



## **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/7/19  
10 December 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### **CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Seventh meeting

Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 February 2004

Item 21 of the provisional agenda\*

### **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, INITIATIVES AND CONVENTIONS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Conference of the Parties has, since its first meeting, consistently recognized the importance of cooperation and synergy with other organizations, conventions, initiatives and processes in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties re-emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation by decision VI/20 on cooperation with organizations, initiatives and conventions. In addition, the Conference of the Parties made references to cooperation with other conventions and organisations in a number of decisions on specific thematic areas and cross-cutting issues, notably in decisions VI/2 (Inland waters); VI/4 (Dry and sub-humid lands); VI/5 (Agricultural biodiversity); VI/6 (The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture); VI/22 (Forest biological diversity); VI/23 (alien species); and VI/24 (Access and benefit-sharing).

2. Significant elements on cooperation are also included in the Strategic Plan adopted by decision VI/26. Under the strategic goal "The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues", the Conference of the Parties established the following strategic objectives:

(a) The Convention is promoting cooperation between all relevant international instruments and processes to enhance policy coherence; and

(b) Other international processes are actively supporting the implementation of the Convention, in a manner consistent with their respective frameworks.

3. The World Summit on Sustainable Development, which took place in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002 also underlined the need to strengthen collaboration within and between the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, to build better

---

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.

/...

synergies among the various biodiversity-related conventions, for better recognition of the linkages between trade and biodiversity, to establish cooperation to achieve synergies and mutual supportiveness with the framework of the World Trade Organization, and for increased scientific and technical cooperation between relevant international organizations.

4. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 made a number of recommendations concerning cooperation (recommendations 1 A, paragraph 2, 1 B, paragraph 1, and 3 subparagraphs (c) and (h)). In particular, the Inter-Sessional Meeting recommended that, at its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties request the Executive Secretary to develop a global partnership on biodiversity comprising the major international biodiversity-related organizations, with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity facilitating the process in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and improve implementation of biodiversity-related agreements.

5. The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist the Conference of the Parties review cooperation with various international organizations, initiatives and other conventions. Section II provides an overview of cooperative activities undertaken since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in light of decision VI/20 and other decisions mentioned in paragraph 1, above. Section III reviews and analyses experience with cooperation. Section IV addresses mechanisms of cooperation and the issue of a global partnership on biodiversity. Finally, section V presents some conclusions.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES REGARDING COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES**

### ***A. Cooperation among the Rio Conventions***

6. At its sixth meeting the Conference of the Parties welcomed ongoing cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including its Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), including cooperation between scientific subsidiary bodies, the progress made by the ad hoc technical expert group on biodiversity and climate change and the establishment of the joint liaison group. The Conference of the Parties also called for the development of proposals for a mechanism to coordinate activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under UNCCD (decisions VI/4, paragraph 2, VI/20, paragraphs 9-14, and VI/22, paragraph 9).

7. The importance of synergies among the Rio Conventions was also highlighted at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, held in New Delhi, from 23 October to 1 November 2002 (decision 13/CP.8) and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD, held in Havana, from 25 August to 5 September 2003 (decision 12/COP.6). The Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC affirmed that there is a need for enhanced cooperation between the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNCCD, with the aim of ensuring the environmental integrity of the conventions and promoting synergies under the common objective of sustainable development, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, strengthen joint efforts and use available resources more efficiently. It also requested continued and enhanced cooperation among the scientific subsidiary bodies; supported the mandate of the Joint Liaison Group, and urged it to continue its efforts to enhance coordination between the three conventions and their secretariats. The Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD welcomed the joint work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD and invited Parties to the UNCCD to take necessary measures to ensure its effective implementation,

particularly at the local level. It also encouraged the joint liaison group between the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNFCCC and UNCCD to identify possible areas for developing joint activities, including facilitation of local-level activities. Finally, it called for a joint approach on forests and requested the UNCCD Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and others to promote activities with low-forest-cover countries.

8. The joint programme of work referred to in the previous paragraph was developed jointly by the Executive Secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD and made available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its eighth meeting. The joint work programme highlights specific areas of collaboration and joint action between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD, national focal points and other collaborating partners. In its recommendation VIII/4, SBSTTA called for continued development and implementation of the joint work programme beyond its current timeframe of 2001-2005. An Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) composed of delegates nominated under both conventions has been established to carry out some of the work of the joint work programme.

