



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/35
24 March 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

Report of the African regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the report of the African regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was convened by the Executive Secretary in Nairobi from 19 to 21 March 2002.
2. The report is being circulated without formal editing.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Rev.1/Corr.1.

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REPORT OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 33 of decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized that activities at the subregional and regional levels have an important role to play in preparing for meetings under the Convention and enhancing its implementation, and called upon Parties to participate actively in suitable subregional and regional activities, as well as on the Executive Secretary, subject to necessary voluntary contributions, to facilitate the involvement in such subregional and regional activities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, and other Parties with economies in transition.
2. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention, convened in Montreal from 19 to 21 November 2001, pursuant to paragraph 38 of decision V/20, also acknowledged the important role that regional and subregional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the Convention and providing forums for the preparation of regional inputs to meetings of the Convention and for translating decisions of the Conference of the Parties into regional actions.
3. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary convened the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Gigiri, Nairobi, from 19 to 21 March 2002.

PARTICIPATION

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following African countries: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
5. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was also represented.
6. The following non-governmental organizations also participated: Indigenous Information Network, IUCN—The World Conservation Union.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting was opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 March 2002. Mr Sekou Toure, Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA), acted as Master of Ceremonies for the opening segment.
8. Mr. Dan Ogolla, Legal Adviser at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, speaking on behalf of Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed participants to the meeting and expressed thanks to the Director of ROA for the support provided in the organization of the meeting. Noting that items of great significance were to be considered by the upcoming Conference of the Parties, he underlined the importance of the Draft Strategic Plan and the need to ensure that the document would meet the needs and concerns of the countries of the African region. Likewise, the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, which was proposed for adoption at the Conference of the Parties, was of direct interest to many countries in the region.
9. Noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development would be held in Johannesburg in September 2002, he invited participants to also reflect on the accomplishments of the Convention thus far

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and on its role as a vehicle to achieve the objectives of the international community with regard to sustainable development, since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was expected to adopt a message to the Summit to that effect. The issue would also be the main focus of a ministerial roundtable to be organized during the Conference. In conclusion, he stressed that the purpose of the current meeting was to address the particular needs and concerns of the Parties in the African Region and, as such, the agenda and organization of the work of the meeting were flexible, in order to best suit their priorities and objectives.

10. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, speaking on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, welcomed the delegates and expressed thanks to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the Director of ROA for their efforts in organizing the meeting. He urged all delegates to apply themselves fully in their preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure that, through the negotiations at that Conference, the vital interests of Africa would be addressed in the global negotiations towards the World Summit on Sustainable Development. He referred to the recent Global Environmental Forum held at Cartagena, Colombia, where issues of international environmental governance had taken centre stage, and the meeting in Cancun, Mexico, where the Group of Like-minded Mega-Biodiverse Countries had been established to enhance the implementation processes of the Convention and the provisions of the Convention on the complex issue of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

11. He noted that the Conference of the Parties was scheduled to consider the draft Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit-sharing and the associated draft action plan, which provided for enhanced capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels. He stressed that voluntary guidelines such as those were an extremely useful interim measure pending development of a legally binding regime. Noting that the pursuit of profit by global corporations sometimes made it difficult for developing countries to enjoy the benefits of their biological resources, and that legal regimes were used to constrain those countries from realizing the full potential of products derived from their own resources, he stressed that the developing countries, including those in Africa, had to address that problem.

12. He hoped that the potential contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices within Africa for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity would receive the attention of the delegates in formulating the best way forward to enhance endogenous capacities at the country level. The issue of availability, access to and sustainability of financial resources remained critical for the implementation of the Convention. In view of the recession in some developed countries, an infusion of new resources was needed to help developing countries effectively meet their commitments. He also hoped that innovative avenues for the mobilization of financial resources would be considered during the current meeting. He congratulated the five African countries that had ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Cameroon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia and Uganda, and urged other countries to expedite their ratification procedures. In conclusion, he wished all participants fruitful deliberations.

