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THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK: REVIEW, FURTHER ELABORATION AND REFINEMENT

Progress in the implementation of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal biological diversity

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This note describes progress made since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regarding: (i) the refinement and further elaboration of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and on marine and coastal biological diversity; and (ii) progress in the implementation of these programmes of work.
2. In particular, it draws attention to the relevant recommendations made by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its eighth and ninth meetings, and by other bodies during the inter-sessional period, as well as to the actions taken by the Executive Secretary in response to those recommendations.
3. Section II of this document refers to inland water ecosystems and section III to marine and coastal biological diversity. Each section is divided into three parts: (i) a report on the review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work; (ii) a progress report on implementation of the programme of work in the inter-sessional period; and (iii) a brief report on the status of the development of outcome oriented targets, and their indicators, for the programme of work.
4. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:
 - (a) Take note of the progress made in the refinement and elaboration of the programmes of work on inland water and marine and coastal biological diversity;

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

(b) Consider the relevant recommendations on these matters of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), in the reports of its eighth and ninth meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3 and UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4);

(c) Consider and endorse the draft decisions on these matters as contained in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1/Add.2), which include those related to the proposed revised programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters, and the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity;

(d) Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and on and marine and coastal biological diversity, including the development of outcome-oriented targets.

II. THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

A. Progress report on the review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

5. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision VI/2 on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. In paragraph 3 of this decision, the Conference of the Parties emphasized the importance of review and elaboration of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, as outlined in the progress report by the Executive Secretary on thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/11, paragraphs 22-24).

6. In response to this decision the following activities were carried out:

(a) To assist SBSTTA, the Executive Secretary prepared the following documents presenting the results of his review of the implementation of the programme of work: summary of the status and trends of, and threats to, inland water biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.1); work plan for developing methods and techniques for the valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems, incentives and policy reform and understanding of ecosystem function (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.3); provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention as pertaining to inland water biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.4); provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention, as pertaining to inland water ecosystems: options for national elaboration of the indicative list of categories of components of inland water biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/4); report of the Expert Meeting on Methods and Guidelines for the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity of Inland Water Ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/5); and on habitat destruction in the world's waters (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/16). These documents identify gaps in knowledge, incomplete activities and constraints to the implementation of the programme of work, and emerging issues including those identified by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 5 of decision V/2;

(b) The Secretariat organized a liaison group meeting on review, refinement and elaboration of the programme of work on inland waters. The meeting was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, from 13 to 15 June, 2002. The group provided advice on draft papers prepared by the Executive Secretary, on the review of the programme of work on inland waters and on a proposal for a revised programme of work. The proposed revised programme of work took into account the latest decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, the joint Convention on Biological Diversity-Ramsar

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Convention work programme and consideration of the report of the World Commission on Dams (as requested in decision V/2, paragraph 4, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and as noted in decision VI/2, paragraph 2, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties);

(c) The web page on inland water biodiversity was updated in July 2002 to reflect the decisions of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

7. The proposed revised programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.2) was presented to the eighth meeting of SBSTTA. At that meeting further inputs into the work plan were received from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Canadian Indigenous Biodiversity Network and from the representatives of 24 Parties. The proposed revised work plan as recommended by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting is contained in SBSTTA recommendation VIII/2 (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3, annex I). The proposed revised programme of work builds upon ongoing activities, uses existing knowledge, and also focuses attention on gaps in the institutional frameworks and the knowledge base upon which management decisions are made. It seeks to respond to the constraints identified by Parties through their national reports and to provide an integrated package of activities to address these obstacles and impediments. The activities within the proposed programme of work are intended to be targeted towards, and address first and foremost, national priorities as indicated by the national biodiversity strategy and action plan of each Party. Collaboration with other relevant conventions and initiatives is a cornerstone of the proposed work programme, including *inter alia*: the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The proposed work programme has been developed with broader conservation and sustainable development goals and targets in mind including, *inter alia*, targets under the Ramsar resolutions, those of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

