



**UNITED
NATIONS**



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4
18 July 2007

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Committee on Science and Technology
Eighth session
Madrid, 4–6 September 2007

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda
Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
Summary of activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period

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Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) has continued to discharge its duties since the seventh session of the CST, in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2005, including engaging in activities at regional level and at international forums, such as events to celebrate the International Year for Deserts and Desertification. The CST Bureau reviewed several documents in order to be acquainted with the knowledge, the comparative advantages and the modus operandi of other organizations, agencies and bodies that deal with issues of interest to the CST. The CST Bureau took part in the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2007, where the CST Chair made presentations to panel sessions on various themes. The CST Bureau also made presentations at the regional group meetings that took place during CRIC 5, in order to elucidate on the work programme of the CST. These interactions at CRIC 5 culminated in several issues of interest to the CST being reflected in the deliberations at CRIC 5. Some of these issues are summarized in an annex to this document.

During its seventh session the CST made no provision for its Bureau to meet intersessionally, and no resources were allocated for its meeting during that period. The activities outlined in this document point to the need for more robust involvement of CST Bureau members in these areas of importance to the advancement of the work of the CST.

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

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I. Introduction

1. During the intersessional period several activities were undertaken by members of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) in their respective regions and at international forums. The CST Bureau took an active part in the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5) that was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2007. During this CRIC 5 session, the CST Chair made presentations during the Panels sessions that were convened to deliberate on various thematic topics.

2. The CST Bureau also made presentations in the regional group meetings during CRIC 5, upon request, to elucidate on the work programme of the CST. These interactions with the CRIC 5 culminated in a number of issues of interest to the CST being reflected in the deliberations of the CRIC 5. The CST Bureau has captured a number of these issues and has summarized them in this document in an annex for information of the Committee.

3. It was nevertheless unfortunate that no provision was made by the Committee during its seventh session, in Nairobi in 2005, for the CST Bureau to have an intersessional meeting, in order to advance its work more efficiently as required. It is the considered opinion of the CST Bureau that the importance of allocating resources for its meeting during the intersessional period should not be overlooked.

II. Participation in international meetings

4. CST Bureau members participated in numerous meetings, most of them occasioned by the International Year on Deserts and Desertification (IYDD). Most of the meetings were used as an opportunity to meet members of the CST Bureau or the Group of Experts (GoE), which served as a basis for further development within the programme of work of both the CST Bureau and the GoE.

III. Review and understanding of scientific advisory processes in other United Nations bodies

5. For the purpose of decision 15/COP.7, several documents were reviewed in order to acknowledge the advantages and modus operandi of these bodies and the reasons for their ability to provide suitable input to decision bodies (e.g., Report on International Scientific Advisory Processes on the Environment and Sustainable Development, first report (1998) prepared for the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and second report (2000) prepared for the United Nations System-Wide Earthwatch Coordination/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). A synthesis of this analysis is attached in annex I.

6. A meeting was convened to acknowledge specific modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The scope of the meeting was to develop suggestions regarding the profile and terms of reference for the scientific national focal points to review a series of measures for enhancing regional networking within the Convention following the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), and to establish procedures for the reporting of tasks accomplished. Lessons learned were that the STRP work programme has a task-based budget, that the process of developing indicators of

effectiveness is a continuous one, and that mid-term meetings are very useful for the STRP process.

IV. Participation in scientific meetings

7. A key meeting was the international workshop on climate and land degradation, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2006, organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UNCCD secretariat. A number of CST bureau members participated, as well as several members of the GoE. Participants scientifically demonstrated multiple connections between land degradation and climate, and the need for further developments was acknowledged, as well as the need for further scientific and operational developments in these fields.

V. Participation in other Convention-related meetings or projects

8. Several meetings were attended by CST Bureau members with the aim of learning about the views and perspectives of the scientific community. Based on these participations it is clear that there are a great many research results that are entirely appropriate for UNCCD implementation, i.e. for combating land degradation, drought and desertification. Scientific support for this work is requested by Parties alongside the CST process, according to work programmes of the CST and the GoE. The current development of a new framework for scientific support of the Convention takes into account such opportunities and is designed to absorb them into the Convention process at governmental level.