13. Mr. Nememiah Rotich, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UNEP, speaking on behalf of Mr. Joseph Kamotho, Minister of Environment of Kenya and President of the Bureau of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, welcomed participants and expressed thanks to Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, for allowing the meeting to use the facilities at UNEP, and to Mr. Sekou Toure, Director of ROA, for assisting in the logistical arrangements for the meeting. He stressed the need for participants to focus on the issues where Africa could gain political mileage in the negotiations at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and towards the full implementation of the Convention. It was necessary to ensure that their voices would be heard on all critical matters that affected the socio-economic development of the continent. Underlining the importance of the continuing shift of focus from policy setting to implementation, he said that the playing field was far from level and the goal posts were continually shifting to the disadvantage of the developing countries, and particularly those in Africa. It was the task of the meeting to come up with concrete proposals based on a common understanding of the issues on the agenda. Each of those could have a long-term impact on the sustainable management of biological diversity in the future. Most importantly, most of the livelihoods in African communities were inextricably linked to the exploitation of natural resources.

14. Pointing to the scourge of new health problems, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other untreatable conditions which had a greater adverse impact on Africa than anywhere else, he stressed that deliberate efforts by developing nations to build human resource capacities, to transfer and adapt appropriate technologies, and to access new and additional resources were the tools to effectively unlock the benefits of the continent's rich biological diversity. In his opinion, the Convention on Biological Diversity might hold the key to solving many health and other development problems, and he wished the participants success in their deliberations. He then declared the meeting to be officially open.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers

15. At the 1st session, the meeting elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Helida Oyieke (Kenya)

Rapporteur: Mr. Koffi Edinam Dantsey (Togo)

B. Adoption of the agenda

16. The meeting adopted the following agenda, based on the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary and contained in document UNEP/CBD/Prep.Cop6.Afr/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Officers;
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. Issues for in-depth consideration at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - 3.1. Forest biological diversity;
 - 3.2. Invasive alien species;
 - 3.3. Access and benefit-sharing;
 - 3.4. Strategic Plan, national reporting, and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. Selected cross-cutting and implementation issues:
 - 4.1. Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - 4.2. Financial resources and mechanism;
 - 4.3. Biological diversity and tourism;
 - 4.4. Biodiversity education and public awareness.
5. Issues of special concern to the region.
6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

17. The meeting agreed to carry out its deliberations in plenary and in working groups, and to base its work on the timetable proposed in the provisional organization of work annexed to document UNEP/CBD/Prep.Cop6.Afr/1/Add.1.
18. The languages of the meeting were English and French.

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION AT THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

19. In its deliberations on the above agenda item, in addition to specific documentation pertaining to the sub-items, the meeting also had before it the reports of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3 and UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4, respectively), and of various inter-sessional bodies and meetings.

3.1 Forest biological diversity

20. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/17).
21. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla explained that, under item 21 of the agenda of the upcoming Conference of the Parties, Parties would also be called upon to adopt the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity, consisting of three broad programme elements: conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing; institutional and socio-economic enabling environment; and knowledge, assessment and monitoring. Outstanding issues for consideration under forests included proposals for addressing specific threats to forest biodiversity from climate change; human-induced forest fires; and the impact of harvesting non-timber forest resources. He invited delegates to consider what elements should be included within the draft work programme as priorities for the region.
22. Participants underlined the key importance of having a clear and adequate definition of the concept of “forest biological diversity”, explaining what exactly it entailed, how the term “forest” was understood, and what elements the whole concept comprised. Only then would Parties be able to have a clear idea of where they stood with regard to the conservation and sustainable management of forest biological diversity.
23. It was considered that a further key issue involved the need for inventorying all aspects of forest biological diversity, including non-flora elements, soils and micro-organisms, since only by knowing and understanding what they actually had could they undertake meaningful conservation and management efforts. To that end, resources and training and capacity-building were needed, particularly in the fields of taxonomy, inventorying and forest management. It was also stressed that, since conservation of forest resources was incompatible with the poverty encountered among rural people in African countries, poverty reduction needed to be included as a basic element of the work programme on forest biological diversity, since conservation efforts would have little success if the needs of local and indigenous communities that depended on them were not fully taken into account. In that connection, it was also observed that, since many developed countries had already based their development on the full exploitation of their own forest resources, it was unjust to expect developing countries to practice conservation and forego the benefits of their forest resources without some mechanism being set up to compensate them.
24. The view was expressed that the expanded work programme, while setting targets and proposals for its implementation, did not define the actors and institutions for such implementation, nor any time-frame or milestones to measure its progress. Countries in the region needed to have indicators to gauge

whether their efforts in the field of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources were on track and to show whether any concrete achievements were being attained.

