

Decision 12/COP.3

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 14/COP.2 on traditional knowledge,

Taking note of the report of the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge^{1/}, the relevant documents prepared for the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session, and the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to develop a closer working relationship with related institutions and to generate synergies through collaboration. Such collaboration should also foster coordination and linkages at the national level between the national focal points of the different environment conventions and facilitate both the dissemination of information about the conventions and action to implement them;

2. *Invites* Parties to include in their national reports on implementation, as well as follow-up on recommendations made in document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3, the use made of traditional knowledge in the implementation of the national action programmes;

3. *Appoints* an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge composed of 10 experts to develop further appropriate criteria in line with future work on benchmarks and indicators, to be used by national focal points so as to:

(a) Measure the reciprocity between traditional and modern knowledge and/or promote it;

(b) Assess how networks and mechanisms created by the secretariat (regional networks, regional coordinating bodies, national focal points) are incorporating traditional and local knowledge in their work programmes;

(c) Assess the socio-economic and ecological benefits of traditional knowledge in the light of environmental changes.

*11th plenary
25 November 1999*

^{1/} ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3.