



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.: General
24 June 2013

Original: English

**Conference of the Parties
Committee on Science and Technology
Eleventh session**

Windhoek, Namibia, 17–20 September 2013

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the progress report of the UNCCD fellowship programme

Progress report on the UNCCD fellowship programme

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 22/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its tenth session, bearing in mind the need for scientific capacity-building in the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), and recalling the consensus reached by the Committee on Science and Technology on the need to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme, requested the secretariat, inter alia, to facilitate the establishment of the UNCCD fellowship programme.

The present document reports on the activities implemented by the secretariat pursuant to decision 22/COP.10. This document also contains conclusions and recommendations which the COP may wish to consider in its deliberations on the future of the fellowship programme.

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I. Introduction

1. By its decision 22/COP.10 the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) requested the launching of the UNCCD fellowship programme following the multi-stakeholder model outlined in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8, paragraphs 18 and 19.

2. By the same decision, paragraphs 2, 4, 6 and 7, the COP requested the secretariat:

(a) To form a steering group to, inter alia, administer the fellowship programme following a multi-stakeholder partnership model;

(b) To link this approach to its efforts on capacity-building activities in the context of the implementation of The Strategy;

(c) To explore the possibilities of having national, regional and international institutions support the fellowship programme; and

(e) To facilitate, in collaboration with the multi-stakeholder partnership, the establishment of the fellowship programme.

3. The present document details the activities being carried out by the secretariat pursuant to decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 7. It also outlines some of the challenges faced in the implementation of these activities, thereby providing additional information which Parties may wish to consider in their deliberations to identify additional actions necessary for the further implementation of the UNCCD fellowship programme.

II. Modelling the fellowship programme

4. The COP at its tenth session, having considered the various models proposed for the establishment of the UNCCD fellowship programme contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8, decided, by its decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 1, that the multi-stakeholder partnership model be applied in launching the said programme. This chapter outlines the actions implemented by the secretariat to facilitate the establishment of the fellowship programme in accordance with this model.¹

A. Application of the multi-stakeholder partnership model

5. As a first step in facilitating the establishment of the UNCCD fellowship programme applying the multi-stakeholder model as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 7 of decision 22/COP.10, the secretariat contacted all the organizations and institutions which had expressed an interest in the fellowship programme, in one form or another, with the aim of scheduling a meeting to discuss the first steps of the process leading ultimately to the establishment of the fellowship programme. Due to the fact that Parties have not given priority to fundraising for the establishment of the fellowship programme, and that there is no predictable and secured source of funding to support the establishment of the fellowship programme,² it has been impossible to hold meetings in person. Therefore, the first meeting, and all following ones to date, took place in the form of telephone conferences.

¹ ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8, paragraphs 18 and 19.

² Decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 5.

6. The first meeting was deliberately open-ended, allowing participation by all potential partners of the fellowship programme. In this meeting the secretariat proposed an agenda that invited participants to discuss the establishment of the fellowship programme, as referred to in paragraph 1 of decision 22/COP.10, reaching an agreement on a common vision, taking operational decisions about the future of the programme and establishing an approach to a multi-stakeholder partnership that will ensure the greatest impact, sustainability and leverage of the fellowship process. The main issues proposed for discussion included:

- (a) A vision for the fellowship programme:
 - (i) Objectives;
 - (ii) Definition;
 - (iii) Needs statement;
- (b) Partnership governance:
 - (i) Multi-stakeholder model;
 - (ii) Terms of reference for the steering committee;
- (c) Academic/Operational issues:
 - (i) Curriculum;
 - (ii) Application;
 - (iii) Identification and selection of fellows;
- (d) Development and outreach:
 - (i) Development and funding strategy;
 - (ii) Outreach and communication.

7. It should be noted that holding meetings of the steering group by way of telephone conference presents particular challenges. These relate, but are not limited to, the availability of participants, the time zone difference, technical challenges with communication facilities and very limited time for deliberations.