9. Since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change has completed its work. Its report *Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change: advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol*, prepared in response to decision V/4 was welcomed by SBSTTA and the SBSTA of the UNFCCC. The latter has encouraged Parties to the UNFCCC to make use of it as a useful source of information for their national purposes.

10. The joint liaison group comprising heads of secretariats of the three conventions and the chairs of the respective subsidiary scientific bodies met in Bonn in May 2003 and are scheduled to meet again in January 2004. Additionally, the Executive Secretaries met on the margins of the meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Washington D.C. in November 2003. Through the joint liaison group a programme of cooperative activities is being developed in line with the guidance provided by the bodies of the conventions.

11. In July 2003, the Secretariat, the Chair of SBSTTA, and several national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in a workshop to examine synergies among the Rio Conventions, organized by the UNFCCC secretariat, in cooperation with secretariats of the other conventions. The workshop made a number of recommendations for cooperation in the areas of exchange of information, in areas such as technology transfer, education and outreach, research and systematic observation, capacity-building, reporting, and climate change impacts and adaptation. The workshop also examined the inter-linkages between biodiversity and climate change and highlighted the use of the ecosystem approach as a framework for activities contributing to the objectives of the three Rio conventions (FCCC/SB-19/1).

12. A proposal for mechanisms to facilitate the coordination of activities in biodiversity, desertification/land degradation and climate change, and for linking and ensuring integration of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the national action programmes under the UNCCD, in line with paragraph 4 of its decision VI/4, was developed by the Executive Secretary together with the UNCCD Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/10). On the basis of this proposal, SBSTTA, at its eighth meeting, developed recommendations for operational synergies between the three conventions (recommendation VIII/4).

13. The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD are planning a workshop to promote synergies among the three Conventions on forest ecosystems. The Secretariat and parties to the UNFCCC have also been invited to participate. The workshop will be held in April 2004 in Viterbo, Italy, at the kind invitation of the Government of Italy.

***B. Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions***

14. The third joint work plan (2002-2006) between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/20, was also endorsed by the the Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention at its eighth meeting in Valencia (resolution VIII/5). The Ramsar Conference of the Parties also urged its parties to make use of the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and or processes and in strategic environmental assessment, developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity and adopted in decision VI/7 (Ramsar resolution VIII/9).

15. As requested in decision VI/20, elements of the third joint work plan have been incorporated into the refined programme of work on inland water biological diversity. Significant progress has been made regarding the implementation of joint activities. Tools have been further refined and expert meetings organized in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat <sup>1/</sup> and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The River Basin Initiative is now fully operational, complete with a website for information exchange on key issues. A proposal for the convergence of the criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems between the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar has been prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. A CBD Technical Publication Series document on the status and trends of, and threats to, inland water biological diversity was prepared in collaboration with Ramsar and other organizations. The Ramsar Secretariat has participated in a number of meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including expert meetings on indicators of biological diversity including indicators for rapid assessment of inland water ecosystems, on ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse, and on the ecosystem approach.

16. In decision VI/20, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and recognized CMS as the lead partner for migratory species. In follow-up to this decision, case-studies have been received and disseminated through the clearing-house mechanism on the following topics: the relationship between migratory species and the prevention of introduction, eradication or control of invasive alien species; the relationship between the ecosystem approach and the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species taking into consideration the migratory range approach; the use of migratory species as indicators of biological diversity and their use in assessment and monitoring programmes; and sustainable use of migratory species and their economic value to support the development of the principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity. A joint synergy project has been initiated between the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It entails an in-depth analysis of how migratory species are/can be addressed in the framework of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and invites case-studies on this topic.

17. In response to paragraph 22 of decision VI/20, which urges Parties to report through their national reports on the extent to which they address migratory species at the national level, and on their cooperation with other range States, and within the context of the existing joint programme of work between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity has held a series of discussions and consultations aimed at reducing the level of redundancy and duplication between national report formats of the two conventions. Specifically, these discussions have identified sets of specific questions on migratory species for incorporation in the format for the third national report under the Convention on Biological Diversity for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

---

<sup>1/</sup> Formerly known as the Ramsar Bureau.

18. In paragraph 24 of decision VI/20, the Conference of the Parties invited the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to cooperate and coordinate activities with a view to facilitating the exchange of relevant information and experience and enhancing synergies in areas of mutual interest. Pursuant to this decision, CITES participated in the liaison group on non-timber forest resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity (established in relation to programme element 1, goal 4, objective 2 of the expanded programme work on forest biological diversity, decision VI/22), contributing expertise in particular on bush-meat. The CITES Secretariat participated in the elaboration of draft proposals for the application of ways and means to remove or mitigate perverse incentives at the second workshop on incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity organized under the Convention on Biological Diversity and held in Montreal in June 2003.