8. The proposed programme of work, where necessary and relevant, will naturally involve significant activities under, and linkages to, the other programmes of work on thematic areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity including, *inter alia*: marine and coastal biodiversity; agricultural biodiversity; forest biodiversity; and, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; and activities related to cross-cutting issues including *inter alia*: biosafety; access to genetic resources; traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Article 8(j)); intellectual property rights; indicators; taxonomy (including the Global Taxonomy Initiative); public education and awareness; incentives; and alien species. The ecosystem approach is considered particularly pertinent to the programme of work. It is also a very relevant link with and between the other thematic areas and cross-cutting issues (e.g., land use management within river catchment or basin approaches).

B. Progress made in implementation of the current programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

1. Criteria for the elaboration of Annex I of the Convention

9. In paragraphs 9 (e) (iv) and 12 of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems annexed to its decision IV/4, the Conference of the Parties advised Parties to prepare indicative lists of inland water ecosystems, using the criteria set out in Annex I to the Convention, and requested the Executive Secretary and SBSTTA to work closely with the Ramsar Convention to achieve desirable convergence between approaches on criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems in the framework of the two conventions.

10. In response to this decision, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau, has prepared a review of options for a classification system and further elaboration of criteria that Parties

to the Convention on Biological Diversity can use to prepare their list of inland water ecosystems as requested. A summary of this activity was presented to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.4). Full details of the review were provided as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/4). In paragraph 7 (a) of its recommendation VIII/2, SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties should request that Parties adopt the Ramsar classification of wetlands as an interim classification system and use it as a framework for the initial inventorying of inland water ecosystems for the purpose of preparing indicative lists of inland water ecosystems important in the framework of the Convention.

2. *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity*

11. In paragraph 8 (b) of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop a work plan on inland water ecosystems, which should include, *inter alia*, the development and dissemination of regional guidelines for rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity for different types of inland water ecosystems. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested that in the development of rapid-assessment methodologies special attention be paid to early cooperation with the small island States and the territories of certain States in which inland water ecosystems suffer from ecological disaster.

12. In response to this decision, the Executive Secretary commissioned Conservation International to compile information on methods for the rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity and guidelines for their application. He then subsequently convened, in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau, an expert meeting to further develop these guidelines. The meeting was attended by government-nominated experts from 13 Parties and representatives of the Ramsar Bureau, the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN–The World Conservation Union, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). Having considered the conclusions of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.5), SBSTTA, at its eighth meeting, recommended further elaboration of the guidelines to address ecosystem scale assessments and assessments of socio-economic and cultural components of biological diversity was recommended. The detailed report of the Expert Meeting was also presented to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/5).

3. *Status and trends of inland water biological diversity*

13. In paragraph 8 (a) of the programme of work on inland water ecosystems, SBSTTA was requested to use existing information and draw upon relevant organizations and experts to develop, as part of its work plan, an improved picture of inland water biological diversity, its uses and its threats, around the world, and to highlight where the lack of information severely limits the quality of assessments.

14. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary commissioned the World Resources Institute (WRI) to prepare an assessment of the status and trends of inland water biodiversity. This activity also contributed significantly to the revision of the proposed work programme for inland water ecosystems. A summary of the assessment report, highlighting essentially the gaps in information that limits the quality of the assessment of the status of inland water biodiversity, was presented to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.1). The full report was subsequently developed through additional inputs from the collaborators, in particular the World Resources Institute and the Ramsar Bureau, and especially in relation to the inclusion of more recent data on status and trends for certain

taxa. The full report has been published jointly by the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the CBD Technical Series.

4. *Invasive alien species in inland waters*

15. In paragraph 6 (d) of recommendation VI/5, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to initiate assessments of the impacts of invasive alien species.

16. In response to this request, the Secretariat participated in a meeting on the impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems, held at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., from 13 to 15 July 2003. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the design of a six-month assessment of the biological impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems. Since that time, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and its partners have started coordinating and developing an assessment of the socio-economic and biological impacts of invasive alien species on inland water ecosystems on behalf of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The group of experts meeting is being expanded through a web-based discussion forum. Outputs will include a 15-page peer reviewed information document for presentation to a subsequent SBSTTA meeting.

