UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/11/25
8 October 2012[1]

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Eleventh meeting
Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012
Items 11.3 and 13.1 of the provisional agenda*

PROGRESS REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision X/33, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to identify, enhance, compile and disseminate: (i) scientific knowledge and case studies and knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration; (ii) analyses identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks, as well as of ecosystem management measures that make best use of related climate change mitigation opportunities; (iii) tools for assessing the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on biodiversity; (iv) views and case-studies from Parties on the integration of biodiversity into climate change-related activities; (v) information, including existing guidelines on invasive alien species and related management responses, noting the need for the adaptation of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change, as well as the need to reduce the impacts of existing and potentially new invasive alien species; (vi) indicators to measure and facilitate reporting on the achievement of social, cultural and economic benefits for biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation; and (vii) tools to evaluate and reduce the negative impacts of climate-change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity.

2. The same decision requests the Executive Secretary to: (i) support the design and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation as they relate to biodiversity; and (ii) report on the knowledge and information gaps identified by Parties through their national reports that prevent the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities and report on activities undertaken by organizations to address such gaps.

[1] Document reissued with minor modifications to paragraphs 31 and 50.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

3. In decision X/35, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to: (i) explore, develop and implement joint actions to increase cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity and sustainable land management and ecological restoration considerations in disaster reduction and risk management; (ii) publish, subject to the availability of financial resources, a special CBD Technical Series report on the value of dry and sub-humid lands; (iii) develop guidance on the use of water and land-use management, including adapted agricultural practices and the control of soil erosion, and on identifying threats that have the greatest impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; and (iv) identify common indicators between the ten-year strategic plan of the UNCCD and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

4. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to expand: (i) the existing CBD database of good practices and lessons learned with regard to linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to livelihoods in dry and sub-humid land; and (ii) the incentive-measures database to better include programmes in dry and sub-humid lands.

5. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to identify: (i) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNCCD, best practices to address conflicts between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and pastoralism and agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands; and (ii) good-practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups, defined based on national circumstances, in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, especially nomadic pastoralists and transhumant indigenous peoples.

6. The present document has been prepared to report on the above-mentioned activities. Section II reports on activities in response to decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change in relation to item 11. 3 of the provisional agenda and recommendation XVI/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). Section III reports on activities in response to decision X/35 on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands (agenda item 13.1). Matters related to REDD+ (agenda item 11.1) and climate-related geoengineering (agenda item 11.2) are dealt with separately through SBSTTA recommendations XVI/7 and XVI/9 respectively (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3). Also relevant to agenda item 11.1 on REDD+ is document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/24.

7. Some common issues among biodiversity, climate change, and dry and sub-humid lands include ecosystem restoration, combating desertification and land degradation, and climate-change adaptation and mitigation. This work therefore contributes to the Aichi Targets, especially Target 15 to enhance, by 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

8. Requests from decisions X/33 on biodiversity and climate change and X/35 on dry and sub-humid lands refer to the links between organic carbon stock conservation and restoration and between sustainable land management and ecological restoration. Therefore this work is also relevant to agenda item 9 on ecosystem restoration and agenda item 13.5 on agricultural biodiversity as it relates to the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity. In further developing these activities, the Secretariat will seek to increase the adherence of the various programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

II. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO DECISION X/33 ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Collect scientific knowledge and case studies and identify knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration

9. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (b) of decision X/33, requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant international organizations to collect scientific knowledge and case-studies and identify knowledge gaps on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and organic carbon stock conservation and restoration, and make the results available to Parties through the clearing-house mechanism.

10. In response to this request, a survey of primary scientific literature as well as grey literature on the links between organic carbon stocks and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity was conducted. In addition, a database structure for case-studies and knowledge on ecosystem-based mitigation was constructed. The structure could later serve as a base to expand to a full ecosystem-based mitigation database similar to the existing adaptation database available on the CBD website. The information collected is summarized in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/25.