9. Such meetings could be Desertnet, an initiative which is designed to support the implementation of the Convention, and DeSurvey users' meeting, which is intended to identify the needs of stakeholders in the field of land degradation and desertification and to design tools according the needs of UNCCD Parties.

VI. Contribution of the Committee on Science and Technology to the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group

10. The CST representative in the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group (IIWG) is the CST Chair, as requested by the relevant decision. Throughout the IIWG process, the CST Chair sought to maximize synergy between relevant COP 7 decisions and strategic operational objectives of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

11. The draft ten-year strategic plan gives high priority to science and technology. The plan includes as an operational objective the setting up of a knowledge management system comprising specific actions structured at national and global level:

- (a) Global level

- (i) Continuous review and adjustment of UNCCD science and technology institutional support;
 - (ii) Ensuring critical mass of high level expertise in UNCCD science and technology support;
 - (iii) Training and fellowship programme;
 - (iv) Knowledge management system functioning as a framework for identifying innovative instruments for reversing land degradation and desertification and their related effects.
- (b) Regional level
- Establishing networks covering scientific information and technological needs, ranked among the top priorities of the region.
- (c) National level
- (i) The setting up of an improved and quantitative reporting system (indicator based, time referenced and territorially explicit);
 - (ii) Establishing of monitoring systems;
 - (iii) Establishing of assessment systems;
 - (iv) Scientific and technological support structured at national level and active in developing solutions for sustainable land management and to combat drought, land degradation and desertification;
 - (v) Active capacity-building measures taken with regard to science and technology involvement.

VII. Contribution of the Committee on Science and Technology to the Ad Hoc Working Group on reporting

12. National reports of affected countries must comprise two parts, descriptive and analytic.

(a) **The descriptive part** should include more specific items, as do actual reports, and be oriented toward describing approaches at national, regional and local level. This part may be structured in two sections; the first should report on systematic tools and approaches at the country or decentralized level and the second should report on individual local success/failure stories (such as projects), and should look ahead to ways and means of replicating them. Particular attention should be given to policy, secondary legislation and institutional approaches, as well as to economic and financial incentives and mechanisms. Analysis of success/failure stories in implementation of the national action programme (NAP) or of actions to combat land degradation and desertification must be evident;

(b) **The analytic part**, structured as a new format of the country profile, will function as a tool for quantitative assessment and self-assessment of the evolution of land degradation or desertification and the country's actions in combating these. It should also serve as a mechanism for identifying with greater certainty the dimension and peculiarities of the problems at national or decentralized level by giving full ownership of these data to national governments.

13. The new-format country profile should be indicator based, territorially explicit and time referenced.

(a) **Indicator-based reporting** implies the use of nationally specific and selected indicators in national reports of affected countries. Complete descriptions of indicators are reported here, i.e. the meaning of each indicator, their sampling or processing procedures, their measurement units and the legislative and institutional information behind them. For the purposes of national reports of affected countries, countries must be assisted by means of new reporting guidelines:

- (i) To review their own, existing national indicator systems in order to identify indicators which may be relevant for drought, land degradation and desertification;
- (ii) To select from existing national indicator systems those indicators relevant for drought, land degradation and desertification. A country selects and reports as many indicators as it considers relevant, but it must be mandatory that all indicators selected for reporting are part of an official institutionalized system, as reflected in the appropriate policy frameworks.

(b) **Territorially explicit reporting** would mean that the country's national territory may be broken down into administrative units (regions, counties, lands); it is up to the country to decide on the level of disaggregation. For the purpose of more territorially explicit reporting, selected indicators must refer to the administrative unit of reporting and rely on subnational biophysical or socio-economic maps and databases. Indicators may also be different from one affected area to another within the country, as available. The breaking down of administrative units must go as far as the local level because that is where the responsibility for the implementation of government policy, as well as implementation of the Convention, takes place. Reporting would cover only subnational administrative units under incidence of drought, land degradation and desertification. In this light a reporting guideline should provide guidance on disaggregating breakdown of the country into administrative regions/units.