19. CITES has been identified as an important instrument for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted by decision VI/9. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to CITES decided that its Plants Committee should analyse the Global Strategy especially in regard to target 11 ("No species of wild flora endangered by international trade"). Accordingly, the Plants Committee considered this at its thirteenth meeting, held in Geneva from 12 to 15 August 2003. Together with the CITES Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is collaborating with TRAFFIC – the joint wildlife trade monitoring programme of WWF and IUCN, in the organization of a workshop to explore and promote synergies between the two Conventions.

20. A memorandum of cooperation is being developed with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO which administers the World Heritage Convention.

### *C. Cooperation with other relevant conventions and agreements*

21. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in November 2001. The Treaty's objectives are in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and cooperation with the Convention is provided for in the text of the Treaty itself. In its decision VI/6, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the adoption by FAO Conference of the Treaty and decided to establish and maintain cooperation with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and, upon the entry into force of the Treaty, with the Governing Body. Consequently, it requested the Executive Secretary to develop cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission. Pursuant to this decision, a memorandum of cooperation is being developed between the two secretariats. At its ninth meeting, in October 2002, the Commission thanked the Conference of the Parties for this support.

22. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties invited the International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC), among other instruments, as they develop further standards, or revise existing ones, including for risk assessment/analysis, to consider incorporating criteria related to the threats to biological diversity imposed by invasive alien species (decision VI/23\*, para. 8), and to ensure that the international standards to be developed for the purpose of phytosanitary measures regarding living modified organisms are in harmony with the objective and all relevant requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/20, para. 34).

---

\* One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A representatives expressed reservations regarding the process leading to the adoption of the decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras.294-324).

23. The fifth meeting of the Interim Committee on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), in April 2003, took note of decision VI/20 and supported the ongoing collaboration between the IPPC and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The ICPM also approved two revised standards: the *Analysis of environmental risks* (Supplement to International Standard on Phytosanitary Measure (ISPM) No.11 *Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*); and the *Guidelines on the understanding of 'potential economic importance' and related terms including reference to environmental considerations* (Supplement to ISPM 5: *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*). These supplements incorporate certain biodiversity considerations and may broaden the scope of implementation of the IPPC to include a wider range of issues beyond agricultural systems. (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/15)

24. At its sixth meeting, to be held from 29 March to 2 April 2004, the ICPM will consider a supplement to address the specific case of pest risk analysis for living modified organisms. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a representative of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety participated in a working group in September 2002 to formulate a draft of this supplement.

25. A joint meeting of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and IPPC was held in February 2003 in Montreal to discuss potential collaboration with respect to alien invasive species, living modified organisms and biosecurity. A memorandum of cooperation has since been prepared and is expected to be signed soon.

26. In accordance with paragraph 12 of decision II/10, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) prepared a joint study on the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) with a view to enabling SBSTTA to address the scientific, technical and technological issues relating to bioprospecting of genetic resources on the deep seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. This study (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/3/Rev.1) was considered by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting which made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for further collaborative work.

#### **D. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

27. Enhanced collaboration with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development has been a central component of the Convention's efforts regarding cooperation with the United Nations bodies. This was particularly the case with respect to the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 that took place in Montreal, from 17 to 20 March 2003, and considered the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as it relates to the Convention process recognized the importance of close cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure mutual supportiveness within the respective programmes of work so that the work of the Convention contributes fully to the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this respect, the meeting requested the Executive Secretary "to strengthen cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and to report on progress made in the implementation of the Convention, with a particular focus on the contribution of the objectives of the Convention to poverty eradication". Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary submitted a report entitled "Contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to implementing the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit" the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, which took place in New York from 28 April 2003 to 9 May 2003.

