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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING
GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED
PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Montreal, 31 October-4 November 2011

IN-DEPTH DIALOGUE ON THEMATIC AREAS AND OTHER CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROTECTED AREAS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. In order to contribute to the incorporation of Article 8(j) and related provisions, as a cross-cutting issue across the thematic programmes of work of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 12 of decision X/43, decided to include a new agenda item at future meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, commencing at its seventh meeting, entitled: “In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues”. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties decided that the topic of the in-depth dialogue at the seventh meeting of the Working Group would be: *Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas*.
2. Through notification 2011-065 (ref. No. SCBD/SEL/OJ/JS/DM/74443) of 29 March 2011, the Secretariat invited Parties and stakeholders to provide views on this matter in advance of the seventh meeting of the Working Group. Views received from Australia and China, as well as the Forest Peoples Programme, are available in document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/INF/4.
3. The Secretariat prepared this background document to facilitate and guide the dialogue. Section I provides an overview of the submissions received; section II provides an overview of issues pertinent to indigenous and local communities concerning protected areas; section III contains an overview of ecosystem management, ecosystem services, and protected areas; section IV contains possible issues for discussion during the dialogue; and section V contains a possible draft recommendation for the consideration of the Working Group to identify the topic of the in-depth dialogue to take place at its next meeting.
4. It is expected that the methodology of the in-depth dialogue will involve presentations by a panel of experts followed by an interactive dialogue with meeting participants, chaired by the representative of a Party. The outcomes expected from the in-depth dialogue may include possible recommendations and/or advice directed towards the relevant programme(s) of work, with a focus on the integration of Articles 8(j) and 10(c).

I. OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

5. Australia's submission drew attention to traditional use and management of ecosystems with a focus on indigenous fire management in Northern Australia. The Indigenous Fire Management in Northern Australia Project is facilitated by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) and run by indigenous land management groups and focuses on implementing traditional, mosaic-style fire-management practices in northern Australia. This project is part of the overall Caring for our Country programme and will help prevent intense wildfires that regularly burn 40 per cent of some savannah regions in a single fire season and cause significant biodiversity loss. The government submission notes that better fire-management practices will deliver greenhouse gas emissions abatement and opportunities to enter carbon markets, as well as contributing economic benefit to traditional communities, through the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge through fire and land management activities.

6. The Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) programme has been very successful in supporting indigenous communities to contribute to our national conservation goals, through establishment and recognition of indigenous community conservation areas (ICCAs); anecdotal evidence is emerging of the broader benefits from this work for the individuals and communities that are taking part.

7. The ICCAs are contributing to the National Reserve System (NRS) and currently declared ICCAs cover over 23.9 million hectares of indigenous owned lands across every state and territory in Australia, except the Australian Capital Territory. This represents over 25 per cent of the entire Australian NRS, and nearly 20 per cent of all indigenous owned lands. The IPA programme is successful because it builds on and values the knowledge, passion and commitment that indigenous communities have for their land. It helps to build pride and self-respect for those involved as well as contributing economic benefit to traditional communities, social cohesion of these communities and the ongoing education of children through the intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological and cultural knowledge. In addition, the ICCAs are delivering important ecosystem services for all Australians by protecting the unique natural and cultural values of these often remote locations.

8. The Government of China, in its submission, requested the in-depth dialogue to address a series of questions aimed at better understanding the role of local communities in conservation efforts. The three questions posed by China are:

(a) How does a country improve the level of income and livelihoods of local communities while promoting development and reducing poverty?

(b) How to organize and carry out training, education and communication activities to enhance local community participation in reserve management;

(c) How to respect traditional culture, customs and local customary rules/procedures associated with biodiversity conservation while managing ecosystems and nature reserves, and making these elements an important driving force to improve management capacities of nature reserves.

9. Taking the submissions into account, the panellists and participants in the in-depth dialogue may wish to further consider the advantages posed in the Australian submission of engaging indigenous communities in conservation efforts, including through the establishment of ICCAs, and also reflect on the pertinent questions posed by the Government of China.

II. ISSUES PERTINENT TO INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PROTECTED AREAS

10. A primary concern of indigenous and local communities with regard to the establishment of protected areas has been their potential adverse impact on their livelihoods. On occasion, the establishment of protected areas has led to the displacement of ILCs from lands and waters they had traditionally occupied or has ignored the customary use on traditional lands and waters or traditional

boundaries. In such circumstances, indigenous and local communities can find that their daily activities of providing the necessities of life for their families face interruption and sometimes even criminalization.

