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**Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda**  
**Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology**  
**Final report of the Group of Experts**

**Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts  
of the Committee on Science and Technology**

**Note by the secretariat\***

**Addendum**

**Case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users  
in implementing the Convention**

*Summary*

Stories of successful case studies need to be documented in order to demonstrate tangible and intangible impacts on the improvement of natural, physical, social and human capital that are essential for sustaining rehabilitated, degraded and desertified lands. One of the goals of the work programme of the Group of Experts (GoE) of the Committee on Science and Technology is to identify conservation and rehabilitation case studies and technologies that address issues relating to the control of land degradation – case studies of successes in bringing degraded land back into productive use for creating sustainable livelihoods. Most of the technologies in the case studies will require community participation for their sustainability. The bottom-up approach of community participation is one of the central issues in the identification of successful case studies. The GoE concluded that the framework that needs to be used for determining the success of a case study is the sustainable livelihood framework, which is a tool based on a set of broad success indicators – natural, physical, social, human and financial.

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\* The submission of this document was delayed due to the short time available between the sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Conference of the Parties.

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## I. Introduction

1. During the fourth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), it was observed that although good work on soil and water conservation and control of other forms of lands degradation has been undertaken in many countries for some time, the successes have not been properly documented. Hence, these successful efforts cannot be replicated in other countries.

2. The Group of Experts (GoE) of the CST was therefore requested, by decision 15/COP.6, to document some of the case studies so that the work described in them can be replicated in other countries under national action programmes to combat desertification. Consequently, the GoE embarked on the task of identifying and assessing case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention.

## II. Case studies identified

3. Requests were sent out to Parties and the following case studies on the control of land degradation were received and reviewed:

- Revival of traditional water harvesting system: Tarun Bharat Sangh (India)
- Rehabilitation of assigned lands (India)
- Joint forest management (India)
- Wasteland management through plantation for biodiesel and paper pulp (India)
- Conservation and rehabilitation of the Lavalle Desert, Mendoza (Argentina)
- Reforestation in Sierra Espuna: restoration actions to combat desertification (Spain)
- Rehabilitation of degraded peatlands (Belarus)

4. The generic livelihood framework adapted by the British Government's Department for International Development was applied for the analysis of the Indian case studies. This framework covers assets, activities and outcomes, and one of its advantages is its versatility; it can be applied to an individual, a household or a community. The model can account for factors that modify the context for the assets–activities–outcomes. The framework starts with an assessment of people's strengths in terms of various capitals (assets), and provides an opportunity to focus on various strategies (activities) resulting in improved livelihoods (outcome). Promoters, constraints and gaps were also identified in reviewing the case studies.

## III. Conclusions and recommendations

5. Community-based conservation is one of the important ways for successful protection of natural resources and biodiversity, and improvement of livelihoods.

6. Once awareness and mutual trust are generated, local people will contribute readily to conservation through self-realization and community decisions taken at village meetings.

7. The responsibility for generating awareness, encouraging community-based organizations and conducting training programmes, demonstrations and exposure visits will have

to be shared by governments and non-governmental organizations. But the process should allow for sharing of benefits by the communities, and put the responsibility on them to suitably protect and manage the resources.

8. Indigenous and modern technologies to arrest resource losses are available, but for them to be applied on a large scale they need to be appropriately blended. This is possible when the required policy framework and adequate financial support for grounding the technologies are made available.

9. Farmers who work in isolation may not be able to enjoy the fruits of advancements made in agriculture and forestry, or to achieve the goal of increased productivity. On the other hand, a consortium approach of networking research and development organizations at national and international level will help to improve the livelihoods of millions who are dependent on fragile agroecosystems, which otherwise are vulnerable to further degradation and poverty.

10. New models of development through the empowerment of women hold promise, particularly in the area of natural resource management.

11. Rehabilitation of degraded lands is quite possible through the application of practicable and viable technologies mobilized at the community level.

12. The adoption of the participatory approach during the selection of indicators for information generation, which targeted the ability of farmers to replicate the interventions on their own without external support, may be taken as an indicator of success and sustainability.

13. Adequate attention needs to be given to the role of traditional knowledge in the identification of successful case studies.

14. Renewable sources of energy should also be an important component of the group of indicators considered for natural capital.

15. The case studies submitted to the secretariat are contained in document ICC/COP(8)/CST/INF.3; they have been reproduced as they were received, without editing by the secretariat.

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