

## Decision VI/12

### Ecosystem approach

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions IV/1 B and V/6 on ecosystem approach,

*Noting* that, in many countries, implementation of the ecosystem approach has been slow due to financial constraints,

*Recognizing* the necessity to apply the ecosystem approach in national policies and legislation, and to integrate the approach in thematic and cross-sectoral programmes of the Convention at the local, national and regional level, and with a view to facilitating the integration of the approach, as appropriate, in the work of other forums and relevant international agreements,

*Underlining* the importance of developing regional guidelines to apply the ecosystem approach, while recognizing efforts made in this direction,

1. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations that have not done so to submit case-studies and lessons learned on the development and implementation of the ecosystem approach at the national and regional levels;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
  - a. To continue the collection, compilation and dissemination of case-studies and lessons learned and to prepare a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - b. Within the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations and bodies, in particular the United Nations Forum of Forests, to convene a meeting of experts to compare the ecosystem approach with sustainable forest management, and develop proposals for their integration;
  - c. To develop proposals for the refinement of the principles and operational guidance of the ecosystem approach on the basis of case-studies and lessons learned, including indicators and strategies for the integration of the ecosystem approach into the programmes of work of the Convention, taking into account regional differences;
3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations to provide technical and financial resources for the organization of regional workshops to promote the exchange of experiences and regional, national and local capacity-building, and to enhance awareness.