28. The Secretariat of the Convention has taken a number of actions to integrate biodiversity issues in initiatives aimed at meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within in the United Nations system and other international organizations, and to follow up the recommendations of the Inter-Sessional Meeting with regard to achieving the 2010 target. Together with the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), the Equator Initiative, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and The Nature Conservancy, the Secretariat convened an international meeting held in London in March 2003 under the theme “Biodiversity after Johannesburg: the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals”. A second meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention in partnership with UNEP-WCMC and UNDP and with financial support from the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, on “2010-The Global Biodiversity Challenge” to articulate a framework for action for addressing the internationally agreed target of reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The meeting made a number of recommendations for further review by bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other key partners at international, regional and national levels. It is anticipated that the other biodiversity related conventions, programmes and processes will also consider the outcome of this meeting. Issues regarding follow-up to the World Summit and the 2010 target are examined further in the notes by the Executive Secretary prepared under item 26 of the provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20, UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1, and UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3). The Secretariat has worked closely with UNEP-WCMC in the elaboration of these and other documents concerning the development of global targets and indicators for monitoring progress towards the 2010 target.

29. Each of the biodiversity-related conventions requires the submission of periodic national reports. The Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the other biodiversity-related conventions, has actively explored ways and means to streamline the national reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as other multilateral environmental agreements, with a view to easing the reporting burden on national focal points. In paragraph 8 of its decision VI/25, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the work of UNEP on the harmonization of environmental reporting and encouraged its continuation, whilst recognizing the need to ensure that this does not affect the ability of the Conference of the Parties to adjust national reporting procedures under the Convention in order to better meet the needs of Parties. In accordance with these decisions, the Convention Secretariat continues to collaborate with other biodiversity-related conventions in exploring opportunities to streamline and harmonize reporting processes. Specifically, the focus of the ongoing activities, which are coordinated by UNEP-WCMC, is on the development of practical approaches to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in gathering, handling, disseminating and sharing information. A key outcome is a draft action plan with detailed recommendations and project proposals that represent a logical progression from the theoretical evaluation of difficulties experienced by national Governments and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to the more practical testing/refining and ultimately implementation of more harmonized and streamlined concepts and procedures.

30. The Secretariat has also worked closely with UNEP on a number of other issues. In implementing the programme of work on incentive measures (see decision V/15), the Secretariat cooperated closely with the Economics and Trade Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ETB). The Secretariat also cooperated with UNEP-ETB on trade-related issues, *inter alia*, by participating in the UNEP-sponsored meeting on enhancing information exchange between multilateral environmental agreements and the World Trade Organization (WTO), held back-to-back to the information session on multilateral environmental agreements during the special session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in November 2002. UNEP-ETB also provided useful policy support, as well as assistance in preparing for attendance by the Convention on Biological Diversity at regular and special sessions of the Committee on Trade and Environment.

31. In line with decision VI/19, the Executive Secretary has collaborated with UNESCO, UNEP, IUCN and other relevant institutions to develop and promote the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). Issues relating to the implementation of the CEPA Programme of Work are addressed in note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/17/Add.4).

32. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties recognized the importance of collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and requested the Executive Secretary to initiate, in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of the UNFF and with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a series of activities related to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (decisions VI/20, paragraph 5, and VI/22, paragraph 19). Cooperation on all these issues is further described in the progress report on the implementation of the thematic programmes of work (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/11). Pursuant to decisions VI/20 and VI/22, the Executive Secretary and the Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests held a meeting in Montreal, in January 2003, with a view to identifying ways and means to increase coordination between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNFF, as well as support on the part of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the work of the UNFF secretariat.

33. In response to paragraph 19 (b) of decision VI/22, the Secretariat has conducted several discussions and consultations with the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) as well as other organizations to streamline forest-related reporting and, in particular, to ensure that the harmonization efforts are reflected in the preparation of the format for the voluntary thematic report on the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity. The CPF operates a task force, which includes the Convention on Biological Diversity, whose mandate focuses on reducing the reporting burden of countries and improving efficiency of reporting. As part of this process, the task force has established an electronic portal designed to help users find information related to national reporting on forests underway in various international organizations, institutions and instruments and on activities, which could help streamline this reporting. The portal aims to provide easy access to country reports, reporting requirements, questionnaires/formats, reporting schedules and synthesis reports.

34. The UNFF has also addressed the issue of collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity since sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At its third session, that took place in Geneva from 26 May to 6 June 2003, the UNFF noted with appreciation decision VI/22 on forest biological diversity, specifically as regards the mutual supportiveness of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. The Forum also welcomed the request of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to work collaboratively on issues of common interest and requested the Coordinator and Head of the UNFF secretariat to reflect the IPF/IFF/UNFF experiences on sustainable forest management at relevant meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Forum also requested the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), especially members of the CPF Task Force on Forest-related Reporting (which includes the CBD Secretariat), to provide scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group on monitoring, assessment, and reporting, established during UNFF3, and to participate in its inter-sessional work.

35. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued and enhanced its collaboration in a number of areas of work under the Convention. In the context of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, FAO has responded positively to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to lead some initiatives such as the International Pollinator Initiative and the International Soil Biodiversity Initiative, and has also made substantive contributions on indicators. FAO has seconded a staff member to the post of Programme Officer, Agricultural Biodiversity. Together with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), FAO is facilitating work to promote and monitor progress on several targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. FAO has participated in a large number of the Convention's expert meetings and liaison groups. As detailed elsewhere in this note, FAO has also cooperated in matters concerning the preparation of assessment reports and cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Plant Protection Convention.



36. In September 2002, the Secretariat attended an inter-agency meeting on biosecurity in food and agriculture, organized by FAO. This initiative of the FAO has subsequently evolved, and includes cooperation among international agencies with regard to capacity-building and information-sharing in the areas of food safety, animal health and plant health. In particular, the Convention Secretariat is a member of the task force on biosecurity information exchange which has been organized by FAO to contribute to the development of an international portal for food safety and animal and plant health.

37. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Secretariat and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in June 2002, in line with paragraph 36 of decision VI/20. The Secretariat has continued to attend meetings of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and to contribute to the documentation before the Committee, as appropriate. A side-event on recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity of relevance to the work of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee was held on 8 July 2003 during its fifth session.

38. Similarly, WIPO provides information in support of, and participates in, meetings under the Convention as needed. In particular, WIPO has undertaken a technical study addressing a number of issues relating to the disclosure of certain elements of information in patent applications specified in the decision, pursuant to the invitation of the Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/24 C, paragraph 4. The study has been submitted to the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing and will also be available as an information document for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/17).

#### ***E. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO)***

39. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 29 and 30 of decision VI/20, the Executive Secretary applied for observer status in the WTO committees on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on technical barriers to trade, and renewed a similar request to the Council for the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Council). However, these requests are still pending because the broader issue of criteria for the granting of observer status remains unresolved within the WTO.

40. The Executive Secretary participated in briefing sessions on multilateral environmental agreements organized by the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) and in regular sessions of this Committee, in which the Secretariat enjoys observer status. The Secretariat, together with the secretariats of several other multilateral environmental agreements, was also invited to observe discussions on some agenda items during the special sessions of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment on the Doha mandate, on an ad hoc basis. In a special session focusing on cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements and WTO, the Executive Secretary made specific proposals that would provide a framework for cooperation between the Convention and WTO. The Secretariat also participated as an observer at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Cancun, Mexico, on 10-14 September 2003.

41. In addition, the Executive Secretary met informally with members of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) to brief them on the status and preparation for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and on the work programme on alien invasive species under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Executive Secretary also met with the Executive Secretary and the chairpersons of relevant WTO bodies, namely, the Committee on Agriculture, the TRIPs Council, the SPS Committee and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, as well as the WTO Deputy Executive Director, to discuss issues of mutual concern. Further to a request by the Chairman of the TRIPs Council, the Secretariat prepared a briefing note for the TRIPs Council on the activities of the Convention on Biological Diversity of relevance to the review of Article 27,

paragraph 3 (b) of the TRIPs Agreement, the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the TRIPs Agreement, and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

#### ***F. Cooperation with scientific assessment bodies***

42. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the contribution that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Global International Waters Assessment, the Forest Resources Assessment 2000, the Report on the State of the World's Plant and Animal Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Water Assessment Programme and the IUCN Red List assessment have made to the work of SBSTTA and the Convention and invited those conducting these assessments to report to the SBSTTA at its eighth and ninth meetings (decision VI/20, paras. 2-3). A report on the Global International Waters Assessment was considered by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting, and reports on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the Forest Resources Assessment were considered at its ninth meeting.

43. In line with paragraph 3 of decision VI/7 A, a memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat and the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) was signed in August 2002. The memorandum relates to the integration of biodiversity considerations into impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment guidelines and procedures. The Secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the IAIA and continues to serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the IAIA project on capacity-building on biodiversity and impact assessment in developing countries.

### **III. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF COOPERATION EXPERIENCE**

#### ***A. Cooperation with other conventions and agreements at the intergovernmental level***

44. The Conference of the Parties has acknowledged the role of other conventions and agreements in promoting the objectives of the Convention, notably the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on the issue of invasive alien species (decision VI/23), and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on agricultural biodiversity and access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (decision VI/6).