Gather existing tools for assessing the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on biodiversity

11. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (d) of decision X/33, requested the Executive Secretary to gather existing tools for assessing the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

12. Tools to assess threats and impacts of climate change on biodiversity were gathered from a number of sources ranging from national reports to scientific and grey literature. The compiled information is being made available on the CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database (http://adaptation.cbd.int/). The tools include experimentation, impact projections, empirical analogue studies, and expert judgment. Case studies of governments and organizations using these tools are also presented.

13. Additional tools are being gathered through the pilot partnership for the national implementation of joint activities among the Rio Conventions, specifically with regards to assessing the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. This pilot partnership will be implemented in Jamaica, Guatemala, Vietnam, the French Territories of New Caledonia and Reunion, the Netherlands Territory of Bonaire and the British Territory of Bermuda. The tools will be made available through the report on the pilot partnership as well as the CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database.

Compile views and case studies from Parties on the integration of biodiversity into climate-change-related activities

14. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (j) of decision X/33 requested the Executive Secretary to compile current and additional views and case-studies from Parties on the integration of biodiversity into climate-change-related activities for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for publication on its website as appropriate and to report thereon to the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

15. In August 2008, a notification (2008-106 - SCBD/STTM/JW/ac/64561) was sent to collect views on ways to integrate biodiversity considerations in climate-change related activities. The views were incorporated into document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/22 and case-studies into the CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database.[2]

[2] http://adaptation.cbd.int/

16. Another notification (2011-201 - SCBD/ STTM/JW/lh/77967) was sent in October 2011 to solicit additional views and case-studies from Parties to expand the CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database. The Secretariat received nine responses from Parties, two responses from non-governmental organizations and two from scientists.

17. The Secretariat further reviewed views and case-studies reported by Parties in Fourth National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as in the Second, Third and Fourth National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and National Adaptation Plans of Action submitted to the UNFCCC.

18. The above information was also used for the preparation of documents for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body, including document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9: Proposals on integrating biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information; and document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/4: Integration of climate change impacts and response activities within the programme of work on island biodiversity. On the basis of this, the Subsidiary Body prepared recommendation XVI/8 and XVI/3.

19. With regards to the submission of this information to UNFCCC and UNCCD, the views from Parties concerning impacts, vulnerability and adaptation were incorporated into the submission by the Executive Secretary to the 38th session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to the UNFCCC on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, priority themes for collaboration based on the views from Parties were presented to the tenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and were reflected in the programme of the Rio Conventions Pavilion.

Compile information, including existing guidelines on invasive alien species and related management responses

20. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (n) of decision X/33 requested the Executive Secretary to compile information, including existing guidelines on invasive alien species and related management responses, noting the need for the adaptation of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change, as well as the need to reduce the impacts of existing and potentially new invasive alien species.

21. Relevant information is available in the publication "Invasive Species, Climate Change and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Addressing Multiple Drivers of Global Change", which was prepared by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP),[3] which the Secretariat has reviewed. Additional information will be compiled by the Secretariat.

Report on knowledge and information gaps identified by Parties through their national reports that prevent the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities

22. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (i) of decision X/33 requested the Executive Secretary to bring to the attention of relevant organizations the knowledge and information gaps identified by Parties through their national reports that prevent the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities and report on activities undertaken by such organizations to address such gaps.

23. The Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity was approached in order to identify an appropriate methodology for the transmission of knowledge and information gaps and ways and means to address such gaps. This methodology is still under consideration.

[3] http://www.gisp.org/whatsnew/docs/Climate_Change_ReportA4.pdf

24. Furthermore, the knowledge and information gaps identified by Parties were collected through notifications and integrated into the report to the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9). On this basis, the Subsidiary Body prepared recommendation XVI/8. Finally, relevant knowledge and information gaps related to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation were transmitted to UNFCCC through the submission by the Executive Secretary to the 38th session of the SBSTA to UNFCCC on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks, as well as of ecosystem management measures that make best use of related climate change mitigation opportunities

25. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 9 (c) of decision X/33 requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant international organizations to expand and refine analyses identifying areas of high potential for the conservation and restoration of carbon stocks, as well as of ecosystem management measures that make best use of related climate change mitigation opportunities, and make this information openly available, such as to assist with integrated land-use planning.