25. Attention was also drawn to the need to provide education and enhance awareness among local people, as well as for policy makers, and to encourage them to show the political will for conservation and management of such resources; the need for sustainable forest management; the problem of valorizing non-timber forest resources; the importance of implementing forestry action plans, where these had already been elaborated; the need for a linkage with the regional initiative for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and for regional, subregional and international cooperation; the important role of non-governmental organizations in the conservation of forest biological resources; and the importance of creating a link so as to make use of traditional knowledge for the conservation of forest resource biological resources.

26. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Burkina Faso, to prepare a list of the issues of forest biological diversity which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations, which are contained in annex I to the present report.

3.2 Invasive alien species

27. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/18); Use of terms (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/18/Add.1).

28. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla drew attention to the interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of invasive alien species, adopted by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subsequently revised by SBSTTA at its sixth session, and noted that the upcoming Conference would be considering options for the full, and effective implementation of Article 8 (h) of the Convention, including: further developing the guiding principles; developing an international instrument; and/or other options for future work on invasive alien species. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would also be taking up the important issue of terminology and definitions regarding invasive alien species. He invited participants to consider whether the interim guidelines on invasive alien species were acceptable to the countries of the region, to focus on the issue of terminology, and to see if a common African position on invasive alien species could be elaborated. He pointed out that some elements of the guiding principles remained in brackets or were presented in two different versions, as it had not been possible to reach agreement among all the participants at the sixth meeting of the SBSTTA. These represented contentious issues that would require further negotiation at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

29. The view was expressed that African countries were affected by invasive alien species to a greater extent than any other region and that these species represented a very important environmental concern for African countries and, in many cases, resulted in serious ecological and economic consequences. At the same time, several participants noted that invasive alien species were occasionally beneficial rather than harmful. Others pointed to the need to differentiate between invasive alien species that had been introduced voluntarily and those whose introduction was accidental.

30. All participants who took the floor stressed the need for development of inventories of invasive alien species. It was recognized that this would require training in order to develop the capacity required to produce the inventories, as well as provision of financial resources. Some participants, however, stressed the need to pay greater attention to issues that had a more immediate impact on the problem, such as acquisition of the tools to fight invasive alien species and to limit the damage already being done. Participants stressed the need for research and assessment programmes, training, development of both institutional and technical capacities, education, and public awareness campaigns, which should be conducted both globally and at the national level.

31. A number of participants pointed out the transboundary element of invasive alien species and the need for regional and subregional cooperation in various areas, including control of entry points. This required training of customs and police officials. A need was also identified for the Secretariat to develop a work programme at the global level to incorporate the decisions that had already been reached at meetings of SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties. The programme should include identification of objectives and targets to allow monitoring of progress. Some participants stressed the need to promote common terminology.

32. In addition to formulating regional priorities, it was stated that African countries should discuss and, if possible, develop proposals on a common African position on outstanding issues within the framework of the interim guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species.

33. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Kenya, to prepare a list of the issues of invasive alien species which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to discuss a common position on outstanding issues within the guiding principles. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations, which are contained in annex I to the present report.

3.3 Access and benefit-sharing

34. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/6); Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/19); and Recent developments on access and benefit-sharing (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/19/Add.1).

35. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla recalled that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing, at its meeting in Bonn in October 2001, had adopted a recommendation, contained in the annex to its report (document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/6), on: the Draft Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; other approaches, including the development of an action plan for capacity-building; and the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements. After outlining the structure and key features of the voluntary Draft Bonn Guidelines, he explained that a few issues therein remained outstanding, including the use of terms, the scope of the guidelines with respect to products and derivatives and, and stakeholder involvement.

36. Concerning the action plan for capacity-building, although the Bonn meeting had already suggested possible elements for inclusion, it was up to participants at the current meeting to focus and prepare a position on Africa's needs and priorities for capacity-building in connection with access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing. He also drew attention to the important recommendations from the Bonn meeting on the subject of intellectual property rights, specifically concerning disclosure of origins of genetic resources and of traditional knowledge used in commercial products.

37. On the issue of information related to access and benefit-sharing, as set out in section C of the progress report on the implementation of decisions V/26 A-C (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/19), participants considered that dissemination of information through the clearing-house mechanism alone presented problems for those countries with poor Internet access. It would be desirable to also have available other means of dissemination, such as CD-ROMs or hardcopies. On the subject of the draft recommendation on ex situ collections acquired prior to the entry into force of the Convention, as contained in section III, E of the same report, it was proposed that the depositaries be requested to facilitate benefit-sharing of those resources with their countries of origin. Attention was also drawn to the need to examine past experience of benefit-sharing regarding such collections.