B. Facilitating the formation of the steering group

8. After consideration of the different options available, the secretariat organized the first meeting on the fellowship programme using the channels outlined in paragraph five above. Apart from issuing the invitation, drafting the agenda and handling organizational logistics, the secretariat also prepared the necessary background documentation for this meeting. Among more than 30 bodies officially invited, representing a cross-section of national, regional and international institutions, in accordance with decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 6, and selected on the basis of the interest in the fellowship programme expressed by them, a total of seven actually participated in the inaugural meeting, as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1

Participating institutions of the first meeting of the steering group

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Status</i>
DesertNet International	International
Sassari University	National
United Nations University, Land Restoration Training Programme	International
Justus-Liebig University Giessen	National
Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography	National
Sahara and Sahel Observatory	Regional
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	International

9. The inaugural meeting took a number of decisions towards the establishment of the fellowship programme. These included:

(a) That the programme shall be established applying the multi-stakeholder approach of governance, in accordance with decision 22/COP.10. This shall be done allowing for flexibility, thereby avoiding an overly rigid governance structure. It was noted however, that the governance structure should not be too loose as this might hinder the kind of leadership which is required to ensure the success of the programme;

(b) That terms of reference concerning the scope and operation of the programme are to be developed;

(c) That the steering group should be created and comprise all the organizations participating in the meeting while remaining open-ended, thus allowing for the inclusion of new partners inclined to be part of the group;

(d) That other institutions shall be invited to be partners of the programme without necessarily being part of the steering group, and that they may join at any stage of the programme;

(e) That the terms of reference for the steering group are to be developed and agreed upon;

(f) That the secretariat shall act as secretary ad interim for the group, and in this capacity shall assist with the organization and coordination of future meetings.

10. With the appointment as secretary ad interim of the steering group, as outlined in paragraph 9 (f) above, the secretariat is entrusted with the additional responsibility of elaborating the drafts of future documentation concerning the fellowship programme for the further consideration of the steering group. The documents prepared in this regard include:

(a) Capacity needs statement for the fellowship programme;

(b) Development and funding strategy;

(c) Added value of having the UNCCD fellowship programme;

(d) Proposed elements for the governance structure of the fellowship programme;

(e) Proposed terms of reference for the operation of the steering group;

(f) Academic and training operational issues of the fellowship programme.

11. The secretariat was further responsible for the finalization of these documents upon the receipt of comments, corrections and adjustments to the same.

C. Measures to broaden participation in the steering group

12. As referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of decision 22/COP.10, following the establishment of the steering group the secretariat continues its efforts to recruit new members. Relevant institutions were therefore contacted to attract partners at national, regional and international levels.

13. Thanks to these actions, the Asia Pacific Centre of the United Nations University for Peace has agreed to be a member of the steering group. A number of institutions have informed the secretariat that they are considering membership and shall inform on their decision at a later date.

14. There is clear reluctance by many institutions to be part of the steering group. This can be attributed in part to a lack of conviction that it is beneficial for them to do so and represents an issue that must therefore be addressed in determining actions for the further implementation of the fellowship programme.

III. Developing the scope and strategy of the fellowship programme

15. Further to decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 3, the steering group, at its first meeting, addressed the issues of the scope and strategy of the fellowship programme with the aim of ensuring that the programme meets the current and future needs of Parties. This chapter outlines the conclusions of the steering group on these issues.

A. The proposed scope of the fellowship programme

16. The steering group considered the possible scope of the fellowship programme bearing in mind its main objectives, as recalled in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8,³ and cognisant of decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 3, in particular its invitation to build partnerships and work with other institutions.

17. The steering group concluded that, to ensure the fellowship programme meets the current and future needs of Parties, it should:

- (a) Adopt an inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach and participate in wider efforts to form communities of practice and networks of experts;
- (b) Play a key role in serving as a platform to strengthen inter-linkages between participating institutions;
- (c) Not be purely academic, but also cover relevant areas of practical training;
- (d) Not be limited to simple partnership building;
- (e) Aim to act as a marketplace to match needs with available training options, while building on existing opportunities and possibilities;
- (f) Seek the involvement of all like-minded training institutions involved in academic and/or practical areas of relevance;

³ See paragraphs 1–7.

- (g) Focus on contributing to filling any gap or gaps identified in its needs statement;
- (h) Foster the use and dissemination of knowledge and best practices.

B. The proposed strategy for the fellowship programme

18. As referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 22/COP.10, the steering group shall articulate a clear strategy for the fellowship programme while taking advantage of existing opportunities for training and exchanges, catalysing further support where possible. In accordance with this provision, the steering group, during its first and second meetings, agreed that the strategy for the fellowship programme must focus on two major areas, namely, the development and the financing of the programme.

