



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WATER AFFAIRS  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND EROSION



**UNCCD COP BUREAU  
PRESIDENCY AND**

**ANKARA INITIATIVE  
ACTION PLAN**

**AUGUST - 2016**

UNCCD

COP  
12



*Forest and Water are Life.*

## Abbreviations

<b>ÇEM</b>	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion
<b>DKMP</b>	General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
<b>DSİ</b>	General Directorate Of State Hydraulic Works
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>GDoAR</b>	General Directorate Of Agricultural Reform
<b>GDoARP</b>	General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies
<b>GDoEUFA</b>	General Directorate of European Union and Foreign Affairs
<b>GDoWM</b>	General Directorate of Water Management
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GM</b>	Global Mechanism
<b>GNAT</b>	The Grand National Assembly of Turkey
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>KMM</b>	Konya Metropolitan Municipality
<b>MoEU</b>	Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation
<b>MoFAL</b>	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
<b>MoFWA</b>	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey
<b>OGM</b>	General Directorate of Forestry
<b>SUEN</b>	Turkish Water Institute
<b>TEMA</b>	The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats
<b>TİKA</b>	Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency
<b>TOBB</b>	The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
<b>TSMS</b>	Turkish State Meteorological Service
<b>UCLG</b>	United Cities and Local Governments
<b>UMT</b>	Union of Municipalities of Turkey
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UTWM</b>	Union of Turkish World Municipalities
<b>WBCSD</b>	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
<b>WEOG</b>	Western European and Others Group
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorology Organisation
<b>WOCAT</b>	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

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UNCCD

COP 12

# 1

## COP BUREAU PRESIDENCY

In the year 1977, the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) adopted a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD), followed by the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD) in 1992. This committee was charged with the preparation of a Convention to Combat Desertification, which was adopted on 17 June 1994.

The Convention to Combat Desertification entered into force in 1996, and currently has 195 country members. Turkey officially undersigned the Convention on 31 March 1998 and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) legalised it with the Law no: 4340 published in the Official Gazette on 14 February 1998.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) was later established by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as its supreme governing body. The Conference had seven sessions up until 2001 and from then on has been gathering biennially, adding up to eleven total session so far. Sessions were held each in the following respective cities: COP1 in Rome/Italy, COP2 in Dakar/Senegal, COP3 in Recife/Brazil, COP4 in Bonn/Germany, COP5 in Geneva/Switzerland, COP6 in Havana/Cuba, COP7 in Nairobi/Kenya, COP8 in Madrid/Spain, COP9 in Buenos Aires/Argentina, COP10 in Changwon/Korea and COP11 in Windhoek/Namibia.

*COP10 - Korea*



*COP11 - Namibia*





During the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties in Namibia, Turkey's proposal to receive the 12<sup>th</sup> Session was approved and thus, the COP 12 was hosted by Turkey, who also took over presidency for the term, in Ankara from 12 – 23 October 2015.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties received 56 high-level participants including ministers, deputy ministers, the speaker of the Grand National Assembly, and high-level officials from the UN, and 70 participants among parliamentarians. The total number of participants exceeded 6600.

The activities, meetings, workshops and other similar events that Turkey plans to organise/contribute to during its COP12 Presidency (2015-2017) are listed in detail in the following table.

COP12 - Turkey



**PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Co-operating Institutions</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
1.	<b>Establishing the National Steering Committee of the Bureau of the COP</b>	2016 2017	Ankara	Higher committee under the presidency of MoFWA undersecretary comprising ministry representatives of at least the General Directorate levels (Annually).	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoFWA (DKMP, GDoWM, DSİ, OGM, TSMS, SUEN, GDoEUFA), MoFAL (GDoAR, GDoARP), MoEU (General Directorates of Spatial Planning; Environment Management, and of Land Registry and Cadastre)	<i>Concerning institutions were contacted through written channels to obtain participants' names; the committee was then formed and had its first meeting.</i>
2.	<b>Establishing the Coordination Board of the Bureau of the COP</b>	2016 2017	Ankara	Board of representatives from the concerning divisions of our Ministry as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the presidency of MoFWA undersecretary (Monthly).	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoFWA (ÇEM, SUEN, OGM, GDoEUFA, DKMP, TSMS, GDoWM, DSİ)	<i>Concerning institutions were contacted through written channels to obtain participants' names; the committee was then formed and has been holding monthly meetings.</i>
3.	<b>ÇEM Working Group of the Bureau of the COP</b>	January-December 2016	Ankara	ÇEM General Directorate (Weekly)	ÇEM, OGM, GDoWM, TSMS, DSİ	<i>The working group is established and has been holding weekly meetings.</i>

PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
4.	<b>Meeting of the Bureau of the COP-1</b>	5 April 2016 Bonn/ Germany		COP 12 Bureau Members: <b>Sedat KADIOĞLU (President – Turkey/ MoFWA Undersecretary)</b> on behalf of Prof. Dr. Veysel EROĞLU, the Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Ashot Vardevanyan (Vice President-Republic of Armenia/ Ministry of Nature Protection), Mr. Felipe Costa (Vice President -Brazil/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs), <b>Mr. Sun Guoshun (China/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b> , Mr. Haendel Sebastian Rodriguez Gonzalez (Colombia/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs), <b>Mr. Jean Ilunga Muneng (Democratic Republic of the Congo / Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme)</b> , Mrs. Vesna Indova (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia / Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning), <b>Mr. Mohsen Abdolhoseini (Islamic Republic of Iran / Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization)</b> , Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni (Italy/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs), <b>Ms. Skumsa Mancotywa (South Africa/ Department of Environmental Affairs)</b> , CST Chair: Mr. Dr. Hamid CUSTOVIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina)/ University of Sarajevo), <b>CRIC Chair Mr. Dr. Bukar HASSAN (Nigeria/ Federal Ministry of Environment)</b>		Meeting of the Bureau of the COP-1 was held. Participating delegation included: Undersecretary Sedat KADIOĞLU, General Director Hanifi AVCI, Branch Manager Erdoğan ÖZEVREN, Engineer Fatma Ülkü KARATAŞ, Interpreter Harun AKBAŞ Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Ambassador Melih ULUEREN
5.	<b>Meeting of the Bureau of the COP -2</b>	January 2017	Istanbul	Above listed COP12 Bureau Members.	UNCCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GDoEUFA	Meeting will take place in Istanbul. It may last 2 days as the Global Land Outlook (GLO) report will be presented during the meeting as well.

**PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Co-operating Institutions</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
6.	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of European Commission Sub-Committee No.6 Transport, Environment, Energy and Trans-European Networks</b>	15 March 2016	Brussels / Belgium	A presentation on the desertification related works in Turkey was demanded for the meeting.	ÇEM	<i>M. Abdullah YURTOĞLU was assigned. A presentation was done on the related works.</i>
7.	<b>Meeting of the Bureau of the CRIC</b>	4 April 2016	Bonn / Germany	CRIC Chair Mr. Dr. Bukar HASSAN (Nigeria// Federal Ministry of Environment) Mr. Raymond BAPTISTE (Grenada) Mr. Arun KUMAR MEHTA (India) Mr. Yurie KOLMAZ (Ukraine) Ms. Barbara M. DE ROSA-JOYNT (USA)		<i>A meeting with the CRIC chair and members planned during the Meeting of the Bureau of the COP-1 was organised.</i>
8.	<b>Meeting of the Bureau of the CST</b>	6-8 April 2016	Bonn / Germany	CST Chair Mr. Dr. Hamid CUSTOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina)/University of Sarajevo) Foued Chehat (Vice-president, Algeria) Farah A. Ebraheem (Vice-president, Kuwait) Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez (Vice-president, Mexico) Jean-Luc Chotte (Vice-president, France)		<i>A meeting with the CST chair and members planned during the Meeting of the Bureau of the COP-1 was organised.</i>
9.	<b>Intergovernmental Working Group Meeting-1</b>	26-28 July 2016	Bonn / Germany	A decision to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group to work on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention was adopted during COP12. The group was to comprise 5 representatives from each region.	UNCCD, WEOG	<i>Dr. Ahmet Şenyaz was elected to represent Turkey in the Working Group. He was chosen as the Working Group President during the first meeting.</i>



PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
10.	<b>Intergovernmental Working Group Meeting -2</b>	26-28 Temmuz 2016	Bonn / Germany	The second Intergovernmental Working Group meeting on the "Future Strategic Framework of the Convention" was held in Bonn.	UNCCD, WEOG	<i>Ministry consultant Dr Ahmet Şenyaz participated in the Working Group meeting.</i>
11.	<b>Intergovernmental Working Group Meeting -3</b>	28-30 November 2016	Istanbul	The third Intergovernmental Working Group meeting on the "Future Strategic Framework of the Convention" will be held in Istanbul following the CRIC15 meeting (Nairobi/Kenya – 18-20 October).	UNCCD, WEOG	<i>Turkey proposed to host the meeting. The third session of the Working Group meetings (25-30 persons) will be held in Istanbul (DSİ Orhantepe).</i>
12.	<b>Establishing the UNCCD Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean</b>	2016	Istanbul	The Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean will be established in Istanbul in accordance with the agreement signed on 23.09.2015 in Ankara between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the UNCCD Secretariat. 2 offices and 1 meeting room at the Regional Directorate of National Parks of Istanbul will be allocated.	"Regional Directorate of National Parks of Istanbul"; UNCCD	<i>The letter of agreement has been presented to GNAT for approval. The office will be handed over to ÇEM and is expected to be launched officially by August.</i>

**PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)**

<i>Item No</i>	<i>Event Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Co-operating Institutions</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
13	<b>Budget Allocation for the UNCCD Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean</b>	2016	Istanbul	A 170.000\$ fund has been included in the 2016 budget for the Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean.	ÇEM, Ministry of Finance	<i>Fund included in the budget, and transferred to UNCCD by 07.04.2016.</i>
14.	<b>Personnel Assignment to the UNCCD Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean</b>	2016	Istanbul	A verbal agreement has been reached to assign 1 personnel from Turkey at the Istanbul Regional Unit.	ÇEM, UNCCD	<i>Erdoğan Özevren from ÇEM has been designated as the Office Coordinator. UNCCD will decide on the 2nd personnel to assign at the Office. The appointed personnel will assume duty once the office is officially activated.</i>
15.	<b>Inauguration of the UNCCD Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean</b>	September 2016	Istanbul	The Regional Meeting and the inauguration of the Regional Coordinating Unit for Northern Mediterranean will be carried out simultaneously with the participation of Secretariat.	UNCCD, Regional Directorate of National Parks of Istanbul	<i>The inauguration is planned to take place before the regional meeting.</i>

PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
16.	<b>Northern Mediterranean Regional Meeting</b>	September 2016	Istanbul	The Meeting of the Northern Mediterranean country Parties (Albania, Cyprus, Georgia, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Bosnia Herzegovina, Malta, Greece, Israel, and Turkey) will be held.	UNCCD, Regional Directorate of National Parks of Istanbul	<i>The regional meeting is planned to be held in Istanbul prior to the CRIC15 meeting in Nairobi/Kenya.</i>
17.	<b>Celebrations for the UNCCD 17 June World Day to Combat Desertification</b>	17 June 2016	Beijing/ China	Celebrations for the UNCCD 17 <sup>th</sup> June World Day to Combat Desertification were held in Beijing under the presidency of the Deputy Prime Minister of China.		<i>Undersecretary Mr. Sedat Kadioğlu and UNCCD National Focal Point Erdoğan Özevren participated in the activities and presented a declaration.</i>
			Ankara	Activities to draw the attention of public as well as to inform and raise awareness are held every year on 17 <sup>th</sup> of June.		<i>Activities took place in DSİ Conference Hall and the Armada Shopping Mall.</i>
18.	<b>IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature) World Conservation Congress</b>	1-10 September 2016	Hawaii/ USA	We expect to participate in the congress.	IUCN, UNCCD, DKMP	<i>UNCCD will have limited participation.</i>

**PLANNED EVENTS DURING COP12 PRESIDENCY (2015-2017)**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Co-operating Institutions</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>CRIC15 Meeting</b>	18-20 October 2016	Nairobi / Kenya	CRIC was established upon a COP5 decision in 2001, and it's holding its 15 <sup>th</sup> session this year. It is assisting COP in reviewing the implementation of the Convention.	UNCCD	<p><i>Meeting agenda will include;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Future strategies of the Convention,</i></li> <li>• <i>Reporting system,</i></li> <li>• <i>LDN target setting.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>It is, therefore, particularly significant. Turkey will participate as well.</i></p>
<b>20.</b>	<b>CST13 Meeting</b>	2016	Bonn / Germany	One of the two assisting bodies to COP. It provides scientific and technological support and advice to COP.	UNCCD	<p><i>CST12 was held in Ankara prior to COP12. No specific date has been set for CST13 yet.</i></p>



## 2 ANKARA INITIATIVE

The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification was hosted from 12-23 October 2015 in Ankara by Turkey, who, therefore, took over the presidential term for 2 years.

