

Decision 18/COP.12

Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 13/COP.8, 18/COP.10, 21/COP.11 and 23/COP.11,

Acknowledging the efforts made by the Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development (STK4SD) Consortium, the Steering Committee of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and the Scientific Advisory Committee in organizing the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by Parties to the organization of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the SPI to review the outputs of the conference and develop policy-oriented proposals for consideration by the CST,

Having considered documents ICCD/CST(S-4)/3 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2,

Thematic recommendations from the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

Interlinkages between desertification/land degradation and climate change

1. *Takes into consideration* the scientific findings of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on the interlinkages between desertification/land degradation and climate change and their effects on human well-being;
2. *Encourages* the SPI to initiate and coordinate interactions on these issues with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
3. *Invites* Parties to support, through extension services, civil society and other organizations, social learning about land degradation, climate change, SLM and land-based adaptation to climate change using appropriate language and information and communication technologies;

Traditional and local knowledge

4. *Encourages* Parties to support processes that ensure the consideration and use of traditionally and locally held knowledge;
5. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to scientifically test and validate traditional and local knowledge on SLM technologies in projects and programmes, including potential trade-offs;
6. *Also invites* Parties to integrate scientific, traditional and local knowledge when developing national and locally relevant indicators;

System approach

7. *Encourages* Parties and relevant organizations and institutions to develop and use a systems approach to assess vulnerability and adaptation capacities;

Policy relevance

8. *Requests* the SPI, subject to the availability of resources, to develop policy briefs on policy implications of the latest developments in scientific research relevant to DLDD and land-based adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;
9. *Also requests* the secretariat to support the SPI by providing it with information about ongoing activities which are relevant for the development of policy briefs;
10. *Invites* Parties and national, regional and international research programmes and organizations to promote research on the emerging policy issues identified by the SPI as contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2;
11. *Encourages* Parties and regional, subregional and international organizations and networks to cooperate in developing drought management and water security policies and programmes that address the combined impacts of drought and land degradation;
12. *Also invites* Parties to develop policies that enable the implementation of SLM and strategies for land-based adaptation to climate change by providing incentives for adaptation and removing obstacles to implement such policies, exploring, for example, innovative governance schemes;
13. *Further encourages* Parties and *invites* public and private investors to respect the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security” adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012 and the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems” adopted by the CFS in 2014;
14. *Encourages* Parties to mainstream adaptation to the combined effects of climate change and land degradation in their national development plans;
15. *Also encourages* Parties to enhance support for systems research that can identify leverage points for potential interventions for land-based adaptation to climate change; this would encompass research into modelling the impacts of alternative scenarios, including top-down and bottom-up financing, delineation of value chains that capture market and non-market values, and the quantification of the socioeconomic, environmental and cultural trade-offs from a multi-stakeholder perspective;
16. *Requests* the GM, subject to available resources, and *invites* other international cooperation institutions to assist affected country Parties in identifying and accessing domestic, foreign and innovative sources of funding for land-based adaptation to climate change;

Multi-sector collaboration

17. *Encourages* Parties to institutionalize multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation, making use of state-of-the-art participatory process design, knowledge systems and communication technology;
18. *Urges* Parties to strengthen national networks including CSO networks, and work collaboratively to strengthen regional and global science and knowledge networks; these networks should contribute to enhancing the interaction among diverse stakeholders and supporting the provision and sharing of multiple forms of knowledge on DLDD, SLM and successful strategies for land-based adaptation; this should build upon the efforts to develop the ‘portal of portals’ for DLDD known as the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal;

Monitoring and reporting

19. *Invites* the secretariat, supported by the SPI, to explore progress on the development of interoperable international observatories (for example, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems being built by the Group on Earth Observations, the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Biodiversity Observing System, and UNEPLive) in order to ensure that DLDD and LDN monitoring and assessment needs are fully integrated into existing efforts to systematically collect environmental observations;

20. *Also invites* Parties to support and incentivize the establishment or expansion, as applicable, of integrated national observatories to assess the status of land degradation and the impact of climate change, SLM and land-based adaptation to climate change, and to contribute actively to common global reporting initiatives in relation to the state of the land;

21. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* relevant technical and financial organizations, including from the public and private sector, to provide adequate support to affected country Parties for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems and for capacity-building to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement in monitoring SLM.

*11th plenary meeting
22 October 2015*