

## Decision 18/COP.13

### Follow-up on the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 23/COP.11, 19/COP.12 and 21/COP.12,

*Acknowledging* the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing the work programme for the biennium 2016–2017,

*Also acknowledging* that the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 provides scientifically-based guidance for planning, implementing and monitoring land degradation neutrality,

*Recognizing* that sustainable land management can contribute significantly to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation and to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals,

*Also recognizing* that the assessment report of the Science-Policy Interface contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 offers countries generic scientific guidance for developing sustainable land management strategies that optimize the synergies and trade-offs available through sustainable land management, and for determining the most effective means for the selection and large-scale implementation of region-specific sustainable land management practices,

*Welcoming* the work done by the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on land restoration, ecosystem resilience and their contributions to poverty eradication,

*Having considered* documents ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2, ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4,

#### **The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality**

1. *Endorses* the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 and *encourages* further conceptual elaboration and practical verification;
2. *Calls upon* Parties pursuing land degradation neutrality to consider the guidance provided by the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality and observe the principles summarised in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2, taking into account national circumstances;
3. *Invites* Parties to identify case studies on land degradation neutrality implementation and *requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism, to collect these case studies and prepare a synthesis for presentation to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to analyse the land degradation neutrality implementation experience based on the case study synthesis, and report on lessons learned, including refined guidance for implementation and monitoring of land degradation neutrality, building upon the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality, as part of its future work programmes;

**Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation**

5. *Welcomes* the scientific assessment of synergies and trade-offs brought about by sustainable land management in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation, indicating that the assessment reflects the present level of common understanding, and *encourages* further development and practical verification;

6. *Invites* Parties to consider the use of locally adapted sustainable land management practices as an effective means of achieving land-based national objectives related to addressing (i) desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality; and (ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation, taking into consideration possible synergistic national actions related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Calls upon* Parties to develop and promote policy instruments that help to overcome technological, institutional, economic and sociocultural barriers to the large-scale implementation of local sustainable land management practices by creating an enabling environment at national and subnational levels based on: (i) mainstreaming sustainable land management practices into national integrated land-use planning strategies; (ii) supporting the implementation of sustainable land management as one of the means to achieve land degradation neutrality; (iii) developing and supporting economic incentives for the implementation of sustainable land management; (iv) improving land tenure security in ways that incentivize land users to invest in sustainable land management; and (v) supporting capacity-building on sustainable land management practices at all relevant levels of decision-making;

8. *Invites* Parties to institutionalize meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of sustainable land management strategies in order to facilitate the use of scientific and local knowledge, optimize knowledge exchange and discussion between land users, policymakers, scientists, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, and increase chance that effective local sustainable land management solutions are embraced at the required scale and implemented locally;

9. *Invites* Parties to initiate and support the development of transdisciplinary research programmes aimed at: (i) performing multi-objective assessments, including synergies and trade-offs for the natural environment and human well-being; (ii) identifying barriers and enabling conditions for the implementation of sustainable land management practices; and (iii) building on participatory research methods;

10. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to continue working on the assessment to provide science-based evidence on the contribution of sustainable land management to enhancing the livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought as part of its work programme for 2018–2019;

**Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands**

11. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to further develop cooperation with the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on preparing a report on land restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3, and to also explore additional opportunities for cooperation that supports the needs of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

*9<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*

*14 September 2017*