38. The view was expressed that the tone of the introductory statements of the Draft Bonn Guidelines seemed to be intended to benefit commercial enterprises. It was necessary to infuse the guidelines with the spirit and objectives of the Convention itself. In addition, in connection with the agreement on

trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs), it was necessary to focus on the fact that, despite repeated attempts by the Secretariat of the Convention, it had still not been able to obtain observer status with the World Trade Organization (WTO). Further, rejecting the need for African countries to burden themselves with the expensive patenting processes, participants pointed to the need to apply the Model Law developed by the African Union.

39. It was observed that the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should take note of the current initiatives to regulate access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, and should look at the areas covered by other international organizations in the field of access to genetic resources. In addition, legal frameworks had to take into account traditional knowledge and the rights of indigenous and local communities.

40. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Nigeria, to prepare a list of the issues on access and benefit-sharing which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and to address outstanding issues in the Draft Bonn Guidelines. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations, which are contained in annex I to the present report.

3.4 Strategic Plan, national reporting and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

41. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Report of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Strategic Plan, National Reports and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/5).

42. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla summarized the results of the open-ended inter-sessional meeting on the strategic plan, national reports and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Montreal from 19 to 21 November 2001. That Meeting had considered and adopted elements of a draft strategic plan for implementation of the Convention, including the issue, mission statement, vision, constraints and operational goals. While the texts on the vision and goals remained in brackets, the inter-sessional meeting recommended that the draft strategic plan should be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at their sixth meeting and urged the Parties to review their activities in light of the strategic plan. The meeting had adopted operational goals, and recommended that the Executive Secretary develop parameters for each of those goals in terms of activities, expected output, timeframe, expected actors and resource implications. A document outlining these had been developed and was under preliminary discussion. With regard to national reports, Parties that had not yet submitted their second national reports were urged to do so, and the Executive Secretary was requested to assess the second national reports and establish a format for the third series. On measures to implement the Convention, Parties were urged to develop and adopt national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The inter-sessional meeting had also recommended that the Conference of the Parties should develop and adopt a message for transmission to the World Summit on Social Development.

43. Participants expressed the view that the Strategic Plan should be concise and forward-looking and that the regional interests of Africa must be included. Not all the issues could be covered at once, and there was a need to prioritize activities. The lack of financial resources was stressed, and participants felt that activities should be linked to available resources and financial assistance should be provided to countries to produce their national reports. In addition, there should be a reduction in the overall number of thematic reports that countries were required to produce. Financial assistance for Convention focal points should also be provided. Some participants felt that use of implementing agencies at times complicated matters and one participant noted that Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding had been suspended because his Government had been unable to provide counterpart funds. It was also noted that approval of GEF funding took far too long. In connection with the issue of financial resources, it was observed that, while funding was generally only provided for one participant to attend meetings under the Convention, provision for two participants at the Conference of the Parties was essential, since without this effective participation would be difficult. The view was expressed that participation of all

stakeholders in conservation of biodiversity was essential, particularly of local and indigenous communities.

44. It was proposed that participants adopt a two-pronged approach: first, they should make a general statement on the nature of the strategic plan; second, the meeting should focus on the proposed operational goals, and decide whether or not they reflected the priorities of the African Parties to the Convention. Additional goals could also be proposed.

45. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Togo, to prepare a list of those issues of the Strategic Plan, national reporting and implementation of the Convention which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations, which are contained in annex I to the present report.

ITEM 4. SELECTED CROSS-CUTTING AND IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

46. In its deliberations, in addition to specific documentation pertaining to the sub-items, the meeting also had before it the Progress report on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12); and the Progress report on mechanisms for implementation (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/13), and the reports of various other inter-sessional bodies and meetings.

4.1 Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention

47. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/7).

48. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla stated that the inter-sessional working group on Article 8 (j) had held two meetings. At the second meeting, which was held at Montreal in February 2002, participants had reviewed progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the implementation of Article 8 (j) and had prepared recommendations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The recommendations included one to the effect that a draft outline of a composite report should be adopted and a timetable for implementation of Article 8 (j) should be prepared. It was also recommended that participation of indigenous groups should be improved and that necessary funding should be provided. A proposal to establish databases and registers of traditional knowledge, however, had been greeted very cautiously by indigenous communities, who had been openly opposed to the establishment of international databases.

