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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Maintenance of the roster of experts and creation of ad hoc panels of experts,
as necessary, with their terms of reference and modalities of work**

Maintenance of the roster of experts

Note by the secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains an explanatory note on the composition and use of the roster of experts. As requested by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its sixth session (decision 13/COP.6), the updated roster, containing nominations received by 22 June 2005, is available in electronic form at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Internet website at <http://www.unccd.int>. By the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to provide a hard copy of the roster to those Parties requesting it, before the seventh session of the COP.

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I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. As stated in paragraph 2 of article 24 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), “the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. The roster shall be based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation”.
2. By its decisions 18/COP.1, 13/COP.2, 15/COP.3, 15/COP.4, 15/COP.5 and 13/COP.6, the COP decided to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts, in accordance with the procedures attached to decision 18/COP.1.
3. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 24 of the Convention and decision 18/COP.1, the selection of experts to be included in the roster shall be based on nominations communicated by the Parties in writing and through diplomatic channels, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and broad and equitable geographical representation, and the need for nominees to have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. Pursuant to decision 18/COP.1, the roster of experts should also reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the need to include experts from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
4. The COP requested the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster was made available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information.
5. In its decision 13/COP.6, the COP encouraged the Parties to revise, update and propose new candidates for the roster of independent experts in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines and of women and a more balanced geographical distribution of NGOs.
6. By the same decision, the COP invited the Parties that have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster to do so, including full postal and e-mail addresses, via regular diplomatic channels, no later than six months before the next session of the COP.
7. The COP also invited the Parties to report to the secretariat on the use they have made of the roster, including the work of the experts at various levels, such as the national, subregional and regional action programmes, no later than six months before the next session of the COP.
8. Revisions and updates sent to the secretariat through diplomatic channels after 22 June 2005 will be posted on the Convention’s Internet website at <http://www.unccd.int>, as provided below. These revisions, as well as any subsequent revisions and amendments, will be taken into account in future editions of the roster.

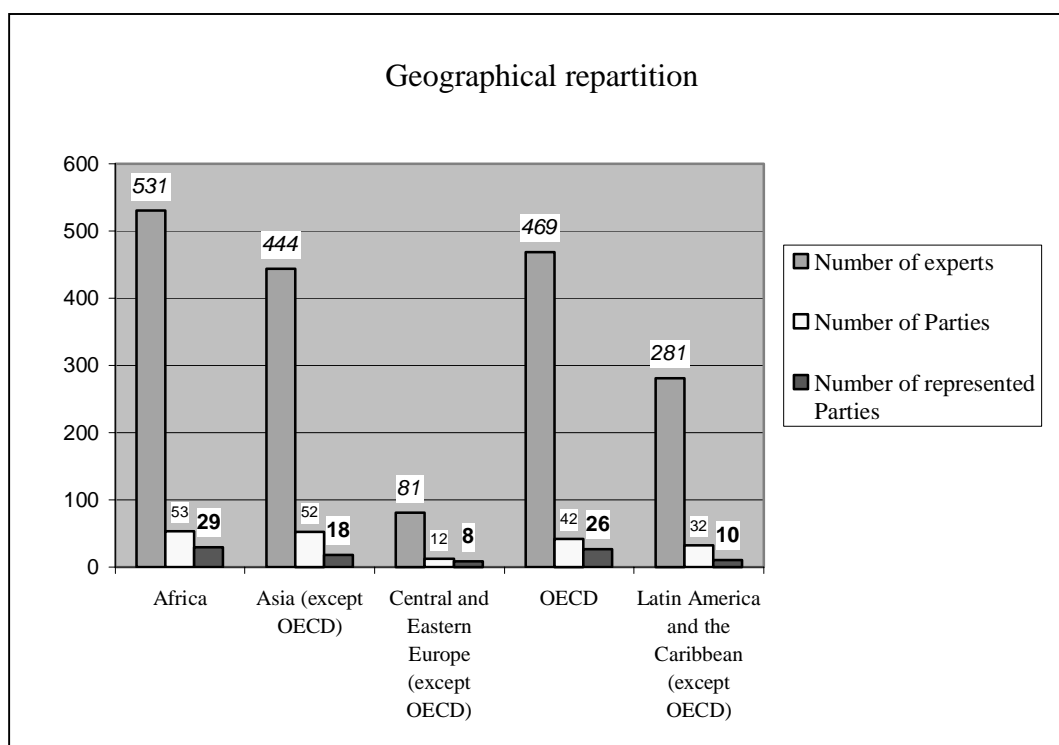
II. MAINTENANCE AND USE OF THE ROSTER

9. In accordance with decision 13/COP.6, the secretariat has kept the roster up to date including the development of a new data entry system. The secretariat also revised the curriculum vitae form to include information on NGOs as requested by decision 13/COP.6 (annex I). The amended illustrative list of the disciplines annexed to decision 15/COP.3 developed to prepare the list of nominations is provided in annex II.

