a process was set up to identify and tag aridity-responsive sustainable land management practices in the WOCAT Global SLM Database, with systematic review, regional consultations and integration into a planned UNCCD aridity platform envisaged as next steps, subject to the availability of resources, including collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization. This work may further support Parties in accessing practical examples relevant to dryland restoration, soil health, resilience and, where appropriate, climate-related co-benefits, while remaining grounded in the core principles of sustainable land management and Land Degradation Neutrality.

(h) WOCAT also worked with the GEF Secretariat to increase the visibility of GEF-funded SLM practices in the WOCAT database, including a direct database link for GEF-associated practices, capacity-building workshops for FAO and UNDP GEF units for future SLM documentation, and joint mapping of countries with no practices yet documented in the database.

(i) A process was initiated to identify and tag aridity-responsive SLM practices in the WOCAT database, with systematic review, regional consultations and integration into a planned UNCCD aridity platform planned as next steps, subject to resources, including collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

(j) WOCAT continued to promote the application of the UNCCD-WOCAT gender-responsive SLM tool to promote and support the collection of gender-disaggregated data on SLM. WOCAT raised additional resources together with the Kaschak Institute and FAO WeCaN through the EbA Fund funded project EbA Policy Mechanisms for Gender Transformative Action: Fostering Women's Capacities in Dryland Regions. As part of this project, WOCAT will support stakeholders in several countries to collect gender-disaggregated data on SLM practices and share them through the UNCCD designated WOCAT SLM Database.

32. WOCAT's knowledge management approach is grounded in the WOCAT 2020+ strategy's three interlocking pillars: Proof (providing evidence on land degradation and SLM through knowledge tools), Priority (guiding decision-making to position SLM and LDN in strategic agendas), and Pull (addressing barriers to SLM adoption and brokering collaboration for wide SLM uptake). Together, these pillars ensure that knowledge generated through the WOCAT network translates into action at all scales, from local land users to UNCCD national focal points and international policy processes.

[3] See: https://www.unccd.int/resources/manuals-and-guides/addendum-good-practice-guidance-sdg-indicator-1531-proportion-land.

V. Conclusions

1. The Committee may wish to take note of the progress made in the implementation of decision 18/COP.16, including continued efforts to strengthen knowledge-sharing tools, technology transfer, collaboration with scientific partners and the accessibility of sustainable land management best practices through WOCAT.

2. The Committee may wish to encourage the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, subject to the availability of resources, to continue strengthening practical and demand-driven knowledge products that support Parties in advancing sustainable land management, land restoration and Land Degradation Neutrality, including in dryland and rangeland contexts.

3. The Committee may wish to acknowledge the value of targeted knowledge-sharing initiatives that respond to specific thematic and regional needs, including where globally agreed methodologies require contextual interpretation or further practical guidance for application at the national and subnational levels.

3. The Committee may further wish to encourage the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and on mutually agreed terms, to continue collaboration with scientific and technical partners, including IIASA as appropriate, in support of policy-relevant analysis designed to address thematic and regional barriers to the effective implementation of the Convention, without prejudging future work programmes or resource allocations and in accordance with national, sub-regional and regional circumstances and priorities.

4. The Committee may also wish to encourage Parties and invite relevant stakeholders to continue submitting cases of relevant sustainable land management practices to increase the knowledge base available to UNCCD stakeholders, including through WOCAT.