

Decision 23/COP.1

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions,
agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Noting the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology with respect to the terms of reference and the most suitable contractor for the work contemplated in article 25 of the Convention,

1. Decides to adopt the terms of reference for the work attached in Annex I;
2. Approves the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of itself and a consortium of members, contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1 for the amount proposed, plus 13 per cent programme support costs, and requests the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention to enter into any necessary contractual arrangements on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for completion of the work within the framework of the attached terms of reference;
3. Requests UNEP to include the participation of any other organization qualified and able to contribute to the work contemplated in the proposal, provided that such organization indicates its interest to UNEP no later than 15 December 1997;
4. Requests Parties, signatories to the Convention and interested organizations including the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the Trust Fund established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/188 for the purpose of funding the work contemplated by this decision.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology will need to be broken into three phases (A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

- (a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;
- (b) A pilot, in-depth survey evaluation of the potential units in a particular region and subregion;
- (c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities.

Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Conference of the Parties, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, requires the contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of potential units, particularly existing networks and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local-level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distribution;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

- (i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;
- (ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the Committee on Science and Technology to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;
- (iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Convention.

Contract

Within the framework of these terms of reference, the head of the Convention Secretariat is authorized to conclude a contract with the organization or organizations chosen to complete the work in accordance with its or their proposal. The contract shall provide for the work to start once sufficient funds for the completion of the work have been received in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties for the amount specified in the proposal. The contract shall contain such other terms and conditions, including for the supervision of the contract and the mode of payment, as the head of the Convention Secretariat shall consider appropriate.