Turkey's been providing project support to many countries, particularly in Africa, and the 2-year presidential term of COP12 is considered to be an opportunity to its determination in maintaining this support. With this goal in mind, Turkey launched the Ankara Initiative named after the host city of COP12 as a means of supporting the implementation of COP decisions.



Ankara Initiative was launched in order to facilitate attaining the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target. Ankara Initiative comprises of three main goals in socio-economic, institutional and political domains.

These are:

- Enabling individuals, with regards to socio-economic factors, to take key roles in the decision making process,
- Increasing the efficiency of institutional organisations,
- Strengthening a policy making process that supports integrated land use planning.

Ankara Initiative is based on three principles.

- It will prioritise enhanced human prosperity with a human-based approach to the combat against desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), strengthened land user rights, and active involvement of all stakeholders to the process.
- It will ensure inter-sectorial, inter-process, inter-disciplinary and cross-border co-operation and improve early warning systems in order to attain LDN targets and to facilitate the implementation of the Convention.
- It will coordinate land and water management at a reasonable scale.

Ankara Initiative is planned for a four-year-period that covers the years between 2016 and 2019. Turkey will contribute 5 million dollars to the Secretariat over this period of time within the scope of Ankara Initiative. Turkey will designate two officials to be appointed respectively in Secretariat (UNCCD) and Global Mechanism (GM) in order to take effective part in the implementation of Ankara Initiative.

Activities, meetings, workshops and other such events scheduled to be organised/contributed within the scope of Ankara Initiative are detailed in the table below



ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
1.	<b>Establishment of the Ankara Initiative Working Group</b>	2016	Ankara	A working group to formulate the Ankara Initiative Working Plan will be established under the presidency of MoFWA Undersecretary.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoFAL (GDoAR, GDoARP), MoEU (General Directorates of Spatial Planning; Environment Management, and of Land Registry and Cadastre), MoFWA (GDoEUFA, TSMS, GDoWM, DKMP, OGM, DSI, SUEN), TİKA, UMT	<i>Concerning institutions were contacted on 03.02.2016 to obtain participants' names and the working group was formed accordingly.</i>
2.	<b>Signing the Agreement on the Implementation of the Ankara Initiative</b>	4 April 2016	Ankara	An agreement is due for the Ankara Initiative launched by Turkey during COP12.	GDoEUFA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNCCD	<i>The "Agreement on the Implementation of the Ankara Initiative" was signed between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Secretariat of the UNCCD on 04.04.2016 in Bonn, Germany. The cabinet has not yet declared acknowledgement.</i>
3.	<b>Ankara Initiative Budget Contribution</b>	June 2016	Ankara	The Agreement on the Implementation of the Ankara Initiative was signed. The total contribution of 5 million \$ will be transferred in 4 instalments.	UNCCD, Ministry of Finance	<i>The first instalment is 1.250.000\$. Transfer documents are prepared. Money is wired.</i>

### ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)

Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
4.	<b>Assigning 2 Temporary Personnel in Bonn within the Scope of Ankara Initiative</b>	June 2016	Bonn/ Germany	2 temporary personnel will be assigned in Bonn for a 2-year period within the scope of Ankara Initiative.	UNCCD, MoFWA	<i>The personnel have been designated, and assumed duty in Bonn as of July 2016.</i>  <i>İbrahim Yamaç – Forest Engineer (GM)</i>  <i>Mehmet Demirci – Forest Engineer (Secretariat)</i>
5.	<b>Signing a Protocol of Cooperation with the Panafrican Great Green Wall (GGW) Agency</b>	30 May 2016	Ankara	The request to sign a protocol in order to improve the cooperation with the African countries was included in the agenda. As one of the leading implementers of GGW, the Agency was established in 2007 and its country Parties include Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Djibouti.	Panafrican GGW Agency, MoFWA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>A memorandum of understanding on combating desertification was signed between the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Panafrican Great Green Wall Agency on 30.05.2016 in Konya.</i>



ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
6.	<b>Implementation of the Protocol of Cooperation with the Panafrican Great Green Wall (GGW) Agency</b>	2016-2017	Ankara	Preparatory works for the project will commence before the end of 2016, and the project implementation will commence by 2017.	Panafrican GGW Agency, MoFWA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Works are ongoing.</i>
7.	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan African Great Green Wall Agency</b>	13-16 June 2016	Dakar/ Senegal		Panafrican GGW Agency, MoFWA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Vice-Minister Harun Tüfekçi, ÇEM General Directorate Hanifi Avcı and Engineer Sebahattin Açıkgoz participated in the meeting. Bilateral and multilateral co-operations were discussed with the ministers of country Parties.</i>
8.	<b>Cooperation with the African Union (AU)</b>	2016	Ethiopia/ Addis Ababa	A visit to the headquarters of African Union is in agenda in order to discuss the co-operation subjects with Africa.	AU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>3 written requests were sent out for co-operations within the scope of Ankara Initiative. Supporting rural development and decreasing migrations, joint projects (forestry, agriculture, rangeland) within the scope of the Great Green Wall Initiative, support to the Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan (JAP) on Agricultural Development, Agricultural Development and Food Security Ministerial Conference (private sector, institutes, international organisation) (October 2016, Sudan), African Agricultural Development Agenda Action Plan (July 2016, Ethiopia).</i>

ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
9.	<b>Co-operations with the Agencies in Africa</b>	2016 2017	Africa or Turkey	A meeting with the agencies in Africa is in order to discuss co-operation subjects in Africa.	UNCCD	<i>Secretariat expressed support. It will be included in the CRIC15 agenda.</i>
10.	<b>Determining the countries to cooperate with within the scope Ankara Initiative</b>	2016	Ankara	Africa; -Sub-Saharan (Mauritania, Djibouti, Niger, Senegal) -East Africa (Tanzania, Somalia) -South-West Africa (D. Kongo) Asia;  -Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Umman.	MoFWA, TİKA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Countries are determined in accordance with our Minister's directions. GM will also prepare a country list.</i>
11.	<b>Contacting the Selected Countries and Arranging Meetings</b>	March 2016		Priorities of our Ministry:  Mauritania, Djibouti, Niger, Central Asia (Approximately 10 countries)	MoFWA, TİKA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Negotiations initiated with Mauritania, Djibouti, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Niger and Senegal.</i>

ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
12.	<b>African Drought Conference</b>	15-19 August 2016	Windhoek / Namibia	The African Drought Conference will be organised jointly by Turkey, Namibia and UNCCD within the scope of Ankara Initiative. The conference will determine a drought and early warning strategy which will then be presented at COP13.	UNCCD, the Government of the Republic of Namibia and other international institutions	<p><i>Turkey will present 8 declarations, 3 of which will be within the scope of main theme, while others will be presented during the side event.</i></p> <p><i>Representatives:</i></p> <p><i>Undersecretary Ali Rıza DİNİZ</i></p> <p><i>General Director Hanifi AVCI (ÇEM)</i></p> <p><i>Branch Manager Abdullah CEYLAN (TSMS)</i></p> <p><i>Expert M. Berk DUYGU (GDoWM)</i></p> <p><i>Engineer Evren ÇETİN (ÇEM)</i></p>
13.	<b>Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Workshop</b>	28-30 May 2016	Konya	Facilitated by the Secretariat of UNCCD, Global Mechanism and ÇEM, Workshop was hosted by Turkey and supported within the scope of Ankara Initiative.	UNCCD, GM, TİKA	<i>In addition to 39 experts from 31 African countries, the workshop drew approximately 70 participants including UNCCD national focus points, LDN national and regional consultants, and representatives from LDN-TSP team (Secretariat/ Global Mechanism).</i>
14.	<b>Training towards African Countries on Methods to Combat Desertification</b>	30 May - 4 June 2016	Konya - Mersin-Adana	The training programme aims to share our country's experiences.	UNCCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TİKA	<i>68 participants from 30 countries joined the training.</i>

ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
15.	<b>Training towards Central Asian and Balkan Countries on Methods to Combat Desertification</b>	23-27 August 2016	Konya Mersin	The training programme aims to share our country's experiences.	UNCCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TİKA	<i>This training is postponed.</i>
16.	<b>Meteorology, Dust and Sand Storms, Combating Desertification and Erosion International Workshop</b>	04-07 October 2016	Istanbul	<p>Annotations sent to 16 countries.</p> <p><i>(Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Qatar, BAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, S. Arabia, Oman, Iran)</i></p> <p>TİKA will cover the expenses of 9 countries. UNCCD considers inviting 12 more countries (assuming all expenses).</p>	<p>UNCCD, UNEP, WMO, MoFWA (TSMS, OGM, ÇEM) TİKA</p> <p>Concerning Institutions: MoFAL, GDoWM, MoEU</p>	<i>All necessary documentation is ready for the workshop, countries are expected to send in feedbacks (15 August). Then the invitation letters will be sent out.</i>



ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
17.	<b>Drought Early Warning System</b>	2017		Examples of good practice will be gathered and shared with affected/ vulnerable countries along with relevant training/experience/ knowledge (implementations in at least 20 pilot countries).	UNCCD	<i>Secretariat suggests determining the policies in 2016, and launching the implementation and pilot works in 2017.</i>
18.	<b>World Humanitarian Summit</b>	22-24 May 2016	Istanbul	Summit was organised through the initiative of United Nations Secretary General, under the auspices of our Prime Minister.	UN	<i>A half-day side event themed "Desertification and Human" was organised.</i>
19.	<b>Establishing the Correlation between Migrations and Desertification</b>	2017		The goal is to establish the correlation between migrations and desertification/ land degradation, and to introduce migrations into the COP13 agenda in order to draw countries' attention to the subject.	EU, UNCCD	<i>Necessary preparations will be initiated in 2016. However, the budget allocation will be for 2017.</i>

### ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)

Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
20.	<b>Land Ownership Rights</b>	2017		Turkey will share its experiences in order to provide support to the concerning countries on land ownerships.	UNCCD	<i>The Secretariat suggests there might be interested NGOs.</i>
21.	<b>Increasing Local Participation</b>	2016-2017	Konya	Suggested by the Secretariat.	UNCCD	<i>A municipality from Turkey will lead. The Mayor of Konya Metropolitan Municipality declared volunteering for leadership. To this end, a workshop will be organised following the CRIC15 meeting to be held in Kenya in October.</i>
22.	<b>Model Practices</b>	2017		The upscaling of good practices well-adjusted to different country conditions will be supported (In 2016, projects will be prepared for only 3 countries).	UNCCD	<i>Selected countries are Mauritania, Niger and Djibouti.</i>
23.	<b>Supporting Countries to Reach LDN Targets</b>	2016-2017		Countries will be supported in their national LDN target setting process.	UNCCD	<i>Turkey will select 7 countries to support.</i>

ANKARA INITIATIVE WORK PLAN (2016-2017)						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
24.	<b>Evaluating the Organisational Structures of Countries and Capacity Building if Necessary</b>	2016-2017		3 countries will be supported in capacity building based on demands.	UNCCD	
25.	<b>Decision Support Project for Sustainable Land Management (DS SLM)</b>	2016-2017		The project scope will include experience sharing on up-scaling good practices of sustainable land management. Project includes 15 countries: Africa (Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia); Asia (Bangladesh, China, Philippines, Thailand); Europe and Central Asia (Bosnia Herzegovina, Turkey, Uzbekistan); Latin America (Argentine, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama)	Project is carried out jointly by FAO, GEF and WOCAT.  The responsible organisation in Turkey is MoFWA. (ÇEM)	<i>The letter of agreement between FAO and ÇEM has been drafted and consulted to experts. A meeting was held to discuss project work plan with FAO representatives and stakeholder institutions on 30.06.2016. Works are ongoing.</i>

### 3

## THE FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

Among the COP12 sessions was the Forum of Parliamentarians, held on 20-21 October 2015, a political platform established within the scope of UNCCD. It has been meeting concurrently with the Conference of Parties since 1998. The purpose is to increase parliaments' awareness on desertification/land degradation as well as enhancing the effectiveness of land policies.

The COP12 Forum of Parliamentarians was organised jointly by UNCCD, MoFWA, GNAT and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



Presidency of the Forum, which received representatives on parliamentary level from the GNAT Presidency and other political parties, will reside on Turkey until the COP13 session in 2017. AKP parliamentarian Dr. Ravza Kavakçı Kan chaired the Forum sessions.