(c) The **time referenced approach in reporting** implies that the country reports its own selected indicators at a certain moment in time. The level of indicators at the time of first reporting may serve as a benchmark for the implementation of the Convention or for assessment of the status of land degradation. In further phases the country profile must include:

- (i) New indicators, of a national, regional or global dimension, that must be integrated into the country profile and institutionalized at national level;
- (ii) Assessment and monitoring of results of drought, land degradation and desertification endorsed by national governments;
- (iii) Forecasting of drought, land degradation and desertification achieved by national governments or independent organizations.

VIII. Operations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology

14. The operation of the CST bureau in an intersessional period is a matter that needs consideration by Parties. Reasons for a low level of efficiency in the work of the CST Bureau are

multiple: technical communication problems, overload on the Chair and vice-chairs with domestic jobs, or limited opportunities for gathering and working together.

15. Intersessional CST Bureau meetings, at least one per year, would increase cooperation with other conventions and relevant scientific processes, based on the participation of CST Bureau members and UNCCD secretariat staff in different meetings. A budget should be secured for CST Bureau intersessional meetings. It would also be good practice for the benefit of the CST process that Bureau members participating in different meetings notify the others after the meetings on the outcome and potential synergies, and act accordingly.

16. Assigning specific tasks to designated vice-chairs would be an option as the CST work programme develops. As the workload on the CST agenda for COP 8 is heavy, eight full sessions of the CST, over four days, would be appropriate in order to accomplish the necessary tasks.

17. By its decision 15/COP.7, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate communication links between the GoE and the Bureau of the CST. It is noteworthy that in this endeavour important efforts were made towards a more efficient sharing of information through regular contact, both physical and via the Internet. The secretariat has created an intranet for GoE members and members of the CST Bureau which facilitates the exchange and transfer of information as well as work on common documents.

IX. Science and technology correspondent

18. By its decision 15/COP.7, the COP encouraged country Parties to select a science and technology correspondent to the CST under the coordination of the national focal point. By 30 April 2007, 61 Parties had selected such a correspondent. All information is available on the UNCCD website <www.unccd.int>. The list of Parties that have submitted a science and technology correspondent is attached to this document in annex II. Among the 61 nominated correspondents, 15 are on the roster of independent experts.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

19. The CST needs to take a leading role in making contributions to addressing implementation of the Convention, and broaden its areas of coverage to include other matters such as biofuels in the light of land degradation and climate change nexus.

20. Environmentally sound technologies that are easily available and affordable should be prioritized for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The CST should display technologies (such as renewable energy) through the COP so that delegates can clearly understand the opportunities and challenges.

21. In order to make the work of the CST Bureau more effective it is important that provisions are made by the Committee for the CST Bureau to have intersessional meetings. It is the considered opinion of the CST Bureau that it is important to allocate resources for its meeting during the intersessional period.

22. The CST needs to be provided with the resources to enable it to offer advice that will lend more authority and continuity to its work. Exchange and coordination of information and expertise for service delivery needs to be strengthened, including in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes.

Annex I

Issues considered by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fifth session relating to the work of the Committee on Science and Technology

1. The following observations made by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its fifth session (CRIC 5) are noteworthy as they are of direct relevance to the work of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST).

A. Visibility of the Committee on Science and Technology

2. The CST should accelerate its efforts to establish links with scientific communities in order to make full use of the relevant initiatives of scientists such as those in the areas of soil and water conservation, and should provide technical support to the affected countries.

B. Contribution to Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group

3. The areas where a contribution from the Intergovernmental Intersession Working Group (IIWG) is expected include proposals for predictable funding, for a more structured contribution from the scientific community and civil society in the CRIC process, and for enhancing modalities of country self assessment.

4. An enabling policy support and mechanism to capitalize on appropriate technologies, traditional knowledge and innovative entrepreneurship must be advocated by the IIWG to address land degradation and desertification in a wider context.

5. The reform of the CST should include consideration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) of the bottom-up demand-driven process, and should include locally perceived needs for research and technology.

6. For **regions other than Africa**: Parties under regional cooperation frameworks took valuable initiatives, notably for aligning scientific research and training institutions to the UNCCD objectives, launching scientific cooperation or exploiting best practices. However, the resource needs of these frameworks under the UNCCD do not receive enough attention; this is a matter that could be reviewed in conjunction with the consideration by the IIWG of CST issues.

C. Efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

7. Implementation must now translate into action on the ground. The secretariat, in its capacity of serving the CST, is invited to facilitate initiatives leading to transfer of technologies.

8. There is a need for coherent multilateral action and strategy on technology; this should focus on efforts to remove barriers to the adoption of sustainable development technologies.

9. It is important that conventions should be fully implemented through increased cooperation and the provision of technical and technological resources to affected country

Parties for carrying out priority activities identified in their respective national action programmes (NAPs).

10. More direct endeavours should be made to utilize global scientific and research and development (R&D) capabilities for combating desertification. In this regard the R&D needs and priorities of developing countries should be identified, together with possible niche opportunities for specific countries and regions, such as agriculture research, which has been identified as crucial to the success of NAPs in most of the developing countries.

11. The CST must think in longer terms (20 years); it must take a lead in making contributions to addressing implementation. Consideration of such things as biofuels, land degradation and climate change should be considered in these terms.

12. Environmentally sound technologies that are easily available and affordable must be prioritized for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, notably in Africa. The CST should display technologies (such as renewable energy) through the Conference of the Parties (COP) so that delegates can clearly understand the opportunities and challenges.

13. For **regions other than Africa**: adjustments to earlier versions of NAPs focus on mainstreaming, gap analysis, data management, changes in the legislative and institutional frameworks, and enhanced interaction between the science and research community and decision makers.

14. The time has come for the COP to consider equipping the CST with the means to deliver advice that will lend more authority and continuity to its work. Technical exchange coordination for service delivery must be strengthened, both globally and in the context of the Regional Implementation Annexes. In this respect the regional coordination units should be allowed to pursue and adjust their activities.

15. The contribution of the scientific community should be significant. The establishment of database systems, including geographic information systems, inventories of affected areas, centralized land-use information completed by quantitative and qualitative analysis, and on-site and remote-control monitoring systems, have been included as priorities in several NAPs.

D. Contribution to the Ad Hoc Working Group and the review process

16. The CST must better service the needs of Parties, and in this respect it would benefit from the participation of more independent expertise. It should also help in defining and standardizing objective targets and realistic and user-friendly indicators. The Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on improving the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP, may provide guidelines on how stakeholders could be better informed and made more knowledgeable.

17. As difficulties are encountered in data gathering and management, and in information sharing at national level, the secretariat may identify options available through international institutions to facilitate the provision of information technology to affected country Parties.

18. The second generation of UNCCD reports should facilitate indicator-based time-referenced and territorially explicit reporting, based on reliable data and information collection over time and between countries, and provide an appropriate focus on what succeeds, lessons learned, positive impacts of action taken, and ways and means of evaluating advocated approaches. It should also assist in scaling up best practices and win-win measures in order to enhance information transfer to support decision makers at all levels.

19. In order to establish the new reporting cycle on a sound basis, and to improve the reports from affected and developed country Parties, a selection of benchmarks and indicators should be proposed by the CST, taking into account existing work done on the subject. Further proposals on the UNCCD reporting process, including country profiles, should be provided by the AHWG at COP 8 with a view to achieving an agreement on multi-scale benchmarks and indicators to monitor progress against an established baseline.

20. The development of national benchmarks and indicators is important. However, the adoption of universal benchmarks and indicators that do not take into account local, national and regional specifics is not acceptable. Furthermore, benchmarks and indicators should not lead to new obligations for developing countries without the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources, in accordance with commitments made by developed countries.

21. National reports building on data collection, standardization and analysis in the trans-disciplinary fields of relevance to the implementation of the UNCCD should build and strengthen national environmental information systems and meet the needs of a wide range of multi-stakeholders' constituencies at governmental, scientific and non-governmental levels.

22. For regions other than Africa:

- (a) Generally, reports continue to be more descriptive than analytical, and to lack comparable quantitative data, and they could be more helpful in providing information on progress or results. Simplification, and analysis of results achieved, should be a feature of revised reporting guidelines. For small island developing States flexibility in the format is desirable.
- (b) As the UNCCD reporting process includes a participatory assessment with stakeholders and a national validation workshop, timely and predictable transfers of funds to allow for a careful national monitoring process would contribute to higher quality.