45. Moreover, the Conference of the Parties has encouraged the finalization of the negotiation of a number of new international agreements, and subsequently encouraged Parties to consider ratifying them: (for example, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (decision V/5), the revised IPPC (decision VI/23), and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (decision VI/6). SBSTTA has made a similar recommendation with respect to draft International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments under the International Maritime Organization (recommendation IX/15).

46. At the same time, the Conference of the Parties has invited other conventions and agreements to integrate biodiversity considerations into their work. For example, the Convention has urged action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on a number of occasions(

47. Beyond this recognition of the general relevance of other agreements, there have been a number of more recent examples, where analyses or guidance developed under one convention or agreement have been recognized under the other. Three examples are given in the following paragraphs.

48. The IPPC Interim Committee for Phytosanitary Measures has developed revised International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures that take into account biodiversity considerations. In line with the invitation of the Conference of the Parties in decision VI/23 (see paragraphs 22-24, above). This is an

important example of cooperation that promotes coherence between the two regimes at international and national levels. It will also likely encourage the existing quarantine infrastructure in countries to consider the threats of invasive alien species on biodiversity and is thus an important example of facilitating the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies.

49. The report *Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change: advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol* prepared by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change in response to decision V/4, was welcomed not only by SBSTTA, but also by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC, at its nineteenth meeting. The UNFCCC SBSTA also encouraged Parties to Convention on Climate Change to make use of the report for their national purposes. Given the potential for climate-change mitigation and adaptation activities to have implications for biodiversity—positive or negative—this is an important step in promoting synergies between the two conventions.

50. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention urged its parties to make use of the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and or processes and in strategic environmental assessment, previously adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision VI/7; Ramsar resolution VIII/9). This is an important step to promote coherence and avoid duplication between Conventions, and thus to increase effectiveness and reduce burdens at the national level.

51. These examples demonstrate that it is possible to promote coherence among international conventions and agreements through coordinated action.

52. The burden on countries can also be reduced through harmonization of reporting requirements. Examples of efforts in this regard are provided in paragraphs 29 and 33 above.

***B. Joint programmes of work and other forms of cooperation with  
intergovernmental organizations***

53. The Convention has developed joint programmes of work with a number of other Conventions. The form of cooperation is most developed with the Ramsar Convention: the third joint work programme, which has been endorsed by the conferences of the parties of both conventions (decision VI/20; Ramsar resolution VIII/5), is comprehensive, comprising activities of several thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work of the Convention. It also includes specific initiatives such as the River Basin Initiative (see paragraph 61 below), and provides for the sharing of relevant tools and guidance, as illustrated by the example quoted in paragraph 50 above.

54. Joint programmes of work have also been developed with the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Migratory Species (see paragraphs 8 and 16 above). In addition, the Convention has identified lead partners for the implementation of some of its programmes of work. FAO, for example, is identified as lead partner for the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and some of the initiatives established within it. At a more informal level, a number of agencies are taking a lead role in facilitating implementation of the various targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

55. There have been many other cases of cooperation between the Convention and other intergovernmental organizations. On many occasions, the Conference of the Parties has invited other bodies to take action in support of one or more of the Convention's objectives. This has included calls to the UNFCCC on the impacts of climate change, and of mitigation and adaptation activities, and calls to a wide range of organizations on invasive alien species.

56. Organizations have been invited to develop or contribute to proposals for action under the Convention, or to analyses upon which programmes of work have been developed. FAO for example, conducted the gap analysis that led to the development of a programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and subsequently developed the plan of action for the International Pollinators Initiative. Upon invitation of the Conference of the Parties, FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have also carried out studies on genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs). As noted above, WIPO has provided various studies related to intellectual property rights.

57. A number of international assessment processes have been recognized by the Conference of the Parties and/or SBSTTA. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment will prepare a synthesis report on biodiversity for consideration in 2005. SBSTTA has recommended that the Conference of the Parties to encourage Parties to participate in the review of the Millennium Assessment and its synthesis reports. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to provide guidance to SBSTTA on how it should consider the report and analyse its findings.

58. A programme by programme review of cooperation with other conventions and processes is provided in chapter 5 of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

**C. *Specific initiatives and partnerships to implement the objectives of the Conventions***

59. A number of initiatives and partnerships have been established to promote implementation of one or more of the Convention's objectives. These are often voluntary efforts comprising partnerships of individuals, national and international organizations. Some have been established by the Conference of the Parties, others have been established as voluntary initiatives directly in support of one or more of the Convention's objectives, and others are relevant initiatives that have been recognized by the Conference of the Parties as contributing to the Conventions objectives. The following paragraphs details a few examples of the more successful such initiatives.