5. *Other matters*

17. In paragraph 7 of the programme of work on the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems, the Conference of the Parties recognized that in the territories of certain States, there are inland water ecosystems suffering from ecological disaster, and requested the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to pay special attention to early cooperation in assessing such disasters and mitigating activities and in developing rapid assessment methodologies within these States.

18. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary issued a notification reminding Parties and other Governments to inform the Secretariat whether their inland waters have suffered from ecological disasters. Only a small number of Parties responded. A number of Parties commented on the need for clarification of definitions of “ecological disasters”.

19. In paragraph 8 (c) of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to compile case-studies on watershed, catchment and river-basin management experiences and practices, to synthesize the lessons emerging from these studies, and to disseminate that information through the clearing-house and other appropriate mechanisms.

20. In response to this request, case-studies on community involvement in river basin or water resources management; planning procedures and mechanisms; monitoring and research; policies and legal instruments; management interventions; trans-boundary/international cooperation; and institutional arrangement, were submitted to the Secretariat and made available on the Convention website.

21. During the ninth meeting of SBSTTA, the Secretariat organized a side event –celebrating 2003 as the “International Year of Freshwater”. The focus was on getting the message about “biodiversity and inland waters” across to the target audience. It consisted of a series of short films by the Ramsar Bureau, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the United Kingdom, WWF and the Mekong River Commission followed by a discussion.

C. *Progress on the incorporation of outcome-oriented targets into the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems*

22. At its eighth meeting, SBSTTA requested that targets be developed for the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland waters. In paragraph 4 (b) of recommendation VIII/2, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a schedule of short-, medium-, and long-term outcome-oriented targets for the activities and deadlines for implementation of the programme of work. Similarly, in paragraph 2 (i) of recommendation VIII/3, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to set clear targets for the implementation of activities, taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit of Sustainable Development and the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

23. In response to the recommendations, the Executive Secretary prepared a draft schedule and list of outcome-oriented targets and submitted these to the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/14/Add.1). A much more detailed draft, with sub-targets, milestones and deadlines relating to specific activities of the programme of work, was circulated by the Executive Secretary for comments on 29 August 2003. The detailed revised schedule was provided to SBSTTA at its ninth meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/29).

24. The aforementioned documents were discussed at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA under a general agenda item on integration of outcome-oriented targets into the programmes of work of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/14). The discussions resulted in recommendation IX/8. Paragraph 5 of this recommendation requested the Executive Secretary to further refine the proposals, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, on the basis of the comments made by Parties at the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, or provided to the Executive Secretary no later than 21 November 2003.

25. In response to this recommendation, the Executive Secretary has produced an addendum to the present document (UNEP/COP/7/12/Add.3), which explains further the activities undertaken in relation to this request and that the development of outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters has been streamlined with the development of global targets for the programmes of work of the Convention as described further in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3).

III. MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A. *Progress report on the review, further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity*

26. The programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity as approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/5, and further elaborated in decisions V/3 and VI/3, identifies important operational objectives and priority activities within the framework of five key programme elements reflecting global priorities. These programme elements are the implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM), marine and coastal living resources, marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs), mariculture, and alien species and genotypes. The programme provided a framework for activities up to 2000, although it was designed to be applicable beyond that year. At its eighth meeting, SBSTTA assessed the status of implementation of the programme of work (see document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/9), evaluated the need for its further development and refinement, and proposed ways in which such refinement could be undertaken in a systematic manner.

27. At that meeting, SBSTTA also considered the summary reports of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group On Marine And Coastal Protected Areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/9/Add.1) and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group On Mariculture (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/9/Add.2), together with a note by the Executive Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction: study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/9/Add.3/Rev.1)

28. In the resulting recommendations VIII/3 A-D, SBSTTA stated that the programme elements of the programme of work still corresponded to global priorities, which are not fully implemented, and therefore recommended that COP extend the time period of the programme of work by an additional six years. SBSTTA also recognized that some refinement to the programme of work was needed as a result of recent developments and new priorities, and gave, in recommendation VIII/3 A, specific guidance on how such refinement should be undertaken.