19. The steering group further decided that in the elaboration of a clear strategy for the programme the following areas have to be addressed, and shall form part of the same strategy:

- The clear articulation of the added value of having the UNCCD fellowship programme
- A capacity needs statement
- The formulation of a development and financial strategy
- The practical operationalization of the programme

20. The secretariat was requested, in its capacity as secretary ad interim of the steering group, to prepare drafts of the four documents referred to in paragraph 19 above, and to submit them to the second meeting of the steering group for its consideration. These drafts were duly reviewed, amended and adopted at the second meeting and have now been compiled into one document, "UNCCD Fellowship Programme - Partnership Agreement and Governance Manual," annexed to the present report.

C. Operationalization of the fellowship programme

21. At its first meeting held in April 2012, the steering group agreed that a partnership agreement, based on the multi-stakeholder model described in paragraphs 18 and 19 of document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8, was best suited to provide the normative basis for the operations of the fellowship programme. At the second meeting a draft of such an agreement was considered and adopted.

22. This agreement, to be signed by all participating entities, details, inter alia, the roles and responsibilities of partners, issues relating to management and administration, as well as key aspects of the overall operation and functioning of the fellowship programme. The main areas addressed in this agreement include:

- (a) Duration of the partnership;
- (b) Membership of the fellowship programme;
- (c) Composition and rules of procedure of the steering group;
- (d) Decision making;
- (e) Prohibited actions;
- (f) Withdrawal or removal of a partner from the fellowship programme;

- (g) Termination of partnership.

23. The complete contents of this agreement can be found in the annex to this document. This annex also outlines the other major aspects and actions necessary for the operationalization of the fellowship programme on a day to day basis including:

- (a) Fellowship opportunities;
- (b) Funding and financing;
- (c) Financial management;
- (d) Applications for fellowships;
- (e) The selection process and criteria;
- (f) The further evolution of the fellowship programme;
- (g) Reporting.

IV. Facilitating partnership building in support of the fellowship programme

24. All seven operational paragraphs of decision 22/COP.10 note, in one way or another, the importance of securing partnership for the establishment, development, operationalization and ultimate success of the UNCCD fellowship programme. Paragraphs 2, 4, 6 and 7 place specific responsibility on the secretariat in facilitating this partnership-building process. The actions taken with regard to paragraph 2 and 7 of decision 22/COP.10 have already been described in paragraphs 8 to 10 and 4 to 7 of this document respectively. This chapter focuses on the actions taken as regards paragraph 4 and 6 of the same decision.

A. Linking the fellowship programme with other capacity-building activities of the secretariat

25. In accordance with decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 4, the secretariat undertook and continues to carry out measures to link the fellowship programme to its other efforts on capacity-building in the context of the implementation of operational objective 4 of The Strategy. In this regard the following actions are being implemented:

(a) Promotion of the fellowship programme through the recently launched UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace. This Marketplace, which offers opportunities for capacity-building in all areas concerning sustainable land management and drought, has a section specifically devoted to promoting support for the fellowship programme, thus fully integrating the latter into the former;

(b) Linking the fellowship programme to the secretariat's overall mission of building partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and its Strategy. In this process the secretariat has sought and continues to seek practical support for the fellowship programme through inclusion of this subject in memorandums of understanding and other agreements it has signed or intends to sign with various institutions;

(c) Promoting support for the fellowship programme within specific fields such as the study of soil sciences and sustainable land management, by seeking to secure fellowships at, and with the support of, various institutions that offer such courses;

(d) The pursuit of the creation of a capacity-building council among United Nations organizations based in Bonn with a focus on capacity-building issues relevant to

the UNCCD implementation. The main purpose of this council will be to facilitate the cooperation and collaboration between participating agencies to better address the common issues of capacity-building. Regarding the specific question of support to the fellowship programme, the creation of this body shall encourage wider participation, mutual support, and facilitate a synergistic approach that could result in sharing resources and the creation of a wider platform for the realization of the programme within its foreseen scope.

B. Seeking partnership with national, regional and international institutions

26. In accordance with decision 22/COP.10, paragraph 6, the secretariat collaborated with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) regarding the possibilities of having national, regional and international institutions support the fellowship programme. At meetings of the Bureau of the CST the secretariat provided updates on actions being taken to secure the required support. The conclusions and recommendations of the Bureau were communicated to the secretariat and taken into account.