49. The participants stressed the need for education, promotion of awareness of conservation issues and mobilization of local and indigenous communities. Indigenous communities in Africa should be assisted to organize themselves into associations in order to promote their interests. This would require an effort to overcome the suspicion felt by most African indigenous communities towards outsiders. Development of policies for the protection of traditional knowledge would be important in that regard. One participant noted that it was necessary to be cautious in defining who should be considered as constituting an indigenous community in African countries.

50. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Liberia, to prepare a list of the issues of Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations, which are contained in annex I to the present report.

4.2 Financial resources and mechanism

51. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Financial resources and mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/14); Compilation of previous guidance ((UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/3);

Second review of the financial mechanism (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/4); Summary of the second review (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/13/Add.1).

52. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla pointed to the need to consider whether the Conference of the Parties needed to be given additional guidance on the specific issues before the Conference for in-depth consideration. Concerning the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, it was necessary to consider appropriate action to improve such effectiveness and, based on the experience of the first and second reviews, to also consider the need for terms of reference for the third review. Moreover, Parties were called upon to consider the need for information on and improved access to additional financial resources outside GEF, for example by increasing private-sector involvement.

53. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Cameroon, to prepare a list of the issues of financial resources and mechanism which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

54. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations.

55. The priorities for the African region on the subject are contained in annex I to the present report.

4.3 Biological diversity and tourism

56. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Progress report on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12, section C); and the report of the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/4).

57. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla said that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties had accepted an invitation to participate in the international work programme on tourism and sustainable development under the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), with a mandate to contribute to the development of a set of guidelines for activities related to tourism development in vulnerable ecosystems. A workshop had been held in Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, in June 2001, which had developed a set of draft guidelines. Those had been submitted to SBSTTA at its seventh session, and would be transmitted to the tenth session of CSD and to the World Ecotourism Summit. He observed that the Conference of the Parties could review, finalize and endorse the Draft International Guidelines for Activities Related to Sustainable Tourism Development in Vulnerable Terrestrial, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats of Major Importance for Biological Diversity and Protected Areas, including Fragile Riparian and Mountain Ecosystems, or it could decide to start compiling information on their implementation in different countries. In conclusion, he drew attention to the brochure on the guidelines which had been prepared by the Executive Secretary and disseminated to Parties.

58. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Burkina Faso, to prepare a list of those issues of biological diversity and tourism which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

59. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations.

60. The priorities for the African region on the subject are contained in annex I to the present report.

4.4 Biodiversity education and public awareness

61. In its deliberations, the meeting had before it the following documentation: Progress report on mechanisms for implementation (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/13, section D); and Education and public awareness (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/13/Add.2).

62. Introducing the topic, Mr. Ogolla said that, pursuant to decision V/17, the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with UNESCO, had established a consultative working group on the subject, which had held three meetings to assess major needs, necessities and guiding principles for the Global Initiative on

Biodiversity Education and Public Awareness. The group had proposed a programme of work on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), which contained three elements: development of a global CEPA network; exchange of knowledge and experience; and capacity-building for CEPA. The Conference of the Parties was expected to adopt the CEPA programme, and he invited participants to provide their comments thereon.

63. The meeting agreed to set up a working group, chaired by the representative of Gambia, to prepare a list of those issues of biodiversity education and public awareness which the African region considered to be priorities for the attention of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

64. Subsequently, the working group reported to plenary on the results of its deliberations.

65. The priorities for the African region on the subject are contained in annex I to the present report.

V. ISSUES OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THE REGION

66. Introducing the item, the Chair explained that it was intended to provide an opportunity for participants to identify and underline any additional specific issues of concern to the region for the attention and possible action of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was not intended that issues already raised in the context of the discussions under other agenda items should be reiterated.

67. The view was expressed that the need for capacity-building had been raised in the context of nearly all other issues and should therefore be highlighted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to raise global awareness of the problem. The need to simplify financing procedures under GEF should also be underlined in order to attract attention at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

68. These two points were supported by a number of participants. As most countries had already drawn up their strategies and action plans, it was noted that the need was for capacity-building and funding specifically in the context of implementation of the Convention. It was also noted that, following the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, funds for capacity-building had been made available through GEF.

