Decision 20/COP.12

Improvement of knowledge dissemination, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 26 of the Convention, decisions 15/COP.10, 17/COP.11 and 24/COP.11,

Welcoming the efforts of the Bureaux of the CRIC and the CST to ensure coordination with respect to the issue of best practices,

Acknowledging the efforts by the secretariat, the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices on SLM,

Recognizing the difficulties faced by the secretariat and the GM with finding databases relevant to the other thematic topics on best practices, the resources required to complete the process outlined in decisions 15/COP.10 and 17/COP.11 for the SLM best practices, and the need for more cost-effective approaches,

Also acknowledging the progress made by the secretariat in developing the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and in operating the Capacity Building Marketplace,

Recalling document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/9 containing the outcome of the knowledge needs assessment conducted to identify the critical knowledge needs of UNCCD stakeholders, and thereby to clarify priorities for the development of the SKBP,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(14)/6 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5,

1.   *Invites* the University of Bern/CDE and WOCAT to:

(a)   Finalize the process for the provision of a revised reporting template and technical guidelines to be tested by Parties;

(b)   Finalize the establishment of an online facility to allow country Parties and other reporting entities to continue uploading information on "sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation" best practices;

(c)   Make data and information on SLM best practices available by allowing access through the SKBP, as relevant;

2.   *Encourages* Parties to test the revised reporting templates and to provide WOCAT with feedback to enable further adjustments and improvement;

3.   *Also encourages* Parties and *invites* other reporting entities to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices through WOCAT in order to increase the knowledge base on SLM;

4.   *Requests* the secretariat to integrate an SLM best practices component into the capacity-building activities organized in preparation for the next reporting and review exercise, and in any other opportunity that may arise, as appropriate;

5.   *Decides* that, with the exception of the "SLM technologies, including adaptation" theme, best practices reporting for the other six thematic topics identified in annex V of

decision 13/COP.9 should be discontinued, and reporting entities should be released from the current relevant reporting obligations;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to identify institutions having the required expertise, knowledge and information regarding the remaining six thematic topics, provide a link to their websites and/or databases where relevant information is made available, and channel this information through the SKBP and/or the Capacity Building Marketplace, as relevant;

7. *Also decides,* in particular, that:

(a) With regard to the "capacity-building and awareness-raising" thematic topic, the secretariat should continue to meet its obligations through the Capacity Building Marketplace, with any adjustments necessary;

(b) With regard to the "funding and resource mobilization" thematic topic, the GM should improve its "Finance Info Kit", establishing partnerships with appropriate funding institutions, mechanisms and funds, and facilitating access to information on existing and emerging funding opportunities relevant to DLDD;

(c) With regard to the "DLDD and SLM monitoring and assessment/research" and "knowledge management and decision support" thematic topics, the secretariat should post relevant information on the SKBP;

(d) With regard to the "policy, legislative and institutional framework" thematic topic, the secretariat and the GM should post relevant information on the UNCCD website;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat, in consultation with Parties, to continue developing and enhancing the SKBP in cooperation with partners in order to increase relevance for the different target groups and to expand the collection of information accessible through the portal to national and subnational actors in particular. The SKBP should facilitate and promote access to relevant knowledge from multiple sources through the internet, mobile phones and other communication channels;

9. *Encourages* developed country Parties, and *invites* countries in the position to do so and financial institutions to provide financial resources:

(a) To ensure the functioning and sustainability of the repository on SLM best practices; and

(b) To support the annual costs, expansion and further enhancement and development of the SKBP;

10. *Further requests* the secretariat and the GM to report to the next subsidiary body meetings on the implementation of this decision.

11th plenary meeting
22 October 2015