27. Despite the concerted efforts of the secretariat, success in attracting the support of national, regional and international institutions for the fellowship programme has been modest. This is understandable considering that the fellowship programme is still at an embryonic stage and more time is needed for it to be fully established. Additionally, it must be borne in mind that the programme has no independent financing that may be used as matching funds in cases that require co-sponsorship and/or the provision of some other form of material/financial support. Furthermore, the steering group at present comprises quite a small number of institutions and is limited in its operations. And finally, the secretariat, owing to very limited human and financial resources, could not in this period go much beyond providing substantive assistance in the process of laying the groundwork for the establishment of the programme.

28. Notwithstanding the challenges noted in the preceding paragraph, some progress has been made in securing the support of national, regional and international institutions for the fellowship programme. Table 2 below lists institutions which are either partners or show real potential for becoming partners in the fellowship programme. This list excludes the original members of the steering group. The secretariat continues its efforts in encouraging more and more institutions to become partners in support of the fellowship programme.

Table 2

List of new and/or potential partners of the fellowship programme

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Stage of negotiation</i>	<i>Partnership status</i>
Asia Pacific Centre of the United Nations University for Peace	International	Complete	Partner
International Atomic Energy Agency	International	Advanced	Potential partner
UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training	International	Initial	Potential partner
University of Bonn	National	Initial	Potential partner
Secretariat of the Convention on	International	Initial	Potential partner

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Stage of negotiation</i>	<i>Partnership status</i>
Migratory Species			
Syngenta AG	International	Advanced	Potential partner
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	International	Initial	Potential partner

V. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

29. The application of the multi-stakeholder partnership model in establishing the fellowship programme presented no real difficulty up to this point. Whether this model, centred on a leadership provided by a steering group consisting of voluntary members, can and will drive this programme to attain the results expected, should be taken into consideration.

30. The steering group is very limited both in size and diversity. There are no national institutions from Annexes I, II and III. There are one regional institution and three international institutions. This composition reflects no regional balance, which was one of the aims, nor does it provide the best base for the realisation of the scope of the fellowship programme.

31. However, this is a potentially interesting model with Partners contributing, at no cost, training and capacity-building opportunities that will be brokered by the fellowship programme. Additional funds for travel and living costs of a fellowship are not currently available. The programme as envisaged would achieve success only if the steering group, having no resources of its own, managed to leverage additional support from partners and/or potential partners. This lack of complementary resources makes it more challenging for the programme to secure support from potential partners.

32. To date, no voluntary funding contributions have been received from Parties to the Convention for the programme. This is significant as it might be challenging to attain any measures of meaningful success with the programme without having a resource base of any kind.

33. Linking the fellowship programme with other activities aimed at supporting capacity-building can be very beneficial. These benefits can be enhanced if the process of linkages is taken further through a conscious effort to promote direct complementarity between these activities whenever and wherever possible.

34. The establishment of working partnerships is central to the success of the fellowship programme. Such partnerships will have to be established at the national, regional and international levels with institutions that can support the realisation of the programme bearing in mind its scope and strategy.

B. Recommendations

35. Parties at the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology may wish to consider the present report and propose that the following recommendations be forwarded to the COP for its consideration.

36. The COP at its eleventh session may wish to:

(a) Approve the proposed Partnership Agreement and Governance Manual for the fellowship programme as provided in the annex to this document;

(b) Invite Parties to place a priority on funding for the fellowship programme in the 2014–2015 biennium, in order to prove the validity of the model;

(c) Request the Parties, the secretariat and the steering group to identify possible ways for providing a minimum of seed funding to be used as matching funds for travel and subsistence where fellowship opportunities have been offered by partners to the programme;

(d) Request the secretariat, the steering group and the Parties to facilitate the broadening of the steering group to ensure regional geographical balance;

(e) Invite country Parties to actively encourage their relevant national and regional institutions to become partners in support of the fellowship programme;

(f) Invite the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Regional Committees, where they exist, to lend active support to the fellowship programme by, inter alia, encouraging relevant regional and subregional institutions to become partners;

(g) Invite the secretariat to improve efforts to link the fellowship programme with its other activities on capacity-building with the aim of strengthening the element of complementarity wherever and whenever possible;

(h) Request the secretariat to implement direct collaboration with the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity in support of the fellowship programme through the mechanism of the Joint Liaison Group;

(i) Undertake at the twelfth session of the COP a review of the multi-stakeholder partnership model and the strategy for implementation of the programme with the aim of ascertaining its effectiveness.