69. The issue of funding for participation of additional delegates from African countries at meetings held in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, was also raised by a number of participants. It was strongly felt that it was not possible to provide adequate coverage of meetings, particularly when parallel working groups were established, with only one representative from each country. Governments might not be able to finance the participation of additional representatives, and the secretariat was urged to find a solution to the problem.

70. The need for cooperation at all levels was also raised as of particular concern, particularly in terms of training, transfer of technology and access to scientific knowledge. Access and benefit-sharing was felt to be lagging behind in terms of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

71. A list of the issues of special concern to Africa is contained in annex II to the present report.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

In Memoriam

72. The meeting observed one minute's silence in tribute to the recent demise of the former representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Congo, who had attended many meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Status of ratification

73. The meeting greeted with acclamation the announcement that Mozambique had ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Provision of language and expert liaison services at meetings

74. The issue of provision of language and interpretation services at meetings was raised as a matter of specific concern to the African region. An appeal was made to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to ensure that interpretation was provided during the informal regional group consultative meetings at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

75. Recalling that, at past meetings of AMCEN, provision had been made for the attendance of African technical experts, who also served a liaison and coordination role, an appeal was made for arrangements to ensure the participation of such experts to assist the countries of the African region at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

African representation on the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

76. Noting that the African region was called upon to select two members of the region to serve as officers on the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, participants started their reflections on possible candidate countries for the posts in question, on the understanding that a final decision would be reached in the regional consultations at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

African Pollinators Initiative

77. Attention was drawn to the recent meeting of the Steering Committee of the African Pollinators Initiative, to the availability of the report of that meeting, and to the need to harmonize the positions of the English-speaking and French-speaking African countries on the subject of pollinators, in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. The meeting adopted its report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/CBD/Prep.Cop6.Afr/1/L.1 and Add.1, annexes I and II, and the list of participants, as orally amended, on the understanding that the Secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the finalization of the report of the final part of the meeting.

VIII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

79. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting rose at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 21 March 2002.

Annex I

PRIORITIES FOR THE AFRICA REGION

The meeting identified the priorities for the Africa region concerning the agenda items before the Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting and defined the position of the African region on key issues.

A. FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The delegates emphasized that there was a need to clearly define the term “forest biological diversity”.

The priorities for Africa:

1. Forestry research
2. Inventories and assessments of existing forest resources
3. Identification of indicators of successful forest conservation measures
4. Public awareness, in particular at policy and local community levels
5. Capacity building and training particularly in taxonomy
6. Cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international levels in all areas of forest biological diversity
7. Compensatory mechanisms to support populations with respect to the conservation of forest biological diversity
8. Linkages between traditional knowledge and forest biological diversity conservation activities
9. Restoration and recovery of forest biological diversity in particular in protected areas
10. Establishment and management of forest reserves
11. Mobilization of predictable, adequate and sustainable financing at all levels

B. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

The priorities for Africa:

The African Regional meeting felt that options and priorities for future work on invasive alien species should include the following measures:

1. Control of the spread of known invasive alien species
2. Establish an inventory of invasive alien species and assess their impact on biodiversity, environment and the economy
3. Capacity building: human, technical and technological
4. Financial resources for implementation of the control, prevention and management measures,
5. Public awareness and education
6. Implementation of the Guiding Principles (Guidelines) on Invasive Alien Species,
7. Continuous research and monitoring
8. Sub-regional and regional cooperation
9. Development of a global programme on invasive alien species on the basis of COP decisions and SBSTTA recommendations.

African position on the Guiding Principles (Guidelines):

1. Definitions and terminologies should be agreed upon for instance, “invasive alien species” or “alien invasive species”.
2. The title should read “Guidelines” instead of “Guiding Principles”. This would indicate a firm commitment of Parties and States to control and mitigate the impact of invasive alien species.

3. Adopt version 2 of the introduction. The reference to the precautionary approach is consistent with Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration.
4. Guiding Principle 1: adopt text in version 2. Reference and linkages of the Guidelines to the Rio Declaration, the Convention on Biological Diversity and Article 10 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety are appropriate.
5. Guiding Principle 4: adopt text in version 1. Reference to state responsibility is consistent with Article 3 of the CBD and should therefore be maintained. In addition the issue of intentional and unintentional transfer of invasive alien species is contentious and Parties should therefore adopt version 1.
6. Guiding Principle 7: remove the brackets under 1(c). It is important for states to put in place appropriate boarder control and quarantine measures in order to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species.
7. Guiding Principle 10: adopt version 1. In order to secure effective control of introductions of invasive alien species, the burden of proof that a proposed introduction is unlikely to cause harm to ecosystems, habitats and species should rest with the proposer of the introduction. This would be consistent with Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration and Article 10 of the Cartagena Protocol.
8. Guiding Principle 12: remove the bracket in the text.
9. Guiding Principle 15: remove the bracket in the text.

C. ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING (ABS)

General Concerns for Africa:

- Need to link the issue of access and benefit sharing to poverty alleviation and community involvement and development.
- Need for adequate and predictable financial resources and capacity building for developing countries to implement CBD provisions and COP decisions on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), including the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.
- Need to strengthen the clearing-house mechanism to cope with ABS. Furthermore, encourage the establishment of additional clearing houses where none exist.
- Further work on pre-CBD ex-situ collections. Exchange of information on past experience and lessons learnt on benefit sharing arrangements.

Bonn Guidelines

Generally the Africa region supports the work of the Panel of Experts and the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on ABS. However, the region has the following specific concerns regarding the guidelines.

1. General Provisions

a) Use of Terms:

- Paragraph 6: brackets should be removed

b) Scope:

- Paragraph 7: brackets should be removed and the following text added after “innovations and practices”: “**as well as modern technology**”.

c) Relationship with relevant international and regional regimes

- Paragraph 8, line 4 to 5: delete reference to WIPO since its work has not been concluded.
- Also add at the end of paragraph 8 the following text: **‘Also consider existing and current regional initiatives that address synergies with other international agreements on the issue of access and benefit sharing such as the African Model Law’.**

2. Objectives:

- Paragraph 9: In line with the objectives of the CBD, the chapeau should read: **‘to provide Parties and stakeholders with a transparent framework to facilitate fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding. Specifically, the guidelines are.....’.**
- Paragraph 9 (l): delete this sub-paragraph since it is not an objective.
- Paragraph 10: Should be shifted from the Objectives part to the section on Key Features under (A) as paragraph 1(b).

2. Steps in the access and benefit-sharing process

Prior informed consent:

- Basic principles of a prior informed consent system: Paragraph 24 (c): In line with CBD provisions replace: “..... *be transparent and should be based on legal grounds in order to conserve biological diversity.*” with **“not run counter to the objectives of CBD”.**

Mutually agreed terms:

- *Indicative list of typical mutually agreed terms: Paragraph 42: remove brackets.*

D. STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

The meeting was of the view that the Strategic Plan should be concise and focused, and should prioritize key activities. In addition, the Mission Statement and the Vision should be broad enough to accommodate the overall objectives of the Convention.

Strategic Plan

Priorities for Africa.

The Strategic Plan should focus on the following priority elements for Africa:

- Integration of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans.
- Guidance on the development, implementation and review of NBSAPs.
- Provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for implementation of the Convention
- Enhancement of stakeholder participation in activities for the implementation of the Convention.

Africa position on text of the Strategic Plan

- Mission statement: remove brackets in paragraph 9.
- Vision: adopt option 1 since financial aspects are included and are time-bound. In addition insert the word “**and**” between “approach” and “implementation”.

National Reporting

- Provide financial support for the preparation of national and thematic reports, in particular, direct funding and other mechanisms for accessing financial resources from other sources.
- Enhance capacity of national focal points for effective coordination and discharge their reporting responsibilities.

Implementation

- Provide adequate financial resources for monitoring the implementation of NBSAPS.
- Streamline modalities and procedures for access to financial resources in particular there is a need to relax the counterpart funding requirements for developing countries in order to facilitate the timely disbursements of these funds.

Operations of the Convention

- Increase support to developing countries in order to facilitate their effective participation in meetings organized under the Convention, preferably at least two representatives per country Party.
- Provide interpretation and translation services during consultative meetings.

E. ARTICLE 8j AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION.

The meeting recognized that the custodians of African traditional knowledge are not adequately organized. Furthermore, it was underscored that the African region does not support the patenting of traditional knowledge since indigenous knowledge is communally owned. The region therefore

supports the implementation of the “OAU Africa Model Legislation for the Recognition and Protection of Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders, and the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources”.