E. Fellowship programme

23. For **regions other than Africa**, awareness campaigns and educational systems at all levels include measures for adapting to climate change and coping with desertification. Guidelines provided to populations take local knowledge into account. Training has been provided to local authorities. Support was expressed for encouraging multidisciplinary research and developing UNCCD scholarship programmes.

F. Thematic issues

Land tenure

24. Parties should make a dedicated effort, possibly with support from the CST, to review specific critical issues, such as land-tenure regimes.

Climate change

25. The potential of the UNCCD to be instrumental in adaptation to climate change must be recognized through adjustments to appropriate mechanisms. Scientifically investigating the links with biodiversity, carbon sequestration and protection of wetlands may close gaps in knowledge of the central relevance of land and water conservation issues for synergistic strategies on environmental protection and, more specifically, adaptation to climate change.

Soils

26. For **regions other than Africa**, the loss of soil organic carbon pools and related soil degradation processes, often driven by human intervention in forest areas, croplands or rangelands, and the processes leading to the necessary restoration of soil health, are issues that the CST cannot afford to ignore.

Strategic areas

27. Land, water management and forest conservation issues in dryland ecosystems should be seen as core elements of UNCCD implementation

New sources of energies

28. To reduce the pressure on forest resources as a main domestic energy source for the greater part of the population of affected regions, emphasis on the development of new and renewable energy sources, such as sustainable biofuels, is also recommended, as is private sector investment in these areas.

Rangelands

29. A spectrum of initiatives should be aimed at promoting the sustainable use and management of rangelands, including the promotion of secure livelihoods in the pastoral livestock sector, support through research programmes in effective stockbreeding of pasture animals, and the balanced offering of incentives and disincentives aimed at reducing the numbers of herders in pasture lands.

Monitoring and assessment

30. There is a need for identification of the major aspects of land degradation arising in the various ecogeographical zones and measurement of their severity in order to find appropriate solutions. This could be done by developing natural resource management information systems

through combining the traditional knowledge of local communities with new technology, as well as by means of a comprehensive participatory monitoring and evaluation system. Priority should be given to outcome-oriented indicators at national level while including biophysical and socio-economic indicators.

31. The establishment of effective monitoring and assessment systems requires political will as well as access to adequate technology, particularly advanced space technology. There is a need to create an international policy environment for the provision and transfer of such technology to affected country Parties.

32. Further identification of the spatial distribution of poverty, combined with an emphasis on landscape units for assessment of human impact on land systems, must be undertaken in conjunction with local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and feedback from communities, in order to implement remedial approaches to land degradation and desertification.

33. Integrated systems on parameters and indicators for assessing the risks of drought and desertification and establishing scales of vulnerability must be established in support of a strategic framework aimed at reducing vulnerability to both gradual and abrupt environmental changes. By clarifying causal relationships at multiple scales, these can enable more informed territorial interventions on the part of regional and local stakeholders.

Early warning systems

34. Resources should be made available for the establishment/expansion of networks of weather stations for early warning of climate-related natural hazards at subregional and regional levels in order to facilitate observation and forecasting.

35. Developed country Parties should fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD and provide to developing countries adequate, timely, predictable resources and cost-effective, proven and appropriate technology for establishing early warning systems in order to reverse and prevent land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.

36. For **regions other than Africa**, the aggravated impact of natural catastrophes across all ecosystems owing to land degradation and deforestation is alarming. Early warning systems increasingly combine assessment of drought, impact of climate change and food security. They are further mobilized for disaster prevention. Data collection systems have been updated but not standardized. Institutional training on diagnostic techniques relating to watershed management or irrigation systems is provided to affected populations, including aboriginal communities. The practice of environmental impact assessment in ecologically sensitive areas is more widespread.

Benchmarks and indicators

37. Ten years into the implementation of the UNCCD, the setting of objective baselines and of measurable goals supported by impact indicators against which change and progress can be assessed becomes a clear necessity at both national and international level. Indeed, links between the UNCCD and reported measures are not always clear, notably because a comprehensive set of assessment indicators is lacking.