29. In response to recommendation VIII/3 A, the Executive Secretary has produced for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties an elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, including a detailed description of the actions taken to develop it (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12/Add.2).

B. Progress made in implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity

30. The present section provides a brief review progress made in each programme element of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/5, as well as additional priorities identified in decisions V/3 and VI/3 of the Conference of the Parties, and SBSTTA recommendations VIII/3 A-D.

1. Programme element 1. Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)

31. At its fifth meeting, in decision V/3, the Conference of the Parties endorsed further work on developing guidelines for coastal areas, taking into account the ecosystem approach and encouraged SBSTTA to continue to work on ecosystem evaluation and assessment. In this context, the Government of the Netherlands, together with the Ramsar Convention, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities (GPA) and international agencies such as Wetlands International, have developed biodiversity-relevant guidance on IMCAM. This guidance will be available to the Conference of the Parties as an information document.

32. The Secretariat has participated in two meetings relevant to IMCAM. These were the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) workshop entitled “Beyond Biodiversity – Sustainable Management and Conservation of the Oceans Using EBM”, held in Cairns, Australia, on 20 June 2003, and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment meeting on marine and coastal issues in held in Vancouver from 7 to 11 April 2003. The outcome of the first meeting provided a set of lessons learned from case studies, as well as responses to challenges of an ecosystem-based approach to managing human activities in the oceans. The second meeting established how marine and coastal ecosystems would be addressed throughout the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reports. The Secretariat also participated in a planning meeting on the development of a UNEP module for the assessment of the coastal and marine environment, which was held from 19 to 21 November 2003 in Nairobi. The meeting aimed to further the development of a continuous process of assessing the marine environment in support of, for example, the 2010 target in the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

33. The Executive Secretary continues to liaise with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) with regard to two initiatives aimed at the development and application of indicators: (a) the Study Group on Coral Bleaching and Indicators of Related Effects; and (b) the ad hoc Study Group on Benthic Indicators.

34. On the regional level, the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, in response to operational objective 2.1, is coordinating a number of regional-level IMCAM initiatives. These include GEF projects on reducing pesticide run-off to the Caribbean Sea and on integrating management of watersheds and coastal areas in small island States in the Caribbean.

35. An ecosystem approach to the management of marine resources is demonstrated by the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, which provides a basis for the harmonization that strengthens national and regional actions in relation to ocean and coastal resources. This is the first implementation of such a regional ocean policy. Similar efforts are also being made in the OSPAR and HELCOM regions. In the declaration of the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions, the ministers have agreed to apply and further develop, by 2010, the measures necessary to implement an ecosystem approach, in order to help maintain and, when practicable, restore ecosystem health, integrity and services.

2. Programme element 2 - Marine and coastal living resources

(a) Coral reefs

36. In decision VI/3, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue facilitating the implementation of the specific work plans on coral bleaching and on physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs (SBSTTA recommendation VIII/3, annex II). The present section reports a number of activities implementing these.

37. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) in Gland, Switzerland, from 8 to 9 May in order to foster a closer working partnership with ICRI, as requested in decision VI/3, paragraph 2. The Secretariat was officially accepted as a partner of ICRI.

38. As a member of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) the Secretariat participated in the Management Group meeting on 7 May 2003, also in Gland. The Secretariat also continues to provide input to the next Status of Coral Reefs report, which will be published in 2004. The current and past status reports are available online at <http://www.gcrmn.org>.

39. The Government of Mexico hosted the ICRI Regional Workshop for Tropical Americas in Cancun, Mexico from 12 to 14 June 2002. The reports of the workshop are available at <http://www.icriforum.org>.

40. The Second International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS 2) took place in Manila from 24 to 27 March 2003. The outcome of the symposium included an Action Statement and case-studies related to the management of tropical marine ecosystems and resources worldwide; ^{1/} an analysis of meeting outcomes was presented to SBSTTA 9 as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/23).