Priorities for Africa:

- Country Parties should encourage and facilitate the establishment of organizations of local and indigenous communities, for example “Traditional Healers Associations”,
- Provide necessary funding for the participation of organizations of local and indigenous communities in meetings organized under the Convention,
- Dissemination of information on the OAU Model Law to all Parties and relevant stakeholders,
- Support the utilization of the OAU Model Law for the protection of traditional knowledge,
- Integration of the provisions of the Model Law into national legislation,
- Inventory of traditional knowledge should be undertaken and appropriate compensation mechanism be developed and enforced for its utilization,
- Facilitate consultative meetings at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels of local and indigenous community organizations,
- Integration of traditional knowledge in national plans and policies,
- Capacity building for the use and protection of traditional knowledge, with emphasis on women and other vulnerable groups.

F. FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND RESOURCES

The meeting noted that the financial mechanism was one of the key instruments for the effective implementation of the Convention. However, it was underscored that access to GEF Funds continues to be difficult and procedurally cumbersome for African countries. It was pointed out that these procedures should be made simple and flexible to take into account national circumstances.

In so far as the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the meeting raised concerns regarding the representativeness of the sample of African countries consulted in the process, given the fact that only 17 African country Parties responded to the questionnaire.

Priority issues for Africa:

Financial mechanism,

- Procedures of GEF and Implementing Agencies relating to access to financial resources should be harmonized in order to facilitate easy and timely access to financing.
- GEF should provide technical and financial assistance to eligible country Parties, including relevant stakeholders, with respect to the procedures and modalities for access to financial resources.

Additional financial resources.

- Based on the results of the analysis of the second national reports, it is clear that without external funds the Convention could hardly be implemented, particularly in the African region. This issue should therefore be addressed by the COP6.
- There is need to identify other sources of funding, outside the GEF, from bilateral, multilateral and private sector sources for the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

- The COP should encourage donor Parties to increase their contributions as additional resources to the GEF.
- There is need to encourage private sector participation in financing the implementation of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity measures, particularly in sectors in which they operate.
- NGOs should be encouraged to implement activities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

G. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The meeting supported the general focus and content of the proposed guidelines on sustainable tourism.

Priorities for Africa:

- Emphasis on rural tourism
- The scope of the guidelines should not be limited to the conservation of landscape and natural heritage but should also include natural sites and monuments.
- Build public awareness and education of communities on the benefits of sustainable tourism, and also involve the private sector.
- Enhance the participation of indigenous and local community organizations in sustainable tourism.

H. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

The meeting emphasized that Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) should be an integral part of the Strategic Plan for the convention and be subject to major financial support.

Priorities for Africa.

- National, Sub-regional, regional and international level measures to integrate education and public awareness on biodiversity in educational curricula.
- In addition to existing methods of communication and awareness raising, other methods such as taboos, symbols, folk tales etc could be explored,
- Need to develop indicators for success in the implementation of education and public awareness programmes,

Programme elements of the proposed work programme on CEPA

- Programme element 1: Add “**Research and Academia**” to the list
- Programme element 2, paragraph 9: Add the following “ **Operational Objective**” – “**To enhance exchange of knowledge and expertise among professionals and encourage development and innovation in communication, education and public awareness at the national, sub-regional and regional levels**”

Programme element 3: The following operational objectives should be included, “**Develop the capacity of Parties to popularize the concept of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**”

ANNEX II

ISSUES OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO AFRICA

The following issues were considered critical to the effective implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan of the Convention. In particular, it was emphasized that for the Africa region, the critical issue is to support the implementation of the NBSAPs.

- Strengthening of capacities (human, technical, technological) at all levels,
- Access to, transfer and adaptation of available technologies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,
- Adequate, additional and predictable financing to effectively implement the NBSAPS, agreed targets and success indicators.
- GEF procedures should be further simplified or streamlined to allow for easy access to available resources for effective implementation of the Convention. In addition there is need for exchange of views between the GEF and eligible country Parties.
- Improved participation of African delegations in various meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Other post Rio Conventions support two delegates from Least Developing Countries (LDCs) to the Conferences of the Parties – could serve as a precedent.
- Mobilization of resources to support at least two delegates from each African country Party to the Convention to be encouraged. Furthermore, efforts should be made to identify sources that could support the participation of African NGOs at meetings of the Conferences of the Parties.
- Cooperation in research, training, technology transfer and information exchange on issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,
- Encourage rapid and effective implementation of the third objective of the Convention, that is, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
- Harmonization of strategies on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with regard to trans-boundary or shared biological resources,
- Need to earmark financial resources to cover interpretation costs during informal consultations of the Africa Group at meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
