

Decision 19/COP.7**Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of decision 19/COP.6 on Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA),

Noting with appreciation the initiatives in respect of the LADA undertaken by various international organizations and institutions, with the collaboration of the secretariat,

Taking note of the presentations made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the information contained in document ICCD/COP(7)/CST/8,

Taking note also of the comments provided by the CST at its seventh session,

1. *Encourages* the continuation of work on the LADA and the involvement of experts from the roster of independent experts in assessments;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the LADA;
3. *Invites* the GoE to take the necessary action to strengthen the links between the GoE and the work of the LADA;
4. *Also invites* the LADA to involve, and take account of the needs of, the UNCCD national focal points in its further work;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the CST at its eighth session on progress in the LADA.

*12th plenary meeting
28 October 2005*