26. Thanks to the generous financial support from the International Model Forest Network, a Carbon Calculator Beta was prepared in response to this request. The tool is a joint product between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, LifeWeb and UNEP-WCMC. The tool provides an initial estimate for the potential contribution of any area of the user's interest to climate-change mitigation as well as information on its conservation values, forest status and opportunities for forest and landscape restoration. Areas Of Interest (AOIs) can be drawn on the map or uploaded to the tool. The Carbon Calculator Beta is available at: http://carbon-benefits.unepwcmc-005.vm.brightbox.net/tool. A demo version of the tool is planned to be launched at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Identifying indicators to measure and facilitate reporting on the achievement of social, cultural and economic benefits for biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation

27. Paragraph 16 (c) of decision X/33 requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, to identify indicators to measure and facilitate reporting on the achievement of social, cultural and economic benefits for biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation.

28. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is collaborating with the Global Environment Facility as well as with the World Bank on this issue and will report progress on this activity later.

Support the design and implement ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation as they relate to biodiversity

29. Paragraph 9 (e) of decision X/33 requests the Executive Secretary to support, as appropriate, Parties and relevant organizations and processes to design and implement ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation as they relate to biodiversity.

30. In the last two years, much emphasis has been given to supporting Parties to design and implement ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation. Indeed, the Secretariat has been collaborating with a number of partners on this issue such as with UNFCCC, UNCCD, IUCN, World Bank and the GEF. Furthermore, the Secretariat continues to provide input into ongoing processes such as the Blue Carbon Policy Working Group, the Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Global Climate and Gender Alliance in addition to reviewing the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

31. A pilot partnership to support the national implementation of joint activities among the Rio conventions has been established between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the GEF Secretariat, the European Commission, IUCN and a number of technical partners. The overall objective of this partnership is to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to design and

implement projects that contribute to the objectives of the Rio conventions within the same intervention such as ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation. This partnership was launched at the Earth Summit Rio+20 and will build a community of practice on linking biodiversity and climate change, including through ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation in pilot countries. The partnership includes capacity-building and technical assistance as well as facilitating exchanges of knowledge and information.

32. The Joint Liaison Group published a report on adaptation, "Action on Adaptation",[4] which highlights the roles of the Rio conventions' processes involved in biodiversity, combating desertification/land degradation and climate-change adaptation as important contributors to the global sustainable development agenda, drawing attention to successes and future opportunities.

33. The Rio conventions also published a joint publication on forests, "Action on Forests",[5] which explains the activities under UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD to combat forest biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation, deforestation and forest degradation, to reduce emissions from land use and land-use change activities and to support adaptation through maintaining ecosystem services and providing livelihood options.

34. Another example of a joint outreach activity between the three Rio conventions is the Rio Conventions Pavilion,[6] a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific outcomes on the co-benefits that can be realized through the implementation of the Rio conventions. The Pavilion convenes on the margins of the conferences of the Parties of the three conventions. One of the major themes of the Pavilion is ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation.

35. The Convention on Biological Diversity has made a number of technical publications on the links between biodiversity and adaptation/mitigation available, including the following:

- Technical Series No. 10 – *Interlinkages between Biological Diversity and Climate Change;*
- Technical Series No. 25 – *Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing*
- *Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change;*
- Technical Series No. 41 – *Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:*
- *Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change;*
- Technical Series No. 42 – *Review of the Literature on the Links between Biodiversity and*
- *Climate Change – Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation;*
- Technical Series No. 43 - *Forest Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Change - A Synthesis of the Biodiversity/Resilience/Stability Relationship in Forest Ecosystems*
- Technical Series No. 51 – *Biodiversity and Climate Change: Achieving the 2020 Targets.*
- Technical Series No. 59 – *REDD+ and Biodiversity*
- Biodiversity and Livelihoods: REDD-plus Benefits – *Brochure published jointly with giz and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with financial support from Norway*

36. The CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database[7] includes many case-studies on ecosystem-based adaptation, as well as tools to identify, evaluate and monitor adaptation options.