^{1/} <http://www.icriforum.org/itmems.html>

41. The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) continues its work on exchange of experience in good management practices in over 30 demonstration and target sites in the Wider Caribbean, Eastern Africa, East Asian Seas and the South Pacific regions. Additional information is available at <http://www.icran.org>.

42. The Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) project has presented its Status Report 2002 (<http://www.cordio.org>). The status report describes the condition of coral reefs throughout the central and western Indian Ocean and presents the results of targeted research projects conducted within the last 18 months.

43. The World Resources Institute has commenced work in the Caribbean, conducting “a Reefs at Risk” analysis of the Wider Caribbean Region, following the release of the Southeast Asia report in 2002. Additional information is available at <http://www.wri.org/marine/>.

44. The international Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) has started to coordinate coral valuation activities, using information from ReefBase, Reefs at Risk and other ICRAN partners. ICLARM will also conduct coral-reef, fisheries and mariculture analysis, as well as policy analysis. ^{2/}

(b) Other living resources

45. At its twelfth meeting, in November 2002, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) considered, *inter alia*, proposals to list toothfish, seahorses, humphead wrasses and certain sharks in the appendices. As a result, whale sharks and basking sharks were listed in Appendix II to the Convention, and all seahorses will be listed by May 2004.

46. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has produced two publications on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in 2003. These are FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4 and the FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 443. Both are available from the FAO web site at http://www.fao.org/fi/eims_search/publications_form.asp?lang=en. The Sea Around us Project has produced web-based databases and maps of marine fisheries catches, and which can be used to generate global, regional or national fisheries catch maps. They can be accessed on-line at <http://www.seaaroundus.org/>.

47. FishBase, a global information system on fish, now contains over 28,000 Fish Species, as well as an expanded glossary with over 6,000 terms related to taxonomy, ichthyology, fisheries, fish products, oceanography, and related fields. FishBase is available at <http://www.fishbase.org>.

(c) Analyses and advice on scientific, technical and technological matters related to marine and coastal genetic resources

48. As follow-up to SBSTTA recommendation VIII/3 D, the Secretariat participated in the Workshop on the Governance of High Seas Biodiversity Conservation, held in Cairns, Australia, from 16 to 19 June 2003. This workshop discussed the status of high seas biodiversity, including genetic resources, governance arrangements, and options for conservation and sustainable use. ^{3/} The outcomes of this meeting will contribute towards international collaborative efforts for the conservation of high seas biodiversity.

^{2/} <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/>.

^{3/} <http://ea.gov.au/coasts/international/highseas/index.html#1>

49. Concern regarding threat to the biodiversity of seamounts and cold water coral reefs has recently been highlighted in international forums, and echoes the similar concern expressed in recommendation VIII/3 B. Approximately one hundred and fifty scientists attending the Tenth Deep-Sea Biology Symposium in Coos Bay, Oregon in August 2003, and the Second International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals in Erlangen, Germany, in September 2003, signed a Statement of Concern to the United Nations General Assembly regarding the risks to seamounts, cold-water corals and other vulnerable ecosystems of the deep sea. Among other recommendations, the scientists urged the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt an immediate moratorium on bottom trawl fishing on the high seas. A similar declaration was also signed by more than 100 individuals and non-governmental organizations at the World Parks Congress

3. *Programme element 3. Marine and coastal protected areas*

50. Aspects of SBSTTA recommendation VIII/3 B on marine and coastal protected areas (MCPA) are being implemented through a number of ongoing activities, some of which are summarized below:

51. One such activity is the development of a scorecard to assess progress in achieving management-effectiveness goals for marine protected areas. The World Bank facilitates this project.

