

Decision 12/COP.4

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 14/COP.2 and 12/COP.3 on traditional knowledge,

Taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Panel on Traditional Knowledge and the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on the subject,

Taking note also of the world network of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Reserves which can be an important site based tool to make inventories, validate and apply traditional knowledge,

Taking note also that the Italian authorities are in the process of establishing an international research centre on traditional knowledge at Matera, Italy,

1. *Invites the Italian authorities to continue the work undertaken in collaboration with the other interested institutions and to present a proposal for the realization of a pilot project of a network of institutions, bodies and experts on traditional knowledge. The proposal should include scientific representatives of all interested Parties, a description of the role of interested members of the network, a detailed programme of work and the expected cost for its implementation;*

2. *Requests the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, at its inter-sessional meeting to review the project, forward it to the regional groups and present it for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties in order to share results and expand opportunities for partnerships.*

*12th Plenary
22 December 2000*