[4] http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/rio_20_adaptation_brochure.pdf

[5] http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/rio_20_forests_brochure.pdf

[6] www.riopavilion.org

[7] http://adaptation.cbd.int/

37. Ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation are also relevant to many other programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For example, paragraph 39 of decision X/28 on inland waters biodiversity establishes an expert group on the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle. The outcomes of this group are reported to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/30 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/2. The technical work is highly relevant to ecosystem-based adaptation and climate change, and in several areas, points to opportunities to address both adaptation and mitigation through looking at water and carbon cycle linkages – particularly in soils.

38. Under the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA), an e-module on climate change was developed (module 17).[8] The module provides recommendations and guidelines for incorporating climate change aspects into protected area design and management, and highlights the role that protected areas can play in climate mitigation and adaptation.

39. In addition, during all regional PoWPA workshops conducted, a full day session was dedicated to how site-level management of protected areas can be an important strategy for climate resilience and directly contributes toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2, 11 and 15. Defining key concepts regarding the interaction of biodiversity and climate change includes: regime shift, tipping point, resilience, adaptation and mitigation. Workshop participants discussed the importance of management planning, management assessment, threats assessment, restoration, capacity, participation and benefits, and research and monitoring as parts of an overall climate resilience plan seeking responses on the following questions:

(a) To what extent do the management plans in your country incorporate climate resilience and adaptation?

(b) What are the most feasible strategies for incorporating climate resilience and adaptation into management plans?

(c) What is the single most important thing you could do to incorporate climate resilience and adaptation into management plans in your country?

(d) What are the threats to the protected area system that will likely be exacerbated by climate change?

(e) Which threats are most likely to lead to a regime shift?

(f) How well do your restoration plans and priorities include climate resilience and adaptation issues?

(g) What are the most important priorities for restoration in your country? How important are these areas for climate resilience and adaptation?

(h) What is the single most important restoration priority in your country for strengthening climate resilience and promoting climate adaptation?

40. The above questions elicited much discussion from the participants. The participants gave country examples and ideas, concluding that basically, the way to adapt and mitigate climate change was to conserve biodiversity, to "do what we should have been doing all along".

41. Climate change adaptation strategies through protected areas integration and mainstreaming of protected areas, including marine protected areas, were also presented in the workshops, outlining the

[8] http://www.cbd.int/protected/e-learning/

importance of spatial and sectoral integration of protected areas, underscoring the importance of well-designed protected area networks for enabling climate adaptation through spatial integration, connectivity corridors, transboundary areas, regional networks, and implementing improved gap assessments. In these workshops, strategies for protected area sectoral integration and mainstreaming were also outlined, including the need for revising sectoral policies, revising protected area valuation studies, integrating protected areas into National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), and including climate change in protected area and biodiversity threat assessments.

Tools to evaluate and reduce the negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity

42. Paragraph 16 (d) of decision X/33 requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and the its Implementing Agencies, to develop tools to evaluate and reduce the negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity based on, inter alia, existing frameworks to analyse the potential environmental and cross-sectoral impacts of projects and the environmental safeguard policies in place within the Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility.

43. Some tools to evaluate and reduce the negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity have been identified by the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.[9] However, additional work is required and therefore the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will collaborate with the Global Environment Facility to expand on this information.

Support the update and maintenance of the TEMATEA issue-based module on biodiversity and climate change as a tool for better implementation of decisions related to biodiversity and climate change

44. Paragraph 9 (p) requests the Executive Secretary to contribute to the update and maintenance of the TEMATEA issue-based module on biodiversity and climate change as a tool for better implementation of decisions related to biodiversity and climate change.

45. This request was transmitted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), offering to contribute to the update and maintenance of the TEMATEA issue-based module on biodiversity and climate change. No progress has been made in this regard. The Secretariat is however collaborating with other organisations and convention secretariats on the tool InforMEA,[10] the United Nations Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), which harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans from MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms.

III. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO DECISION X/35 ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS

Collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

46. Paragraph 8 of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to undertake a number of tasks in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The Conferences of the Parties of both UNCCD and CBD have repeatedly recognized the need for enhanced collaboration between the two secretariats including through adopting a joint work programme between CBD and UNCCD. As such, in order to facilitate collaboration between the two conventions, a

[9] http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf

[10] http://informea.org/

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)[11] was signed between the Secretariats of CBD and UNCCD in September 2011.