11. In recent times, advances have been made in the recognition of indigenous community conservation areas (ICCAs). Also both conservationists and governments are increasingly aware of the usefulness of local traditional environmental knowledge for ecosystem management, as well as the cost effectiveness and desirability of local management of protected areas. Increasingly, Governments effectively engage indigenous and local communities in the establishment of protected areas and the communities concerned are increasingly looking for sustainable economic opportunities through local tourism initiatives and other local economic initiatives such as the marketing of art and artifacts, including non-timber-based forest products. Many examples of indigenous and local communities' initiatives to promote both biological and cultural diversity have been documented by the Equator Initiative - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A webpage has been established which documents and profiles the outstanding work of Equator Prize winners – initiatives that represent best practice in community-based natural resource management, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change and is available at: http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=653&Itemid=725

12. The case studies and lessons learned through the Equator Initiative, prize winners suggest that indigenous and local communities are actively interested in conservation and sustainable use; in the recognition of their own protected areas; as well as opportunities in management and shared management of protected areas, including through employment opportunities; and also most importantly, access for customary use and to be able to continue to apply their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices on land and waters that have been traditionally occupied or used by them and to continue to pass this knowledge on to future generations. Many of these lessons are also promoted in the submission from Australia.

What are other area-based conservation measures?

13. Indigenous peoples and local communities have played a critical role in conserving a variety of natural environments and species for ages, for a variety of purposes, economic as well as cultural, spiritual and aesthetic. Today there are many thousands of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) across the world, including forests, wetlands, and landscapes, village lakes, water catchment, rivers and coastal stretches and marine areas.

14. Fortunately, there is also a growing recognition of ICCAs and acknowledgement of their role in the conservation of biodiversity. The PoWPA accepted them as legitimate conservation sites that deserve support and, as appropriate, inclusion in national and international systems. Some governments have followed suit. Others had already included them within their official Protected Area Systems.

What are Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas?

15. ICCAs are natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, both sedentary and mobile, through customary laws or other effective means. ICCAs can include ecosystems with minimum to substantial human influence as well as cases of continuation, revival or modification of traditional practices or new initiatives taken up by communities in the face of new threats or opportunities. Several of them are inviolate zones ranging from very small to large stretches of land and waterscapes.

What is the coverage of ICCAs?

16. Globally, 400-800 million hectares of forest are owned/administered by communities. In 18 developing countries with the largest forest cover, over 22 per cent of forests are owned by, or reserved for, communities. In some of these countries (e.g., Mexico and Papua New Guinea) the community

forests cover 80 per cent of the total¹ forested area. More land and resources are under community control in other ecosystems. According to the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas consortium about 12 per cent of terrestrial areas of the world are under ICCAs. This is a **guess estimate** but there are some factual figures in some regions (Australia, Asia, Africa and LAC) providing evidence to gauge the total area under ICCAs in different ecosystems in different regions of the world.

17. What is the significance if ICCAs?

(a) They help conserve critical ecosystems and threatened species, maintain essential ecosystem functions (e.g., water security), and provide corridors and linkages for animal and gene movement, including between two or more officially protected areas;

(b) They are the basis of cultural and economic livelihoods for millions of people, securing resources (energy, food, water, fodder) and income;

(c) They help synergize the links between agricultural biodiversity and wildlife, providing larger land/waterscape level integration;

(d) They offer crucial lessons for participatory governance of official protected areas (PAs), useful to resolve conflicts between PAs and local people;

(e) They are based on rules and institutions “tailored to the context”, (biocultural diversity), skilled at adaptive management and capable of flexible, culture-related responses;

(f) They are built on sophisticated collective ecological knowledge and capacities, including sustainable use of wild resources and maintenance of agro-biodiversity, which have stood the test of time; and

(g) They are typically designed to maintain crucial livelihood resources for times of stress and need, such as during war, severe weather events and other natural disasters.

III. OVERVIEW OF ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROTECTED AREAS BY THE SECRETARIAT

Ecosystem

18. An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal, and microorganism communities and their nonliving environment interacting as a functional unit. Humans are an integral part of ecosystems. Ecosystems vary enormously in size; a temporary pond in a tree hollow and an ocean basin can both be ecosystems.

Ecosystem services

19. Ecosystem services are the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment analyzed 24 ecosystem services, and found that 15 were being degraded or used unsustainably. The decline in services affects the world’s disadvantaged people most strongly, impedes sustainable development globally and in developing countries, and represents a considerable barrier to achieving the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and hunger.

20. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment grouped ecosystem services into four categories:

(a) provisioning services such as the supply of food and water;

(b) regulating services, which help to stabilize ecosystem processes, such as climate and water storage and purification;

¹ Molnar, A., Scherr, S. and Khare, A. 2004. *Who conserves the world’s forests: community driven strategies to protect forests and respect rights*. Forest Trends and Ecoagriculture Partners, Washington D.C.; White, A., Khare, A. and Molnar, A. 2004. *Who Owns, Who Conserves, and Why it Matters*. Forest Trends, Washington.

- (c) supporting services, including soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- (d) cultural services, such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

21. Many of these services have been degraded over the past 50 years. These include services as varied as water supply, waste treatment, fisheries, natural hazard protection, regulation of air quality, and regulation of regional and local climate, prevention of erosion, spiritual fulfillment, and aesthetic enjoyment.

22. Fisheries are in a particularly critical state. They are being exploited well beyond sustainable levels while demand continues to grow. At least one quarter of important commercial fish stocks are overharvested.

23. Freshwater supply presents an even greater challenge. From five per cent to possibly 25 per cent of global freshwater use exceeds long-term accessible supplies and demand is now met either through engineered water transfers or overdraft of groundwater supplies. Some 15-35% of irrigation withdrawals exceed supply rates.

Ecosystem Approach

24. The Convention on Biological Diversity advocates the ecosystem approach as the primary framework of action for implementing the Convention. The ecosystem approach *is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.*

25. It recognizes that humans are an integral component of many ecosystems. The Convention specifies that the ecosystem approach requires adaptive management to deal with the complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems and the absence of complete knowledge or understanding of their functioning, and that measures may need to be taken even when some cause-and-effect relationships are not yet fully established scientifically.

Ecosystem Management

26. Ecosystem Management envisages doing away with the piecemeal (i.e., sector by sector) approach to environmental management and move to an approach that integrates forests, land, freshwater, and coastal systems where they impact upon the overall delivery of ecosystem services.

27. The traditional approaches to environmental management according to sectors (e.g., forestry, agriculture) or biomes (geographically and climatically linked natural communities) have a number of shortcomings. For example, they consider ecosystem concerns as separate from development concerns, they ignore the interdependence of ecosystem services and human needs, and they do not acknowledge the diverse effects on various social groups of declining ecosystem services.

28. By taking a more holistic view of the links between ecosystem services and human well-being, the Ecosystem Management through ecosystem approach can correct these deficiencies and focus on maintaining the functioning and the resilience of ecosystems and ensuring equitable access to their services. This approach also invites all the relevant stakeholders to take part in collaborative decision-making, priority setting and conflict resolution.

29. Any Ecosystem Management programme should be guided by a concept of five interlinked elements:

- (a) human well-being,
- (b) indirect drivers of change,
- (c) direct drivers of change,
- (d) ecosystem functioning, and

(e) ecosystem services

Protected Areas

30. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2008² defined a protected area as – “a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”. Establishment of comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively managed and financially secured protected area networks is a critical strategy not only for biodiversity conservation, but for securing ecosystem goods and services, enabling climate change adaptation and mitigation, and helping countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA)

31. Recognizing these critical roles of protected areas, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in February 2004 committed to a comprehensive and specific set of actions known as the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA). By emphasizing the equitable sharing of costs and benefits, recognizing various governance types and by giving prominence to ecological representation, management effectiveness and multiple benefits, the PoWPA is the most comprehensive global plan of action for effective implementation of protected areas and is considered as a defining framework or blueprint for protected areas for the next decades. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity hailed PoWPA as the most implemented of CBD programmes and a successful initiative.

32. Out of its four Programme Elements (PE) PoWPA devoted PE 2 to issues concerned with governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing. PoWPA reiterated that for achieving the ultimate goal of the programme of work—establishing comprehensive, ecologically representative and effective protected area systems—requires that serious and systematic attention be paid to socioeconomic and institutional matters, and should not be limited to biological factors and criteria only. This programme element includes promoting equity and benefit-sharing through increasing the benefits of protected areas for indigenous and local communities, and enhancing the involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders. The central importance for protected areas of governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing is underscored by devoting one of the four elements of the programme of work to this set of enabling activities.

33. The relationship between people and protected areas is one of the most challenging, and encapsulates the problems inherent in trade-offs between the common good and the rights and needs of the individual. Programme Element 2 of the PoWPA set some standards to avoid such conflicts and provides for the equitable distribution of costs and benefits by emphasizing diverse protected area governance types, participatory decision-making and management processes that incorporate and respond to the interests of a broad range of stakeholders, particularly indigenous and local communities.