60. The Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) was established in 1997 to address global threats caused by invasive alien species, and to provide support to the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It draws together a wide range of expertise related to invasive alien species. The key partners include the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, CAB International and IUCN-the World Conservation Union. GISP is a component of DIVERSITAS. It has developed a toolkit for best management and prevention practices and hosts a database of invasive alien species.

61. The River Basin Initiative is a global activity under the joint work programme between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention. Its goal is to establish a global network to share information and support activities where the principles of integrated management of biodiversity, wetlands and river basins are demonstrated. The Initiative was endorsed by the Conference of the Parties through decision V/2.

62. The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a partnership among countries and organizations seeking to implement relevant international conventions and agreements for the benefit of coral reefs and related ecosystems. Its operational networks include the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Although more loosely linked to Convention than other examples given above, the role of ICRI in implementing the marine and coastal programme of work has been recognized in decision VI/3.

63. The International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators was established by decision VI/5 of the Conference of the Parties as part of the programme of work on

agricultural biodiversity. Coordinated by FAO, the Initiative involves partners from all continents, and is currently supported through a GEF project.

64. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation was recently established to promote implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (see SBSTTA recommendation IX/14). The partnership builds upon the “Gran Canaria Group” whose role in developing the Strategy was acknowledged by the Conference of the Parties (decision VI/9). The members of the Group and the new partnership are committed to facilitating achievement of the 16 targets of the Strategy. Members of the partnership have already mobilized significant financial support from foundations and the private sector in support of the Strategy.

65. Recently a consortium of public agencies and non-governmental organization announced the establishment of a Collaborative Partnership on Protected Areas, and pledged to provide or mobilize financial, technical and other support for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas. This offer was welcomed by SBSTTA (recommendation IX/4).

66. These examples illustrate the potential of largely self-organized initiatives to promote implementation of the Convention. The programmes of work of the Convention, and its strategies and targets have provided a focus for agreed action to which these initiatives have been established to respond to. The initiatives exist only to promote implementation and do not have a policy making role. The experience gained, and approaches followed by these various initiatives may be useful when considering the establishment of a more general global partnership for biodiversity as proposed by the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

67. The various thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work, and associated joint work programmes, provide a framework for collaborative activities. Additionally, the ecosystem approach, identified as the primary framework for action under the Convention (decisions II/8 and V/6) is increasingly seen as a framework for synergies among conventions. The ecosystem approach was promoted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and at the recent meeting on synergies between the Rio Conventions (see para. 11 above), participants underscored the importance of the “ecosystem approach” as an instrument to achieve synergy.

#### **IV. MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON BIODIVERSITY**

68. The Convention has a wide range of partnerships with other conventions and organizations. Many of these are bilateral, but a number of initiatives group a number of organizations and individuals in self-organized initiatives, or in more formal arrangements. The Secretariat has established memoranda of cooperation with some 70 organizations. An updated list will be made available on the Convention’s website.

69. Existing partnerships are of several types. For example:

(a) Joint work programmes have been established with the Ramsar Convention, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Migratory Species;

(b) The joint liaison group provides a formal arrangement comprising the executive secretaries of the three Rio conventions, and the chairs of their respective scientific subsidiary bodies. Other conventions and international organizations can be invited to participate in meetings of the group as appropriate;

(c) The secretariat also participates in a wide range of other bodies for cooperation. These include the Environment Management Group and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d) Specific partnerships and initiatives such as those outlined in paragraphs 59-67 above.

70. Each of these approaches is valuable, and such approaches, including bilateral arrangements, are likely to have a continued role even if a more general “global biodiversity partnership” is formed. Indeed, specialized or one-to-one partnerships are often best for achieving specific objectives.

71. However, the challenge of the 2010 target has created new challenges regarding cooperation with relevant international organizations, conventions, initiatives and processes. Achieving the 2010 target, and monitoring progress towards it, will require improved coordination, synergy and partnership among various actors and programmes. Moreover better coordination and partnerships will need to be established in order to ensure effective mainstreaming of biodiversity and the 2010 target into relevant international programmes, projects, processes and initiatives. The fulfilment of the leadership role mandated by the Strategic Plan of the Convention will require not only greater cooperation with all relevant international instruments and processes but also the active support of such instruments and processes to the work of the Convention.