47. The content of the MoU agrees on a joint work plan for 2011-2020 and focuses on common themes such as stakeholder participation and the links between biodiversity and livelihoods. The MoU is based on the need to ensure value added and avoid overlap and is consistent with the themes for collaboration identified by the Conference of the Parties as well as the Joint Liaison Group to the Rio Conventions.

48. Since its signature, the lack of human and financial resources has been one of the main obstacles to its implementation, however, efforts continue to elaborate concrete implementation plans for each of the activities identified in the MoU.

Collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

49. Given that a large portion of dry and sub-humid lands is under agricultural use, the Executive Secretary was requested to carry out a number of activities in collaboration with FAO. In response, FAO nominated a focal point, shared case-studies and literature reviews on relevant issues and participated in the peer-review of document outlines and final reports.

50. It should be noted that joint activities between the Secretariat of the CBD and FAO are constrained by limited human and financial resources.

51. More information on cooperation with UNCCD and FAO is available in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/17 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations.

Identify common indicators between the ten-year strategic plan of UNCCD and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets

52. Paragraph 8 (d) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to identify common indicators between the ten-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the 2020 biodiversity target and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to transmit the results to the Inter-agency Task Force on Harmonized Reporting.

53. The 10-year strategic plan of UNCCD includes a number of strategic objectives and a number of indicators: 18 performance indicators and 11 impact indicators. The UNCCD has identified a subset of these indicators as 'minimum reporting requirements' by countries, and in an effort to standardize data collection and reporting, it has established an online reporting tool (PRAIS), supported by written guidance material and some regional training and support. The Convention on Biological Diversity engaged in the general process to develop and test the compulsory impact indicators of UNCCD, including by participating in relevant expert meetings. It should also be noted that there may be relevant lessons to be learned from the UNCCD PRAIS reporting tool that the Convention on Biological Diversity may wish to capture and consider.

54. In addition, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020[12] identified a number of indicators to assess progress towards the Aichi Targets, three of which are also used by UNCCD (i.e. Trends in abundance of selected species; Trends in distribution of selected species; and Trends in proportion of land affected by desertification). The indicators are listed in the addendum to its report.[13]

[11] Memorandum of Understanding between CBD and UNCCD available at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-unccd-2011-09-03-mou-en.pdf

[12] https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=AHTEG-SP-IND-01

[13] http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ind/ahteg-sp-ind-01/official/ahteg-sp-ind-01-03-add1-en.xls

55. At the Earth Summit Rio+20, it was noted that the process to establish sustainable development goals, to be developed by an open working group consisting of 30 members, should consider other relevant processes. As there is some overlap in indicators between UNCCD and CBD, coordination between the two conventions would be useful.

Publish a Technical Series report on the value of dry and sub-humid lands

56. Paragraph 8 (b) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to publish, subject to the availability of financial resources, a peer-reviewed special CBD Technical Series report on the value of dry and sub-humid lands similar to the Technical Series reports on valuing wetlands and forests, taking into account the role of pastoralists and other indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and their associated traditional knowledge with a view to making the report available in time for the second Scientific Conference of the Committee on Science and Technology of UNCCD.

57. The Secretariat has been liaising with the Global Mechanism (GM) of UNCCD to carry out this work as part of an ongoing GM process of valuing drylands. The Technical Series report will be incorporated into the broader response to the report on drylands of the Environment Management Group's Issue Management Group on Land, which emphasized the importance of understanding and communicating the value of drylands. Additional partners for this work include IUCN, CABI and the Zoological Society of London. In addition to the Technical Series report to be published in December 2012, the work will be presented as part of a meeting of the GM with the private sector on the business case for drylands to be held in early 2013.

Develop guidance on the use of water and land-use management, and on identifying threats that have the greatest impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

58. Paragraph 8 (c) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to, subject to the availability of financial resources, develop guidance on: the use of water and land-use management, including adapted agricultural practices and the control of soil erosion, and on identifying threats that have the greatest impacts on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.

