

Decision 12/COP.13

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 5, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Recalling decision 12/COP.12,

Taking note of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period of 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(16)/16,

Also taking note of the evaluation of the Land Degradation Focal Area by the Independent Evaluation Office¹¹ of the Global Environment Facility and *welcoming* its findings, which confirm the high relevance of the Land Degradation Focal Area with regard to country needs in all regions, especially Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3;
2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7);
3. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;
4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3;
5. *Also invites* the Global Environment Facility, during GEF-7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation;
6. *Further invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF-7 replenishment process;
7. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

¹¹ <www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/value-money-ld-2016.pdf>.

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017