10. The following general observations may be made about the roster:

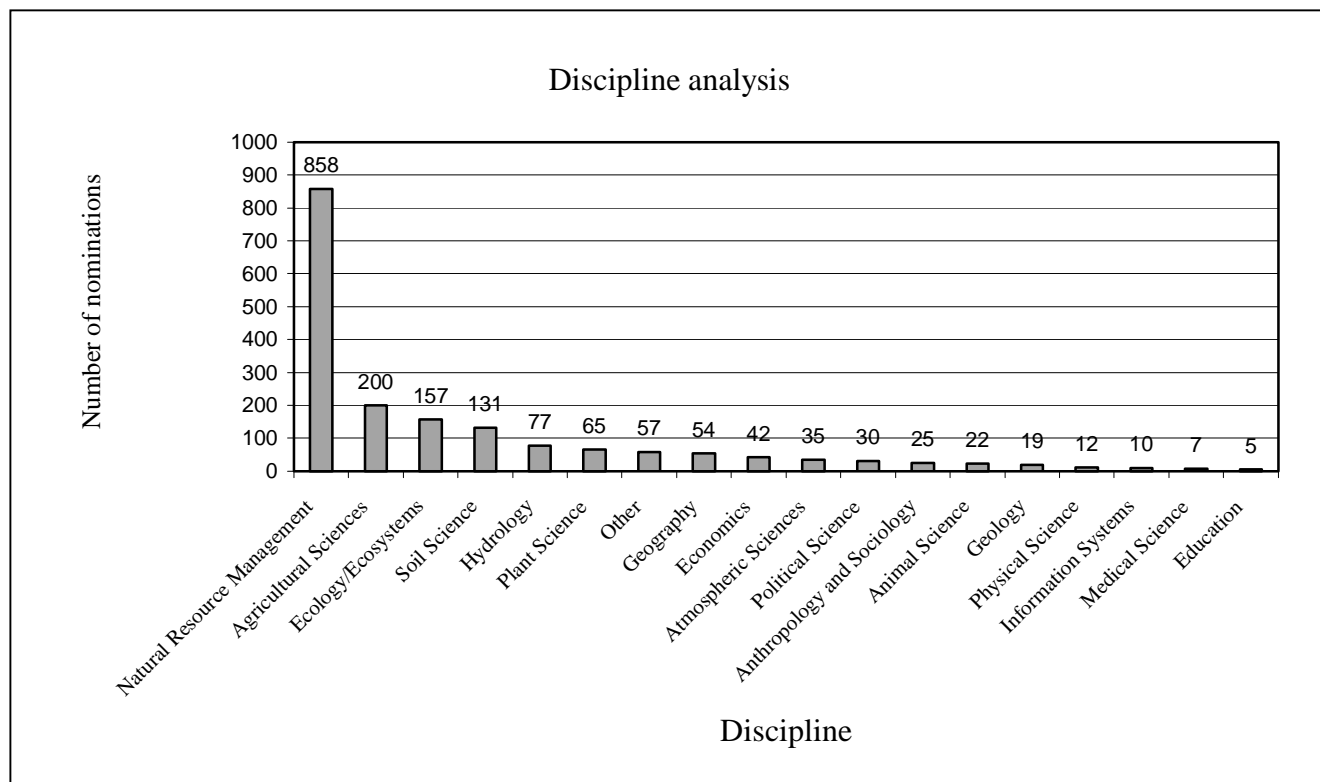
(a) The total number of experts included is 1,806.

(b) Nominations have been provided by 91 Parties representing 47.6 per cent of Parties to the Convention. A breakdown of nominations by country is provided in annex III.