59. In response to this request, a draft document on the use of biodiversity to improve water security for agriculture and livestock in dry and sub-humid lands was prepared. Additional policy notes were prepared on sustainable water use, protected areas management and capacity building. The outline was reviewed by UNCCD and FAO and the draft will soon be finalized for review as well. Subject to the availability of financial resources, the draft could be finalized and published.

Expand CBD databases

60. Paragraph 9 of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to expand:

(a) The existing Convention on Biological Diversity database of good practices and lessons learned with regard to linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to livelihoods in dry and sub-humid lands, particularly in the case of indigenous and local communities and to coordinate with the Committee on Science and Technology of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification efforts to set up a knowledge management system and with other relevant case-study databases including those developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and

(b) The incentive-measures database to better include programmes in dry and sub-humid lands.

61. The existing CBD database of case-studies on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity[14] contains 43 case-studies. Additional case-studies have been identified, some of which were published in the Good Practice Guide: Pastoralism, nature conservation and development.[15] However, a website visitor analysis for the database revealed a low number of users. Therefore, efforts should be made towards increasing visibility and web traffic of the database. The CBD will explore the scope for improving interoperability of the database with similar databases from partners such as UNCCD and will link the case-study database to ongoing processes under UNCCD, such as the upcoming Second Scientific Conference to be held from 4 to 7 February 2013.

62. The incentive-measures database[16] currently includes 73 case-studies related to the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. Additional case-studies will be added as part of the work on the economic valuation of dry and sub-humid lands to be conducted in response to decision X/35 paragraph 8 (b).

Identify best practices to address conflicts between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and pastoralism and agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands

63. Paragraph 10 (a) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to identify, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, best practices to address conflicts between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and pastoralism and agriculture in dry and sub-humid lands, including conflicts related to integrated water management and water shortages specifically where those conflicts impact on the water needs of biodiversity, in order to fill identified gaps in information with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and subject to the availability of financial resources.

64. Good practice examples were gathered and published in the Good Practice Guide: Pastoralism, nature conservation and development.[17] The Secretariat also liaised with FAO to gather information. Additional information could be collected and presented subject to the availability of financial resources.

Identify good-practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands

65. Paragraph 10 (b) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary to identify good-practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups, defined based on national circumstances, in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, especially nomadic pastoralists and transhumant indigenous peoples.

66. In response to this request, the Secretariat has been collaborating with UNCCD and FAO to develop a database of projects including case studies and good practice examples of the involvement of marginalized groups in the implementation of the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. This activity, which is included in the MoU between CBD and UNCCD, is still in progress.

Enhance cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity and sustainable land management and ecological restoration considerations in disaster reduction and risk management

67. Paragraph 8 (a) of decision X/35 requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of UNCCD and, as far as possible, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as other relevant partners, to explore and, as appropriate, subject

[14] http://www.cbd.int/drylands/cs/

[15] http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/cbd-good-practice-guide-pastoralism-booklet-web-en.pdf

[16] http://www.cbd.int/incentives/case-studies.shtml

[17] http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/cbd-good-practice-guide-pastoralism-booklet-web-en.pdf

to the availability of financial resources, develop and implement preferably through the means and procedures already established within each of the relevant conventions (for example, the programmes of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity) joint actions to increase cooperation between the natural and social science communities to increase the integration of biodiversity and sustainable land management and ecological restoration considerations in disaster reduction and risk management.

68. In response to this decision, a literature review was conducted on: (i) ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, (ii) social principles of disaster risk reduction, and (iii) general reports on disaster risk reduction. Approximately 100 documents were collected, reviewed and organized into a database structure and tagged according to primary biome and topic. A bibliographic list with abstracts, where available, was created. Also identified was information on early warning systems and other tools for disaster risk reduction in dry and sub-humid lands. The tools were analysed and organised in a database with annotations, highlighting reference to children, gender and traditional knowledge, indigenous and local communities. Subject to availability of financial resources, this information could be finalized and published. Further collaboration with UNCCD is needed.