52. The national biodiversity management framework endorsed by SBSTTA in its recommendation VIII/3 B is being put in practice by the Australian Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) through the implementation of its representative areas programme. ^{4/}

53. The World Heritage Convention, the Man and Biosphere Convention and the Ramsar Convention have produced a publication called Coral Reef Protected Areas in International Instruments. The initiative provides a response to the information needs identified in recommendation VIII/3 B, with regard to coral reefs. Similar information needs on a regional level are addressed through the Directory of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (<http://www.rac-spa.org.tn/>), maintained by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC-SPA); and the Caribbean Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) database. ^{5/} The development of a comprehensive global database on marine and coastal protected areas (recommendation VIII/3 B, annex I, priority 2.2, project (a)) will be undertaken by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in collaboration with WWF and the University of British Columbia.

54. A marine protected area for marine mammals in the Mediterranean covering 87,400 km² extending into the area outside of national jurisdiction been established in the Mediterranean through a trilateral agreement between France, Italy and Monaco. The sanctuary is recognized under the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention related to Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Because of this recognition, all the Contracting Parties are obligated to respect the rules established to manage this area.

55. The UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) is continuing its training of trainers programme on marine protected areas management through conducting a third regional training programme. A fourth course is scheduled for late 2003. The manual for the course is available online at <http://www.cep.unep.org/issues/MPA%20manual.htm>.

^{4/} http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/rep_areas/

^{5/} <http://www.cep.unep.org/pubs/databases/databases2.html>

4. *Programme element 4. Mariculture*

56. FAO and the Secretariat continue their collaboration (recommendation VIII/3 C on mariculture). FAO has updated its Fishstat Plus fisheries software and datasets. ^{6/}

57. ICLARM has initiated the biodiversity and genetic resources research programme (BGRRP), to ensure that the benefits of biodiversity are available to the poor in the developing world. This project corresponds to research priorities identified in recommendation VIII/3 C.

58. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has established an Internet-based aquaculture portal for the Pacific region. The portal will serve as a virtual focal point for aquaculture networking in the Pacific Islands, and a clearinghouse of information, highlighting best practices for aquaculture development. The portal is on-line at <http://www.spc.org.nc/aquaculture/site/home/index.asp>.

5. *Programme element 5. Alien species and genotypes*

59. The GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) is assisting developing countries to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water, to implement relevant guidelines and to prepare for the new IMO Convention on ballast water. The Marine Environment Protection Committee of the IMO at its forty-ninth session in July 2003 agreed a finalized draft of the proposed International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, and agreed to hold a diplomatic conference from 9 to 13 February 2004 to adopt the Convention in accordance with the agreed timetable already approved by the Council.

6. *Programme element 6. General*

60. The Secretariat was unable to participate in the fourth meeting of the United Nations open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea, held in New York from 2 to 6 June 2003, but provided written input into the process. The consultative process noted the scientific and technical work under the Convention relating to marine and coastal biodiversity, reiterated its support to the programme of work, and welcomed the Secretariat's efforts towards the implementation of ecosystem-based management.

^{6/} <http://www.fao.org/fi/statist/FISOFT/FISHPLUS.asp>

61. As part of its work programme, the GEF Council approved the following projects relating to marine and coastal biodiversity in addition to medium-sized projects and enabling activities approved in the past six months: (a) *Costa Rica* - Improved Management and Conservation Practices for the Cocos Island Marine Conservation Area (US\$ 1 million); (b) *Guinea Bissau* - Coastal and Biodiversity Management Project (US\$ 4.8 million); (c) *Seychelles* - Improving Management of Whole Island Ecosystems by Civil Society in Seychelles (US\$ 0.839 million); (d) *South Africa* – Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) biodiversity and sustainable development project (see <http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetails.cfm?projID=1516>). 7/

C. *Progress on the incorporation of outcome-oriented targets into the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity*

62. In paragraph 2 (i) of its recommendation VIII/3, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to consider the setting of clear targets for the implementation of activities, taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Strategic Plan of the Convention. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary produced a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/14/Add.3) on outcome-oriented targets for the implementation of the elaborated programme of work for the consideration of SBSTTA at its ninth meeting. The resulting recommendation IX/8 requested the Executive Secretary to revise these targets based on comments from Parties received by 21 November 2003. The revised outcome-oriented targets are presented for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties in an addendum to the present document (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12/Add.4).