34. Successive decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties (COP) from its seventh to tenth meetings fostered an atmosphere for the effective implementation of PoWPA including PE 2. Some relevant decisions are:

Decision IX/18

- Parties are invited “give special attention to the implementation of programme element 2 of the programme of work on protected areas;” (para. 4 (c))
- Para 5(b) Parties are invited to establish, “multisectoral advisory committees which may consist of representatives from, *inter alia*, [...] indigenous and local communities, [...] in support

² Dudley, N. (Editor). 2008. *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland. IUCN. x + 86pp.

of the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas at national and subnational levels by providing advice...”;

- Parties are invited to “improve and, where necessary, diversify and strengthen protected-area governance types, leading to or in accordance with appropriate national legislation including recognizing and taking into account, where appropriate, indigenous, local and other community-based organizations (para. 6 (a)); “recognize the contribution of, where appropriate, co-managed protected areas, private protected areas and indigenous and local community conserved areas within the national protected area system through acknowledgement in national legislation or other effective means” (para. 6 (b)).

Decision X/31

- Para 7 (a) Requests the Executive Secretary, to “continue to hold regional and subregional capacity-building workshops, with special attention to element 2 (Governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing)...”;
- Para 30 (a) “*Encourages* Parties to enhance coordination at the national level between the programme of work on protected areas and other related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, *inter alia*, the programmes of work on forest biological diversity and marine and coastal biological diversity, the work on access and benefit-sharing and Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention, and the processes related to the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity³ and the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities for exchange of information on implementation of these programmes and recommendations on possible joint actions for enhanced implementation;”
- Para 30(b) “Promote integration of the provisions of access and benefit-sharing in regard to the third objective of the Convention in the governance of protected areas and support initiatives on the role of protected areas in poverty alleviation as well as for indigenous and local community livelihoods;”
- Para 31 Invites Parties to (a) “Establish clear mechanisms and processes for equitable cost and benefit-sharing and for full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, related to protected areas, in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations;” (b) “Recognize the role of indigenous and local community conserved areas and conserved areas of other stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, collaborative management and diversification of governance types”.
- Para 32 (c) “Establish effective processes for the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, in full respect of their rights and recognition of their responsibilities, in the governance of protected areas, consistent with national law and applicable international obligations; (d) Further develop and implement measures for the equitable sharing of both costs and benefits arising from the establishment and management of protected areas and make protected areas an important component of local and global sustainable development consistent with national legislations and applicable international obligations; (e) Include indigenous and local communities in multi-stakeholder advisory committees, in consultations for national reporting on the programme of work on protected areas, and in national reviews of the effectiveness of protected-area system”.

³ Decision VII/12, annex.

Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

35. Seized with these issues the Conference of the Parties in target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 calls for equitably managed protected areas and also other area-based conservation measures.

What is equitably managed?

36. Equity is the concept or idea of fairness and sharing of the benefits and costs of protected areas – who benefits and who bears the costs? The costs of establishing and maintaining protected areas include both direct and indirect costs, such as the purchase of land, displacement and relocation of communities, human wildlife conflicts, loss of access to natural resources, opportunity costs and the loss of potential tax revenue. Protected area benefits include the material and non-material benefits, goods, values and services at local, national and global levels. Equitable distribution is the dispersal of these benefits to a variety of stakeholders based on principles of fairness, justice, social equity and ethical considerations. If the costs and benefits are not equitably distributed, then protected areas are not equitably managed.

What is protected area governance?

37. Governance is about power, relationships, responsibility and accountability. Some define it as the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power is exercised, how decisions are taken on issues of public concern, and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say. In a protected area context, a basic understanding of governance refers to who holds management authority and responsibility and who can be held accountable according to legal, customary or otherwise legitimate rights. In this sense, governance is crucial for the achievement of protected area objectives (management effectiveness), determines the sharing of relevant cost and benefits (management equity), and is key to preventing or solving social conflicts, and affects the generation and sustenance of community, political and financial support.

38. Governance is a powerful concept, only recently applied to protected areas (PAs). All people concerned with protected areas should understand it and clearly distinguish it from management. The difference between the two is simple: while management addresses *what* is done about a given site or situation, governance addresses *who* makes those decisions and *how*.