Annex

UNCCD Fellowship Programme

Partnership Agreement and Governance Manual

This Partnership Agreement and short Governance Manual is effective as of 1 January 2014 and has been agreed to by and between the undersigned Partners.

I. Formation

The undersigned Partners hereby form a multi-stakeholder partnership (hereinafter referred to as the “Partnership”) in accordance with, and in support of, decision 22/COP.10 by the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

II. Name

The name of the Partnership shall be “UNCCD Fellowship Programme”.

III. Term

The Partnership shall begin on 1 January 2014 and shall continue until 31 December 2015.

After this period, the agreement will be automatically renewed *mutatis mutandis* when and where warranted from year to year, unless terminated.

IV. Purpose of the UNCCD Fellowship Programme

The purpose of the Partnership shall be to improve the impact of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) by expanding the pool of experienced, educated and trained academics and technical professionals working in the fields of desertification, land degradation and drought and sustainable land management.

V. Objectives

The overall objectives of the UNCCD Fellowship Programme are the following:

- (a) To help fill a significant skills gap recognized at a national level by responding to an agreed capacity needs statement;
- (b) To deliver inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary training and capacity-building opportunities to UNCCD stakeholders;

- (c) To foster the use and dissemination of knowledge and best practice;
- (d) To expand opportunities and reconcile individual needs with available opportunities;
- (e) To provide a platform and a network that can leverage access to high quality candidates and fellowship opportunities that can deliver measurable benefit to combatting desertification, land degradation and drought.

VI. Capacity needs statement (2013–2014)

A significant skills gap at a national level in critical areas, limiting the up-take and effectiveness of decisions taken during the UNCCD process, has been recognized notably in the areas of the provision of scientific advice, impact assessment, project management and the technical skills needed for field level implementation of national action programmes.

VII. Membership of the Fellowship Programme

- (a) Interested institutions may join the Fellowship Programme by submitting an expression of interest to the secretariat;
- (b) The fellowship steering committee will review all expressions of interest and invite the participation of interested institutions based on their ability to contribute to the realization of the objectives of the Fellowship Programme and in particular in filling training gaps identified in the capacity needs statement;
- (c) Additional Partners may be admitted at any time, upon consent of the Steering Committee, provided that the total number of Partners does not undermine operational effectiveness;
- (d) In order to participate, institutions must sign this Partnership Agreement.

VIII. Fellowship steering committee

A fellowship steering committee shall be established and act as the primary decision making body for the Fellowship Programme.

While subject to guidance from the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the fellowship steering committee will work to the following (draft) terms of reference:

- (a) Provide guidance on the management and direction of the Fellowship Programme, in accordance with the decisions of the COP;
- (b) Agree to a bi-annual capacity needs statement;
- (c) Establish and review criteria for the participation of additional partner institutions;
- (d) Develop and implement a workplan to effectively address academic and training issues identified in the capacity needs statement;
- (e) Pre-screen candidates based on agreed generic criteria and specific criteria;
- (f) Periodically review and assess the progress of the Fellowship Programme;
- (g) Support the preparation of the biennial report to the COP;

(h) Review the extent and effectiveness of stakeholder involvement at the regional and national level;

(i) Review, monitor and support the implementation of the Fellowship Programme's outreach and communication strategy;

(j) Provide mutual support to partners in seeking additional funding and other resources for the Fellowship Programme.

IX. Membership of the fellowship steering committee

All partners directly contributing¹ to the Fellowship Programme are eligible to participate in the fellowship steering committee during the first two years of operation of the Programme.

The UNCCD secretariat participates in the fellowship steering committee as an ex-officio member.

X. Decision making

Formal decision making regarding the Fellowship Programme remains the prerogative of the COP.

On a day to day basis, however, the fellowship steering committee will take operational decisions by consensus.

Voting, by simple majority, will be advisory and occur only when necessary.

At least three partner institutions plus the secretariat must participate in a meeting to achieve the quorum.

XI. Appointment of a Chair

The fellowship steering committee may appoint a Chair, to be chosen among one of the participating partners, with the exclusion of the secretariat.

If appointed, the term of office of the Chair will be limited to two years, non-renewable.