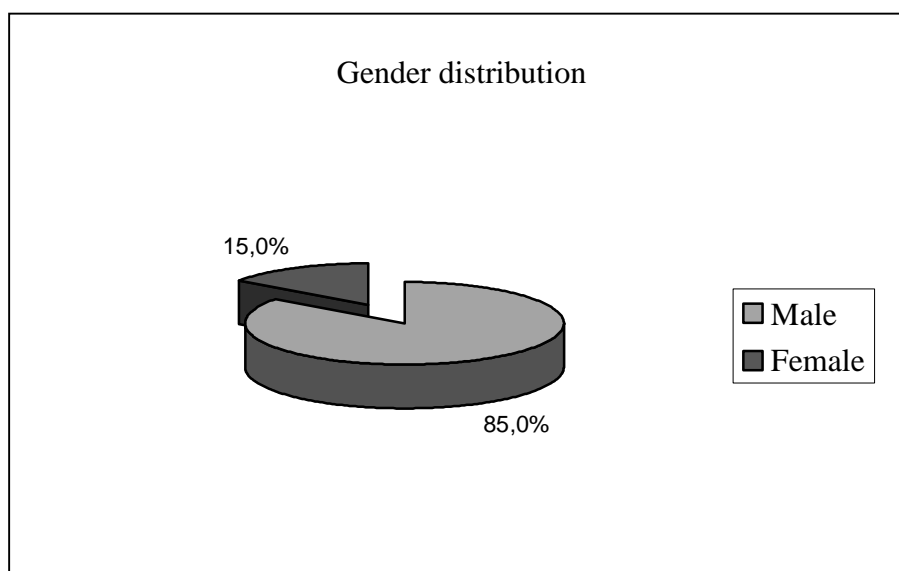


(c) Of these 91 Parties, 30 have submitted more than 20 nominations each, totalling 74 per cent of the nominations. These 30 countries are: Algeria, Armenia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

(d) The following disciplines are not sufficiently represented (less than one per cent): physical science, information systems, medical sciences and education;



(e) There are 1,536 male and 270 female candidates representing, respectively, 85 per cent and 15 per cent of the experts.



11. In accordance with the request made by the COP, the secretariat has posted an updated version of the roster on its Internet website at the address: <http://www.unccd.int>, which has its own search engine. The secretariat has also prepared a CD-ROM for Parties having no Internet access or having problems accessing this site.

12. In response to the request mentioned in paragraph 7 above, none of the Parties provided information on the use of the roster. However, the secretariat can provide the following information: during three months, from 22 March 2005 to 22 June 2005, 540 different hosts accessed the database. These figures, which exclude usage from within the secretariat, have a total hit counter of 3,000. The accessing networks belong to governmental, non-governmental, international and educational organizations and the private sector.

13. Since COP 6, the secretariat has responded to a number of requests and nominated candidates from the roster of experts to work in a variety of capacities including the following:

- (i) Lead author in preparation of the IPCC 2006 greenhouse gas inventory guidelines (2003)
- (ii) Review editor and expert reviewer for the IPCC Fourth Assessment report (2003)
- (iii) Contributing author for the International Conference on Monitoring Science and Technology (Colorado, USA, 2004)
- (iv) Nomination of experts to private sector activities relating to the DesertWatch programme dealing in soil erosion and salinity (2004)
- (v) Nomination of experts to assist in the development of the United Nations/International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Global Wildland Fire Network for West Africa (2004)
- (vi) Contributing author to the publication supporting the UN/ISDR International Conference on Disaster Management (Kobe, Japan, 2005)
- (vii) Nomination of experts for conference presentations on remote sensing and soil erosion mapping (Turkey, 2005)
- (viii) Nomination of experts to serve on the scientific steering committee for the French Biodiversity Conference (Paris, France, 2005).

Additionally, the secretariat has provided general details of experts upon informal requests from a number of sources. Roster experts from the following Parties were represented: Algeria, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Senegal and Syrian Arab Republic. The roster has also served as a basis for mailing lists developed for the dissemination of UNCCD publications.

14. Among the 1,741 independent experts on the roster submitted before COP 6, a total of 1,046 had provided one or more e-mail addresses in their CVs. In April 2005 the secretariat tested the validity of the roster e-mail addresses and requested a response from the message recipients. A total of 579 experts have invalid e-mail addresses listed in their roster CVs and 467 experts have at least one valid e-mail address. It should be noted that, even if valid, these addresses could be outdated. Of the 39 replies received by the secretariat, 11 experts reported that they had changed their e-mail address. Currently, it is feasible to contact by e-mail, at best, 26.8 per cent of roster members. It is also noted that among the valid postal addresses, 10.3 per cent are generic, that is, shared by at least two experts.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention and the procedures to be followed in maintaining the roster of independent experts, the COP may wish to study possible recommendations from the Committee on Science and Technology regarding the revision and use of the roster as invited under decision 13/COP.6. The COP may also wish: (i) to give the secretariat instructions on measures to facilitate the updating of individual details by adequate means, including using the web, (ii) to request Parties to send information to the secretariat in order to update the roster, and (iii) to request the secretariat to take adequate measures to ensure that the roster is more balanced in terms of its geographical representation and representation of disciplines, and in terms of gender.

16. Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject, the COP may wish to request that (i) the Group of Experts' (GoE) work programme activities should include, as far as possible, a strategy on how to utilize the roster, and (ii) that the GoE communication strategy and the collection of case studies and best practices should make use of the experience of the experts included in the roster.

Annex I

**FORMAT FOR CURRICULA VITAE FOR THE UNCCD
ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS**

(To be typed or submitted in ink in block letters)

Family name/surname: _____

First/given name: _____

Nationality: _____

Title: _____

Year of birth: _____ Sex: Male Female

Country of nomination: _____

Place of current employment: _____

Position held: _____

Type of organization: Government

NGO

Other _____

Work address: _____

City/country: _____

Tel: _____/_____ Fax: _____/_____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Rank your four main disciplines (in English)* :

1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____

Geographic area(s) of field of experience (countries/regions): _____

Languages in which you are fluent (list mother tongue first): _____

University qualifications (degree, subject, university, year): _____

Selected publications

List FIVE of your most relevant publications: author, year, title, journal, volume, page, publisher,** and city of publication. Please note that for technical reasons the roster can include only a limited number (five). Kindly respect the limit.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

* Please use the attached list.

** For books only.

Total number of publications (including five above): _____

Summary of relevant work experience

Please summarize your project experience (advisory or participatory) in no more than ten lines, including field and practical experience, as well as the application of any gender-sensitive approaches.

Other (maximum five) important relevant professional activities, membership in professional associations, etc.:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Three principal awards and honorary positions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Annex II**INDICATIVE LIST OF DISCIPLINES**

<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Example</u>
Agricultural science	horticulture, agricultural engineering, entomology
Animal science	veterinary science, livestock management
Anthropology and sociology	palaeontology, rural sociology, gender studies
Atmospheric science	meteorology, climatology
Ecology	population ecology, restoration ecology
Economics	finance, trade
Education	training and extension
Geography	cartography
Geology	mining, petroleum engineering
Hydrology	irrigation
Information systems	database management, geographic information systems (GIS)
Medical science	public health
Natural resource management	forestry, biodiversity conservation, land-use planning
Physical science	chemistry, physics
Plant science	botany, plant genetics
Political science	law, administration
Soil science	soil chemistry, soil physics
Other	all disciplines not included above

Guidelines:

1. To maintain consistency, the roster should use only disciplines from the list.
2. "Other" covers any disciplines not on the list.
3. The analysis of disciplines should examine the first discipline listed for each person.
4. In addition, the roster should also list specialization and geographic focus for each person.

Annex III**NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS BY COUNTRY**

Algeria	29	Lebanon	19
Argentina	18	Lesotho	11
Armenia	26	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	19
Austria	4	Madagascar	1
Belarus	12	Malaysia	2
Belgium	14	Mali	19
Benin	8	Mexico	53
Brazil	27	Mongolia	3
Bulgaria	1	Morocco	31
Burkina Faso	76	Namibia	2
Canada	11	Netherlands	2
Cape Verde	8	Niger	30
Central African Republic	1	Nigeria	42
Chile	25	Norway	1
China	159	Oman	2
Colombia	5	Pakistan	24
Congo	17	Palestine	2
Cuba	102	Peru	20
Czech Republic	4	Philippines	18
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8	Poland	1
Denmark	2	Portugal	6
Dominican Republic	23	Republic of Korea	19
Ecuador	6	Republic of Moldova	1
Egypt	29	Romania	1
Eritrea	4	Saudi Arabia	42
Ethiopia	23	Senegal	32
European Community	2	Slovak Republic	1
Finland	11	South Africa	10
France	37	Spain	33
Georgia	10	Sudan	5
Germany	42	Sweden	2
Ghana	25	Switzerland	4
Greece	8	Syrian Arab Republic	20
Honduras	2	Thailand	1
Hungary	1	Togo	7
Iceland	4	Tunisia	15
India	31	Turkey	93
Indonesia	10	Turkmenistan	11
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	42	Ukraine	29
Israel	37	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6
Italy	80	United Republic of Tanzania	9
Japan	38	United States of America	7
Jordan	33	Uzbekistan	18
Kazakhstan	8	Zambia	9
Kenya	16	Zimbabwe	43
Kyrgyzstan	1		
		TOTAL	1806