38. The Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project supports national monitoring systems. Land-degradation mitigation measures should rely on a standardized set of indicators for conservation management of environmentally sensitive areas, notably in matters of deforestation, soil erosion and salination.

39. But in many countries reliable data collection for land degradation remains a challenge, and more work is needed on developing and validating reliable indicators. In this respect the identification, standardization and application of indicators still deserve considerable attention.

40. The distinction between NAP implementation and generic sustainable land management in related fields is blurred, notably in the reports of developed country Parties, despite the existence of the Rio Markers. The complexity of establishing benchmarks and indicators in the UNCCD field of activities should not be underestimated, and proposals in this respect must be realistic.

Traditional knowledge

41. The need for protection, application and development of traditional knowledge and know-how, and the sharing of benefits arising from it, should be addressed.

42. The important role of indigenous knowledge and practices needs to be acknowledged, and new technologies need to be introduced in ways that are non-destructive, accessible and valued. Exchange of information and practices among local communities should be supported.

G. Technology transfer and capacity-building

43. There should be immediate, effective and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.

44. The digital divide between developing and developed countries should be narrowed to harness the potential of information and communication technologies for development through the provision and transfer of technology on affordable and mutually agreed terms. There should also be the provision of financial and technical support.

45. Support to developing countries for R&D in new technologies should be provided, as well as the adaptation or evaluation of existing technologies for country-specific conditions.

46. World-class centres of excellence in areas relevant to combating desertification should be established in developing countries through international cooperation. High quality “virtual universities” and virtual means of research could be created to spread knowledge, innovation and technological applications.

Capacities

47. Local, national, subregional and regional technological, scientific and research capacities in developing countries affected by land degradation and desertification should be developed and strengthened.

48. Emphasis must be placed on promoting indigenous knowledge in order to enhance the capacity of the individual family in sustainable management of natural resources and improved livelihood.

Exchange of information, transfer of technology

49. Dissemination systems and information-exchange networks should be established which include all role-players such as governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), NGOs, local communities and scientific institutions.

50. A dynamic and enabling international environment supportive of international cooperation should be created in the areas of appropriate, cost-effective technology transfer processes to promote know-how, experience sharing and information exchange.

Regional cooperation/thematic programme networks

51. There should be a strengthening of South–South, North–South and triangular cooperation in investment, trade, technology, and R&D. Regional cooperation should be enhanced through the establishment of regional/subregional arrangements, the strengthening of cooperation between national and regional institutions, and the strengthening and facilitating, as appropriate, of regional cooperation arrangements.

52. Renewed efforts should be made by all Parties to activate technical institutions to build up UNCCD networking, and relationships with the pertinent thematic programme networks should be much better exploited.

53. A proactive role of the CST and the thematic programme networks is necessary for the dissemination of technology, knowledge and know-how from international and regional levels to national and local levels.

54. There is a need to strengthen the regional thematic network of the regional action programmes as a means of promoting regional cooperation in appropriate technologies and the exchange of scientific information.

Available knowledge

55. Future orientations of scientific and technical cooperation should address the issue of the exploitation of available knowledge. Indeed, the results of considerable research undertaken in recent decades on desertification, notably in a European context, including base-level data, geographic information systems, topical analysis or sectoral studies, risk being lost because there is no proper archiving system or mechanism for transferring the accumulated knowledge to the ongoing decision-making process for natural resource management.

Annex II

Country Parties which have nominated a science and technology correspondent as at 30 April 2007

Barbados	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Belarus	Latvia
Benin	Lesotho
Bhutan	Madagascar
Brazil	Malawi
Brunei Darussalam	Maldives
Burkina Faso	Mali
Cameroon	Moldova
Canada	Mongolia
Cape Verde	Morocco
Chile	Myanmar
China	Niger
Colombia	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Niue
Czech Republic	Palestine ¹
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Peru
Dominican Republic	Philippines
Egypt	Poland
Equatorial Guinea	Saudi Arabia
Ethiopia	Senegal
France	Slovakia
Gabon	Sri Lanka
Guinea	Switzerland
Guinea-Bissau	Tajikistan
Hungary	Togo
India	Tunisia
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	United Republic of Tanzania
Japan	Uruguay
Kazakhstan	Zambia
Kyrgyzstan	

¹ Observer

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