XII. Meetings

Meetings of the partners shall be held quarterly, following the schedule agreed by the fellowship steering committee, either in person or by electronic means.

The fellowship steering committee may be convened in person once annually, after the assessment of an existing commitment to the meeting by the majority of participating institutions.

Additional ad hoc meetings may be convened at the request of the majority of members.

The secretariat will act as rapporteur for each meeting.

¹ Providing either a financial contribution through a partner agency, or delivering training/educational opportunities.

XIII. Fellowship opportunities

Fellowship opportunities by partner agencies will be offered in line with the capacity-building needs statement, which will be placed on a dedicated webpage of the UNCCD website.

Fellowship opportunities may consist in academic, practical training or distance learning.

Fellowship opportunities may be of any duration.

Fellowship opportunities will be, predominantly, offered through existing academic and training programmes.

Specifically designed programmes would be welcome. Where possible, consultations should be held with the fellowship steering committee prior to the launch of such specifically designed programmes to ensure complementarity with the capacity needs statement.

XIV. Selection process

Fellows can apply for the course (as advertised) through the capacity-building webpage and by completing a brief fellowship form.

The fellowship steering committee will pre-screen candidates based on agreed generic criteria and specific criteria mandated by the institution (i.e. age, level of academic achievement, employment status, institutional backing and so forth).

Generic criteria:

- Qualification of the applicant to undertake the proposed activity
- The potential for the skills and knowledge acquired or advanced under the fellowship activity to lead to wider applications and benefits nationally and internationally (institutional and individual)
- Consistency of the proposed activity with the programme's objective and UNCCD priority areas
- Particular consideration will be given to proposals focusing on field activities at the local level

Additional consideration will be given to:

- Financial needs versus available resources
- Geographic and gender balance
- Competence in the language in which the training will be given, where applicable (e.g. courses, conferences, study tours)

Candidates who meet the criteria would then be recommended to the partner agency for final decision.

An offer of support would be made where available. This might include a fees waiver or additional support (travel and stipend) where available.

XV. Funding and financing

Partner organizations agree to waive fees and course costs for UNCCD fellows and course participants.

No Partner shall be compensated for services rendered to the Partnership.

Funding, where available through the secretariat or other Partners, will be provided to “fellows”, accepted on a partner academic and or training course, to provide a complete fellowship based on need (training, travel and stipend).

Partners agree to carry out joint resource mobilization activities.

XVI. Financial management

Funds may be deposited with the secretariat and earmarked for the fellowship.

Consultations will be held with the fellowship steering committee regarding allocation of any funds earmarked for this purpose.

Reporting on funds deposited with the secretariat for the Fellowship will be the responsibility of the development Partner concerned, and will be made available on the UNCCD website as well as being included in the report on the progress of the Partnership to the COP through the CST.

XVII. Reporting

An account of the state of the Partnership shall be presented to the COP, through the CST, each biennium.

XVIII. Evolution

Governance will further evolve over time and be based on the feedback of fellows and Parties to the Convention.

A course evaluation will be completed by fellows at the end of the first year of operation to guide further development.

Governance procedures will be reviewed at the end of the trial period (2014–2015) and changes made to the governance arrangements (if required).

In the intervening period, should the Partnership expand beyond effective operational capacity [30 partners], constituencies and election of the steering committee may be envisaged, together with an earlier review of the process.

XIX. Voluntary withdrawal or removal of a Partner

A Partner may withdraw from the Fellowship Programme by giving notice in writing to the secretariat. A withdrawal may take effect only after the completion of the studies of any fellows previously accepted by the Partner.

Any Partner may be requested to leave the Fellowship Programme if the academic or technical training offers are no longer relevant to the Programme.

Any Partner may be excluded from the Fellowship Programme at the request of the COP.

XX. Forbidden acts

No Partner shall:

- (a) Have the right or authority to bind or oblige any other partner to any extent whatsoever with regard to any matter outside the scope of the Fellowship Programme;
- (b) Use the name of the Fellowship Programme for other than its Partnership purposes;
- (c) Carry out any act detrimental to the interests of the Partnership or that would compromise the business or affairs of the UNCCD secretariat or the Fellowship Programme.

XXI. Termination of Partnership

The Partnership may be terminated by agreement of a simple majority of the fellowship steering committee partners or by decision of the COP.