39. Understanding governance means being able to answer some basic questions. In the case of a specific protected area, these are:

Governance of a SPECIFIC protected area	
Who holds authority, responsibility and accountability for the protected area at stake?	The answer to this question lets you know about the protected area GOVERNANCE TYPE
How is that authority exercised? How fairly, effectively, transparently, accountably?	The answer to this question lets you know about the protected area GOVERNANCE QUALITY

40. In the case of a system of protected areas (at regional, national, or sub-national levels), the questions are:

Governance of a SYSTEM of protected areas	
How diverse is the range of governance types within your system of protected areas?	The answer to this question lets you know about the flexibility and responsiveness of the PA system with respect to its social context

<p>Are some clear principles and criteria followed in developing and implementing your system?</p>	<p>The answer to this question (yes or no, and which specific principles and criteria) lets you know about whether the system is under “good governance”</p>
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41. Governance types include:

(a) Protected areas governed by national or local (sub-national) government and delegated entities;

(b) Protected areas under shared governance, through transboundary, co-management or joint management arrangements;

(c) Private protected areas, governed by their individual, NGO, corporate or other owners, for either non-profit or profit motives; and

(d) Areas conserved under communal governance, including indigenous people’s conserved territories (ICTs) and indigenous peoples and community conserved areas (ICCAs).

42. The IUCN typology of protected area management types and governance approaches distinguishes six categories of management objectives and four governance types as shown below:

MATRIX OF IUCN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT TYPES AND GOVERNANCE APPROACHES

IUCN category (primary management objective)	IUCN Governance type										
	A. Governance by governments			B. Shared governance		C. Private governance			D. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities		
	Federal or national ministry or agency in charge	Local ministry or agency	Management delegated by the government (e.g. in charge)	Transboundary protected area	Collaborative management (various)	Collaborative management (pluralist)	Declared and run by private individual	Declared and run by non-profit organisations	Declared and run by for-profit individuals	Declared and run by indigenous peoples	Declared and run by local communities
I – Strict nature or wilderness protection											
II – Ecosystem protection and recreation											

III – Protection of natural mon- ument or feature											
IV – Protection of habitats and species											
V – Protection of landscapes or seascapes											
VI – Protection and sustainable resource use											

IV. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE DIALOGUE

43. Panelists, representatives of Parties and other participants may wish to consider *inter alia* the following issues for discussion:

- (a) The role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management and benefits of local management by indigenous and local communities;
- (b) Ecosystem services and the role of PAs, including ICCAs in the provision of essential services and payment for ecosystems services and poverty alleviation;
- (c) Protected areas, customary use and opportunities for employment, sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
- (d) Traditional management practices (including fire management and seasonal burn-offs) in ecosystem management, including greenhouse gas emissions abatement and opportunities to enter carbon markets,
- (e) PAs as possible economic benefit to indigenous and local communities;
- (f) Mapping of land use and customary use and its role in PAs and ICCAs;
- (g) How may a country improve the level of income and livelihoods of local communities while promoting development and reducing poverty?
- (h) How to organize and carry out training, education and communication activities to enhance local community participation in reserve management?
- (i) How to respect traditional culture, customs and local customary rules/procedures associated with biodiversity conservation while managing ecosystems and nature reserves, and making these elements an important driving force to improve management capacities of nature reserves?
- (j) How can a rights-based approach enhance PAs establishment, including recognition of prior and informed consent of indigenous and local communities in the establishment of Protected Areas;
- (k) How to promote a diversity of governance types and management categories in particular by making sure that relevant legislation and policies foresee and regulate them in appropriate ways;

(l) How to make sure that governance types that exist by name – in particular “shared governance” or co-managed PAs – exist also in fact, in other words, there is a real degree of negotiation and power sharing in PA decision making;

(m) How to promote innovative forms of protected area governance through information, demonstration and capacity-building initiatives, including through country-based and regional exchanges and as part of professional training;

(n) How to establish financial and policy incentives for indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) and private protected areas (PPAs); and

(o) How to promote improvements in governance quality by putting in place mechanisms for transparency, accountability, (e.g., through public review boards), public participation (e.g., involving indigenous peoples and local communities and other stakeholders in protected area management boards, establishing community advisory groups, setting up national multi-stakeholder bodies for PA system planning) and, in general, participatory governance assessment wherever possible.

V. POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*Noting that the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, at its seventh meeting conducted an in-depth dialogue on the topic regarding *Ecosystem management, ecosystem services and protected areas*;*

1. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations and *requests* the Executive Secretary to consider the advice and recommendations of the dialogue, annexed to this decision, when implementing the relevant thematic areas of the Convention and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to report on progress made at the eighth meeting of the Working Group.

2. *Decides* that the topic for the second in-depth dialogue, to be held at the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, shall be: [.....]