72. The range of organizations that might be involved in assessing progress towards the 2010 target is demonstrated in an information document prepared for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/27).

73. In view of the new imperatives, the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, request the Executive Secretary to develop a global partnership on biodiversity comprising the major biodiversity-related organizations, with the Secretariat of the Convention facilitating the process in order to enhance synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and improve implementation of biodiversity-related agreements. The report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5) will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

74. The Inter-Sessional Meeting however, neither clearly delineated the mandate nor specified the structural nature of such a partnership. A number of questions arise:

(a) Is the contemplated partnership to be limited to biodiversity-related conventions or could it involve other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations?

(b) Is it to be limited to inter-governmental organizations or will it include non-governmental organizations and private sector? Will it be open to for-profit organizations?

(c) Is the partnership to be a formal organization or a flexible, informal structure?

(d) How large should the partnership be? It may need to include a wide range of organizations. On the other hand, too many participating organizations would make coordination and consensus-building on key issues rather cumbersome, particularly if the structure is a formal one.

75. There are a number of possible “models” that should be considered among the options:

(a) The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) provides a useful model for such a partnership. The CPF was established in April 2001, following the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) with two primary objectives: (i) to support the work of the UNFF and its member countries; and (ii) to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues. The CPF is currently comprised of 14 member organizations, including United Nations bodies,

convention secretariats, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The CPF supports the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action through providing information and technical assistance to countries; facilitating regional and international initiatives; identifying and mobilizing financial resources; and strengthening political support for sustainable forest management. The CPF thus has a certain level of specificity as regards its terms of reference and its composition. It comprises a number of organizations that have a central role in forest management but beyond those that have forests as their central interest. It is still limited in number however, but complemented by a broader, more informal, “CPF network”;

(b) A partnership as in a “type II” partnership discussed in the WSSD process. These range in formality and composition, but the inclusion of different types of body is encouraged (inter-governmental organizations, national organizations, NGOs, and private sector) to focus on a well-defined task;

(c) A partnership that builds upon the existing initiatives established to implement the objectives of the Convention such as the GISP, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, and the Collaborative Partnership for Protected Areas;

(d) Other models to be identified.

76. Achieving a genuine, broad-based partnership of organizations will be challenging. Organizations like the Convention on Biological Diversity that have biodiversity as the central part of their work may be most motivated to contribute to a partnership. These may include the biodiversity-related conventions: the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention, CITES, and the World Heritage Convention as well as organizations such as the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the biodiversity-related non-governmental organizations such as those that are part of the Collaborative Partnership for Protected Areas. However it will also be important to get other organizations that are closely related to economic sectors involved in the partnership.

77. The London meeting emphasized that the whole process of assessing progress in achieving the 2010 target should be CBD-led and not CBD-centred given the fact that there are many other important initiatives that have a potential to contribute to achieve the target. In line with the Strategic Plan however, the Convention on Biological Diversity needs to play a leadership role, and to facilitate and focus action in partnership with many other organizations and initiatives.

78. In this context it is interesting to note that the Collaborative Partnership for Forests was established by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council—the body in the United Nations system with the authority to coordinate the specialized agencies—and appealed to the governing bodies as well as the heads of the agencies involved.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

79. The analysis in section III would suggest that there is no single model for successful cooperation. Memoranda of cooperation and joint programmes of work, are not, in themselves, guarantees of success. Some of the more successful examples of cooperation are formally established, others depend on self-organized, flexible partnerships. However, the latter are focused on goals that are formally agreed, whether these are expressed in the form of adopted programmes of work, strategies or targets. Maintaining flexibility and room for creativity in future partnerships and cooperative arrangements would appear to be advantageous.

80. Successful examples of cooperation can be seen at two main levels:

(a) Facilitating policy coherence between international conventions and agreements—which will normally require formal modes of cooperation, and

(b) Promoting implementation through partnerships and initiatives – these may often be self-organized and flexible, albeit responding to a formally agreed programme or targets.

81. Both of these types of cooperation have an important role to play in contributing to the achievement of the 2010 target.

82. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt the recommendation of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 regarding the establishment of a global partnership on biodiversity and to define the mandate and institutional nature of such a partnership.

83. A number of other recommendations of the Inter-Sessional Meeting, and of SBSTTA are relevant to cooperation. All may be found in the compilation of draft decisions for the consideration of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1/Add.2).

-----