“The Declaration of Parliamentarians” was published subsequently to the Forum to underline the awareness of the parliament of “the land-based adaptation to climate change”.

Following the Forum, parliament representatives participated in the “Ministerial Round-Table Sessions” on “Regulation on Land Rehabilitation and Conservation” and presented the Declaration on this platform

Scheduled works for the period of Turkey’s COP12 Presidency (2015-2017) are detailed in the following table.



THE FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
1.	<b>Establishing a Desertification Working Group Within GNAT</b>	January-February 2016	Ankara	A working group will be established amongst the representatives of political parties, and the group will be briefed on combating desertification.	GNAT	<i>Negotiations ongoing with Parliamentarian Dr. Ravza Kavakçı Kan, the president of the forum of parliamentarians.</i>
2.	<b>Establishing the Work Plan for the Forum of Parliamentarians (2015-2017)</b>	April 2016	Bonn / Germany	A meeting with the Secretariat will be organised to formulate the working plan for the 2015-2017 period.	GNAT, UNCCD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Working Group has not been established yet.</i>
3.	<b>Briefings for GNAT Parliamentarians</b>	March 2016	Ankara	3 briefings are scheduled.	GNAT	<i>Working Group has not been established yet.</i>
4.	<b>The Forum of Parliamentarians Steering Committee Meeting</b>	November 2016	Istanbul	President Dr. Ravza KAVAKÇI KAN (Turkey), Consultant Prof. Dr. Uwe Holtz (Germany), Mr. Gholamreza Nouri Ghezaljah (Iran), Ali bin Saad Altokhais (Saudi Arabia), Ms. Sophia Swartz (Namibia)	GNAT, UNCCD and Steering Committee	<i>Scheduled to take place following the CRIC15, concurrently with the 3rd session of the Intergovernmental Working Group.</i>



## 4 SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM) BUSINESS FORUM

Another one of the COP12 sessions is the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, held also on 20-21 October 2015. The Business Forum was initiated during COP10 in October 2011, and the second meeting was held in Namibia during COP11 in September 2013.

The Forum was organised jointly by the The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs.

Approximately 150 national and international participants from public institutions, industry and commerce chambers, heads of concerning sector unions, and CEOs joined the Forum.



Presidency of the Business Forum, finalised with the “Ankara Business World Declaration”, will be held by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey during our COP12 presidency.

Representatives from the business world participated, following the Forum, in the “Round Table Session between Ministers and private sector on Incentives” during which they presented the Declaration.

Scheduled works for the period of Turkey’s COP12 Presidency (2015-2017) are detailed in the following table.

SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM) BUSINESS FORUM						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
1.	<b>Establishing the Work Plan for the Business Forum (2015-2017)</b>	February 2016	Ankara	The Term President of the Business Forum is M. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu, the president of TOBB. MoFWA and TOBB will prepare jointly the working plan for the period of 2015-2017.	TOBB, WBCSD, UNCCD	<i>A meeting was held at the TOBB in January. They are planning on launching a foundation, and are currently conducting preparatory works.</i>
2.	<b>Establishing the Action Plan for the Business Forum</b>	March-April 2016	Ankara	A detailed action plan will be formulated based on the working plan.	TOBB, WBCSD, UNCCD	<i>The working plan is still being elaborated.</i>
3.	<b>Booklet on the Role of Business World in the Implementation of LDN</b>	May 2016	Ankara	A booklet will be prepared to brief the business world as well as to raise awareness and point out the opportunities.	TOBB, WBCSD, UNCCD	<i>Subject will be discussed within the scope of working plan.</i>

## 5

## LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS FORUM

“Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Business Forum” and the “Forum of Parliamentarians” are held during the sessions of Conference of Parties in order to increase awareness amongst stakeholders on desertification and land management. However, local administrations hold a key position in creating an effective partnership and synchronisation between regional, national and international actors. Therefore, Turkey’s presidency to the Local Administrations Forum, first of which will be organised during COP13, is considered quite beneficial.



In order to launch the process, the leadership of a municipality in Turkey is required. This municipality shall take the first step towards the Forum through UNCCD Secretariat by mobilising the national and international municipalities as well as concerning unions.

The Turkish province of Konya is within the desertification and land degradation risk group due to its arid and semi-arid climate conditions. Therefore, the region acquired highly developed practices against land degradation and the Konya Metropolitan Municipality be considered a model for municipalities worldwide with its successful works and implementations in the subject matter.

Given its exemplary achievements, Konya Metropolitan Municipality will lead the “Local Administrations Forum of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification”.

Scheduled works for the period of Turkey’s COP12 Presidency (2015-2017) within the scope of Local Administrations Forum are detailed in the following table.



LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS FORUM						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
1.	<b>Organising the Local Administrations Forum Meeting</b>	October-November 2016	Antalya	Local Administrations Forum will be organised within the scope of Ankara Initiative. To this end, a meeting will be held prior to COP13 with the representatives of local authorities of countries affected by desertification.	UNCCD, UMT, Union of Turkish World Municipalities (UTWM), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)	<i>Discussed during the COP Bureau Meeting-1. A municipality from Turkey will lead the process. The Konya Metropolitan Municipality has been selected for this position.</i>
2.	<b>Executive Committee of the Forum</b>	2016		The "Executive Committee of the Forum" will be established by contacting national and international leading municipalities and unions under the guidance of KMM. The Committee will then call upon the other Municipalities, advertise the establishment of the Sustainable Land Management Local Administrations Forum, and will organise a preparatory meeting.	Konya Metropolitan Municipality (KMM), UMT, UTWM, UCLG	<i>Works still ongoing.</i>
3.	<b>Preparing the work plan</b>	2016		Formulating the Forum agenda, Advertising the Forum, sending out the invitations, Broadcasting the good practices and effective works of local administrations.		<i>The Executive Committee of the Forum is still in establishment phase.</i>
4.	<b>Declaration preparations</b>	2016		The "Declaration on the Role of Local Administrations in Combating Desertification" will be elaborated in order to be presented during Forum.		<i>The Executive Committee of the Forum is still in establishment phase.</i>



## 6

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

NGOs can participate as observers in meetings and sessions within the scope of Conference of Parties.

It is possible for NGOs to organise side events in addition to their events during official meetings. The “Open Panel Discussions” with the NGOs ensure their active participation in the process.

NGOs are amongst the irreplaceable stakeholders of the Convention as one of the key players of the Conference of Parties, with their influence on UN programme and policies. The Conference of Parties offers NGOs not mere participation, but active roles in the implementation of the convention and the decision making process. Thus, during the meetings, they can speak for the sector they represent in their region.





Invitations were sent out to 134 NGOs working on forestry, management of natural resources, land degradation, environment, agriculture, food, water and other such subjects in Turkey, and a briefing was delivered during the meeting on 22.01.2015 on the role of UNCCD, Conference of Parties, and NGOs in this process.

Participation in the Conference requires accreditation. TEMA holds the record for the longest accreditation in our country. The number of accredited NGOs increased to 12 by 2015 (Aegean Forest Foundation, ANADOKU, Green Turkey Forestry Society, Turkish Foresters' Association, KuzeyDoğa Society, Nature Conservation Centre, Öz Orman-İş Trade Union, Soil Science Society of Turkey, Tarım Orman-İş Trade Union, TEMA, Chamber of Forest Engineers, TOBB). Turkey projects the active involvement of NGOs in the process during its presidency.

Scheduled works for the period of Turkey's COP12 Presidency (2015-2017) are detailed in the following table.



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS						
Item No	Event Title	Date	Location	Explanation	Co-operating Institutions	Current Status
1.	<b>Non-Governmental Organisations</b>		Ankara	The number of accredited NGOs increased to 12 by 2015 (Aegean Forest Foundation, ANADOKU, Green Turkey Forestry Society, Turkish Foresters' Association, KuzeyDoğa Society, Nature Conservation Centre, Öz Orman-İş Trade Union, Soil Science Society of Turkey, Tarım Orman-İş Trade Union, TEMA, Chamber of Forest Engineers, TOBB). Turkey projects the active involvement of NGOs in the process during its presidency.		<i>TEMA has been selected to represent WEOG in the UNCCD NGOs Panel. The NGO Panel will present the working plan they'll prepare to the Bureau of the COP.</i>
2.	<b>Youth Platform</b>		Ankara	The Youth Platform, established during COP12 will be activated.		<i>Still in planning phase.</i>



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COP 12





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